

The Minister Rev Dr. Jane Craske

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MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

We begin April this year with the most significant week in the Christian calendar – Holy Week, leading to the celebration of Easter. This is where the key hopes of Christian faith focus, in the life-giving power of God, found through (and only through) the awful events of Good Friday. This Christian festival has profound importance and I hope we give it our full attention.

But I'm finding at the moment that plenty of people, and many items of publicity, are pushing me to look beyond that - to the summer! Which of the summer's events, if any, are grabbing your attention at the moment? The Olympics? Or the Queen's Diamond Jubilee? Or perhaps a significant personal or family event – a big birthday, or anniversary, or the exciting summer holiday you have booked? Some are voicing a cynical reaction to all the hype about public events, but I hope that we can get beyond a tired, bored response. These could be occasions to make links with others and share enthusiasms in the communities we're part of.

At the end of April and the beginning of May we will be opening the church for the faith-focused 'Treasures Revealed in Leeds' week. From April 28th up to May 7th many places of worship, from a number of different faiths, will be open across the city. Some will be open at a specific time, some will be open for a number of days, perhaps with special events. We have taken part in this week for the last few years at Lidgett Park and have been able to welcome a number of visitors to the building, both from the local area and further afield.

Each year gives us an opportunity to look at the building and what it represents to people: historical or architectural interest for some; a space for conversation for others, and perhaps a place to slip into quietly for a short prayer. We have also taken the chance to have displays and leaflets around about what goes on in the building, and about Christian faith more generally. The open building should also be a sign to us: a sign of our needing to be open, welcoming, hospitable in heart and mind.

This year we're hoping to use both the big public events of the summer – the Olympics and the Queen's Jubilee – as the focus for our opening. Plans are

not yet very detailed, as I write, but they will be by the time you read this, I'm sure. In fact we'll probably be well on the way to needing volunteers to sign up so that we know there are at least two people available in the church each morning and afternoon on the days we intend to be open.

Using the Olympics and the Jubilee as the focus for Treasures Revealed is a way of demonstrating that church is not separate from everything else that goes on in public life, not set apart from people's enthusiasms, or their debates over such events. We are part of the community, not set over against it. Yet we have something particular to offer, a spiritual dimension that points always to the ways in which God is at work in public and personal events, bringing life in all its fullness, in and through Christ.

May you find God's life in Christ bringing you to life, this Easter and in the months beyond.

Yours in Christ,

Jane

WORSHIP IN APRIL

01	Palm Sunday		
	8.00	Rev. Jane Craske	Holy Communion
	10.30	Rev. Graeme Dutton	
	6.30	Rev. Jane Craske	
08	Easter Day		
	6.00	Roundhay Park	
	10.30	Rev. Jane Craske	Holy Communion
	6.30	Moortown	United/Circuit Service
15	Local Preachers' Sunday		
	10.30	Mr. Philip Nutall	
	6.30	Rev. Mark Harwood	Holy Communion
22	10.30	Rev. Jane Craske	General Church Meeting
	6.30	Mr. Ben Machekanyanga	
29	10.30	Rev. Philip Chilvers	
	6.30	Dr. Karen Illingworth	Ecumenical Service

LADIES GROUP

The Ladies Group meets fortnightly on Thursdays in the Youth Hall.

12th April 7.45 p.m. Members' Evening
29th April 7.30 p.m. Coffee Bring and Buy. Everyone is invited to the coffee evening, with stalls. The admission charge includes refreshments. All money taken will go to the Sylvia Wright Trust.

CONGRATULATIONS

George and Molly Lovell recently celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary. We are privileged to have such a lovely couple as members of Lidgett and to share in their joy at this happy occasion.

CRADLE ROLL

Happy Birthday to Matilda Davidge who will be 1 year old on April 15th.

THANK YOU

Thank you for the many messages of sympathy we have received after Dick's death. We were overwhelmed, and very touched, by all the cards and letters. I have tried to thank people individually but, if I have missed anyone, please accept this "thank you", not forgetting Kathy and her noble band of bakers who provided a wonderful spread after the funeral.

And a very big thank you to Jane for all her time and care.

Margaret Mattocks, Beverley, Alison and family

PROPOSAL FOR A HOUSE GROUP

I was wondering if people would be interested in starting another house group, which I would be prepared to lead?

There are a number of things about house groups that I think are important to recognise. First, I believe that they differ in their aims and character

according to the needs of those attending, so there is no need for existing groups to feel threatened if another starts. Some groups concentrate on meditation and prayer, some on sharing spiritual experiences, some on wrestling with areas of faith, some on studying the Bible. Some groups have all these elements. Secondly, they have an optimum size, which allows for variety of input but also ensures that everybody feels they have a contribution to make. Thirdly, they should be “organic” in the sense that they have a natural life span. They don’t need to go on indefinitely, and they should evolve in response to people’s needs.

At Lidgett, we currently have a group that meets on Thursday evenings for meditation and worship in the form of Oasis and we have a group with members from several churches (which I attend) that meets on alternate Monday evenings to discuss areas of belief. We also have a group meeting on alternate Tuesday afternoons which follows a variety of themes and a long-standing group that meets on Monday afternoons. If I have overlooked other active groups then please accept my apologies.

I would like to start a group concentrating on Bible study (both Old and New Testaments) with the aim of seeing how our understanding of the Bible relates to our beliefs and our daily lives. The proposal is to run the group in conjunction with Shadwell Methodist Church as they currently do not have an active group. Barbara and Ken Massey have kindly offered the use of their house. If the numbers are more than we can accommodate there, then we have permission to use the premises at Shadwell Methodist Church. I think we should aim for an evening house group, since that would allow working people to attend if they wish (and it would probably be easier for me), but a daytime group would be possible if that is where there is a need.

I should be grateful if people could let me know if they would be interested.

Stan Pearson. s.b.pearson@doctors.org.uk.

CHRISTIAN AID HOUSE TO HOUSE COLLECTION MAY 13-19 2012

This year the country highlighted in the publicity for the house to house collection is Sierra Leone and the local partner agency there is the Methodist Church. The focus is on improving agriculture.

Lidgett made a significant contribution to Christian Aid last year as £2322 was collected in the street collection, £270 in the Churches Together soup lunch in October and £ 445 at the Christmas service; a total of £3037 for 2011. The soup lunches held at each of the five churches in Churches

Together in Roundhay raised over £1000 and were an enjoyable means of meeting fellow Christians. They have successfully continued this year.

Could you help by collecting for Christian Aid from one local road? If so please contact **Heather Fry 2933784**. Obviously the more collectors we have the more is raised.

As it is not possible to collect from every street, there will be envelopes in the pews for those whose road is not covered. Alternatively you may be able to hold a small fund raising event for friends and neighbours. I do hope we can continue to make a similar contribution to Christian Aid this year. **Heather Fry**

WHAT A PANTOMIME



“Babes in the Wood” proved to be a production of great depth and profundity and those of us lucky to attend a performance had to concentrate throughout to get the full intellectual stimulation offered. (Oh yes we did). If you were unfortunate enough not to be there the above picture may give some flavour of the drama we witnessed.

WHAT DO WE MEAN WHEN WE SAY, “GOD ANSWERS PRAYER”?

By Stan Pearson

Jesus was someone for whom prayer was very important, that is clear from the gospels, and his intimate relationship with God as Abba or Father was centered on his life of prayer. This was something that clearly impressed his disciples and they asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. In response Jesus gives them the form of prayer we now know as the Lord’s Prayer. The prayer includes three important themes, which we might now group under the headings of Adoration, Petition and Confession.

The prayer begins by acknowledging that God is holy and that God’s kingdom is on earth and not just in heaven. “Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be thy Name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven”. We believe that God is a God of love and justice and through his life and teaching Jesus showed us the meaning of this. The message is an uncomfortable one for it challenges the selfishness of people and it challenges vested interests and the priorities people set. Jesus identified with the poor and the needy and he reminded us that our lives should be centred on others and on God rather than on ourselves. We don’t need to look very hard at our world today to see the relevance of this prayer, for there are many places where it seems God’s kingdom is yet to come.

The second part of the prayer acknowledges our need for material things. “Give us this day our daily bread”. The people listening to Jesus would have been reminded of the manna that God gave to the people in the wilderness and the prayer is expressing a trust in the belief that it is God’s will for this world that all people should be fed as the people were fed in the wilderness. It is unfashionable in some circles to believe that we can ask God for specific things when we pray, but this part of the Lord’s Prayer would suggest that it is perfectly legitimate to do that, to pray for the things that we need in our day to day lives. It would seem that for Jesus this was one way in which prayer could be used. In the version in Luke’s gospel the prayer is followed by a parable that tells of the householder who gives into the persistent demands of his neighbour. The message is that if we persist in our prayer and our requests to God, then we will be given the resources we need to cope with things. We are not promised that we will necessarily be given what we ask for but we are promised in the reading that we will be given the support and strength of the Holy Spirit as we seek to deal with our situation.

The third part of the prayer asks for forgiveness and this is a crucial part of the prayer. Forgiveness is a central part of the teaching of Jesus, which appears several times in the gospels and it is essential if we are to achieve a sense of wholeness in our lives. Forgiveness is a two way process and it is a

risky business because in the course of asking for and giving forgiveness we make ourselves vulnerable. To ask for forgiveness acknowledges the hurt done and means coming to terms with pride, to offer forgiveness acknowledges the needs of the offender, but both the request and the offer run the risk that they may be rejected. Nevertheless, both are important if we are to move on and not be bound by the past, if we are to avoid the bitterness, resentment and guilt that can cramp and restrict our lives. We see this in international affairs where progress only begins to happen when forgiveness has been offered and acknowledged. We saw the positive benefits of this in South Africa with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission at the end of apartheid and, closer to home in Northern Ireland, we only began to see progress when people set the past to one side and looked to the future as a new beginning.

The prayer makes it quite clear that a condition of being forgiven by God is that we should be prepared to forgive one another, for in doing so we are imitating Jesus and in imitating Jesus we assume something of the nature of God who is a God of compassion. The prayer finishes with the request that we might be spared a trial of our own love, that God will recognise our frailty. We are acknowledging that God is a God of mercy.

So much for the themes in the Lord's Prayer, but when we say our prayers, either individually or together in church, what is it that we are doing? In the vastness of the universe, in the teeming multitudes of our world can we really believe that God will pay attention to our needs? The parable in Luke's gospel after the Lord's Prayer shows that Jesus believed it is the case that God takes our prayer seriously.

When we pray we put into thoughts and into speech our anxieties and needs, our hopes and aspirations, our love and concern for others, our successes and failures. We are acknowledging truths about our lives and our situation. When we pray together we share these things with each other. We bring into the forefront of our consciousness things that were perhaps only half realised and half acknowledged before. This allows us to face them and so to deal with them and it allows us to see our true priorities. As Christians we believe that this is not just a psychological process but is something God influences through the work of the Holy Spirit.

When we pray for particular things or for particular people in need, by bringing them into the realm of prayer we are acknowledging those needs and this makes it possible to generate the help and support that the situation or the people require. However, we are doing more than that as well. We are also taking the problems and the people and laying them before God, committing them to his love in our belief that while we cannot dictate the outcome, God

in his love will enter and transform that situation. The agents of this will often, of course, be human ones working under the direction of the Holy Spirit in their lives. We can think of examples of this in the form of the great social reformers of the past, but closer to home it often comes through individual acts of kindness and support from friends, family and neighbours.

Prayer is, I believe, is an essential and central part of our life as individuals and also as a church congregation and without it we become spiritually impoverished.

Stan Pearson

It seems no time since Stan's first article in this series appeared but, at least for the time being, this is the last in the series. I'm sure we all would wish to thank Stan for putting so much effort into helping us to think about what are complex issues and for writing about them so clearly. We hope that you will find time to write for The Link again soon Stan,

ANOTHER DRAMATIC SCENE FROM "BABES"



COFFEE MORNINGS

Andy, Peter and Gill very much appreciate the donation of books for the stall at Coffee Mornings, the sale of which accrues a small but steady addition to Church project funds. They are always pleased to receive more books, making available fresh titles to tempt our book lovers. You will probably be aware that, in order to keep the books down to a manageable number, those which are unsold after several Coffee Mornings are taken to the Oxfam Book Shop in Headingley. Andy and Gill allocate their Oxfam gift aid number, the outcome of which is reported to them every so often by email.

The following is the latest message to come from Oxfam..
"Thank you for choosing to Tag Your Bag; it means that since we last wrote to you, your items have not only sold for £222.97 but made an additional £55.74 in Gift Aid. £278.71 could help to equip four kindergartens in Gaza with toys and games that will bring learning to life."
Brilliant!

Jigsaws for the lending library are also welcome. The Coopers have space to store about 60 jigsaws at home. The small but loyal band of expert puzzlers soon complete the 'new' ones and are eager to borrow more. The library adds a little to funds, and is a good way of sharing resources. Thank you for your generosity, all buyers, borrowers and in particular donors, without whom none of this would happen.

PS If bringing books to the Coffee Morning is a real problem, collection can be arranged.

Gill Cooper

WOMENS' WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Grateful thanks to the many people who worked so hard for the Womens' World Day of Prayer service on Friday 2nd March. We were a congregation of about 70, including several Malaysian women in national costume, who had brought various items from Malaysia for us to see. Our speaker was Mrs Pat Hooker, music provided by David and the choir, and numerous people involved with the general production of the service were invaluable. Many people stayed to chat over Malaysian-style snacks afterwards. It's all over for another year....see you at St Edmund's in March 2013.

Pat Nolan

AT THE FEET WASHING



Where charity and love are, there is God.
The Love of Christ has gathered us as one.
Let us rejoice and be glad in him.
Let us fear and love the living God
And in purity of heart let us love one another.

Where charity and love are, there is God.
When therefore we are gathered together
Let us not be divided in spirit.
Let bitter strife and discord cease between us;
Let Christ our God be present in our midst.

Where charity and love are, there is God.
With all the blessed may we see for ever
Thy face in glory, Jesus Christ our God.
Joy that is infinite and undefiled
For all the ages of eternity.

Maundy Thursday, Western Rite

CHURCH PROJECT – SYLVIA WRIGHT TRUST

Fund raising continues to go well.

Many thanks to Margaret Wilks who had a coffee morning which raised nearly £170 and was a really happy occasion with wonderful cakes to eat and delicious lemon cheese to buy.

The quiz, which had to be postponed, because of the snow, will hopefully have gone ahead on March 23rd and I'm sure that all the participants will have had a fun evening.

Sylvia is about to celebrate 30 years in India and she is in Leeds for most of April. There are several celebrations planned:

April Coffee Morning

Sylvia will be coming to the Church coffee morning on Saturday 7th April. I shall be away but Judith Clinkard has kindly agreed to bring Sylvia.

I am sure that you will all make her welcome and it will be a good opportunity to chat with her.

Project Dinner

Sylvia will be guest of honour at a dinner held at Church on Saturday 14th April at 7.00 p.m. She will speak about her work in India over the past 30 years.

We are hoping for a big turn out so please put your name down on the list which is on the notice board.

Service of Celebration

The Sylvia Wright Trust has organised a service at St Anne's Cathedral in the centre of Leeds to celebrate Sylvia's 30 years in India.

This is on Sunday 22nd April at 2.30 p.m. We hope that this will be a wonderful event with friends and new and long standing supporters together with civic representatives, including the Lord Mayor, and Church representatives all attending. The Reverend Liz Smith, Chairman of the District, is a Patron of the Trust and has accepted an invitation to attend.

Everyone is invited and it would be lovely if some Lidgett Park members are able to attend. It would be nice to have some idea of numbers to assist with catering arrangements but it is not essential.

Thank you for all your support.

Barbara Dodman tel: 2619152

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I'm sure that Colin didn't think he'd get away with his article last month without arousing interest and debate. Here are the first two responses to his views.

Dear Editor,

I was listening to the Today Programme this morning describing the eviction of the protestors from the area in front of St Paul's Cathedral and this prompted me to respond to Colin's article in the Link.

I think Colin is right that there is nothing in the Bible that condemns wealth as such. In the Old Testament the extent of a man's possessions was often taken as a sign of God's favour. However, I think that there is a condemnation of the wrong use of wealth.

The problem with the rich young ruler was not so much that he was wealthy but the fact that his possessions were the most important thing in his life. Jesus' criticism of the traders in the temple was not so much their trade but their dishonest practice, that they had made the temple into 'a den of thieves and robbers'. The problem with the man in the parable of the talents was that he made no effort to justify the trust that had been placed in him.

Similarly, I think the problem that many people see with the financial world at the moment is not so much that they make money but that this is seen as the only objective, no matter what price has to be paid by others, and that their methods are often questionable. There is also the important issue as to how you measure someone's worth. Is it really the case that any individual is so gifted and hard working that they deserve an income several hundred times that of the average employee? If there is to be an extra reward for success shouldn't there also be an acknowledgement that there should be some penalty (or at least loss of reward) for failure?

Personally, I do not think the Church came out of the business of the protest all that well. Their attempts to use Health and Safety concerns to withdraw support

from the camp rang hollow to anyone who had seen the way the tents were organised in relation to the access to the Cathedral. Rather than addressing the issues that were at the heart of the protest the Church seemed to be more concerned with protecting their very considerable income from tourism. As a matter of fact, I think it is correct to say that the site outside St Paul's was not the first choice for the protest but only adopted when other sites became closed to them.

Stan Pearson

Dear Ed,

In the March issue of The Link, Colin Watson wrote about the Occupy demonstrations. A little while ago Jane brought their manifesto into an evening service for our consideration and discussion. In brief they are looking for a better world, one where success is measured in terms other than financial wealth. There was nothing to quibble about regarding their aspirations.

However, they stated that they had no proposals on how this change could be brought about. I'm sure we all wish for things to be better but unless there are ideas on how to bring about change, we won't get very far. Also, they said they weren't political. Why not? How do they think change will come about if not by political action. In a vast society like the one we live in, politics is what keeps things organised.

In choosing to inconvenience churches they were picking soft targets. Surely banks would have been more appropriate for their cause.

While I agree with the Occupy aspirations, I had little sympathy for what they did.

Gillian Clements

GREEN DAY helps Roundhay residents to REAP the rewards

The first Green Day is being run by the Roundhay Environmental Action Project (REAP) on 28th April 2012. It opens up Roundhay resident's houses so you can see what others have done and what you can do in your house to reduce your energy bills and earn money from renewable technologies.

During Green Day, Roundhay residents will be able to visit other people's homes that have already had solar PV, solar heating, biomass boilers, insulation (roof, floor, cavity wall, solid wall etc), ground source heat pumps, wood burning stoves and other environmentally friendly products installed.

Find out about the cost, fuel savings and any issues associated with the technologies. Talk to those who have already installed the technologies and see the benefits and costs as well as find out how to save energy in your house.

Date - 28th April 2012

Time - 10am to 3pm at various locations across Roundhay

Registration at the 37 The Drive, Roundhay from 10.30am

For further information, contact REAP by email to [greenday@reap-](mailto:greenday@reap-leeds.org.uk)

leeds.org.uk for general information or register your interest with Nigel

Jones on nigel.jonesrcs@ntldworld.com. Further details can be found at

www.reap-leeds.org.uk.

THIS REALLY IS SILLY

Only read it if you have an infantile sense of humour. No wonder the contributor wishes his name to be withheld.

Far away in the tropical waters of the Coral Sea lived prawns. One called Justin and the other called Christian. The prawns were constantly harassed and threatened by sharks. One day Justin said to Christian, 'I'm fed up with being a prawn; I wish I was a shark, and then I wouldn't have any worries about being eaten.' A large mysterious cod appeared and said, 'Your wish is granted'. Lo and behold, Justin turned into a shark. Horrified, Christian swam away, afraid of being eaten. Time passed and Justin found life as a shark boring and lonely. All his old mates swam away whenever he came close to them. Justin realised that his new menacing appearance was the cause of his sad plight.

While swimming alone one day he saw the mysterious cod again and he thought perhaps the mysterious fish could change him back into a prawn. He approached the cod and begged to be changed back, and, lo and behold, he found himself turned back into a prawn. With tears of joy in his tiny little eyes Justin swam back to his friends and bought them all a prawn cocktail. Looking around the gathering at the reef he realised he couldn't see his old pal.

'Where's Christian?' he asked. 'He's at home, still distraught that his best friend changed sides to the enemy & became a shark', came the reply. Eager to put things right again and end the mutual pain and torture, he set off to Christian's abode. As he opened the coral gate, memories came flooding back. He banged on the door and shouted, 'It's me, Justin, your old friend, come out and see me again.' Christian replied, 'No way man, you'll eat me. You're now a shark, the enemy, and I'll not be tricked into being your dinner.' Justin cried back 'No, I'm not. That was the old me. I've changed.'..... 'I've found Cod. I'm a Prawn again Christian'.

INNIT

Later on Fred talks about language which got me thinking. As there are a few lines spare here I thought I'd muse on innit.

The first time I ever heard this term was about 20 years ago when my Malaysian students, when they were confident that they were correct, would finish their statement with "isn't it". Not as a question but as an affirmation. Shortly after I noticed that students from Indian or Pakistani backgrounds did the same only cutting it down to "innit". Now it seems general among young people in the U.K. An example of how quickly language can change. But I've not heard it used in any sermons as yet, innit.

Ed Dodman

UPDATE: LIDGETT LADIES AT CARING FOR LIFE



I liked this picture so much that it is good to have an excuse to feature it again . So far we have just had one caption sent in. “Oranges and lemons say the three belles of Lidgett”. Excellent – and it was submitted by one of the belles herself. If you think you can do better let’s be hearing from you.

TREASURES REVEALED

Saturday 28 April 2012 10a.m. to 4p.m.

St. Edmund’s Church, Lidgett Park Road, Roundhay, Leeds LS8 1JN
FREE entrance

Come and feast your eyes and ears on pictures, photographs (old and new), crafts, local history and environmental displays and music all from local artists and musicians and on display as part of the Treasures Revealed programme at St Edmunds Church, Roundhay.

On 28th April St Edmunds Church is participating in this city-wide programme, whereby faith buildings are encouraged to open their doors for people to look around.

St Edmunds is interpreting this as not just about revealing the building but as an opportunity to reveal the local treasure to be found in Roundhay, such as the work of local artists/photographers/musicians etc displaying their work (some of which may be available for sale).

Homemade cakes and biscuits and tea and coffee will be served all day.
So why not drop in anytime between 10am and 4pm.

WILL THE OLYMPICS AFFECT US?

The Olympics seem very low key at the moment. There seems to be much apathy about but I am sure that this will change. You will remember what it is like just after Wimbledon, when all the local tennis courts are filled with youngsters who have been enthused by watching the experts. No doubt Olympic fever will hit us even more so when the Games actually get underway. This will give us, as a church, along with all the other churches in this area and throughout the country, an opportunity to reach out to other people; to make contacts, to build relationships, so that people will know that those who go to church do not have two heads. We do not want to find ourselves in October, regretting that we did not seize the opportunity! That is what will happen if we don't prepare now.

We begin with prayer. The Leeds District will be having a prayer relay, where a banner is taken to each circuit in turn, during early July. It will stay in each circuit for about a week as a focus for prayers for the athletes, their families, the peripheral implications, like trafficking, focusing on particular countries and their situations. There has been a suggestion that some might walk to the church (or run) to create the Olympic link.

Our church will be open each day from April 28th to May 7th for Treasures Revealed and that could include an Olympic theme.

On June 24th the torch relay comes to Leeds. We don't know yet what time but that might be a day for our church service to focus on the Olympics. We shall also be asked to make buns to give out to the crowds, who attend the relay

If we get a digital box and a T. V. licence, we could screen the Opening and Closing Ceremonies and invite anyone to come and watch. What an exciting event that could be!

There may be many other ways in which we can join our ecumenical partners in celebrating the Olympics. One way would be to take part in the Roundhay Live event on June 23rd to publicise the events taking place in the churches. This is a good opportunity to build stronger relationships with all the sport-related groups using our premises. These are the ones I have highlighted: Brownies, Guides, Badminton, Extend Exercise, Scottish Dancing, Tae Kwan Do, North Leeds Dance, Socratots and Candystripe. I shall contact them, ask what they are doing for the Olympics and if there is anything we can do to take part or contribute. Perhaps we could offer a small trophy for some event.

There will be Games Pastors in Millenium Square, during the televising of the events of the Games, who will be trained to help any who get into difficulties.

Some of us could go as a group to watch certain events and take a picnic which we could share with others around us.

This is just a taster of what is possible. Are we interested in making it happen? If we are, we need to begin planning now.

Patricia Davies

THE THINGS THEY SAY

Listening to broadcast discussions, interviews, phone-in programmes and the like have you noticed how often one party tells the other what they already know? At least you might infer this from the frequent use of “you know” (“yerno”) as a preface to a comment. Only yesterday I heard a lady caller use the expression five times in making some observation that must have lasted less than two minutes. You need to listen carefully as the “yernos” are often slipped in unobtrusively – a sort of oral punctuation mark. Then there’s “to be honest”, making one wonder whether all other statements made by the speaker without this qualification must be treated with suspicion. Politicians when clarifying an issue are often fond of making it “absolutely clear” as though to just “make it clear” would be unconvincing. Particularly in dealings with health operatives, but not exclusively, requests are often personalised by “fommy” (“for me”). “Open wide fommy” says the dentist or “take a deep breath fommy” says the X-ray technician. You may be inclined to ponder “O.K. but I wouldn’t do it for anyone else”. They / we are also often given to hyperbole when a transaction is completed or a request acted upon. “That’s wonderful” or “that’s brilliant” often greet a quite commonplace action such as giving exactly the right change for a purchase. During a spell in hospital where “fommys” abound I was having a bed bath face down when asked by the nurse to turn over (fommy) which I did to the acclaim “that’s lovely” – Well! - I’d never thought of it quite like that before. “See you later” is a common valedictory remark often when there’s little prospect of that happening. Did you ever mutter under your breath “not if I can help it” when the contact had been less than satisfactory? However let me make it absolutely clear that we will all continue to lubricate our verbal exchanges in these ways and, to be honest you know, we will be none the worse for it. So, will you do this for me – listen out to find how frequently you hear these and perhaps other such expressions – that will be fantastic. See you later

Fred Langley

YORKSHIRE QUIZ from Gillian Clements

Each clue gives rise to two words. The letters of these words can be rearranged to form a Yorkshire place name. (eg Hit the pig meat (3,3) = LAM, HAM = MALHAM). The first letters of the place names, read in the same order as the clues, give another Yorkshire place name.

Difficulty Rating: Pretty tough

1. It looks like a rabbit in the trees. (4, 4)
2. Plus a bad actor. (6, 3)
3. Shout out loud, "I love you". (4, 3)
4. The old auction item. (2, 3)
5. The Norse god drew water from it. (4, 4)
6. A very heavy spike (3, 5)
7. What is the value of the edges? (5, 4)

Last Month's Solution

- | | | |
|--|-----------|---------|
| 1. I desire much. (4, 3) | Want, Lot | WALTON |
| 2. The entry device is unwell? (3, 3) | Key, Ill | ILKLEY |
| 3. A Turkish governor is hiding in the heather. (3, 4) | Bey, Ling | BINGLEY |
| 4. A monster lurks there. Put a cover over it. (4, 3) | Ness, Lid | SILSDEN |
| 5. A colourful musical note. (4, 1) | Puce, C | ECCUP |
| 6. Yes, yes. (3, 3) | Aye, Nod | YEADON |

WIBSEY

THIS MONTH'S QUIZ by Gillian Clements

Each clue will lead to two separate words. All ten words have something in common.

(Clue: May be found on a clock.).

This one is really ingenious – once you get what the connection is it is not hard. But the connection is really subtle – nice one Gillian.

1. The skirt length – not too short, not too long – made me angry! (4, 5)
2. The grinder was used with vigour. (4, 3)
3. Combine this with lemonade to get a shandy. (3, 4)
4. He was polite but not too bright. (5, 3)
5. Cover the herb. (3, 4)

March's Solution

1. Thank you officer. (6)	Polite, Police	T C
2. Hit the rhythm	Belt, Beat	E A
3. Worship the stern. (6)	Revere, Severe	R S
4. Do the pie. (5)	Party, Pasty	R S
5. Cut the hole. (4)	Pare, Pore	A O

CROSS, ALTAR

MY SPORTING LIFE

I have never thought of myself as a sporty person but I have always been involved in sport and similar activities. However I have rarely covered myself in glory.

I took up tennis when I was in my teens because my boyfriend was a good tennis player but I found it frustrating because I was not good. Graham once said to me, "You have no ball sense but if you practise you will improve." Well, the heart goes out of you.

I also went to music and movement at the local school and won the prize at the end of the year but it was only because half the class had fallen out with the teacher over something and therefore wouldn't take part.

I took up badminton and loved it. I played for many years and was quite good at hitting the shuttle hard down from the back of the court but not so quick along the net. My friend was very good at gently nipping it over the net cross court and I was determined to get it back, stretched too far and snapped my Achilles tendon. The doctor said that I could continue to play as long as I warmed up well first but I didn't want to snap it again and I was not prepared to play half-heartedly. I had started playing golf and didn't want to spoil that, so I gave up badminton.

I have been playing golf for 20 years now. It can be frustrating because one day the ball goes exactly where you intended it to (such days are wonderful but rare!) and the next day you stand over the ball and it looks at you and you have no idea where it will go once you have hit it. I am very good at hitting the ball out of trees, because I have had such a lot of practice at it. The very good thing about golf is that, if you have arranged to play with people, it makes you go out even in the dullest and coldest of winter days. And that is a GOOD THING, because you get the fresh air and the natural light, sometimes more fresh air than you had expected, when the wind is more of a gale than the gentle breeze the forecaster spoke of.

In this year of the Olympic Games, perhaps more of you will share your experiences of sports that you take part in now or have done in the past. We may not all be Olympic champions but we can share the fun we have had. Playing sport and chatting with people outside the church community can

give us the opportunity to speak of our faith so that people can see that Christians do not have 2 heads!

Patricia Davies

Wow, two themed articles from Patricia at once – thanks Patricia. I can only think of two comments. Firstly that the only good thing about golf is that it is not compulsory. Secondly you seem a bit hard on Christians who do have two heads – this seem to be headism.

SINGING THE FAITH

Pastoral letter from the Chair of District

It's a pleasure to include this letter. Liz's pastoral letters always arrive well after the Link print deadline and, as they are usually topical, not suitable for inclusion the month after. This one is actually the March one but as it is general I am really happy to be able to include it.

Perhaps you are the proud owner of a copy of the new hymn book for Methodists, *Singing the Faith*. The book has a striking red cover with gold lettering, and is a compilation of hymns, some written by previous generations that have stood the test of time, others written much more recently. Your church may have chosen to adopt the 'new book' as its preferred or only source of hymns for Sunday worship, or may have resisted doing so. You may belong to one of those churches who now have projection facilities and so can explore its contents without physically holding the books. Sooner or later, I hope you will at least have the opportunity to hold a copy in your hands and explore its contents for yourself. There are hymns with wonderfully refreshing and creative words, which I look forward to singing with others.

The title chosen for this collection of hymns, *Singing the Faith*, is significant. It serves as a reminder to us of the ways in which Christians in every generation, and particularly those who stand in the tradition of John and Charles Wesley, have rooted their lives and consciousness in their faith, through singing it. Psychologists and others can point to the ways in which the physical act of singing – the combination of words, melody, rhythm, association – lays down patterns in our brains, that somehow 'remain on the hard drive', even when we may become forgetful of other things. [Those Christmas quizzes, that offer us a line of a familiar carol and challenge us to identify the first line, often get us singing the whole verse from memory before we get there – don't they?]

In a generation where we can be saturated with music, commentary and background noise, from the moment we wake to the moment we sleep, we may sometimes need to remind ourselves of the choices we can make as to what fills our very being and gets committed to our 'hard-drive'. Our

forebears in the faith would have spoken of this in the language of soul-making, or spiritual formation. Personal Christian faith is continually shaped and reshaped by our experience of living. It is also the constant, that enables us to engage creatively, as whole people, with every challenge of 'being human' that comes our way. May we all find fresh inspiration to *sing our faith* and to live by it.

Liz Smith

Chair of Leeds Methodist District

APRIL PRAYER FOR CHANGE



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

At this Easter time, as we remember the ultimate sacrifice by God of his son Jesus Christ, we ask that we may live our lives reaching out to those people who Jesus sought out and spent time with.

Lord of the excluded,
Open my ears to those I would prefer not to hear,
Open my life to those I would prefer not to know,
Open my heart to those I would prefer not to love,
And so open my eyes to see
Where I exclude You.

**From
An Iona prayer book by Peter Millar**

AFTERTHOUGHTS

I'd like to say how sorry I am about our pantomime coverage. A lot of the fun of it was seeing the little ones perform. I did want to include a lovely photo of all the cast taking their well deserved bows but written permission from all the parents would be needed and that isn't practical. Sometimes the law is an ass.

I think there is enough controversial material in here to generate some interest – let us know your views.

Finally we must congratulate the magnificent Rugby League World Club Champions. You don't need me to tell you who they are.

EASTER GREETINGS TO ALL OUR READERS