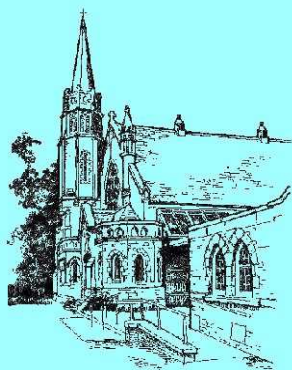


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Crossroads Centre**



**SUMMER
2021**

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FULWOOD METHODIST CHURCH

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MINISTER

Revd Jane Wild - jane.wild@methodist.org.uk

Tel. 01772 715134

YOUTH, CHILDREN AND FAMILY WORKER

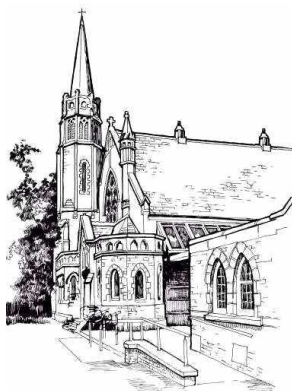
Darren Arnold - darrenarnold.church@gmail.com

Tel. 07811 775825

CIRCUIT PASTORAL WORKER

Denise Johnson - djpastoral@outlook.com

Tel. 07719 200451



NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES

9.45 am SINGING PRACTICE

10.30 am MORNING WORSHIP & SUNDAY CLUB

We offer a welcome to all ages on Sunday mornings, there is a CRÈCHE for babies and toddlers while parents are in worship. The first 15 minutes of worship are for all ages and then on most Sundays the children leave for their own time in SUNDAY CLUB, where there are groups for different ages. Parents can go out with the younger ones to see them settle, and then come back into Church for worship. Sunday Club and worship finish at the same time and an invitation is extended to everyone to stay and share in fellowship in the Willow Grove, where tea, coffee and orange juice are served.

The CHURCH MINIBUS provides free transport to and from Church on Sunday mornings. The timetable and route information are available at Church. Should you wish to make use of it please complete one of the request cards in Willow Grove.

6.30 pm. EVENING WORSHIP. With every 2nd Sunday of the month from 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm - **SPACE** - Multiplex Worship and Discipleship for all, at various circuit churches. (*See weekly notices for details*)

HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated monthly (morning and evening) and once a month there is ALL-AGE WORSHIP involving children from the youth groups.

For BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES AND FUNERALS contact Revd Jane Wild

**If you need any help, or have any concerns, please contact
Revd Jane Wild or Mrs. Sue Penrith (862273)**

or contact Tel.....

PASTORAL LETTER

from Denise (in place of Revd Jane)

I don't know about you but I really love this time of year. I like the light nights, the colours in the garden, enjoying the fresh herbs and vegetables and the warm weather. June is a month I enjoy.

I grew up in farming community in Lincolnshire. At this time of year everyone seemed busy and as a child I remember being out playing in the fields until late (even on school nights) and returning home tired, hungry and happy. There seemed to be a zest for life, a real purpose in everyone as the community pulled together to begin to tend and gather in the harvest. It was as if, in the winter, we slept and rested and prepared but in the summer we really lived life to the full.



Jesus spoke about this kind of full living. He spoke about living life in all its fullness, having your thirst quenched by living water (never to thirst again). He spoke of peace which passes understanding and shared stories of seeds which grew into huge plants loaded with fruits. Maybe this is why I like this time of year – it connects with some of my favourite Bible themes. These biblical accounts speak of a faith which creates energy and momentum, a faith which encourages positivity and possibility, a faith which is infectious and raw.

In the coming months we will be moving forward into times which have no precedence, cautiously stepping out into a changed world and seeing what is happening. What might your hopes and dreams be for these times – for yourself, your church and your circuit? Is there anything that makes you anxious? I would love to listen to your thoughts on these questions. Please feel free to contact me if you would like a chat or have ideas and dreams that you would like to share. Your ideas matter and are precious and valuable.

The Bible themes of abundance are about daring to dream of bigger possibilities, hoping for greater good and really living. Step out into the world in confidence that the God you worship is with you, at your side and maybe whispering a challenge or idea into your ear. Listen well and pursue your hopes and dreams.

Peace be with you.

Denise

E-mail - djpastoral@outlook.com Telephone 07719200451

EDITORIAL

Whenever you are able to take the holidays you have longed for let me wish you *Boed I dduw eich bendithioar eich taith* (May God bless you on your journey).

I'm delighted that Ken Wales has joined the production team. He is bringing forward some new ideas to add to the variety we already offer.

In the wake of the death of Prince Philip I hope that some more of you are going to be able to respond to my question: *Did You Ever Meet Prince Philip?* The Queen's message of thanks on receiving so many good wishes on her 95th birthday ended with the words: "We continue to be reminded that Philip had such an extraordinary impact on countless people throughout his life." We have made a good start, with contributions from four people. Can you add to their personal reminiscences? See page 18.

The **copy date** for our **Harvest issue** will be **Sunday, 15th August, 2021**. Any material in advance of that date would, of course, be most welcome. Please do remember that articles may be subject to editing!

Roy Smith

Martin's

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FULWOOD STEWARDS CHURCH

Wendy Bennett	<i>wendyben7@gmail.com</i>
Hilary Banks	<i>hilarybanks277@gmail.com</i>
John Ferris	<i>johnferris16@yahoo.co.uk</i> (1st contact Steward)
Amanda Latham	<i>mandyelizabeth1810@gmail.com</i>
Susan Rennie	<i>sue_rennie53@hotmail.co.uk</i>

COMMUNION

Pauline Kirkham (Senior Steward), Lesley Birkett, John Butterworth,
Jacqueline Clarke, Sue Hogarth, Melba Southwood

Any volunteers please for extra Communion Stewards? Two have finished recently.

Pastoral Secretary: Sue Penrith. email: *suepenrith@virginmedia.com*

* * * * *

EDITORIAL TEAM

EDITOR Roy Smith 7 Southgate, Fulwood Preston PR2 3HX

Assisted by Barbara Hothersall, Libby Stone and Ken Wales (Welcome Ken)

Computer layout John Butterworth

e-mail *fmc magazine@yahoo.co.uk*

For the time being, this magazine is only available at ***www.fulwoodmethodist.org.uk*** .
Click the Magazine cover graphic on the front page or the **Online Magazine** tab on the
2nd page. We print a few copies for those without internet access.

Copies going back to Harvest 2001 are available online!

WHAT'S HAPPENED / HAPPENING?

Hi all! I hope you're surviving. I thought I would write and let you know what we have been doing in Breakfast Church and OMG over the past couple of months and what I am hoping will happen soon!



For Breakfast Church we do not always run with the lectionary readings but more on what is happening at the time and the current Fulwood Challenge! So, in the past couple of months following Easter, we have looked at Psalm 23, Thy Kingdom Come prayer materials, Pentecost, and God's World. We have made sheep, peacocks, fig roll Bibles, windmills and recycled bottle flowers.

A session usually runs with the Bible story, questions, song, craft, and prayer - all whilst eating breakfast and chatting, I really enjoy doing this weekly. It was originally going to start monthly at church the week of lockdown, so to do it



weekly with the help of Janet Wales, Jane and others has been amazing. We will, however, take a break during the school holidays but will have in place a 'Summer Olympic

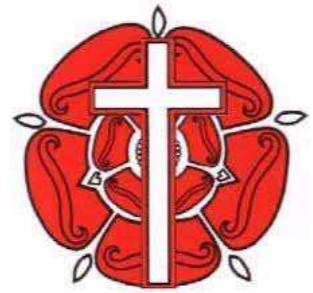


Challenge', details to follow. Then hopefully in September we will be back at church doing Sunday Club.

OMG have been meeting regularly by Zoom on Wednesday evenings. We do have a lot of fun with silly games, but do have a time for reflections on current topics. We have also been joined by Phoebe Parkin, the Methodist Youth President, who took the whole session with the help of our very own rep, Verity. Most of the group have had access to a puppet which they have used to take part in various church services. Whilst doing the sessions we have found that the group is becoming more confident in their understanding and in their communicating with us.

Now to what is hopefully going to happen! As Circuit children's and family workers, myself, Nicky and Simon are organising a 4-week event called 'Son Shine Fun!' which will be held in various parks around Preston – Ours will be at Moor Park on Tuesday's 27th July, 3rd, 10th & 17th August for primary school children. The events are for a couple of hours plus setting up etc. We are looking for volunteers to

help at the various venues; so if you feel able to help, please let me know. I am hoping to meet up with the OMG group for some outdoor activities. I have submitted Risk Assessments for Parents & Toddlers and 'Who Let the Dads Out?', which will be run hopefully like coffee mornings. We are also looking forward to a school visit by Ribbleton Avenue Methodist Junior School as part of their RE lessons. So, after a long break from hands-on groups, things are starting to move forward.



Unfortunately, the Friday night Escape & Youth Club will not be returning until at least September. I have had several conversations with the volunteers and understandably some are nervous about coming back, mainly because of the numbers we have. Others will not be able to come back, and some have found other things to do! Therefore, we are going to be needing some new volunteers to help. Again if you think you could help on Friday evenings, either weekly or on a rota system, please let me know.

Thank you and take care

Darren Arnold

Youth, Children's & Family Worker.

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“I am a widow with three boys and a girl, and I also care for my sister’s two children. After the death of my husband I was encouraged to join Rwanda’s coffee Co-operative des Cafecultuerurs de Gishoma (COCAGI)”, says Duhirwe Anne Marie. “I had a plantation of 50 trees, but have been able to extend to 350 trees over the years.”

Thanks to finance from Shared Interest, production levels at COCAGI co-operative have increased, which in turn has generated more sales. Through the increased sales, and the Fairtrade Premium, Anne Marie is able to fund schooling for her children and feed her family.



You can support farmers like Anne Marie by investing in Shared Interest, a UK organisation that provides finance to fair trade businesses in 51 countries. This is possible thanks to over 10,000 individuals, who invest in a fairer world. Their pooled investments make real and lasting improvements to people’s lives in developing communities. Loans are made and repaid in a continuous cycle, with a particular emphasis on working with some of the more vulnerable groups whom other lenders are less keen to support.

As a result of the pandemic, many farmers and growers are facing extra difficulties. For example, from loss of sales, partly due to restrictions on transportation. They are also faced with the effects of climate change, and support from Shared Interest is more important than ever.

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Anne Garsed

To find out more about Shared Interest:

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HOPES AND DREAMS

The Preston Ribble Circuit is beginning to look forward and is exploring a new and natural direction. The last Circuit Strategy; Following Jesus, Loving Communities has led us this far but has come to a natural and good point of rest.



The Circuit invested funds in the Citizens UK project and now the Preston Citizens UK Team is up and running. This organisation bases itself on listening to people's hopes, dreams and worries about their community. The Preston Ribble Circuit would like to model this way of thinking and begin to listen to people's hopes and dreams for themselves, their churches and the Circuit. We would love to hear as many of you as possible. We are ready to listen.

The idea going forward is that the staff team and members of Circuit Leadership Team will begin a series of conversations across the Circuit exploring what peoples hopes, dreams and concerns are but please talk to each other too. Ideally these would be one-to-one conversations with a large number of people from all areas of our church and community. The idea is to listen to the grassroots and look at common themes coming out of these conversations in order to develop our work as a Circuit going forward. All views are important and we will hold all opinions gently and with value. This is thinking which is driven by all and all can take part.

If you feel that a conversation would be difficult for you for any reason or you would prefer to email/post your thoughts, please feel free to send those to your Minister or the Circuit Pastoral Worker, Denise Johnson.

This listening process will be "publicised" in order that people can be prepared and feel part of the process and explain why this is happening. The proposal is that we work on this over the summer period with a view to pulling the information/themes together for the September Circuit Meeting.

Denise Johnson
Circuit Pastoral Worker

* * * * *

If God forgives us, we must forgive others. Otherwise it is almost like setting up ourselves as a higher tribunal than Him. ***C. S. Lewis***

We were not put on this earth to see through each other, but to see each other through.

It is always springtime in the heart that loves God. ***St John Vianney***

FULWOOD CHALLENGE UPDATE

The Fulwood Church Challenge has now been running for nearly a year and during this time we have explored the following seven topics which cover some of the basics of our faith:

The Lost Sheep
God and me (Psalm 139)
Advent and Christmas
Jesus growing up
Love God, love your neighbour
Our Bible
God's world (Psalm 8)



Each Challenge has included activities, information, links with an important Bible passage and ideas for applying the learning to everyday life. Participants have ranged from 2 to 92+ so we have achieved our goal of including all age groups. Although many people have completed a selection of different tasks from the booklets, others have chosen to complete just one or two things e.g. the crossword, and others have enjoyed choosing their own activity e.g.. word art on the topic. This flexibility has been an important part of the planning of the project which has worked well. Characters such as Bear and Zippy have made their appearance as a way of conveying information, (See below) and links have been made with the wider response of the Church at Fulwood e.g.. Eco Church and service to others.

So, how did the project go?

NB. These initial reflections are from a personal perspective. The Challenge booklets have been a success and offer a different way of engaging a range of members of the Church. It has attracted a range of age groups and allowed those who are IT literate to access the material alongside those who are less comfortable with technology. It was interesting that some young people chose to use paper-based resources – maybe they are all ‘Zoomed’ out? It has been activity-



based and fun: the hearts made for the church door displays involved many people, looked fantastic and enabled us to make links with groups within the church e.g.. Knitting Group. It also reminded people in the wider community that we were still very active whilst enabling us to keep in touch with our church family. The work behind the scenes however has been time consuming as has the constant need to publicise what we are doing.

We shall be evaluating the work in more detail when we have finished our current Challenge at the end of the summer so any feedback would be welcome.

Janet Wales

BILL MARLOW

1936 - 2021



In 1962 my cousin Bill Marlow, married Eileen Laraway at Fulwood. I know that many members of our congregation knew Eileen and her mother, Betty.

Bill was born on 10th June 1936 in Ilkeston Derbyshire. He was the family academic star. He attended Ilkeston Grammar School then studied Biochemistry at University, progressing to a PhD and becoming Dr. Marlow. He settled in West

Kirby on the Wirral and lectured there. Eileen was a PE teacher. He and Eileen had three children Beverley, who died after suffering a brain haemorrhage in her 40s, Alison and Matthew. There are very many grandchildren and great grandchildren who will all miss his always smiling personality. He had an active social life having a love of fell walking and he and Eileen played tennis with a local club. Bill died on 21st May and I ask that you remember Eileen in your prayers.

Barbara Peake

* * * * *

MAY STEWART

22 March 1934 - 9 June 2021

Funeral 18 June at Fulwood



* * * * *

DOROTHY ADA SHUFFLEBOTTOM

25 April 1925 - 20 May 2021

Funeral 1 June at Lytham St Annes

Dorothy was one of our Bletchley Girls who featured in our article in the Christmas 2015 issue of our magazine.

Follow this short link tinyurl.com/556fyrb6 to read it.

* * * * *

ISABELLA COOKSON

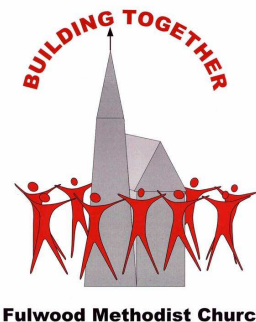
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WE HAVE A GOSPEL TO PROCLAIM

I write simply as a long-time member at Fulwood Methodist Church, having made a decision to follow Christ as a teenager in the 1950s. Over the many years our church has naturally had its highs and lows, our sadness when gifted friends and treasured workers have died before their time, but also our celebrations too, with inspirational preaching, in depth Bible study and many occasions when our persistent prayers have been answered. Some would argue that prayer is always answered, although not necessarily in the way we expect!

We rose to the enormous challenge of our redevelopment because we had a vision of what could be and so we managed to raise an eye-watering amount of money to further that vision. It has been wonderful to see the way that our outreach has grown and the imaginative ways we have had to show love and care for the local community.



So what now?

God has been good to us. We have so many talents and opportunities to reach others and there is so much need to share His grace, but we are in danger of falling asleep on the job! Lockdown has had a stultifying effect on our ambition and energy so we need to spring into action again, pray earnestly, regain our vision and get back to work. We may well have to find new ways of serving so let's get thinking about what we should try next. It could be exciting!

When we want to show love and concern for our neighbours and to share Jesus' love we will find a way. It does mean taking a close look at our priorities. The church is the people of course, but to do our job effectively we need the building too, so to keep it running does cost money. Am I preaching to the converted!? Yes I believe so. I am sure many of us want to put our faith into action so maybe we need to sit down, pray and work out what our new vision is.

Let's be full of joy and in the words of John Wesley feel our hearts strangely warmed and full of trust in Christ to guide us - and put faith in to action again.

Together everything is possible.

Mavis Fletcher

* * * * *

It is not great talents that God blesses, so much as great likeness to Jesus.

Robert Murray M'Cheyne

God rest your love upon this door, Bless this home for evermore.

The kingdom of God is not for the well-meaning but for the desperate *J. Denny*

When we rise to the occasion we give joy to the angels.

BOOK CLUB

The most recent meeting of the Fulwood Methodist Church Book Club took place in early May, once more using the ubiquitous Zoom technology. We are getting used to this technology although on this occasion not everyone found access as easy as in the past. Nevertheless, for most of us normal service was restored, and it was possible then to sit back in our favourite armchair at home, with a glass or mug of whatever, and chat about what we had been reading. Even so, we are looking forward to being free once again to meet in person.



The latest book we read and discussed was a novel called *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell. Written and published very recently the novel tells the story of the sad childhood death of the son of Agnes (Anne) Hathaway and her husband, who is never named in the novel but is clearly William Shakespeare, following an outbreak of the plague. Agnes is a strange character, a person of

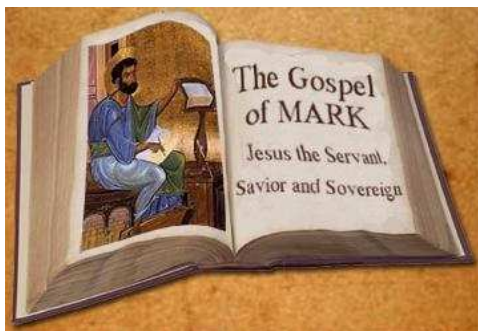
unusual characteristics and talents, several years older than Will, and yet whose feelings of grief at the unexpected loss of her son, and surprise at the recovery of his twin sister, reveal her to be capable of experiencing and expressing the range of human emotions at a time of loss as few can. Many of us felt the writing to be extraordinarily beautiful with passages which encouraged several readings to savour their meaning and effect.

Of course, Agnes must face all these challenges and trials separate from her husband who is living in London and paying only fleeting visits to his hometown and his family. Inevitable, perhaps, that distance leads to misunderstandings and potentially to a break-down in the relationship. Does William suffer to the same degree as Agnes? Perhaps yes, but in a different way and with a different outcome for the novel shows how William's response was to write what is regarded by many as his greatest tragedy, *Hamlet*. The play carrying the name of his lost son.

Whilst the story line seems bleak, (and not all our members finished reading the book,) as a modern exploration of human emotion set within a time frame and a human story known to many of us, it is a novel which we could readily see as justifying the high levels of acclaim the book has received. The book engaged our imagination at several levels – an intriguing story, an exploration of human emotions, a historical moment captured and examined in some detail (and perhaps

with some fancy) - but most of all for this reader it was its redemptive ending which excited and satisfied me.

We took the opportunity after our discussion to mention and recommend to each other biographies which had interested us over the years. Quite a range were listed to inform our summer reading. The purpose of this though was to remind ourselves of the nature of biography as a literary genre. This is because at our next meeting, in late June, when we will be joined one way or another by Rev David Wood, we will be looking at the Gospel of Mark. One question we will no doubt explore is to what extent this gospel, or for that matter any of the four gospels in the New Testament are biographies? Mark has been chosen this year by the Methodist Church to be a book for deeper study and that will be our intention.



graphic from schoolworkhelper.net

The Book Club is open to all in our community and if you would like to give us a try please contact me on the email shown below.

Ken Wales

kenwales9421@gmail.com



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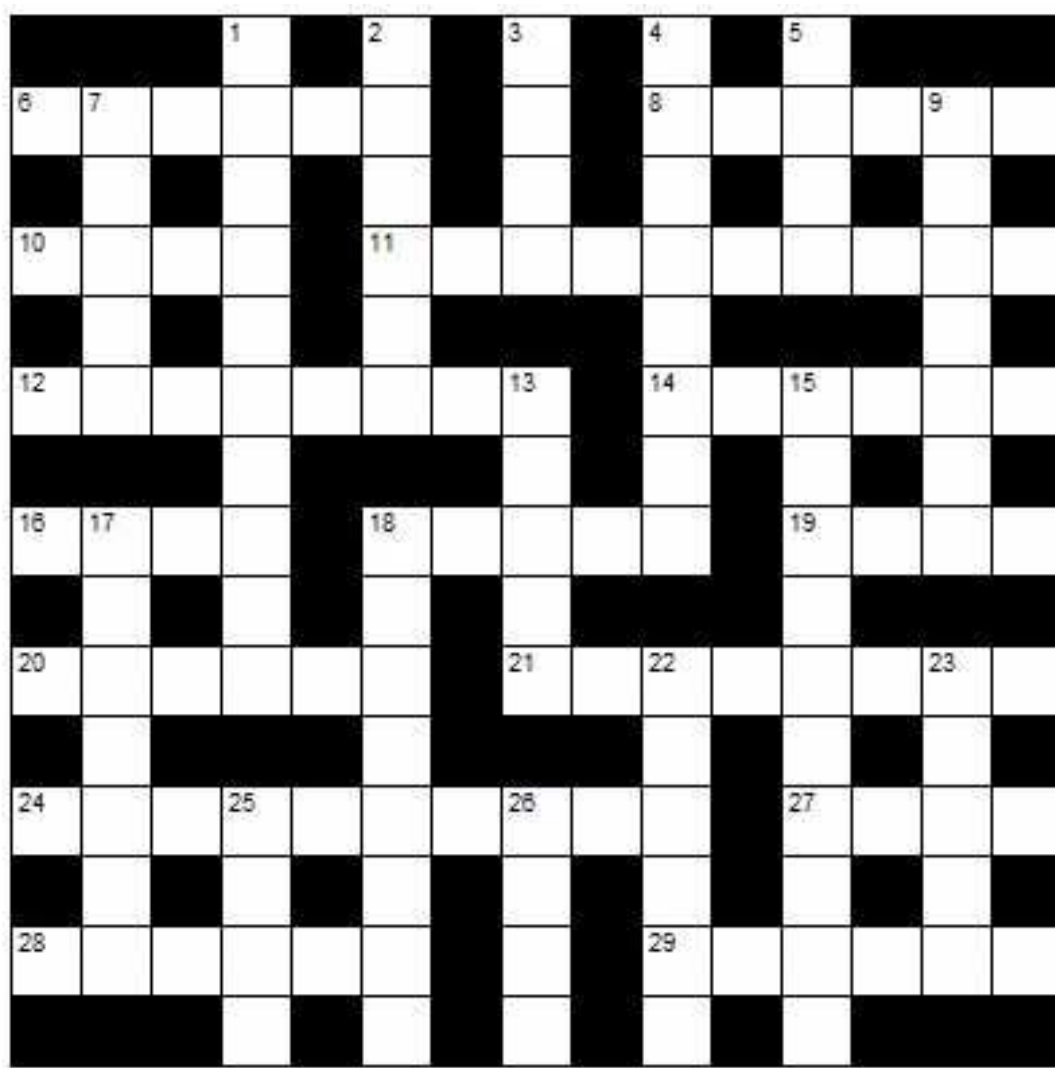
Stuart Black

A SEASONAL CROSSWORD

Here is another cryptic crossword from this novice setter. This one has a seasonal emphasis and we hope you enjoy it. We are emboldened to include it in this edition of the magazine since there were no adverse comments on the first crossword published in the last edition (and two messages which were, almost, positive) Answers to the last crossword can be found on the church website and also in this magazine.

One request - if readers would prefer another set of clues (straight clues) to the same answers to be provided in future, please let us know.

Ken Wales



Across

- 6) Don't hide your light under one of these! Omnibus helicopter hides it. (6.)
- 8) Nimrod presents a puzzle. Just one of the variations Elgar scored! (6.)
- 10) Was he busy pruning the apple tree until Eve came along? (4.)
- 11) (See also 28, 18 and 14 across) The main theme of our puzzle, thanks to George Gershwin. Most of June, July, August, September in our half of the world. (10.)

- 12) Let in and owned up. (8.)
- 14) Essay, I re-wrote presents no trouble. (2, 4.)
- 16) Bird. I hear: has decided upon a change of direction. (4.)
- 18) Existin'? Bein'? Rebuilt string instrument lost nothing by doing this. (5.)
- 19) Sounds like a long embroidery session! Hope you enjoyed it more than this. (2,2.)
- 20) Reversing in minivan taskmaster, offers directions. (6.)
- 21) By now most of this year's will have hatched or perhaps they are being blown on special treats. (8.)
- 24) Record covers temporary accommodation - how people had felt before the summer was made glorious by the Sun of York (Richard 111) (10.)
- 27) Sounds expensive, is it the cost of the hoofed footwear of these animals? (4.)
- 28) Also, found in land, they say. (3.3.)
- 29) Could this be the Ribble or a Red Rose perhaps? Could be an example of either if you say it differently.(6.)

Down

- 1) Winner ingested large edible mushroom, whilst losing the top. (10.)
- 2) Small room? Put an 's' in and it is certainly the nearest. (6.)
- 3) Fruit could be lump when cooked. (4.)
- 4) Removal from crumbling Eton deli. (8.)
- 5) In this condition lamb tastes good! (4.)
- 7) Spoilt what had been done: especially in the ground I dug. (5.)
- 9) Shame plants: often yellow, takes many forms (could even be a cocktail - but should not be mentioned in a Methodist magazine!!) (7.)
- 13) Did the fast bowler Malcolm come from this county? The one near Cornwall. (5.)
- 15) A rather competitive Welsh get-together. Each year someone gets barred, I hear (10.)
- 17) Aunt or Uncle perhaps start off in high spirits. (7.)
- 18) If you have a red navel it will need treatment. Try this herbal remedy, at least it will smell nice. (8.)
- 22) Start your journey: not far away from Wimbledon victory. (3,3.)
- 23) E.g.: see confused animals - fattening up for Christmas? (5.)
- 25) Musical Persians? (4.)
- 26) Note prep school at Windsor? (4.)

The solution will be published on our website soon and in the next magazine

DID YOU EVER MEET PRINCE PHILIP?

“Yes,” is the answer to your question. Twice in fact. The first occasion was in 1986 in Japan. I was there as part of a British Trade Week at the Isetan department stores: Tokyo’s answer to Harrods. Clearly Prince Philip was touring the region as, after his visit, he travelled on to China where some now-infamous comments were made.

We were made aware of the Prince’s imminent visit; where we should stand; how we should greet him and so on. Now prepared, we were excited by the opportunity to meet, and possibly speak, with His Royal Highness. Would he be the same person as portrayed in the media?

Senior management from Isetan were on hand for the prestigious visit and were incredibly generous with their hospitality. A slight drawback was that this generous hospitality had been enjoyed the night before the important morning visit and many of the senior Japanese businessmen we met had a real passion for good quality whisky.

As you might expect, the visit was as well planned and executed as the Tokyo rail network. The Prince shook our hands and took time to speak with us, coming across as a genuinely warm and interesting person. I had somehow cut my hand minutes before the official handshake (no idea how) and I was in a state of mild terror as to the choice I may have had to make: refuse the Prince’s hand or risk bleeding on him! Luckily my vitamin K kicked in just in time.



David Smith on the right and Kathy on the left

The official tour then progressed to the roof of the building – a space used for all manner of activities, including a fun fair for the children of happy shoppers. On this day though Prince Philip was treated, among other things, to sheepdog trials and to us clog dancing.

After being interviewed by Janice Long for Radio One, about what it was like to be twenty storeys high, dancing for His Royal Highness and avoiding petulant sheep, I was amused to see my now-close personal friends (senior Isetan management) diligently following the Prince and carefully nursing their hangovers. An experience indeed.

My second meeting with the Prince was at Buckingham Palace in 2004. I had somehow been awarded the City & Guilds Medal for Excellence for my work within sports education at Tuson College and had been chosen to represent the North West at an official prize giving ceremony at the Palace. (I guess they were clearly struggling for suitable representation that year!)

After a coach had collected all the award winners and our Plus Ones (my sister Kathy in this case) we were taken to the Palace, there to run the gauntlet of sniffer dogs and armed guards before being escorted up to the Green Room. We practised giving Prince Philip our medals.....so that he could then hand them back to us....and were coached once again in appropriate etiquette. Photographs would be taken and we might even have the opportunity to speak with the Prince during the post-event milling around.

I manage to gain some unwanted attention whilst returning my medal to its presentation box by dropping the heavy metal item onto a rather expensive-looking gold-leaf table and creating a noise akin to a pistol shot!

We were, in fact, fortunate enough to meet and enjoy a more informal conversation with His Royal Highness. I immediately mentioned that, although he would not remember the occasion, he and I had previously met on the rooftop of a building in down-town Tokyo. It was then that we were witness to his sharp mind and incredible memory. He recalled in great detail his visit to Japan 18 years prior and gained genuine enjoyment from recounting the occasion.

There was an adjacent room which could be accessed, containing precious artworks by Rubens and others. Kathy and I moved down the hall and I persuaded her to pass through another set of open doors to view some of the gifts presented to the Queen by various Commonwealth nations. Beyond was a flight of steps leading down and whilst we stood admiring a gift from Canada, Prince Philip approached us. This time he was alone, with no entourage and presumably making his way back to his living quarters. "Having a good look, are you?" was his question to us. I fully expected an arrest to follow. However, his response was just the opposite. "Enjoy," he said, smiling broadly, and made his way down the stairs.

David Smith

* * * * *

As you've already learnt, I was present as a guest at the second of David's meetings with the Prince. Following the above-mentioned ceremony Prince Philip spoke to each and every Award recipient but we had not been warned that he would do his best to speak to everyone else too. Accordingly I was totally unprepared for his direct question to me and I responded like the proverbial rabbit caught in headlights!

What struck me was his incredible skill at working the room, making everyone feel welcome and included, conveying genuine interest in everyone and everything.

His intelligence and humour shone through and I wish I'd had the opportunity to observe him longer.

Meeting Prince Philip remains a highlight in my life.

Kathy Smith

* * * * *

I met Prince Philip at Holyrood Palace when he presented me with my Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award in the summer of 1983. I can't remember what he said to me but I do remember being told not to squeeze his hand when I shook it as he was already suffering from arthritis.

Alison Allcock

* * * * *

A few years back Joyce and I attended a dinner at Windsor Castle, celebrating 25 years of The Lady Taverner's, a cricket charity. We went as guests of Rose and Maureen Fitzgibbon, two friends who were original members.

Prince Philip hosted the event, as he was the President of the Lords Taverner's. He had the title of '12th Man'.

During the pre-drink's reception Prince Philip circulated amongst the guests and asked Joyce. "Are you a Lady Taverner?" she replied "No Sir". He then turned to me and asked, "Are you a Lord's Taverner?" I indicated that I wasn't. Before I could explain he exclaimed, "How have you got in!!?" and then moved on.


For the next hour or so I anxiously awaited having my collar lifted and being ejected!!

I don't have a photo of when I met the Duke, but I do have one when I met the Queen in November 1996, when I received my OBE at Buckingham Palace.



Malcolm Rae

* * * * *



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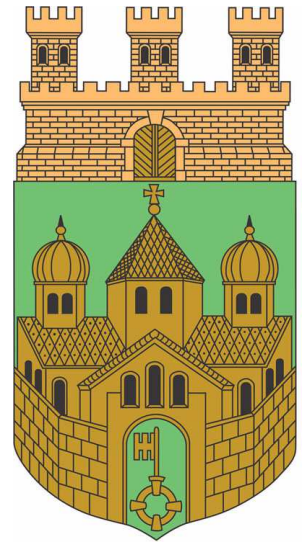
RECKLINGHAUSEN

On 23rd May (Pentecost) our friends in Recklinghausen started back to services in their church building. Like ourselves, previously till now, they had been following services remotely. In church they are also required to wear masks and are not allowed to sing.

We understand that the situation of covid in Germany is improving, with infection rates going down and vaccination rates going up.

They send us their church magazine. Thanks to John Butterworth and the use of a computer program, translated into English. It can be read on our church web site with a link on the front page www.fulwoodmethodist.org.uk. We send our church magazines to Recklinghausen so they are able to keep in touch with our activities.

Before lock-down (March 2020) we had their visit to Preston arranged. We had dates booked, accommodation sorted out and a programme of events planned. Then all was cancelled. When the pandemic allows, they are hoping that we can plan for their next visit.



Jacqueline Clarke



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A FAMILY LEGACY OF SORTS

Have you ever come across a Promise Box? This was an idea, common in Victorian times and possibly even earlier, aimed at helping its owner lead a better life. Dorothy's Grandma Cook had such a box. Each morning she would take out one of the folded pieces of paper, read it carefully and then do her best to live that day by whatever was directed. Usually it would be a quotation from the Bible.



When Dorothy died earlier this year, the main memory many people had of her was her lovely, welcoming smile. Although she didn't possess a Promise Box, she lived every single day 'collecting smiles' as she put it! How did she do that? Simply by smiling at other people first, with the hope they would respond in like manner.

She also kept a hefty file of cuttings from many sources, to which she would regularly refer. In each one she would recognise something of value; something she felt could help her live a better life that day. Here is one of them:-



A Smile

A smile costs nothing but gives much. It enriches those who receive, without making poorer those who give. It takes but a moment, but the memory of it sometimes lasts for ever. None is so rich or mighty that she/he can get along without it, and none is so poor but that she/he can be made rich by it.

A smile creates happiness in the home, fosters goodwill in business and is the countersign of friendship. It brings rest to the weary, cheer to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad and it is nature's best antidote for trouble.

Yet it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed or stolen, for it is something that is of no value to anyone until it is given away.

Some people are too tired to give you a smile. Give them one of yours, as none needs a smile so much as she/he who has no more to give.

Roy Smith

A FARRAGO

I did have doubts of there being any responses at all to my off-beat memories of our wedding day. However, some people were brave enough to share reminiscences of bizarre happenings so here we go:-

How about the groom who'd made a mistake when booking flights, thus causing the newly-marrieds to dash off to the airport in the midst of the wedding reception? Or what about the bride who developed violent air sickness during the flight to their honeymoon destination? Not much fun in that!

Neither was there much fun for the couple who spent most of their wedding night (in Morocco) hunting mosquitoes which had somehow got inside the supposedly-protective netting!

Then there was the classic tale of newly-marrieds arriving at their honeymoon destination and finding they'd been allotted twin beds!!

Does anyone else dare to add to the collection?

For those with long memories: it's seventy years since the Festival Of Britain took place. Opened on 3rd May, 1951, it marked the centenary of the Great Exhibition of 1851 and was also aimed at raising the nation's spirits after the austerity of the war years and promoting the best in British art, design and industry. London's South Bank was home to the principal site and included the Royal Festival Hall – which still remains and became the first post-war building to receive Grade I listing.

We regularly receive a copy of the magazine from our twinned Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche in Recklinghausen, Germany. An English translation is available on our website from a link on the front page www.fulwoodmethodist.org.uk. I'm also delighted to report that we have begun receiving magazines / newsheets again from other churches: one from St John the Baptist, Bretherton; one that serves the parishes of St Helen's, Waddington and St Catherine's, West Bradford (near Clitheroe), the Parish News from Tenterden with St Michael's and Smallhythe (Kent) and another from Ross-on-Wye, way down in Herefordshire. Mind you, this latter one had been riding around on the back seat of someone's car since last year!!

Have you made a note of the provisional programme for 2022, celebrating the Queen's 70 years as monarch?
Thursday, 2nd June Queen's Birthday Parade & Jubilee Beacons; **Friday, 3rd June** Service of Thanksgiving; **Saturday, 4th June** The Derby. Platinum Party at the Palace; **Sunday, 5th June** Big Jubilee Lunch. Jubilee Pageant incl. Street Arts, Theatre, Music, Circus, Carnival & Costume.

Roy Smith



COMMUNITY CHOIR

Come and join us when we are able to return. Hopefully, as we begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel, we will be able to meet up again as a group.

Every difficulty presents a challenge and we feel that there is an opportunity to help those who have suffered so much during the pandemic. It has been shown that depression, dementia and Alzheimer's can find some comfort in music and song. With this in mind we are looking to use some of our singing times by going into Residential and Care Homes to spark memories for the residents.



We have already made positive contact with the Sue Ryder home on Eastway, but we will be unable to fulfil this without sufficient numbers (what a shame that would be). We have already lost one of our few male singers after he relocated to Manchester and only time will tell if any others are no longer able to re-join us.

I know that some will say that they cannot sing, but I can assure you that your singing ability is not a priority. Being able to enjoy our fellowship and an occasional laugh would more than suffice.

Please consider this invitation even if it is only on an ad hoc basis. It would be a shame if the opportunity to help those who have suffered so much isolation was lost due to our lack of numbers.

Dave Topping



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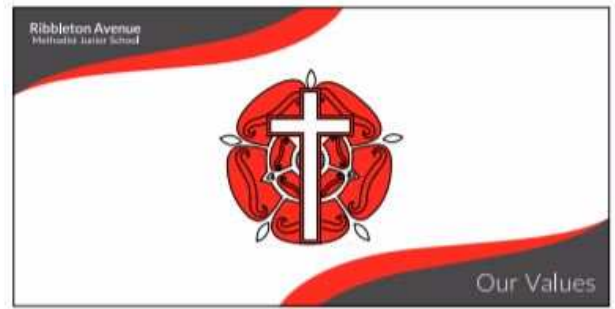
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NEWS FROM RIBBLETON AVENUE METHODIST JUNIOR SCHOOL

At the time of writing RAMJS is in full swing after the severe disruption caused by the pandemic. Children and staff have returned to school in good spirits and all the attempts to keep up to speed through distance learning at home seem to have paid off. Indeed, many new tricks of teaching and learning have been explored which will be useful in the future.



If you would like to know a little more about the school in general a good way for you to do this is by accessing the school's website. Simply put Ribbleton Avenue Methodist Junior School into your search engine and away you go. The site is updated most days and gives a real insight into the daily life of the school.

The senior staff at the school are giving much thought at present as they prepare for what they believe will be an imminent SIAMS inspection. This inspection is overdue because of delays caused by the national emergency and we guess that there will be such an inspection before the end of the calendar year. A SIAMS inspection looks at the religious education and worship in the school as well as other factors which enable the children to grow spiritually and the staff's wellbeing to be supported. It is a searching process, and the inspectors are very knowledgeable in their field.



If you shop at Morrison's, Ribbleton, store off Blackpool Road, you might consider taking a moment's detour and walk down Emerson Road. The Governors and staff are doing their best to make more attractive the rather dour building which houses the school. Have a look at the windows which promote the values upon which the school seeks to base all its activities, and which are at the forefront of our work with children and families. These values are prominently displayed inside the building as well and hopefully they will have a lasting effect on all who work at the school.

A separate article in this magazine, based upon people who inspire the children, is well worth a read. From time to time, maybe we should all stop to reflect about how we, in our interaction with children in our daily lives, demonstrate those values (watch out for them appearing in a future crossword!) to inspire the next generation.

Ken Wales

(SIAMS - Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools)

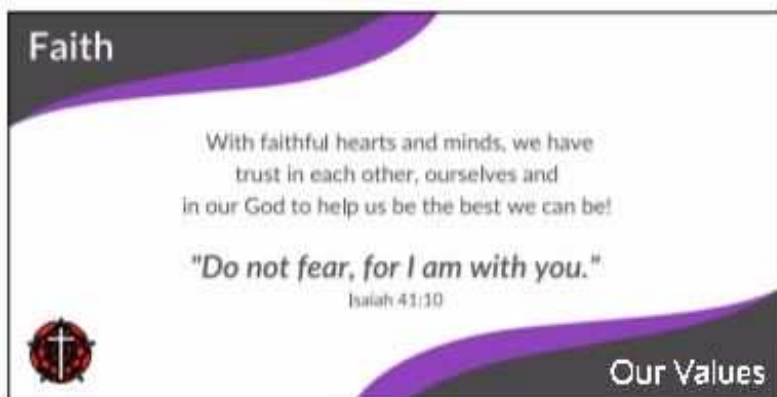
WE NEED TO INSPIRE OUR CHILDREN AT HOME AND AT SCHOOL

When you were a school pupil who inspired you? Who inspires our children now? Well that is quite a difficult question to answer right now because, for the past year or so, many children have experienced only a limited number of contacts – family and carers obviously, but also, mainly people they have seen through the media. Of course, people who appear on the media are not always there for reasons we would commend. So I was fascinated on one of my rather infrequent visits to Ribbleton Avenue Methodist Junior School (taking all necessary precautions and for legitimate reasons) to discover that Year 3 – the 7/8 year olds – had done some work on this question. Their work provoked some interesting ideas. Sadly, limited visiting at the school has meant that not as many as possible saw the display so here is some of the information which I was able to glean.



Not surprisingly, most of those who were inspiring the children were family members – an equal division it seems of mothers, brothers and sisters with a few cousins. Kindness, care and love were the qualities most admired along with a willingness to help with tidying bedrooms and cooking skills. It was a surprise though that only one father was mentioned ('he's the best and fabulous'). There was a dog, a pet parrot ('who is sweet and full of love') and, fascinatingly, Henry VIII. Oh, and two mentions of a teacher, but more in terms of her physical appearance! That's me out.

Quite how the teachers took this work forward with the children I am not sure. But it is an important topic. Much educational research shows how important it is that



children come into contact with a number of inspirational figures who can help them to see a future for themselves to which they might aspire. That is why frequent visitors to the school, working with and engaging children in discussion about new horizons and ideas, is so important. It is an aim the school is

working on at present.

Of course, the teachers have been and are consistently doing this, not least by creating opportunities to learn and think about people in all walks of life who have

‘made a difference’. A few days after my visit I was delighted to receive by email from the Headteacher, this piece of work by Ruby who is also in year 3.

John Wesley showed respect when he prayed for you.

John Wesley showed courage when he was 5 and his house caught fire.

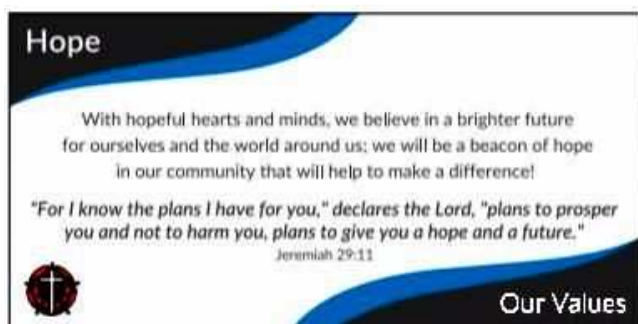
John Wesley showed ambition when he wanted to preach and worship everywhere.

John Wesley showed love when he was thinking about God.

John Wesley showed faith when he trusted himself.

John Wesley showed hope when he wanted to get to his family.

I showed courage when I fell over, and I did not cry.



Ruby's is a very encouraging piece of work and shows how children can be helped to collect, develop and present their thoughts and their experience in ways which can shape their future. Well done, Ruby.

Perhaps with your next cup of coffee, whatever your age or circumstances, you could spend a moment thinking who has inspired you or perhaps still does inspire you in your own life. And how, even now, you can inspire and encourage others.

Ken Wales

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ALBAN: SAINT AND CITY

During the last century BC, the population of a small Celtic settlement on the banks of the River Ver, in what we know today as Hertfordshire, was going about its business and life consisted of day to day concerns. Things changed however when, in about 43 AD, this island was invaded by the Romans and life changed dramatically for the Celts. The settlement was named Verulamium after the river on which it stood and became the third largest Roman settlement after London and Colchester. A couple of decades later the Celts, who had suffered under the heavy hand of Rome, rebelled and Verulamium was attacked, burned and destroyed by Boudicca and her Icenean army. Its reprieve from Rome was short lived. The town was rebuilt and it flourished and prospered and still survives today as the cathedral city of St Albans, taking its name from Alban who is believed to be the first British Christian martyr.

The story goes that he was a Romano-British citizen and a soldier living in the area during the time of persecution of Christians. He sheltered a priest called Amphibalus and is supposed to have been converted by him. When soldiers were dispatched to Alban's home he dressed himself in Amphibalus' cloak and was arrested in his place. Refusing to assist the soldiers or to renounce his faith he was executed. At his execution the eye of his executioner is believed to have dropped out. He was buried outside the town walls and his hillside grave became a place of pilgrimage. The source of this information is the Venerable Bede. The date of his martyrdom is disputed, 305 under Diocletian, 254 under Decius and 209 under Septimius Severus. He is first mentioned in a Life of Germanus of Auxerre by one Constantius of Lyons. Germanus (later a saint) visited Alban's tomb in 419 AD.

Following the departure of the Romans, Anglo Saxon tribes settled the area and their settlement was situated on the hill outside the Roman city where St Alban was buried. Thus Verulamium became Waeclingaester. The medieval town grew on the hill to the east of here and in 793 AD a Benedictine abbey dedicated to St Alban was founded. In its time this was one of the most important and wealthy abbeys of England, surviving until the Reformation. St Alban's cult prospered and extended across England and his feast day is 20th June. He is the only English saint to have had a continuous cult from Roman times to the present day.

The abbey of St Albans has a chequered history! It has suffered dissolution, decay, neglect, and destruction by both the elements and the hand of man. It has triumphed over all its tribulations and is now a Cathedral playing an important part in the life of the Anglican Church today. One of its bishops, Robert Runcie, became Archbishop of Canterbury. After his retirement he returned to live in the town and is buried in the Cathedral graveyard.



St Alban's Cathedral

Barbara Hothersall

A HYMN WRITTEN FOR THE CHURCHES TOGETHER SERVICE IN 2008

Dear God to you we come
To sing our praise of love.
Together all as one
Below and up above.

Communion, worship, prayer
As differences we leave.
One common thread we share
And in one God believe.

Oh Lord we gather here to see
Your Church is all in unity.
Into your hands we place
Your flock portrayed as one.

Each colour, creed and race
Together here we come.
The angels sing on high
And saints of long ago.

As all your people here on earth
Together now shall know.
Oh Lord we gather here to see
Your Church is all in unity.

Your tree spreads far and wide,
The fruit on which we feed.
Shall bring us side by side
And answer every need.

Oh Lord we gather here to see
Your Kingdom in it's unity.



Original Music by **Mike Cushing**
Words by **Dave Topping**
Alternative tune - St. Cecilia
(102 in Hymns and Psalms)

* * * * *

That country is richest which nourishes the greatest number of noble and happy
human beings.

John Ruskin

WHAT WAS THAT WE SANG?

The first Church I attended as a child, a Wesleyan Methodist Church in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, long ago ceased to meet as a church. The building and site were closed and my parents were leading figures in arranging for stained glass windows to be removed, mounted in special frames and relocated in another church in the circuit, to which many members of the first church transferred their membership.

Over the last year I imagine many people will have remembered aspects of their childhood with no doubt a wide variety of emotions. That is natural, especially in times of uncertainty. In my case old photographs, remembered faces and incidents and kindnesses shown have added to my feelings as well as remembering with gratitude that some aspects of the life lived in those days have now passed by.

One constant, between then and now, is humour. Of course, not only are our memories personal but the humour they invoke is often meaningful only in the situation itself, knowing as we do the foibles of those involved.

Some members of the Methodist Church (and others) are members of one or more Facebook groups which in recent times have become a reservoir of some of these memories. A recent theme has been to share stories of childhood hymns where misunderstandings brought unintended joy. I will share an example from my childhood church in a moment, but to start with here are few which have raised a smile:

“Shake off dolls’ clothes and joyful rise....”

“Argad reigns” (a more modern hymn)

“Low in the gravy lay...” and

“up from the gravy a rose...”

“We three Kings of Orry and Tar”

“For all the saints who from their neighbours rest...”

“Tear out my soul”

“You in your small corner and die in mine”

“...following Ringo Starr...”

“Making a channel for my peas...”

“Let us with a glass of wine...”

Some personal thoughts are these: -

As a child I was puzzled by “Here I raise my Ebenezer” (and still am for most of the time)

Is it true that our own Revd Jane Wild, a keen cyclist, explained her late arrival for a preaching appointment by saying, “My chains fell off”?

Finally, that childhood church of mine, situated on the outskirts of Wakefield between an urban development called Belle Vue and a much older rural settlement, still beautiful, called Heath Common. How often the hymn was sung ‘All Things which live below the sky’, a fine old hymn, with the immortal line “...and the goats upon the heath”. Especially as a favoured aunt and uncle of mine leased the oldest cottage at the top of the Common.

Do you have any favourite memories or examples of misheard or misunderstood hymn lines? If so it would good to share them in future magazines and, along with examples we have published before, we might develop a wider collection for enjoyment in the Circuit. Please email them to me. kenwales9421@gmail.com

Ken Wales

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD IN THE EASTER EDITION



IF GOD SHOULD GO ON STRIKE

How good it is that God above has never gone on strike,
Because He was not treated fair in things he didn't like.
If only once He'd given up and said, "That's it, I'm through!
I've had enough of those on earth, so this is what I'll do:

I'll give my orders to the sun – 'cut off the heat supply,'
And to the moon- 'give no more light, and run the oceans dry.
Then just to make things really tough and put the pressure on,
Turn off the vital oxygen till every breath is gone.

You know He would be justified, if fairness was the game,
For no one has been more abused or met with more disdain
Than God. And yet He carries on, supplying you and me
With all the favours of His grace, and everything for free.

Men say they want a better deal, and so on strike they go,
But what a deal we've given God, to whom all things we owe.
We don't care who we hurt to gain the things we like;
But what a mess we'd all be in, if God should go on strike.

(Anon)

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BED IN SUMMER



In winter I get up at night
And dress by yellow candle light.
In summer, quite the other way,
I have to go to bed by day.

I have to go to bed and see
The birds still hopping on the tree,
Or hear the grown-up people's feet
Still going past me in the street.

And does it not seem hard to you,
When all the sky is clear and blue,
And I should like so much to play,
To have to go to bed by day?



Robert Louis Stevenson 1850 – 1894

* * * * *

EARLY MORN

When I did wake this morn from sleep,
It seemed I heard birds in a dream;
Then I arose to take the air –
The lovely air that made birds scream;
Just as green hill launched the ship
Of gold, to take its first clear dip.

And it began its journey then,
As I came forth to take the air;
The timid stars had vanished quite,
The moon was dying with a stare;
Horses and kine and sheep were seen
As still as pictures, in fields green.

It seemed as though I had surprised
And trespassed in a golden world
That should have passed while men still slept!
The joyful birds, the ship of gold,
The horses, kine and sheep did seem
As they would vanish for a dream.



W. H. Davies 1871 – 1940

kine - old English for cattle

MORE QUESTIONS THAT PUZZLE

- What disease did cured ham actually have ?
- If money doesn't grow on trees, how come banks have branches?
- Why is it that doctors and solicitors call what they do 'practice'?
- Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?
- Why do they call it a TV 'set' when there is only one?
- Whose cruel idea was it to put an 's' in the word 'lisp'?
- If people evolved from apes, why are there still apes?
- Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?
- Why isn't there mouse-flavoured cat food?
- Why is it that no plastic bag will open from the end you try first?
- If 'pro' and 'con' are opposites, wouldn't the opposite of progress be congress?
- How come lipstick doesn't do what it says?
- Why did Kamikaze pilots wear helmets?
- You can feel disgruntled but have you ever felt merely grunted?
- If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked, then doesn't it follow that electricians can be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed, tree surgeons debarked and dry cleaners depressed?

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CHURCH ACTIVITIES

(Under normal circumstances)

Sunday

9.45 am Singing Practice (Cedar Room)

Tuesday

10.00 am	Men's AM Club (fortnightly)	Graham Johnson
2.15 pm	Women's Fellowship (weekly)	Muriel Crossley
5-7.00 pm	Messy Church (half-termly) for families	Delma Whitman
7.00 pm	Alphabites (monthly fellowship)	Margaret Holmes
7.00 pm	Book Club (monthly)	Ken Wales

Wednesday

10 till 1.30 Welcome Wednesday - food, activities, games and New2U stall

10.30 am Midweek Communion with prayers

7.30/8.00	WoW (monthly Women's Group)	Wendy Gaskell
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Thursday

7.00 pm	Knitting Group (Copper Beech Room)	Veronica Frost
8.01 pm	Ladies After 8 group (fortnightly)	Barbara Hothersall

Friday

9.30 am Toddlers' Club (under 5s & parents/carers) Janet Porter

FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Monday

6.00 pm	Beavers (6 - 8 yr)	Fiona Jackson
7.00 pm	Cubs (8 - 10½ yr)	Karen Smalley

Tuesday

7.00 pm	Scouts (10½ - 14 yr)	Chris Thomas
7.00 pm	Explorer Scouts (14 - 18 yr)	Operated by Scout District
7.00 pm	Scout Network (18 - 25 yr)	Operated by Scout County

Thursday

5.45 pm	Rainbows (5 - 7 yr)	Jayne Myatt
6.15 pm	Brownies (7 - 10 yr)	Diane Bird
7.30 pm	Guides (10 - 14 yr)	Hannah Jones

Friday

6.30 pm	Escape (7- 11 yr)	Darren Arnold
8.00 pm	Youth Club (Secondary School age)	“ “

Sunday

10.30 am	Sunday Club	Janet Wales
12.30 pm	OMG (2nd Sun of month for years 5 to 8/9)	Wendy Bennett

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