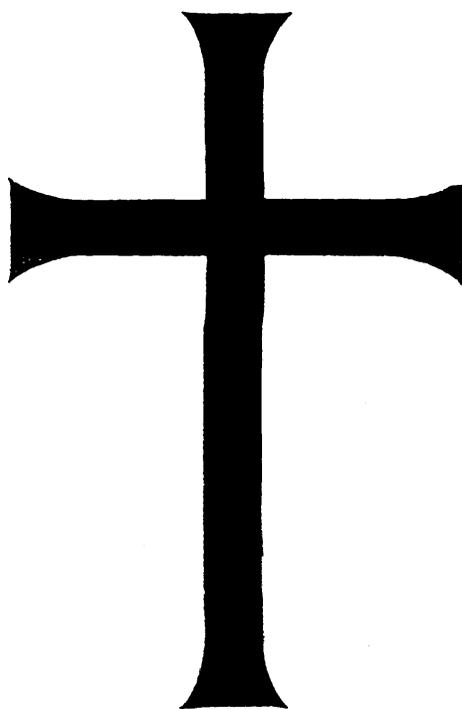


**CALDICOT, ROGIET,  
LANGSTONE &  
PENYCAEMAWR  
METHODIST CHURCHES'**



**SUMMER 2014**  
***QUARTERLY***  
***NEWSLETTER***

# MEDITATION

## A WALK ON THE WATERS

By **CANON ARTHUR FIELD**

I would like to meditate on the story of Our Lord walking on the waters. One of those strange unexplained New Testament events - a miracle. His disciples had pushed off in a boat by themselves across the Lake of Galilee, leaving their Master at prayer on the shore. Meantime a storm had broken. It was a wild night and they were alone and afraid. And their need and necessity forced them to prayer.

That is a parable of our own journey. When trouble descends, pain and sickness, how quickly we turn to prayer. But when the sun shines and prosperity is our lot, how easily we forget to praise and thank Our Lord.

But back to the disciples. They had struggled and waited and prayed all through the dark hours. Then it happened, the incredible, the impossible. As the dawn broke they espied a figure. It was their Lord coming to them walking upon the waters.

Then Peter, consumed with wonder and faith, stepped from the boat and he too walked on the waves towards his Master. But not for long. He doubted, his faith failed him and he began to sink, and would have sunk but for the outstretched hand of Christ.

Do we ever doubt our faith? Today doubt is everywhere. When we doubt we become confused



and miserable and helpless to face the world. To help us hold fast to the truth of our faith we must keep close to Christ, grasp his outstretched hand, never fear to tell Him in prayer of our doubts. If we do, the dark night of the soul will pass.

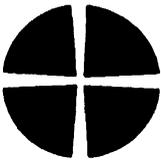
Another thought the story gives is that God often delays answers to our prayers. For those disciples the night must have seemed endless. Had Jesus forgotten them? He had not done so. He came in the fourth watch of the night. So with us. God may delay an answer but He will never forget. How heartening are our Lord's words: "Ask and it shall be given, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened."

Another lesson from this miracle is that Christ comes to us in such unexpected ways. That night the disciples never dreamt their Lord would come to them walking on the waters. So does He respond to our petitions. When we pray the answers will come,, but they will not be the answers we imagine.

One final thought. In life when we look at nothing but the storm of our troubles, we sink. But when Peter peered through the dawn light and kept his eyes on Christ, he was safe.

How important it is never to be distracted from our daily time of spiritual quiet, our meditation of Holy Scripture, whatever confusion and tumult surrounds us.

When we see nothing but the storm we sink. When we see the Christ centered in our lives we triumph.



# From the Green Room

Minister: Rev. P. Andersen, 27 Church Road, Caldicot.

Manse Tel: 430574 & Church Office Tel: 423843

Email: [pwandersen@btinternet.com](mailto:pwandersen@btinternet.com)

District Website: [www.methodistwales.org.uk/](http://www.methodistwales.org.uk/)

Circuit Website: [www.nlwc.org.uk/](http://www.nlwc.org.uk/)

Church Website: [www.caldicotmethodists.co.uk/](http://www.caldicotmethodists.co.uk/)

Dear Friends,

I gladly and willingly admit it: When it comes to the practical 'things' in life, I must have stood near the back of the queue when God blessed his People with His gifts and graces. I am NOT a practical man, and I dare say I never shall be!

So, how can I gladly and willingly confess to that, you may ask? Is there not just a little part of me which sometimes wishes that I dared engage in something (however trivial) that does not come naturally to me, such as digging, planting, weeding, generally getting my hands dirty, or, for that matter, changing a light bulb?

And yes, of course there is! It is never easy to be hopelessly impractical, and I am, but the plus side of at least confessing to it is that others begin to realize that actually, he is not just SAYING he is no good at all these things, he is actually SHOWING it too. And then often the next step when people recognize my shortcomings is to ask, "How can we help the poor man?"

I believe, and you will often hear me say this, that one person's shortcomings are the strengths of someone else, and nowhere is that truer and more evident than in Circuit Life. At ministerial college, and I will always look back on my training at Wesley College with the fondest of memories, prospective ministers are taught much about what to do and how to do it in theological terms, and as we study we build up a fine treasure chest of God-given 'nuggets' that will help us grow into the ministers He wants us to be, and know we can be. However, when you get out

there, into Circuit, you begin to realize that there is so much College cannot and does not prepare you for, and quite a lot too that you never really learnt in practical terms.

"Learn what you can while you are here," our principal the Reverend Dr Neil Richardson (ex-President of Conference) would often say to his students, "but once you get 'out there', put the theology on the back burner for a bit, do not forget about it, but go out and meet the people where they are", and he might as well have added, "and learn to gracefully use all **their** God-given gifts too."

In our Circuit as in all Methodist Circuits throughout the land, ministers are called to minister, to equip, to enable and encourage, but never to try and do everything themselves. This is why in the Methodist Church we operate with that wonderful term 'the Priesthood of All Believers', meaning that in a very real sense we are 'in it' together, all of us. This does not mean that we should ever stop learning and growing in acceptance of our responsibilities and use those wonderful gifts we have been given, but it does mean that we should always look out for and note and point to those gifts we see in others, and which we and they may not always recognize in themselves. Gifts which often include (without being limited to) those who are gifted with a head for finance, for property, for leading a Bible study, for catering, flower arranging, public speaking, cleaning the premises – and yes, for changing a light bulb too! And trust me, I know of no one minister who has all these qualities. Some maybe, but all of them – no!

Continued over page

This is my Letter to the Summer Edition of the Quarterly Magazine and I guess it will find many of us either on holiday or preparing to take a break away. Margaret and I shall be jetting off to Malta this summer, to visit family on Margaret's side who live out there, but also and importantly in those beautiful islands to recharge and revisit in peace and appreciation what God has done and is doing for us, and how He continues to enable us to work together and grow together and to pool all our resources.

person's gifts. And let us never stop searching for those gifts in others and when we find them – as we shall – point out to them what we have found in them. That is one sure way of helping people grow, I promise you, to the benefit of all, as so often individuals do not themselves know what they – what we – are capable of, together. In church, as in life generally.

Have a great summer, and until next time, God bless you!

So let me finish by reminding us that one person's shortcomings are another

*Preben*

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## GIVE PEOPLE CONFIDENCE

Sometimes we think that self-confidence is something you either have or don't have, like a talent for music. But really, it is something that is either created in you, or destroyed, as you interact with other people.

We can either intentionally encourage and empower other people, co-creating with them the confidence they need to pursue their hopes and dreams, or we can criticise and undermine them, or even cripple them with fears. We all know people who make us feel better about ourselves for having spent time

with them, and also people who make us feel worse!

Someone once said: 'Life is not so much about what happens *to* people, but what happens *between* people.' So – why not make an effort to aim to encourage people? Let them talk to you, and give them the opportunity to share their hopes and anxieties. As the saying goes: 'A problem shared is a problem halved.' The Bible puts it this way: 'Encourage one another and build each other up.' (1 Thess. 5:11)

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## LANGSTONE EVENTS

### QUIZ NIGHT

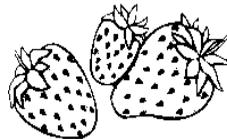


**QUIZ  
NIGHT**

**WEDNESDAY**  
30<sup>th</sup> July  
7.00 for 7.30pm

**Teams of 4**  
**Entry £1 per person**

### STRAWBERRY TEA



**SATURDAY**  
16<sup>th</sup> August  
2.30pm

**Entry £5**

**For more details & information**  
**please contact Sally Shea Tel: 01633 244254**

## SISTERHOOD



Our Summer Newsletter lots of memories to look back on, and with God's help and blessings, many exciting things, in the pipeline, during the coming months to look forward

too. We send our love and prayers, to all those in dark and lonely places in their lives just now. Another member of Sisterhood, Mrs Betty Williams, passed away, Gone Home, on 26<sup>th</sup> March. Betty loved Sisterhood and attended regularly, until her family decided in her interest, for her to live in a Nursing Home. We miss her, but comforted to know she is with her Saviour and friend at peace.

27<sup>th</sup> March, a very special Members Afternoon. We celebrated in Bible readings, Prayers and songs, the three weddings which took place in church on 1<sup>st</sup> March was Heidi and Darren, 8<sup>th</sup> March Deborah and Charles and 29<sup>th</sup> March Charlotte and Ian. We sent our congratulations for a long and happy life together.

30<sup>th</sup> April Mrs Sandra Mason accompanied herself on a guitar, two lovely songs and spoke her love and life in Jesus her saviour. Reading from Isaiah 52, Wake Up, Clean Up and Speak Up.

10<sup>th</sup> April A Blessing from Rev. Andrew Webster. A talk on the theme Palm Sunday called the cloak Sunday, people laying down their cloaks for Jesus to ride over them.

17<sup>th</sup> April Maundy Thursday. Rev. Preben conducted a Holy Communion Service for Sisterhood in the Church. A collection of £30; given to the Easter Offering 2014. Organised; by the Methodist Women in Britain, to enable the Methodist Church in Britain and Ireland to give to the 65 Partner Churches over- seas. Holy Week, is very special to all Christians. We join Churches Together, for evening

services, in various other churches. A Witness March to the Good Friday open air service in the precinct, which was so well attended once again, a blessing for each. Easter Day was wonderful, with Easter Breakfast, and morning service.

No Sisterhood on 24<sup>th</sup> April..

1<sup>st</sup> May A members afternoon with HHI dedicated Easter Offering for their cause.

8<sup>th</sup> May Mrs Rose Powell is the speaker.

15<sup>th</sup> May Our Anniversary Service, led by Rev. Preben, Glyn Harrison organist, with members, taking part with readings and prayers. Ladies from other churches will join us. Tea, and fellowship in the schoolroom later.

22<sup>nd</sup> May Mrs Mary Rooney is our speaker.

29<sup>th</sup> May Members Afternoon.

5<sup>th</sup> June TBA.

19<sup>th</sup> June TBA.

26<sup>th</sup> June Members Afternoon.

3<sup>rd</sup> July TBA.

10<sup>th</sup> July TBA.

17<sup>th</sup> July TBA.

24<sup>th</sup> July TBA.

31<sup>st</sup> July Last Sisterhood until 4<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2014.

Wishing, all Newsletter readers and friends. A Peaceful and Happy August. Hoping the summer weather will be good.

Every Blessing

Yours in his work and service.

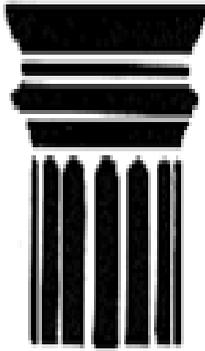
**Joyce Tanner**

### Daddy's girl

A young father was taking care of his baby daughter while his wife went to town shopping. He decided to go fishing and he had to take the toddler along. "I'll never take her along with me again!" he told his wife that evening. "I didn't catch a thing!"

"Oh, next time I'm sure she'll be quiet and not scare the fish away," his wife said.

The father said gloomily. "No, it wasn't that. She ate all the bait."



# John Mills Column

Dear Friends,

THE CHURCH CELEBRATES MANY SAINTS & GREAT PREACHERS DURING THIS TIME OF THE YEAR.

JUNE/JULY/ AUGUST ST BARNABAS, ST BENEDICT, ST JAMES APOSTLE, ST PETER, ST PAUL ALSO GREAT PREACHERS, HOWEL HARRIS, WILLIAM WILBERFORCE, JOSEPHINE BUTLER SOCIAL REFORMERS TO NAME JUST A FEW.

DURING THIS PERIOD WHEN THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE IS PRINTED WE CELEBRATE THE ASCENSION (I WAS TAUGHT THAT THIS DAY IS KNOWN AS THE CORONATION OF OUR LORD) THEN COMES PENTECOST, HOLY TRINITY, (CORPUS CHRISTI, ANOTHER GREAT DAY AS WE CELEBRATE THE THANKSGIVING FOR THE HOLY COMMUNION).

WHEN A CHRISTIAN SAYS 'I BELIEVE IN GOD MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH' WE ARE SAYING THAT GOD HAS SHAPED THIS WORLD FOR HIS PURPOSES. HE CONTROLS NATURE, NATURE DOES NOT SHAPE OR CONTROL HIM.

When a child is baptised God works through the water: the water does not work through Him. In confirmation the Holy Spirit works through the minister, or priest they do not parcel out the Holy Spirit. In Holy Communion, the Body and Blood do not

depend on the worthiness of the minister but on the One who gives Himself to us.

St Anne's Day (July 26<sup>th</sup>) is a reminder that God works through the events of history, preparing, unperceived, the mother of the Mother of our Lord, and we, who can hardly discern what is happening in our own generation, are left wondering before Him, in whose sight 'a thousand years are but as yesterday'.

Many churches still celebrate these Saints Days.

On July 22<sup>nd</sup> some churches celebrate the Feast of Mary Magdalene. She was a penitent before she was a saint. All of us feel we 'have made it' when we find that we have a power we can use. Mary (did she really have red hair?) had she the power of seven devils. Not until she met Christ did she find someone who, to quote Dorothy Sayers, 'could look right inside you and understand all the horrible things you were doing to yourself. When He spoke to her, she felt His reverence for womanhood. When she looked at Him, she saw what her life might have been. She became the 'queen of penitents and a great source of hope to the fallen world..

For God works upon this world, the world does not work upon Him. Yet we human souls find our purpose and our place when our history became part of HIS (GOD'S) STORY.

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As this time of the year many people will be going on holidays or taking a break from their busy lives , may you all enjoy whatever you do and wherever you travel and be blessed with sunshine.

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**JSM**

# ROGIET METHODIST CHURCH NEWS

Easter Celebration was well attended, starting with the Easter Breakfast followed by the service which was led by the Rev. Joe Rooney. The flowers set the theme for Easter Day with the cross bedecked with flowers; following the service we were all treated to a cream egg. It was lovely to see the chapel quite full, including our Methodist friends from Langstone.

Could we see during the service, how Easter offers us new hope and perhaps new beginnings for all people? Can we, like Peter, leave the guilt of hurtful things said or things unsaid? Let us see this, through the eyes of Jesus.

## Move On – Early News

On Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> June we have arranged to go to Morel Court's, Methodist Home for the Aged (MHA) 'Open Day'. Margaret Andersen, who is the Lay Chaplin there, has arranged for us to visit, while Eric Brown has kindly arranged for us to use the Magor Methodist Mini Bus and has taken on

the task of driving us to this venue.

Mother and Toddlers has started back again. Meeting on Wednesday at 1.15 p.m. Anyone who is eligible, is welcome to attend for an afternoon of fun, friendship and creative learning.

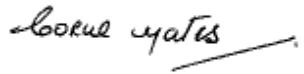
Later on in the year we have a few things planned so, "Watch this Space"

## Finally

The world needs more warm hearts and fewer hot heads.

What the nations of the world need, is a 'Peace Conference' with the 'Prince of Peace'.

Enjoy your summer break.  
Christian Blessings,



**Coral Yates**

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## WHAT DOES A HOLY PERSON LOOK LIKE?

*'He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith.'* (Acts 11:24) *Pentecost reminds us that it is the Holy Spirit who makes us holy. But what does 'holy' look like? Who would you pick from the Bible, if you had to choose someone that modelled 'godly character'?*

How about Barnabas, who appears in Acts? His name was Joseph, but his friends called him Barnabas, Son of Encouragement – an attribution of rare praise for a character of rare beauty. He first appears as the only named disciple who sold a field and gave the proceeds for the relief of the poor believers in Jerusalem (Acts 4:36-37). But it's in his relationship with Paul that his character fully shines. When Saul is converted, against a background of suspicion and fear, it is Barnabas who acts as his guarantor, bringing him into fellowship with the apostles (Acts 9:26-27).

Later, when there is an explosion of conversions in Antioch, including among the

Gentiles, it is he who is sent to encourage the believers. Even then, not wanting to hog the limelight, Barnabas brings Paul to Antioch where they minister for a year before being sent off together on the first great missionary journey (Acts 11:19-26; 13:1-3). Seamlessly, the leadership then passes from Barnabas to Paul. And Barnabas, the encourager, the enabler, continues to work with the great apostle through fruitfulness and persecution until, on a point of principle, they separate, and Barnabas takes under his wing the young man called Mark (Acts 15:36-39).

This 'good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith' remains an inspiration for our own lives on the frontline. In this coming week, may we, like Barnabas, model godly character and be known as courageous followers of Jesus.

**Helen Parry**  
first appeared in London Institute for  
Contemporary Christianity  
"Word for the Week"

# METHODIST WOMEN IN BRITAIN



I feel that, although there is not exactly anything organized in the circuit, that I should fail to make the things that are happening in

opens up the opportunity to share the life of others and has given me the chance of sharing my story. This conference happens every year and is attended by women of all ages.



the Connexion, unknown. However, a letter has been sent out to the churches inviting them to participate in a fund raising effort to provide, the wherewithal to purchase a projector for Morel Court (MHA) in Penarth. There is no reason why individuals cannot donate a gift via Margaret Anderson or myself; on the other hand you could make a cheque out to:- Newport and Lower Wye Methodist Women's Network and send it to our treasurer, Mrs Anne Mountford, Compton, Llandevaud, NP18 2AG.

I keep in touch with the Movement. By registering with the website [www.mwib.org.uk](http://www.mwib.org.uk) you can read about the activities of others throughout the Methodist Connexion.

I have noted that MWiB now has charitable status which is helpful for any who feel disposed to send a donation to the movement. The next vice-president (in July this year) and president in July 2015 is Anne Browse of Plymouth and Exeter District.

Just recently the annual weekend conference was held at Swanwick, 27th April. I have in years passed been privileged to attend; gaining great benefit from the speakers and other experts from other avenues of expertise, who have willingly shared there skills with the likes of myself. These are usually held in smaller intimate groups, which

There is a report from the UN on the website of MWiB, entitled 'Status of Women'.

God's blessing be upon you all,

***Beryl Simcock***

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## BOOK REVUE

I was given a book for my birthday in November and I was so enchanted by it, that I thought I would pass on its title and tell you a little about it. 'A Street Cat Named Bob' by James Bowen, Hodder & Stoughton 2012. Bob the cat came into the life of James Bowen in 2007; both lived on the streets of London, both appeared to be no hoppers, but their meeting was the beginning of a relationship that was to be the start, for both of them, becoming healed. Bob brought hope into James' life! At the time James was a street musician making a meagre living and taking his daily dose of 'Methadon', but felt that Bob deserved better than that, so opted to become totally clean. Prior to this decision Bob and James were living together in sheltered accommodation and entertaining

Londoners and tourists alike. However, James realized that they would need a larger and more settled income, as a cat had more expensive needs, i.e. vet bills, etc. This led them to the Big Issue office with a desire to set up business and so their new enterprise took them further afield. These two characters became famous, so that tourists recognized Bob from seeing him on YouTube. They had many adventures and met many people, some generous and others hateful, but you need to read the book for yourselves. By the way, this is a true story.

ISBN 978-1-444-73711-0 Price £7.99

***Beryl Simcock***

# WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO MAKE YOU MORE CHRIST-LIKE?

When we Christians speak of the difference between our goal and our destination, we speak of the difference between having Christ 'formed in us' and the new heaven and new earth.

Paul spoke about his longing to see 'Christ formed in you' (Gal 4:19), based on the knowledge that "those whom God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son" (Rom 8:29). And, to the Corinthians, Paul spoke of that process as a current reality. "And we all... are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord..." (2 Cor 3:18).

So the breath-taking goal of the Christian life can be summarised as follows: We are being formed, conformed and transformed into the image of Jesus Christ.

*How is that possible?* Because he agrees to be yoked to us (Matt 11:29), a training process that transforms us. And - daily life is designed to shape our character.

*Work* places us in the flow of divine action. Luther called the work of the ploughboy and the milkmaid priestly work; you can serve

God in your daily tasks of serving others.

*Trials* are also designed to produce endurance. James told us not to be overwhelmed by them, but to allow them to have their full effect, "so that you may be mature and complete (*Christlike*), lacking in nothing." (James 1:4).

Above all, the *Holy Spirit* has been given to us, as the ultimate shaper of our character. The same Spirit that inspired Scripture is also at work reshaping us.

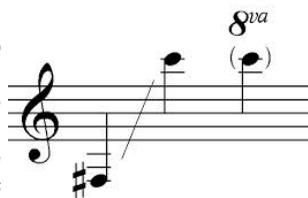
There are also *more formal* means of grace like prayer, Bible study, fasting, solitude, simplicity and others. But they have all been given to us because without well informed, intentional action we will never grow in Christlikeness. They help us with that "training in godliness" (1 Tim 4:7) so essential to the normal process of transformation.

Of course, these means of grace have no merit in themselves. They don't make us right with God, nor do they improve our standing with him, but they do place us before him. He uses them to reshape our character as he transforms us into the image of Christ.

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## WHY YOU SHOULD LISTEN TO MUSIC

You may turn to music when your heart has been broken, but actually, you can also use it to strengthen your heart if you are unwell. Cardiologists have found that people who listen to music for about half an hour a day release endorphins in the brains, which in turn, improve vascular health. Music without words is most effective for this, as sad words can 'upset the emotions', said the researchers.



While there is no 'best music' for everyone, there is evidence that heavy metal actually increases stress on your system. Opera, classical and other kinds of 'joyful' music are better at stimulating endorphins. The study was done at the University of Nis, Serbia and presented to the European Society of Cardiology's congress in Amsterdam. Interestingly, the Bible makes a connection between music and the heart: '*My heart is steadfast, O God... I will sing and make melody... I will awake the dawn!*' (Ps 57:7)

# WHY DIDN'T THE ROMANS AND JEWS SEE THE RISEN JESUS?

"Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him" (*John 14:21*)

Following Easter, we may wonder – as one of Jesus' disciples did (v.27) - why the risen Lord was never seen by the outside world; by Pontius Pilate or Caiaphas the high priest; by those who had been responsible for his arrest and death. Would that not have been a wonderful way of launching the despised faith at a very public level? Surely the Man of Galilee had only to announce "You thought you were rid of me; here I am after all!"

But the answer is that *Christ reveals himself only to his lovers*. Here, in John chapter 14, Jesus is pouring in words of assurance to the disciples shortly before his death, as he speaks of the love relationship between himself and those who follow him.

"It would sound odd for a man to say he loved a god," wrote the Greek thinker, Aristotle, 24 centuries ago. Such could well be admitted by adherents of modern religions today. Yet in the words of the Danish philosopher Soren Kierkegaard, "*A believer is surely a lover, yea of all lovers the most in love.*"

From time to time we meet with great lovers of Jesus. We know that they are such, because we cannot imagine them doing or saying anything that would contravene their discipleship. Sometimes, when we meet them, we almost feel that we are speaking with Jesus himself!

The practical obedience, generosity and purity of living that pour out of the lives of Christ's lovers in no way resembles the grudging servitude that a slave would give to a feared tyrant; theirs is the grateful response of love that has been awakened by a yet greater love still. The Baptist preacher C.H. Spurgeon once declared, "Obedience must have love for its mother, nurse and food."

Is there a reward for such obedience? There is. The reward is *more of Jesus*; a greater awareness of His presence and companionship with us, by day and night. Indeed, Jesus elaborates further when he adds, "My Father will love him, and *we will come to him and make our home with him*"(John 14:23). As an old hymn put it:

*To turn aside from thee is hell,  
To walk with thee is heaven*

**Rev Richard Bewes**

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## LIFE - (Jn6:68)

Life is not always fair, or kind.  
Life batters,  
People betray, let us down,  
Even those we trusted with our hearts and health.  
Landscapes change,  
Things we knew and understood  
Are tossed in the air  
To come down damaged and different.  
It all seems too hard,  
Too hard to bear.  
And it isn't fair.

What then?  
Give up, turn back,  
Collapse and concentrate on the disintegration?  
Or with Peter, look up and say,  
"Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life.  
We believe and know that  
You are the Holy One of God."

Life is not always fair, or kind.  
That's why Jesus came.

**By Daphne Kitching**

## WW1: WOODBINE WILLIE

The Rev George Anketell Studdert Kennedy was the son of a parson who followed in his father's calling and in 1914 became vicar of St Paul's, Worcester. Within a few weeks the Great War began and George, like many other young clergy, immediately volunteered as an army chaplain and soon found himself on the western front, right in the middle of the 'war to end all wars'. By the time the war was over he had achieved an odd new name, a Military Cross for 'exceptional bravery' and an honoured place in its annals. The young chaplain had become 'Woodbine Willie' - a nickname given him by the soldiers in the trenches, but which stuck with him for the rest of his life.

People under fifty probably won't have any idea what a 'Woodbine' was, but for my generation it was the cheapest way into the forbidden joys of smoking. 'Woodbines' - small cigarettes - were available in packets of five (rather than ten or twenty) and so even pocket money could buy them. During the Great War they were the standard popular 'fag' in an era when almost all men smoked. Indeed, my father, tending wounded and even dying men as an army medic, would routinely light a cigarette and place it between their lips.

'Woodbine Willie' carried a permanent supply of Woodbines in his pockets along with his Bible - hence the nickname. He gave men a 'fag', and at the same time, in the most natural way, offered them encouragement, sympathy and prayer. He insisted on sharing all their experiences, including going into No Man's Land to minister to the injured and dying - allies or enemies.

The chaplains serving on the battle-field won the universal respect of the troops. They insisted on sharing the life of the trenches and getting to know the soldiers personally. This led many chaplains, including Studdert Kennedy, radically to alter their approach and even their theology. They quickly realised how remote the average soldier was from formal church services and the language of the Bible and the Prayer Book. They came back after the War determined to change things in church, but it wasn't easy.

Studdert Kennedy moved from being a typical Edwardian parson, who thought that the main object of a war was to win it - he once joined the troops for bayonet practice - to being a convinced pacifist who thought the best thing to do with wars was to end them.

After the war he became a vicar in the City of London, a published poet and in the early days of radio a popular broadcaster. When he died in 1929 it was reported that crowds lined the pavements as his funeral procession made its way through the streets.

*Food for the Fed-up* was the title of a book he wrote principally for the soldiers in the trenches. It was the Creed explained in their language. *The Unutterable Beauty* was the title of his Collected Poems, many of them based on his experience of the western front. He did indeed find a mysterious beauty in the grim humour, honest fear and raw courage of the men with whom he had so often shared a fag and a prayer.

**David Winter**

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## WHERE ARE THE WILD FLOWERS?

Where have all the flowers gone? It seems that Britain's wild flowers are becoming extinct at a faster rate than ever before. The charity Plantlife warns that since the Queen came to the throne, more than 10 species of wild flowers have died out, including summer

lady's tresses and purple spurge. Local extinctions are happening even faster: the Middlesex area lost 76 species in 40 years, and Northamptonshire 74. Plantlife blames the intensification of agriculture and the use of pesticides.

## THOMAS COKE ( 1747 - 1814 )

200 years ago a then elderly Methodist Minister found himself on a ship heading off on a new mission to South-East Asia. His name - Thomas Coke. Sadly he was never to complete that journey as he died, on 2nd May 1814, whilst on board the ship and was buried at sea. This was a remarkable man - small in stature but with a huge personality.

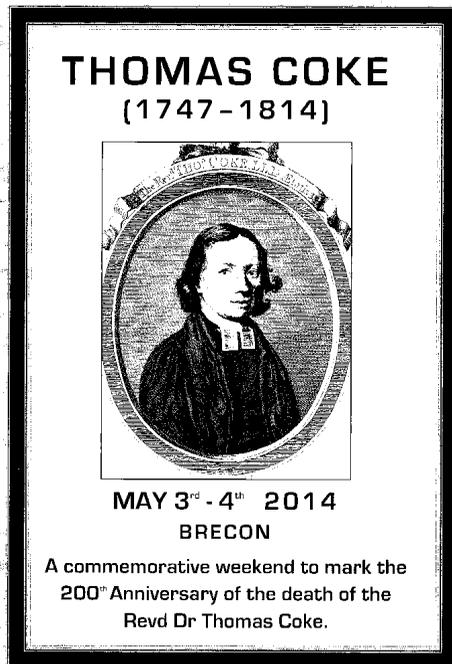
An intelligent man, he studied in Jesus College Oxford and he then went on to become Bailiff of his home Cathedral town of Brecon. During this period he received a call to the Ministry and trained to become an Anglican Priest. It was in 1776 that he met John Wesley, then in his seventies, and in the next year Coke was driven out of his parish in South Petherton, Somerset because of his 'Methodist ways'.

In 1784 Coke was 'set apart' by John Wesley in Bristol and he then sailed for the United States to organise the Methodists there into an independent body. In December of that year at their December Conference, jointly with Francis Asbury, he was elected Superintendent (later called 'Bishop' to Wesley's displeasure).

It was in 1786 that he wrote an address proposing that there should be an annual subscription for the support of Missionaries. Later that year he made his first of four visits to the West Indies.

During 1791 - 1813 whenever he was not abroad, Coke held the position as Secretary of the British Methodist Conference. In 1799 he initiated missions to Irish speakers in Ireland and Welsh speakers in Wales.

On Saturday May 3rd. the 200th year



celebrations commenced with a series of lectures putting Coke's life into the context of the town of Brecon and then his legacy for American Methodism.

An exhibition opened at the Brecknock Museum in Brecon and this was due to run until May 17th.

In the afternoon of May 3rd, the Cathedral was filled to capacity for a Gathering of Methodists from most of the Circuits in South Wales and beyond and folk from other denominations to celebrate Coke's life and his contribution to Methodist Missionary work. Entitled 'Thomas Coke - Looking back, Looking forward' the lead speaker at the Gathering was The Reverend The Lord Leslie Griffiths of Burry Port. Contributions also came from, amongst others, Revd. Cathy Gale (Superintendent of the Gwent Hills and Vales Circuit) on Coke's Mission to the West Indies, Revd. Jennie Hurd (Chair of Synod Cymru) on the Concern for the Welsh Speaker and Revd. Soba Sinnathamby (a

former Minister in the Newport and Lower Wye Circuit) on Coke's final journey to Sri Lanka (then Ceylon).

Those of us who were there found the Gathering afternoon extremely informative and well put together. It is hoped that Leslie Griffiths will be making available a transcript of his speech if anyone is interested.

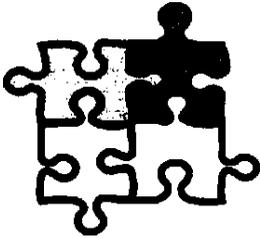
On Sunday May 4<sup>th</sup>. there was an Ecumenical service of Holy Communion in the Cathedral at which the preacher was

Bishop Thomas Bickerton of the Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church and in the afternoon, Glasbury Methodist Church at Cwmbach (the last remaining chapel of the old Brecon Circuit) hosted a buffet tea followed by a service at which the preacher was Revd. Cathy Gale.

**Jack Healey**

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## **THE JIGSAW OF LIFE**



**Everything I  
Needed to Know  
about Life I Learnt  
from a Jigsaw  
Puzzle**

- Don't force a fit - if something is meant to be, it will come together naturally.
- When things aren't going too well, take a break. Everything will look different when you return.
- Be sure to look at the big picture. Getting hung up on the little pieces only leads to frustration.
- Perseverance pays off. Every important puzzle went together bit by bit, piece by piece.
- When one spot stops working, move to another. Be sure to come back later.
- The creator of the puzzle gave you the picture as a guidebook. Refer to the Creator's guidebook often.
- Variety is the spice of life. It's the different colours and patterns that make the puzzle interesting.
- Working together with friends and family makes any task fun.
- Establish the border first. Boundaries give a sense of security and order.
- Don't be afraid to try different combinations. Some matches are surprising.
- Take time often to celebrate your successes (even little ones).
- Anything worth doing takes time and effort. A great puzzle can't be rushed.
- When you finally reach the last piece, don't be sad. Rejoice in the masterpiece you've made and enjoy a well-deserved rest.

***Taken from Prestwood Methodist Church  
Summer 2014 Magazine,  
originally found in the magazine of  
Anstey Methodist Church, Leicestershire***

## IT'S ABOUT TIME

(A remarkable piece written by Revd Reg Dean, from Derbyshire, just before his 110<sup>th</sup> birthday, and shortly before he died.)

I am going to speak about **time**. The **time** of decision.

The **time** of thinking of the gracious things I know and the peace I have learned as I sit in my lonely room.

I think of all of the **time** when all of my friends have been to see me, and still come. May they live in happiness and joy.

I sit in my room and think of the **time** and joy when, we shall all meet again in the heavens of justice and peace; and, though I am growing old I am not afraid to go. I have so much to be thankful for, and I have had **time** to think on all these things.

I am learning who I am, why I am here, where I am going - and I am glad that the hour is now near, the day is closing, the fretful life is over.

And I look forward to the **time** when I must close the book and search for the key of happiness that will open the gate for me.

I approach that **time** of joy with gladness and peace - the **time** when I hear the voice calling to me as I open the gate, "Who goes there?" and I shall cheerfully cry, "A friend," and he will reply, "Enter and join my fellowship, Thomas Reginald Dean."

*Taken from Prestwood Methodist Church  
Summer 2014 Magazine,*



*From  
Methodist Recorder  
of May 2, 2014*

# Methodist Recorder



*Letter from  
The Rev.  
Ray Smith,  
Shrewsbury  
(quoted  
in full)*

## CHAIRS / PEWS

"As I get older I seem to have more and more questions about more and more things. Why is 'abbreviated' such a long word? Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes? And what about this: These days many churches have modernised. Pews have been removed and replaced by chairs. Why then, are the chairs still set in straight rows exactly where the pews were? Chairs arranged in a curve speak of a welcoming inclusion rather than the exclusiveness of gazing at the back of someone's head. Those on the other side of the church can be seen and acknowledged and people can worship together rather than individually. Can anyone help my puzzlement?"

Exercise daily -- walk with the Lord.

I think that God's works are so beautiful that I am amazed that people can admire them but deny that they have a Maker. *Commissioner Catherine Bramwell-Booth*

# LORD OF THE DANCE



The light streams through the latticed pane. I, idly sifting thoughts of ordinary days, am struck by the gyrations of a small, maroon-clad child, dancing in the aisle, utterly alone, utterly content in her

spontaneous, tangoed world, bobbed ribbons swirling, feet in patent, clicking, smiling, eyes closed, seizing her moment of joy. I am entranced. She, entirely oblivious of her audience, swirls on, round and round and round, reaching for a moment of perfection.

The great arc of the cathedral dome soars away into infinity. There have been few visitors today and those who came were in an unseemly hurry to depart-or so it seemed to me. My role as "meeter and greeter" is in little demand today; no matter, I will melt away early. No-one will notice. No-one ever does.

I cannot leave, will not leave whilst she still dances. There is no music—at least none the human ear can detect, but she hears some ethereal melody, of that I am convinced. This child has entered my being. I do not know her, cannot speak her name and yet there is a profound connection, the like of which I have never before experienced and cannot explain, not even to myself.

"Emma, what DO you think you're doing?"

The spell is broken as a smart young mother,

harassed as she deals with a perverse toddler in a perverse pushchair, tumbles into the nearest pew to berate her dancing daughter in a hoarse whisper.

"Can't I leave you alone for a moment? You know Peter is playing up. You must set him an example—show him how he should behave in church!"

I am bereft as magic slithers silently away. I so want to speak up on behalf of the child, promise her that someone was watching, applauding, experiencing her ecstasy, understanding.

It has nothing to do with me. With a sigh, I turn to check my gloves, my umbrella and other inconsequential paraphernalia of an inconsequential life. As if by chance, I hear her voice, clear and clean and strangely matter-of-fact....

"It's all right, Mummy. God won't mind. We learned all about it in school because we sing a hymn . . . Dance then, wherever you may be, I am the Lord of the Dance....."

The child explains patiently as the light, brighter now, streams through the latticed window, patterning the aisle with reflections.

**Pat Peden (St. John's Methodist Church Hereford.**

**Taken from March 2014 'Nexus' Hereford S&E Methodist Circuit With Permission**

## Quiet

A mother who took her fidgety seven-year-old to church finally had an idea: about halfway through the long sermon she leaned over and whispered: "If you don't be quiet, the minister is going to lose his place, and he will have to start *all over again*." It worked!

## Noise

One night, a minister stumbled into the police stations with a black eye. He explained he had heard a noise in his churchyard and gone to investigate. The next thing he knew, he'd been hit in the eye and knocked out cold. An officer was sent to investigate and he returned some time later, also with a black eye "Did you get hit by the same person?" his Inspector asked him. "No," he said. "But I stepped on the same rake."

# HYMN TUNES

## PEACE, BE STILL

When I was 4 or 5, living in Wichita, one Sunday evening a tornado struck the city as we were driving home from church. As Daddy began to feel the suction lifting the car's tires off the road, he could only hang onto the steering wheel and pray. Mama bent over my baby sister in her lap, and ordered me onto the floor of the back seat. Although I obeyed, I was seriously put out as I wanted to sit up and SEE what was happening! We were just on the edge, and as the funnel switched away from us, all was well. Throughout my Kansas childhood tornados were more exciting than anything. It wasn't until May 10, 2008, that I developed a different outlook on severe weather. Though lives were spared in our immediate neighbourhood, and the physical damage was largely repaired in time, we came out of that experience with a loss of a sense of security or comfort. Every severe storm since then has caused us some emotional upheaval as we fearfully anticipate what damage this storm might do to us or our friends. Yet, each time I find myself humming "The wind and the waves obey Thy will, Peace, be still."

Horatio Palmer began singing in his father's church choir at age 7, and grew up to become a noted musician and choral director. In 1874, as choir director at the Second Baptist Church in Chicago, he asked the hymn writer Mary Ann Baker to prepare several songs on the subject of the current Sunday School lessons. One theme was "Christ Stilling the Tempest." Baker had recently been through a personal tempest with the loss of mother, father, and a beloved brother. As she wrote, "I said in my heart that God did not care for me or mine. But the Master's own voice stilled the tempest in my heart, and brought it to the calm of a deeper faith and a more perfect trust." The outcome of all this was the hymn "Master, the Tempest is Raging."

The first verse speaks of the terror the disciples felt on their storm-tossed sea: "Master, the tempest is raging! The billows

are tossing high!" The second is a more personal lament: "Master, with anguish of spirit I bow in my grief today." But each is followed with the consoling refrain:

The winds and the waves shall obey Thy will, Peace, be still!

Whether the wrath of the storm tossed sea, Or demons or men, or whatever it be... They all shall sweetly obey Thy will, Peace, be still! Peace, be still!

And the third verse reassures us: "Master, the terror is over, The elements sweetly rest." And the calming refrain echoes, "Peace, peace, be still!"

*Susan Bemus 2013, Granby, Missouri*

## JESUS LOVES THE LITTLE CHILDREN

I've been wanting to do a whole article on Sunday School and Vacation Bible School choruses from my childhood. Well, it isn't only the music I remember; sometimes I went to VBS for the cookies! I especially liked it when we were served Sunshine butter cookies-you know the ones? Baked in the shape of a flower with a hole in the middle? I'd thread one onto a finger and nibble carefully around the edges until I had a little cookie ring. I always managed to finish my nibbling before it was time to sing, though.

The cookie ring never survived the vigorous gestures that went along with some of the songs, stretching my arms as far as possible as I sang "Deep and wide, deep and wide, there's a fountain flowing deep and wide." Or miming the actions to "I may never march in the infantry, ride in the cavalry, shoot the artillery. /I may never fly o'er the enemy, but I'm in the Lord's army." Or "Climb, climb up sunshine mountain, heavenly breezes blow." One of the most fun to sing consisted of only two phrases, "Hallelu, hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah," and "Praise ye the Lord." One side of the room stood to sing one phrase, then sat while the other side stood and sang the next, until all joined in on the final "Praise ye the Lord." The fun came when the order of the phrases

changed in the middle of the song.

Since young Nathan reminded us in last week's children's time about Jesus' call to Peter, I can't stop humming, "I will make you fishers of men, if you follow me." Other children's sermons in the past have brought other choruses to mind, like "Zaccheus was a wee little man," and "The wise man built his house upon the rock," and "O, be careful, little eyes, what you see."

But what I remember most is how many of the old choruses spoke of love and joy. We sang "Praise Him, praise Him, all ye little children. / God is love, God is love." And "If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands" ("stomp your feet," "say 'Amen'," "do all three"). And "I'm in-right, out-right, up-right, down-right happy all the time." And "I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart" that progressed through "I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus down in my heart" and "I've got the peace that passeth understanding down in my heart" until you had to fit in all of "I've got the wonderful love of my blessed Redeemer way down in the depths of my heart." What a great lesson that is for children. It's even better than cookies.

***Susan Bemus 2012 , Granby, Missouri***

## **ABIDE WITH ME**

I know it's not quite football season yet, but I'm sure everyone can think back to high school or college games in their past. To stir up spirit, what did the band play? The school's alma mater or fight song, right? More recently they might play "We Are the Champions" or an adaptation of some other popular tune to get everybody worked up and cheering for their team. It was quite an experience when the whole student body in the stands joined their voices in some rousing anthem. Thinking of sports leads to thoughts of the Olympics currently playing in London, and that leads to the reminder that in the UK those massed voices at sporting events will often be singing hymns!

Granted, the Britons tend to do things a bit differently than we do in the U.S.; they put vinegar on their French fries, for one thing. But remembering generations of tradition is a good thing. And why shouldn't

hymns be used to foster spirit and a unity of purpose? Tradition and fellowship unite spectators in the stands as they sing together. One particular hymn has been sung before the kick-off at every Rugby League Challenge Cup final since 1929.

When Henry Francis Lyte wrote "Abide With Me" in 1847, he had in mind a somewhat different purpose in which he hoped to inspire listeners to unite. A Scottish clergyman, Lyte wrote the hymn as he was dying of tuberculosis. He finished it on the Sunday when he gave his farewell sermon before leaving for Italy to regain his health. He never made it, dying in France just three weeks after writing the words of the hymn. In his farewell sermon he said, "Brethren, I hope to induce you to prepare for that solemn hour which must come to all, by a timely acquaintance with the death of Christ." Lyte set the hymn to an original tune, but it is now more often sung to the tune "Eventide" composed by William Monk in 1861. Monk's wife wrote, "This tune was written at a time of great sorrow when together we watched the glories of the setting sun. As the last golden ray faded, he pencilled that tune which has gone all over the earth." These words written by a man weeks from death and tune composed at a time of great sadness now form a hymn which gives great comfort to many.

The stirring tune and lyrics are popular throughout the world. The hymn has been sung at many weddings including that of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, and funerals such as Mother Teresa's. It was reportedly one of the hymns played by the ship's band as Titanic was sinking. It was a favourite of King George V and Mahatma Gandhi. It has been featured in a number of films and TV shows, including "Shane," "Twilight Zone," and "Dr. Who."

It echoes across that rugby pitch. It echoes across Devonshire as the bells of Lyte's church at All Saints in Lower Brixham daily ring out the tune. It echoes in our lives as we pray with the Disciples, "Lord, abide with us for it is toward evening and the day is far spent."

***Susan Bemus 2012 ,  
Granby, Missouri***

# THE DREAM STATUE AND THE LOVER



Sometimes I enjoy delving into the scriptures and into parts that are not my regular readings. There are so many mysteries in the Bible and even great scholars of The Word find it difficult to unravel them. I can't profess to be a scholar of the word in any way at all, but sometimes I am led to find a simple overtone in some of the deeper mysteries. At various times in my reading, I have been struck by the parallels and contrasts that appear.

In Daniel, chapter two, we read of the King's dream and the failure of his many wise men to give him an interpretation. But God gives Daniel a revelation of the dream and he is able to give the King an explanation. I have read this story many times and it is from this passage that we get the saying that our idols have feet of clay. In other words that they can let us down. And yes, if they are human, they most certainly do have feet of clay and we cannot wholly depend upon them. Psalm 146 gives us a reminder – *“Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help.”*

That is warning us that even the best of people can fail us – and indeed they often do. So can we take a closer look at this statue? – this being that the king had seen in his dream and cannot understand. The head is of gold, bespeaking the brain, the intellectual part of mankind – the motor, if you like, that drives mankind, that makes us the person we are. But this being gets less

worthy as we move downwards, surveying his make-up.

His breast and arms are of silver, so his heart isn't quite as good as his head, but his hands and arms have a certain strength and usefulness and that part of him is quite attractive. His belly and thighs are made of brass, not such a precious metal – but sturdy and durable, so that he has strength and power of movement. His legs are of iron, strong and heavy to uphold his weight but not indestructible. His feet are even less good, a mixture of iron and clay, definitely not a sound base to support such a monstrous and heavy figure and so we soon discover.

Out of the dream a rock appeared, which struck this image upon his feet. The rock attacked the weakest part of the figure, knowing that smashing the feet would bring down the whole figure and cause its destruction. Perhaps this is a reminder that, as Christians, our feet are safe only when they are planted on the rock which is Christ Jesus. In our own strength we can easily be brought down, but anchored upon that eternal rock, nothing can move us. We used to sing as children, the rain came down and the floods came up, but the house upon the rock stood firm – amen.



When the rock struck the feet of the figure, the whole thing crashed down and broke into pieces. It simply crumbled and the Word is specific. It was not just rugged lumps, but the Word says it became – “as chaff from the summer threshing floors, and the wind carried them away – that no place was found for them.”

So this mighty, monstrous figure came to nothing but dust, and was blown away to the four winds – even as mankind must eventually come to dust.

Daniel reveals the meaning of this dream as the downward progress of the nations beginning with a stable nation and a strong ruler, and working down through the years to come, and showing that the nations will deteriorate and weaken until they become of no account. This can be a picture of the scattering of the Israelitish nation, which even now has not regathered itself – or it can be a picture of our world grinding down to its end before God sets up his eternal kingdom. It is also a lesson to us, that if we worship anything other than God, it will come to nothing; it will be crushed and scattered and blown away like chaff.

These stories are ones we often pass over, but they are not in God's Word by chance, but they are put there for us to contemplate thoroughly and to learn the lessons they contain.

As a complete contrast to this multi-metal figure – I was led to the description of the lover in The Song of Solomon. It has been said of this unusual book that the beloved is the church and the lover is God. It seems sometimes to stretch our imaginations to extremes, but it is undoubtedly a love poem and one of extreme beauty. It is a glorious celebration of the points and personalities of both lover and the beloved. However, I am not sufficiently erudite to open up all of its meaning to you – but it did strike me that the picture of the lover – and therefore of God – is, in all aspects, a picture of perfection. Take a look at the difference in the makeup of this wonderful lover, his stature and all his attributes.

“He is white and ruddy” – white bespeaking the purity of God and red bespeaking the shed blood. His head is also of gold, but note that it is “the most fine gold,” and he does not deteriorate in quality or in strength, or beauty as we move downward over his whole being.

This is not a dream that depicts failure and degeneration; here is a specimen of perfection with absolute strength and power. But he is much, much, more than that! His eyes are the eyes of doves, he is aromatic spices and sweet smelling flowers, his mouth is sweet. Yes, yes, it all bespeaks the compassion of God, the gentleness of God, the sweetness and the beauty of God's love and care for us, the words his lips bestow on us. He is beautiful and bright, he is laden with jewels – he is indeed the light of the world.

We can bask in his compassion, his love and his wonder, but we can also lean and rely upon those marble legs and those gold feet, to be strong for us and to uphold us whenever we need it. His feet are as perfect as his head, they will not let him down. He cannot be overthrown, he is from everlasting to everlasting. He is an absolutely perfect being. The beloved ends her description thus “*he is altogether lovely.*”

And yes, we know our God and he is altogether lovely. The jewels in his body are the many facets of his wonderful nature. We can be sure that he is master of every occasion and of every situation and nothing is beyond his mighty power and love.

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians says - “*The first man (Adam) is of the earth, earthly, The second man is the Lord from heaven.*”

But how well that text illustrates these two portraits! The first being, the one of the dream, is earthly, imperfect, destructible, and dispensable. The second description is heavenly, perfect, indestructible, and eternal. What a contrast!

It is completely reasonable to want to put your trust in that perfect eternal being and that is what God offers with his salvation. He offers assurance, compassion, understanding, protection, freedom from sin and almost unbelievable beauty in the person of Jesus Christ. The beloved is besotted with his beauty and his person and she wanders the streets searching and pining for him, as

**CONTINUED OVER PAGE**

she is incomplete without him. We understand that, having seen his beauty and we think no more of the dream figure.

But we need to be careful, it is all too easy to see the golden head and the silver and brass and to be taken in and not notice the weak lower parts and the possibility of falling. We must be aware of the imperfections. In the portrait of the lover, we have absolute perfection and we will find safety in the love and service of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In Daniel 5 and verse 43 we read this – “*And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men, but they shall not cleave one to another – even as iron is not mixed with clay.*” That is a fair picture of our uncaring, unloving society, we interact with each other, but each person is involved in looking after number one. While, towards the end of the special love poem, we read, “Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it.”

Nothing can lesson God’s love for mankind, his love is absolute, immeasurable eternal and the miracle is that it is ours for the asking.

We used to sing in the old days –  
“*I fell in love with a Nazarene,  
A beautiful Nazarene,  
Whose face with Glory was alight,  
The fairest mine eyes had seen;  
Near his side, I would abide  
With never a veil between,  
Since I fell so deep in love  
With Jesus, the Nazarene.*”

The Nazarene, this Jesus is very special, he is perfect all through, even as the lover is shown to be perfect in the poem. His perfection is what made him the only sacrifice for us; he was the holy one, the spotless lamb of God, the being without sin.

What is more wonderful is that he is alive for us today, not a dream, not a poem, but a living loving savoiir, the God of compassion, perfection personified. Yet, in spite of all that wonder and glory, he wants us, calls to us, wants to share eternity with us. What a privilege that will be. The beloved says it -  
“*Yea, he is altogether lovely, this is my beloved and this is my friend.*” - Amen.

**Calamus**

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## DO YOU BREAK THE RULES?

How often do you break the rules? Probably about 260 times a year. This may include dropping litter, driving in the bus lane, or putting your feet on the train seats.

Some transgressions, while wrong, can be at least understood in the scheme of things: dodging a train fare, using other people’s Wi-Fi, putting rubbish in a neighbour’s bin if yours is full, parking in disabled bays and taking sugar sachets from cafes. However, other transgressions seem stupendously foolhardy: trimming a neighbour’s hedge (without warning), or having sex in a public space (apparently commonplace). Of all the rules that can be broken, one came out top

for sheer public annoyance: failure to pick up after your dog. The research was commissioned by Karcher, the cleaning specialists.

The Bible has something to say to ALL of us, if we value good standards of public behaviour: “*Hold on to instruction, do not let it go, guard it well, for it is your life.*”

(Prov 4:13)

Try Jesus. If you don't like him, the devil will always take you back..

As long as there are exams, there will be prayer in schools.

## YOUNG MIND

*The following poem by David Kossoff appeared in the November issue of 'Teamtalk' (All Saints, Holy Trinity, St. Nicholas and Breinton Church's magazine), Hereford. It was submitted by the Rev. Richard Bollard (retired) for reflection on getting old. He writes:*

**"Whatever age we are we should pray for a young mind, an ability to be open to fresh opportunities and new and perhaps disturbing challenges in mission and being Church."**

I have been giving thought,  
Lord you have a minute? - to getting old.  
Natural enough, as the years pass.  
Do the years pass more quickly, Lord?  
Whatever happened to those longer years  
we used to have?  
Did you discontinue them?  
To speed up the process, sort of?  
To replace us faster?  
Hoping for improvement in the product?  
Understandable.

However, getting old. Subject for today  
and I'm not talking about staying young.  
Indeed not; I was young once and  
wasn't mad on it. But to continue.  
Getting old, a fellow said, is all in the mind.  
True. It's also inclined to get into the joints,

the digestion, and the poor old feet.  
Spectacles appear, then a second pair.  
Certain powers wane. Expected; allowed for.  
But the fellow's right, or nearly right.

Now, Lord. To the point.  
What if the *mind* gets stiff in the joints?  
Where are you then?  
What if the mind goes lame, needs two pairs  
of specs?  
Then, it would seem, a person's got trouble.  
I mean, if the mind is in charge, and  
starts taking days off; loses grip.  
Where are you then?  
Seems it's time for a person to shut the  
office.

So, Lord, please, keep me young in the mind.  
Let me enjoy. Lord, let me enjoy.  
If creaky I must be, and many-spectacled,  
and morning-stiff and food-careful,  
if trembly-handed and slow-moving and  
breath-short and head-noddy,  
I won't complain. Not a word.  
If, with your help, dear Friend, there  
will dwell in this ancient monument,  
a young mind. Please Lord?

**David Kossoff**

***Taken from March 2014 'Nexus'  
Hereford S&E Methodist Circuit  
With Permission***

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## THANKSGIVING

Let us thank our Lord today  
For the sun that shines in May,  
For the budding cherry trees,  
The greening of the country leaves.

Let us thank our Lord today  
For Summer's lovely golden stay,  
The daisies wild in meadows green,  
The garden squash and climbing bean.

Let us thank our Lord today  
For Autumn's beauty in its stay,  
The sumac red and scarlet elm,  
Nature in its vibrant realm.

Let us thank the Lord today  
For Winter's beauty at our bay,  
The warmth of home at fireside,  
The crystal scenes of acres wide.

Let us thank our Lord today  
For every season's special way,  
And know that we are truly blessed,  
From north and south and east and west.

The above was copied from the publication  
*Hope Within Your Heart*

**Virginia Borman Grimmer**

***Taken from Notices at Shaftesbury Street  
Methodist, Newport, 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2014***



Contributions for the next magazine would be most welcome. Members and friends of Caldicot, Langstone, Roglet, & Penyaemawr we would like to include an article of your choice. Please forward items to:- Barbara or Roger Simms, 14 Rockfield Crescent, Undy, Tel: (01633) 880304, Email [roger@barbaraandroger.co.uk](mailto:roger@barbaraandroger.co.uk) no later than midday :-

**FROM THE EDITOR**

**Sunday  
17<sup>th</sup> August**

**WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY?**

What does it take to make you happy? Getting into bed between freshly washed sheets, or finding £10 note in our jeans is enough to set most of us off, it seems. We also feel happy when people tell us they think we have lost weight. Praise from our boss, or even waking up to a sunny morning, can also bring a surge of simple joy.

The Top 20 Things that make us happy include: sitting in the sun, getting a nice message from a loved one, listening to our

favourite song, finding a bargain, getting a promotion, and even the smell of the Sunday roast. Three Barrels Brandy, which conducted the research, said: "It would seem that it does not take much to lift our spirits. Small gestures from friends and family can work wonders. Simple things can make such a positive difference." Solomon agreed: *"I know that there is nothing better for men than to be happy and do good while they live."* (Eccles 3:12)

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# THE JOURNEY

Fred and Hilda were given good advice, but they ignored it. They thought they knew better. Confidently, they drove off in their car without a map or any navigation system. Fred said he knew the way, and Hilda didn't pack any food or drink, assuming these could be bought later.



This couple were ill-prepared for their long journey and soon their holiday drive turned into a nightmare. Fred couldn't cope with the adverse road conditions and without any prior car maintenance checks the car began to overheat. Hilda was now hungry and thirsty.

As night fell the weather turned inclement and Fred confessed they were lost. The car ran out of fuel and they stopped in a damp and deserted place. Without a mobile phone between them they were stranded. Their journey had been a big mistake and they didn't know what to do.

Suddenly, a large van appeared and parked beside them. The driver stepped out, smiled and offered his assistance. He gave them something to eat, checked the car engine, put in petrol. Soon, Fred and Hilda's car was roadworthy once more.

This friendly man never once reprimanded Fred and Hilda for their lack of foresight.

Instead, he made them feel at ease, safe and secure. "Where do we go from here?" asked Fred. The man smiled, "Come, my friends. I'm taking you home."

Sometimes in our lives, we can embark on a course of action for which we are ill-prepared. We may disregard sound advice and then, sooner or later, we end up in trouble. At these times we need a person who can rescue us. We need someone to set us on the right road again; someone who will support and encourage us.

Our lives are like a journey. Sometimes, we may think we can get along without God. We may try to ignore his guidance. In our quest for independence we may lose our way and then have to admit our mistakes and confess our failings.

Sometimes our trouble and pain can be caused by our own deliberate fault and in our hopeless condition we need *someone greater than ourselves* to come to our aid.

When Jesus draws alongside us the situation changes. He doesn't condemn us. He comes to save us. Jesus is the only one who can enter our lives to put things right. Jesus says to each one of us, "Come, follow Me. I'm taking you to My Home."

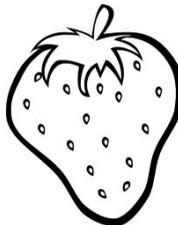
**Lester Amann**

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## WHY YOU NEED STRAWBERRIES THIS WIMBLEDON

Wimbledon's here again, and so are the strawberries! Watching the tennis may stress you out, but strawberries are totally good for you (just avoid the sugar and cream).

Strawberries are a highly concentrated source of vitamin C, vital for a healthy immune system



and a powerful antioxidant which protects against heart and circulatory disease. They contain pectin, which helps with the elimination of cholesterol. They have anti-cancer properties and especially contain ellagic acid, which is thought to inhibit the growth of cancer cells.

# THE TROUBLE WITH PENTECOST

PENTECOST gives me trouble. It makes me feel uncomfortable and inadequate. I can equate with Christmas: in Christ's birth I can see the birth of hope. When television shows atrocities in places like Bosnia I can feel the pain of Good Friday and the nails that fixed Jesus to the cross. On Easter Day I can see the triumph of hope and reconciliation. But Pentecost? That's different, it calls for a response from me!

As I read about the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost I feel uncomfortable. At Pentecost the apostles were transformed by the Holy Spirit. Suddenly they had confidence to share their knowledge of Jesus as their risen saviour.

But I'm not like them and changing makes me feel uncomfortable. At times I find myself praying: Lord change me but not just yet. But I also feel inadequate because I don't measure up to the great Christians I've read about or met.



## THE HELPER

As usual though, I've got it wrong. I've confused the sheer greatness and enormity of the Holy Spirit with his purpose. He's not there to daunt me or to be for show but to help me.

It is through the Holy Spirit that Jesus lives in me today and changes my life. It is through the Holy Spirit that I have a living relationship with Jesus. God may call me to do many things but first and foremost I am called to have a relationship with God. It is through the Holy Spirit that I can be a witness to God's love to those around me.

For most of us Pentecost marks a beginning of a relationship but unlike other parts of the Christian year it celebrates a change, a change from being a spectator to being a participator in God's work.

**DAVID BRADSHAW**

## **JUST A MINUTE**

WHEN you become a Christian, God gives you his Holy Spirit. So what difference does this make? What should we expect of a Christian? 'The fruit of the Spirit', says the Bible, 'is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control'.

Because Jesus was full of the Holy Spirit, his life was like that. The Holy Spirit is the Christian's only hope of ever following Jesus' example.

But beware of counterfeits. Possessiveness may masquerade as love; superficial heartiness as joy; indifference to God as

## WHEN THE SPIRIT COMES

peace (I've found peace since I gave up God).

Leaving people to stew in their own juice is not patience. Meddling in other people's affairs is not kindness. A fussy display of generosity is not goodness.

Faithfulness must not be confused with scrupulousness; nor gentleness with tolerance of evil; nor self-control with stoicism.

'Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord.

**GORDON HARMAN**

# DO YOU FEEL THE NEED TO ANSWER THE PHONE IN THE TOILET?

If you do, you may be suffering from 'immediate response syndrome'. You won't find it on Google as I invented it to help a businessman understand why he felt it would be impossible for him to put his phone away while I was teaching.

'Immediate response syndrome' may resonate with you if you feel you could not be parted from your phone, email, or text messaging device for more than a few minutes, let alone hours.



*"I used to call people, then I got into e-mailing, then texting, and now I just ignore everyone."*

It is the new worldwide phenomenon and has been brought about by the natural tendency to want to respond to a request, in whatever format, as it arrives. The extreme of this can be witnessed when you hear someone answering the phone whilst they are in the toilet. It's a good thing they are not automatically switched to video phone!

Tests show that if you answer your phone, text message or email as soon as you see that tempting icon that says that 'You've Got Mail', then you are saying to the person who sent it that you are always available, and that they can leave it till the last minute to do so. Hence all your communication will be urgent – no wonder you are worried that you may not be there to respond immediately! In fact, you could be leaving the other person vulnerable if this happened to be the time that you could not answer their urgent request immediately.

But do we want all our communication to be urgent? The truth is that none of us ever wanted this to happen, it just crept up on us.

The cure is to allow the phone to go to

answer-phone, (in the short term you can check the answer phone immediately to see if it's truly urgent and if not do not respond immediately). Don't answer text messages for at least half an hour unless it is absolutely vital; in time they will get less. Do your emails in batches so there are natural time breaks before they get a response. In the short term you can scan them for the really urgent and only deal with those.

If you start building the gaps into your communication cycle then those who want to contact you will realise that they must get in touch with you sooner, which in turn gives you longer to answer them, and takes the stress out of the situation.

**Bill Allen is Business Improvement Specialist who works with companies of all sizes to help improve their productivity, leadership, sales and marketing. As a Trustee of his Church he also speaks at events and churches on "Finding Time for God" – time management for Christians. He can be contacted at :- [www.improvementspecialist.co.uk](http://www.improvementspecialist.co.uk)**

# BOOK REVIEW



## **Hear My Cry** **Compiled by Bible Society, £3.99**

To mark the 100th anniversary of the start of the War, Bible Society has published a collection of poetry, prayers, hymns and psalms. It also includes personal stories of people who fought in the War, many of whose Bibles and diaries survived and are pictured in the book.

Sister Wendy Beckett (art critic and author) provides a commentary on paintings by Pieter Bruegel and John Nash. The moving words of poets such as Wilfred Owen, Eleanor Farjeon and Siegfried Sassoon are represented alongside other voices from the war years. You can use these accounts, extracts, letters and psalms in your church services, around your church or school, or for individual and community reflections.



## **Fruitfulness on the Frontline** **– making a difference where you are** **By Mark Greene, IVP, £8.99**

In this horizon-expanding, spirit-lifting, heart-warming book Mark Greene serves up a liberating view of how God can and does work in and through us in our daily lives. Whether you're a student or retired, or at the school gate, here is a fresh and original framework for fruitfulness which will open up a host of possibilities to make a difference for Christ among the people you naturally meet in the places you find yourself day by day.

Brimming with true stories, the combination of fresh Biblical insight, humour and practical steps will not only spark your imagination; it will enrich your sense of wonder at the greatness and grace of the

God who not only gave his life for us, but invites us to join him in his glorious, transforming work. And who helps us as we do.

## **As Long as the Earth Endures – the Bible, creation and the environment**

**Edited by Jonathan Moo and Robin Routledge, IVP, £19.99**

This stimulating volume offers biblical, theological and scientific perspectives on creation and the environment, in the hope that we may learn to see the world more clearly, to perceive its beauty and brokenness, and to reflect God's love in how we relate to all he has made.

The contributions begin with Old and New Testament studies, then move through theological reflection to particular applications. While the importance of ecology is recognized, Christians' first responsibility is to the God who has revealed himself in Christ, and who has called us to his service - and it is out of that calling to serve the Creator and Redeemer God that our motivation arises to share the divine commitment to creation and the environment for 'as long as the earth endures' (Genesis 8:22)



## **Love So Amazing 40 reflections on my favourite hymns**

**By Pam Rhodes, LionHudson, £9.99**

Pam Rhodes is the presenter of the world's number one religion television programme, 'Songs of Praise'. Here she brings together her meditations on 40 of her favourite hymns, reflecting on the story

behind them and their meaning. Each meditation concludes with a brief prayer. Pam writes, "Hymns are prayers in our pockets, a spiritual first aid kit that has its home amongst our memories. Hymns speak to us and for us, heart to heart, soul to soul, connecting us in fellow feeling to the writer, whoever they were and whenever they wrote."

The words of the great hymns aren't always cosy and comfortable. They remind us of the true demands of the Christian life. They spur us on to react and respond. Most of all, they remind us of the Almighty God who created the heavens and earth in all their vastness and complexity, but who also created us to be unique and precious through His divine and amazing love.

### **Hogs Hate Hugs!**

**By Tiziana Bendall-Brunello, John Bendall-Brunello, Lion Children's Books, £9.99**

Little Hog is the cutest, cuddliest hog in the whole forest, and EVERYONE wants to hug him! But Little Hog doesn't like hugs - he's far too old for that. He makes a poster telling everyone: "Hogs Hate Hugs!" and storms off - so his friends have to come up with an ingenious way of making him realise that "You can never be too old for a good hug!"

With adorable and lively illustrations packed with character, this picture book would be lovely for parents and children to share together, emphasising the importance of love and affection with those who are close to you.

### **Am I Beautiful?**

**By Chine Mbubaegbu, Authentic, £7.99**

Deep down, women long to be seen as beautiful. Each day they are bombarded by the media and society at large by images of how they should appear. The result? Most women feel they just don't measure up - and this beauty myth has crept into our churches too.

Christian women may hear that they

are made in the image of God; that he looks at the heart and not the outward appearance; that they have been set free from negative thought patterns. But often all that evaporates when they look in the mirror and compare themselves to the images of beauty they see around them.



### **50 Critical Cancer Answers By Francisco Contreras and Daniel Kenney, Authentic, £9.99**

Cancer - if we ever hear it from our doctor, it can be terrifying. But there's hope. In this practical, comprehensive 'field manual' from seasoned cancer fighters and renowned clinicians Francisco Contreras, MD and Daniel Kennedy, MC you will be given 50 tips and prescriptive measures for tackling cancer and finding renewed health.

Each of the 50 short, easy-to-digest chapters includes a concise explanation of the most effective and sought after cancer treatment in the realms of traditional medicine, natural medicine, emotional support and spiritual care. A succinct commentary is provided to help the reader understand potential benefits, and if it is a realistic treatment option or not.

### **Big God - how to approach suffering, spread the Gospel, make decisions and pray**

**By Orlando Saer, Christian Focus, £7.99**

Knowing a God with his hands well and truly on the steering wheel should bring great comfort to believers. But often it just leaves us scratching our heads in confusion. Why then do bad things happen? Where does that leave 'free will'? Does God choose us or do we choose God? What's the point of praying if God already knows what he's going to do?

Orlando Saer tackles these questions - and more - in a straightforward and engaging way. If you sometimes struggle to understand the way God works in the world, or to explain it to others, you will find light here. You'll also be left with a new appreciation of just how big the God of the Bible really is.



# ST JAMES-THE-LEAST OF ALL

## Beware all donations!

The Rectory, St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

This has been an unusual month: we have moved from hysterical excitement to deep disappointment within the space of days.

For many years, our vestry has displayed an oil painting generously donated by the dowager duchess of Stansby – given to us, I suspect, because her son, the tenth Duke, would not allow it in his house. It was supposed to depict Daniel in the lions' den, although I always thought it looked more like a prospective adopter visiting a dog rescue centre. The dowager was less than pleased when it wasn't made the centrepiece in the sanctuary, but we managed to persuade her that her exceptional work of art would be safer from theft if locked away.

Our cleaner happened to knock it off the wall. If it had landed in her bucket of disinfectant and been totally destroyed, it would have been a sadness I suspect I could have learned to bear. But something more interesting happened. Some of the dowager's oil was chipped off – to reveal a painting underneath of what looked like a cherub.

The cleaner told the churchwarden, who instructed her not to tell anyone about the find. This inevitably meant that, within the hour, the entire parish knew of the discovery of what had already been transformed into a priceless pre-Raphaelite treasure. Our churchwarden has yet to learn the fact that if you tell someone something in complete confidence, they assume it means they can only tell one other person at a time.

By evening, mutually opposed camps had already formed. Miss Timmins wanted the treasure to be placed in a side chapel, as a shrine, preferably with candles permanently burning beside it. She envisaged St. James the Less becoming a place of pilgrimage and that this yet-to-be revealed cherub may work miracles of healing. She was already asking for opinions about where the car park should be built to cater for the thousands of tourists who would soon be flocking here. Another

group wanted to sell it as soon as possible and use the money to repair our church tower. A third group insisted the fortune it would raise be given to African missionaries. Meanwhile, the tenth Duke was consulting his solicitors to see how he might get the canvas back to his castle.

We compromised by getting the thing X-rayed, to see what work of art lay underneath. It turned out to be by a local artist who had painted an advert for the village pharmacist to sell his own brand of gripe water.

Shrines, towers and good deeds were quietly forgotten and the last we heard of the tenth Duke was that he was consulting a second set of solicitors to see if he can get out of paying the first set for the work they had done to retrieve the painting.

Your loving uncle,

*Eustace*

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## On why our church is safe from vandals

The Rectory, St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

I was sorry to hear that your church was broken into last week. Since your sound system rivals that of any concert hall and your projection equipment would put most cinemas to shame, it is not surprising that is what they had their sights on. Your bemusement that they never touched your library of recordings is less understandable. I would have thought that few thieves would have been much interested in thirteen alternative renditions of "Shine Jesus, shine" and other such artistic gems.

It may have been an act of Christian charity to put a sign outside saying "Thieves will be forgiven", although since they took this as an invitation to burgle your house the following evening, I hope your forgiveness still operates. You must have been greatly relieved to find that your collection of numbers from train spotting were untouched. They must have been so overjoyed to

## by The Rev Dr Gary Bowness

discover your tins of night-time cocoa that they overlooked them in their excitement.

Last year, we also had unwelcome visitors. The thieves must have spent several hours breaking down the 400 year-old oak door to get in. Had they bothered to try the handle, they would have discovered that we never lock the church anyway.

Since we have yet to leap forward into the nineteenth century, there was little to attract them. Had they removed the marble sarcophagi of the Earls of Lincombe, the money they may have made wouldn't even have paid for the subsequent hernia operations. Inevitably, there was general outrage that the poor box had been broken into – although as far as I can remember, for many years it had contained nothing more than an old three-penny piece and a button.

For many of our congregation, this represented the End of Civilisation as we Know It. Calls were made to have a permanent armed guard on the premises and a few even speculated about the possibility of having tactical nuclear weapons and strategically placed land mines about the place. Colonel Beauchamp generously offered us his collection of man traps.

Perhaps our thieves may be forgiven their crime, but until that three-penny piece and button are returned, it will not be forgotten.

Your loving uncle,

***Eustace***

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### On the best way to visit new homes in the parish

The Rectory, St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

The offer to bring in your team of visiting evangelists in order to call on every home on our new housing estate was most generous. I know it would have committed us to accommodating your party of 25 visitors and that there would have to be a residential training weekend for our own members of the

team. I accept that we would have to produce a visiting pack listing all our church organisations, giving contact names and numbers and a short resume of what each group did, along with their "mission statements". You also suggested we should include a supplement outlining our stewardship scheme and telling the householders that there would be a further visit from those running that programme.

You seem convinced that there should be an opening Service to which all the newcomers would be invited and apparently even think that we might fly in some world-renowned speaker for the occasion. All of this would have required a finance committee to set budgets and organise fund raising. What you seem to have missed is that our new estate I referred to contains four houses. They would not have felt visited, but invaded.

We had thought of something a little more low-key: an invitation to sherry after Mattins, where we could find out which of them play golf and who may like to join the Bridge Club. Our idea of evangelism is a little broader than yours, it appears. Time will come when we can find out who will be prepared to go on the brass cleaning, flower arranging and grass cutting rotas, which are the traditionally recognised signs of committed Christians.

Inevitably, this means that some of our people will not be joining your own team to see how it is done, as you visit the residents of the new tower block in your parish. Most of our congregation abandoned attempting stairs some years ago and their polite enquiries about which Hunt residents belong to and where they stable their horses may lead to a rather stilted conversation.

You may be all prepared to welcome your new residents with enthusiasm, excitement and frenetic activity; our policy of polite indifference and brief conversations about the weather should soon help ours to settle in in no time.

Your loving uncle,

***Eustace***

# CROSSWORD

## Across

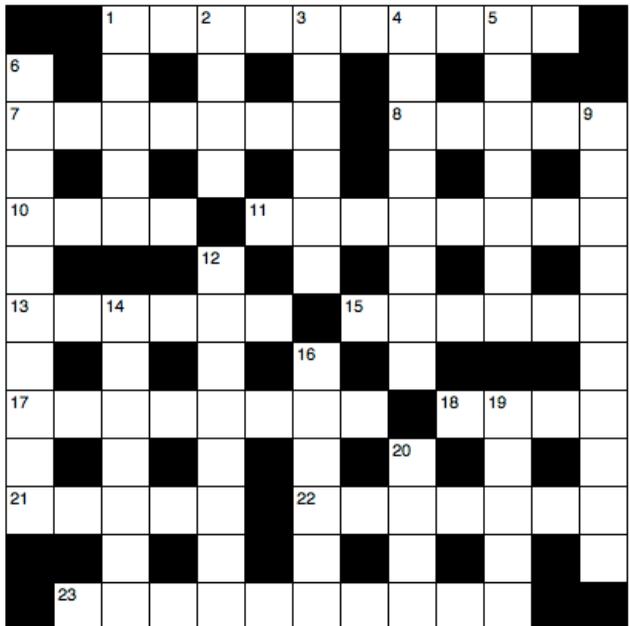
- 1 Evil (Genesis 6:5) (10)  
 7 Musician called for by Elisha when he met the kings of Israel, Judah and Edom (2 Kings 3:15) (7)  
 8 The request that led to the institution of the Lord's Prayer: 'Lord, — us to pray' (Luke 11:1) (5)  
 10 'We are hard pressed on every—'(2 Corinthians 4:8)(4)  
 11 Fraud (2 Corinthians 6:8)(8)  
 13 'His troops advance in force; they build a siege ramp against me and — around my tent' (Job 19:12) (6)  
 15 Where Rachel hid Laban's household gods when he searched his daughter's tent (Genesis 31:34) (6)  
 17 'Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be—' (1 Corinthians 12:1) (8)  
 18 Nomadic dwelling(Genesis26:25)(4)  
 21 'As for man, his days are like—,he flourishes like a flower of the field' (Psalm 103:15) (5)  
 22 Or I live (anag.)(7)  
 23 Those guilty of 1 Across ( Romans13:4 ) (10)

## Down

- 1 'God so loved the — that he gave his one and only Son' (John 3:16) (5)  
 2 'Away in a manger, no — for a bed' (4)  
 3 Mob ten (anag.) (6)  
 4 'Each — group made its own gods in several towns where they settled' (2 Kings 17:29) (8)  
 5 Began (Luke 9:46) (7)  
 6 Speaking very softly (John 7:32) (10)  
 9 Workers Ruth joined when she arrived in Bethlehem with her mother-in-law Naomi (Ruth 2:3) (10) 12 Put in jail(Acts22:19)(8)  
 14 Aceturn (anag.)(7)  
 16 Discharge(Acts21:3)(6)  
 19 'All these—come from inside and make a man "unclean"' (Mark 7:23) (5)  
 20 'Let us rejoice and be glad and — him glory!'(Revelation19:7)(4)

**Answers  
over page**

## SCRIBBLE PAD



# SUDUKU

**EASY**

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**INTER-MEDIATE**

**Answers  
over page**

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# CROSSWORD & SUDOKU ANSWERS

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**EASY**

**INTER-MEDIATE**

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| 9 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 1 |



We have this amazing crowd of people who have gone before us in Christian faith...

# Just get rid of all that SIN!

## Bible Sketchbook

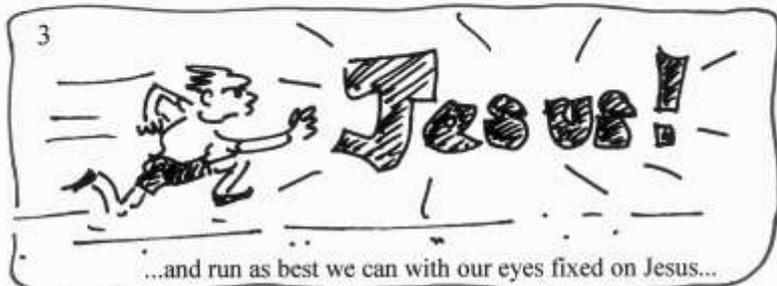
Can I do this all by myself? Of course not! But Jesus can! So give it all to him and he will take it away! Then run with him!



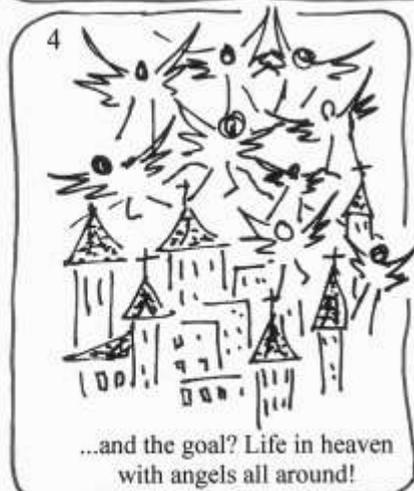
...so we need to get rid of all our sin!



William Mather©



...and run as best we can with our eyes fixed on Jesus...



...and the goal? Life in heaven with angels all around!

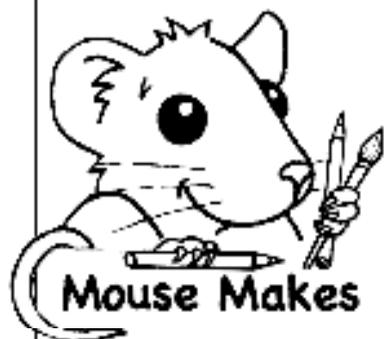
Be encouraged by all that Jesus did and the millions who have followed him since.

He didn't flinch from going the tough way - even death on the cross.

He has opened up the way for you and me to experience new life now and eternal life with all the angels in heaven!

Just trust in him, give all your rubbish to him and keep running with him. Do it today—you'll never regret it!

**Read more in Hebrews 12**



You may have read the bible story of Daniel in the lions den, but have you ever read the whole book of Daniel?

Take your time and read a little each day and find out about *the vegetables*, *the statue*, *the gold idol*, *the furnace*, *the tree*, *the writing on the wall*, *the lions*, *the four animals*, *the ram and the goat*, and *the man*.

Hidden in the lion's mouth are all these names and words, can you find them?

- DANIEL
- ASPENAZ
- HANANIAH
- MISHAEL
- AZARIAH
- DREAM
- STATUE
- IDOL
- FURNACE
- TREE
- WRITING
- WALL
- DARIUS
- LIONS
- PRAYER
- GOD
- NEBUCHADNEZZAR



|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| W | D | A | N | I | E | L | V | N |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| A | S | H | P | E | N | A | Z | E |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| L | T | A | K | I | W | A | R | B |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| L | A | Z | J | D | R | U | H | U |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| E | T | A | D | O | I | D | A | C |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| M | U | R | R | L | T | F | N | H |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| I | E | I | E | D | I | U | A | A |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| S | T | A | A | A | N | R | N | D |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| H | R | H | M | R | G | N | I | N |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| A | E | U | G | I | G | A | E |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| E | E | F | O | U | P | C | H | Z |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| L | Q | V | D | S | W | E | E | Z |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| P | R | L | I | O | N | S | Q | E |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| U | X | P | R | A | Y | E | R |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |



Ashpenaz changed the names of Daniel and his friends.

Look up Daniel 1:7 to see what he changed them to.



## JUSTICE

Every time there is a story about the law and justice in the newspapers or on television they always use the same symbol to show justice – a woman wearing a blindfold over her eyes, holding a set of scales in one hand and a sword in the other.



The blindfold is there to show that nothing affects the decision except the scales. The scales show that justice is only

right when both sides weigh the same and that all are equal before the law. The sword is there to show that the good are protected and the wicked punished.

All through Jesus' teaching is the idea of judgement – that we all shall stand before the throne of God and answer for what we have done. And when we do, the judge will be Jesus because he lived on earth as we do. St Matthew's Gospel, chapter 25, verses 31 to 46 tells us about this judgment.

Will you be a sheep or a goat?

## SHEEP & GOATS

The answers to these are all animals in the Bible. Answers below.

1. 400 young men escaped on these (1 Samuel 30:17).
2. They eat under the table (Mark 7:28).
3. They live in the high mountains (Psalm 104:18).
4. One was lost and 99 were safe (Luke 15:6).
5. Benaiah killed this animal in a pit on a snowy day (1 Chronicles 11:22).
6. There were 4 of them, coloured white, red, black and pale green (Revelation 6:1-8).
7. Jesus rode this into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:21).
8. Their dung is used to bake bread (Ezekiel 4:15).



**What did the cloned sheep say to the other sheep?**

I am ewe.



**What do you call a sheep with no head or legs?**

A cloud.



Answers: 1.camels 2.dogs 3.goats  
4.sheep 5.lion 6.horses 7.donkey 8.cow

