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## MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends

This week has reminded me of a fairground ride my kids always wanted me to go on. You may have seen it, it is basically made up of groups of four settees, each in metal cases on wheels, joined together by metal arms in a square shape which are thrown around the ride floor in four different directions at great speed; so it's front, left, right, back. Because I was bigger than all my kids I had to sit in the place where you are squashed by the other three on your seat as the ride spun round on its journey. Well that's where my head has been this week: squashed and all over the place! Preparing two services for this Sunday; at a writers' conference with Roots preparing 6 weeks of material for next lent using the 2015 lectionary, and writing an Easter message for the Link – let alone dealing with umpteen family issues that landed one after another. So excuse any incoherent ramblings that may follow.

It seems that I've managed to get myself into several debates/disagreements lately including one on an internet discussion group I was invited to join some time ago over the question "Was Jesus political?" The group was initially set up by people who call themselves 'atheists' as a place to chat and discuss things. After a while they decided to invite people they knew who had a faith of some description to join who would be willing to have conversations and not just rant or wield a particular axe they wanted to grind; though it has slipped a bit – as these things do.

Anyway back to the question; I was surprised to find many of those who are Christian on this group expressed a belief that Jesus wasn't political, and in fact I was being backed by more atheists than Christians for my belief that Jesus was very political. My dictionary says political is *concerning the state or its government or public affairs generally*. And *having an organised form of society...* the Jesus I know and read about in the Gospels took a real interest in the state, the government and public affairs of his day, some of which was ruled by Rome and some of which was ruled by the religious elite. On one of my threads I said something along the lines of "... as I see it, the reason Jesus was executed in such a horrific and public way, was precisely

because he was political and willing to make a stand against what he saw as bad and corrupt politics of the day that kept the poor, weak and vulnerable as

just that.” Now, I know not everybody holds that point of view, which is fine, but I was surprised how angry people got that I could even suggest such a thing and how could I believe that Jesus death was anything other than God’s ultimate plan to have a sacrifice made for all human sin. I tried very gently to suggest that for me to believe that God could want anyone to die, let alone plan it, at the very least limited God and the God I have faith in isn’t limited. Independently of each other, three of the correspondents on the forum suggested I needed to arrange a conversation with my vicar/minister who would put me right. Even before I offered my carefully worded reply, I could hear in my head, the laughter from several of my friends on there (atheist and Christian) who know what I am.

Whilst I strongly disagree with the theology of substitutionary atonement, what saddens me more is the unwillingness of some to have a sensible discussion, and eventually if necessary, come to the point of agreeing to disagree rather than trying to win the debate by shouting louder.

Jesus would always engage people in discussion which I believe helped them and him grow, he didn’t just shout louder to make his point of view. If we want others to come to a relationship with God and if we want our relationship with God to grow we need to do the same.

Till next time

**Andrew**

### **WORSHIP IN APRIL**

06	8.30 Rev. Andrew Atkins	Holy Communion
	10.30 Mrs. Catherine Frieze	
	6.30 <i>Chapel Allerton</i>	
13	Palm Sunday	
	8.30 Rev. Mark Harwood	Holy Communion
	10.30 Dr. Stan Pearson	
	6.00 <i>Chapel Allerton</i>	United/Circuit Service
17	Maundy Thursday	
	7.30 <i>St Edmund’s</i>	Holy Communion
18	Good Friday	
	10.30 Rev. Andrew Atkins	
20	Easter Day	
	6.00 Rev. Andrew Atkins	Sunrise Service in <i>Roundhay Park</i>
	10.30 Rev. Trevor Bates	Holy Communion
27	10.30 Mr. Roger Richardson	
	6.30 <i>St Andrew’s</i>	

### **THANK YOU**

We are so thankful for the many messages of love and sympathy and words of comfort written in the cards, the e-mails, the beautiful flowers we’ve received. We thank those who visited us, the Ministers who prayed for us.

For friends who sat with us and listened while we talked of David our beloved son. He has left such a big hole in our hearts that we wonder if the pain will ever go away!

With Love & God bless you all!

**Mano, Irene, Christine & John**

### **THANK YOU**

Many thanks to all at Lidgett for the gift of flowers, following my hip replacement operation at the end of February. In particular to Lidgett's very own Interflora team, Val and Kath, who made a longer trip than usual to bring cheering words of encouragement. This was very much appreciated.

**Gill Cooper**

### **LADIES' GROUP MEETINGS**

We meet in the Youth Hall at 7.45pm on alternate Thursdays (usually, but this month is slightly different).

3rd April Gill Arnett is coming to tell us of her experiences at The Paralympics.

10th April (instead of 17th April, which is Maundy Thursday) Pat Osborne is bringing her latest story "The Mysterious Life of Agatha Christie". Pat's talks are always thought-provoking, so come and enjoy this one.

Please note that there will not be another Meeting (because of Easter) until 1st May which is our Coffee Evening.

**Lynne Pullein**

### **SYLVIA WRIGHT**

Sylvia is currently visiting from India and will be hosting a Coffee Morning on Friday 4 April 2014 from .10.30 am to 12.30 pm.

This is to be held at at Sandmoor Golf Club, Alwoodley Lane.

Do come to meet Sylvia (and bring a friend). There will be cakes & produce, a raffle and music.

*The pantomime this year was so exciting that we have got **two** reviews of it! As you know we don't usually publish anonymous contributions but in the excitement of the event I have lost the names of the authors of these splendid contributions to The Link. Perhaps you would like to hazard guesses as to who they are.*

## THE PANTO AT LIDGETT PARK



'Twas a dark and stormy night, last week, when we set out to Lidgett for the Drama Group's performance of "Mother Goose." There was an almost full house by the time we arrived but 'Front of House' George was welcoming and showed us to our seats. Music (from David Wilks), lights (Martin Toms) and action from the regular cast. We were then outside the residence of a cottage, rented from the greedy, unscrupulous Sebastian Scroungepenny (Irving Theaker) in Much Mudding (LS8 1EG). Mother Goose (Pat Brooke) is blessed (?) with a son, Simple Simon (Ian Russell) who we were soon to discover had gained little from the Much Mudding education system. He was a mine of disinformation for the Twitchers (bird watchers Homewood and Fawcett) who were seeking sight of some rare species but were diverted to search for a giant goose. As the panto progressed we met Perky Parrot (Jerram Bishop) who had a great part, delivering all but the last line of his witty ditties that were evidently not meant for gentle audiences in a Methodist Church Hall, (but our imaginations filled them in for him.) A forgetful Fairy Naff (Catherine Johnston), complete with wand, flitted in and out of the action as did Squire Muddling and his dominant wife Arabella (Howard Clinkard and Carol Russell). Completing the cast were the wicked witch, Aggie Cackle (Marion Colbeck), two less than competent police folk Sergeant Truncheon (Peter Wrigley) and Constable Whistle (Mary Patchett) and of course Esmerelda the Goose, a very tall, well made, and very rare specimen, played by Kymmy Pallan, who was the best dressed goose in Leeds 8. As we all knew the story; goose lays golden eggs if well treated, unscrupulous land-lord decides to put up the rent but is thwarted by wicked witch (boo, hiss) who captures goose and hides her in the forest. Everyone searches as diligently as the script will allow before the goose is found.

Meanwhile Ma Goose has been bribed with youth and beauty forever by the witch and has been transformed (that's all I dare write) into a sparkling blonde! Mind you, early in the piece, she found a tall, handsome young man (Toy Boy) from the audience but surprisingly ditched him for her scripted persona. A supply of village children and gremlins, goslings and nymphs, provided by Jerram Bishop; Jessica Buckle; Issac and William Fawcett, Grace Griffin, Molly Richardson, and Mariam Shan made sure it all ended happily. With all the shouts, screams, boos and hisses, singing and dancing, the front rows were interactive with their accustomed fervour, the rest of us merely vocal, but a little less energetic. An immensely enjoyable evening of merriment, fun and frolic.

## PANTOMIME TIME



There are certain characteristics that pantos have to include – a ‘goody’, a ‘baddy’, a leading lady, a simple lad, dancing and singing and a vague story line where good overcomes evil and all ends well.

We had all this and more in Mother Goose. There was lots of singing and dancing, the audience participated with enthusiasm and eagerness, great scenery, lovely costumes and make up, the children played their part very well and there was even a bit of slapstick.

Quite a team were involved in the production, both behind the scenes and on the stage, from the brilliant musician to the atmospheric lighting technician, and it was an excellent evening's entertainment.

Irving Theaker excelled once again, using his talent with words to good effect, from the creative names of the cast to the story line and including the jokes and songs.

All the cast played their parts well but special mention should go to Pat Brooke as a brilliant Mother Goose – any requests as to how to lose 20 years of age instantly should go to her!!

Knowing pantomimes at Lidgett Park were happening in the 1940s there is obviously a good tradition of putting on an annual panto. Long may it continue.

Thank you one and all for a wonderful, laughter-filled evening.

## **MOUNTAIN TOPS**

Barbara and I have always been interested in mountain tops.

We well remember climbing Snowdon. It took all our courage to inch our way past Cwm Clogwyn, and its vertiginous descent of some 2000 feet to the lake, far below. Soon after, we were in thick mist. It was bitterly cold on the summit, and we began to wonder whether the ascent was worth it! Suddenly, the mist rose like a curtain. And we could see everything as far as the heights of Anglesey. We actually ran downhill, and never noticed Cwm Clogwyn!

My own four year period in India with the RAF was mostly unpleasant, and occasionally dicy, but there were some high spots. If you managed leave in Darjeeling, you entered another world. The climate was excellent, the food superb, and the views magnificent. The vast bulk of Kanchenjunga, (the five treasures of the snow) seemed to fill half the sky, but there were more wonders in store.

I set off with a friend to climb nearby Tiger Hill. Our path lay through a gloomy, soggy forest, but at last we gained the summit, to be greeted by a breathtaking view, the whole of the Himalayas from East to West, with three diamond white peaks in the centre - Everest, Lhotse and Makalu.

But a greater wonder was to come. That gloomy, soggy forest had been transformed into a veritable wonderland. It was Merlin's magic forest of Brociliande. Never in my life have I felt so completely in the presence of God. It is a memory that will remain for me all my life. As Andrew said, it is not just the mountaintop view which is important but the feelings you bring back with you.

**Ken Massey**

## **UPDATE ON BELIZE by Maggie Patchett**

College has been a lot of work, hence you have not heard so much from me – and I apologise as I know the fund-raising continues apace! However, I was privileged to be invited to speak at the Irish Methodist Conference's Mission Forum 15-16 Feb and was able to share about Belize and spend time with other world-mission minded people. The Irish Church was supporting the mission partners, Rev Andrew Cunningham and Julie his wife, who arrived in

Belize shortly before I left. Unfortunately, due to Julie's health issues, she is now in Australia (where she is from originally) and Andrew left Belize to join her there on 26<sup>th</sup> Feb as she needs some major surgery. They will not be returning to Belize, so please can you keep them and also the Church in Belize – now even shorter of ministers – in your prayers!

The major fund-raising initiative in December was through the United Methodist Church in the USA which covered many projects, but included the Methodist High School in Belmopan, Belize, and a total of \$78,010 (about £46,500) was raised – which included a substantial donation from Lidgett! The next stage of building is now progressing well. They are now able to employ local people to work continuously on the school, and we are confident that the next set of classrooms will be ready for the next school year! Please keep the students, staff, mission teams, and regular workers in your prayers as school and construction continue side by side!

In January the annual Belize / Honduras District Conference / Council included the weekend of Youth Activities, and the 'Young People's Demonstration' – a parade through the streets of Belize City after the main Youth Service, and this year it was led very proudly by students from **Belmopan Methodist High School**, who were also given the place of honour during the service!

Back here in Durham, as you may have heard, we students have now been told where we are to be appointed for Sept 2014. I have been given a district appointment with the West Yorkshire District, working with the Settle and Skipton/Grassington circuits, on the edge of and in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. I will be concentrating on work with the small rural chapels, to support them in reaching out to their communities and to help them to identify and enact local mission priorities in a type of consultancy role. There are 17 chapels in total but I would work with those in the villages and not the towns- i.e. the very small ones! There will be a project oversight group, with both circuit and district staff involved. Sounds challenging, exciting, different, but in a beautiful part of the country! At present there is no manse, but they intend renting me one somewhere - probably in Gargrave or Hellifield – and I asked them to make sure there would be a spare room as I'm sure to be having visitors!

I think that many of you know my son Kevin is marrying Lucy on 26<sup>th</sup> April, and their wedding reception – planned way before I knew about my appointment - is in Cracoe village Hall, right in the middle of one of my new circuits! A definite case of God-incidence!

One last thing – I intend to visit Belize in late June/ early July as soon as I finish college here, as I don't think I'll get much opportunity after I start in rural West Yorks. If anyone would like to accompany me – or to come for part of the time I am there, I would love to be able to show you personally all

that is going on in Belize. I haven't fixed the dates yet but it will hopefully be between 20<sup>th</sup> June and 18<sup>th</sup> July.

I'm writing this at the very start of March and so as we approach the season of Lent, may you continue to deepen your walk with Jesus and grow ever closer to our amazing God!

With love and prayers,

**Maggie**

### **REMINDER: ROUNDHAY ART TRAIL 27<sup>th</sup> April 2014**

The first Roundhay Art Trail is going to be an exciting event. There are now 21 local artists who will open their working spaces to visitors, on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April from 10.00am until 4.30pm. The aim of the event is to raise the profile of the visual arts in Leeds LS8.

The trail will include artwork in a wide range of styles including, painting, print making, photography, ceramics, glass, sculpture, jewellery and textiles. Refreshments will be available at St Edmunds Church, Lidgett Park Road from 2.00 to 4.30 p.m. and at some of the studios.

A route map with profiles of the participating artists is available to download from the Roundhay Live website, [www.is.gd/roundhaylive](http://www.is.gd/roundhaylive). Copies are also available at Oakwood Library and at Oakwood Farmers Market on 19<sup>th</sup> April. If you would like to know more about the Trail please contact; Miriam Laville, mob; 07967 974391 [miriam@miriam-laville.co.uk](mailto:miriam@miriam-laville.co.uk) or Debbie Samuel, mob; 07962230752 [debbie.samuel@clara.co.uk](mailto:debbie.samuel@clara.co.uk)

### **WELCOME AND WELCOME BACK**

Members of the Church Walking Group come and go. Over the last twelve months we have welcomed new walkers who have joined the small group of regulars, as well as those who come when they can. Our numbers on the walks over the last year have ranged from three to fifteen.

In February we again walked the Meanwood Valley Trail. Six people had indicated they would be walking and whilst waiting at Marsden's Monument for the sixth person two more people were seen striding purposefully across Woodhouse Moor towards us. Were they for us? Who were they? They hadn't booked! As they approached we knew they were for us. Barbara and Ed Dodman had rejoined the walking group after not being with us for.....years. They said they not sure they would be able to keep going, and warned us they might have to leave us at some point and get a bus home. But not only did they complete the route to the café in Golden Acre (at least seven miles), but they then walked at least a further two miles to their home! The original six of us waited for the bus back into town.



And the purpose of this article? To offer a welcome to anyone to join us; to ensure Barbara and Ed come again and to give the Editor of the Link some copy!

Watch for the latest walk in the notices, on the noticeboard by the car park entrance and on the circuit website.

**Peter Harper**

*It is kind of Peter to welcome us back so fulsomely. I can't help thinking that he feels in this way he is putting pressure on us to turn up again!*

*But still – congenial company and a pleasant walk, what could be better? If you fancy stretching your legs try and find time to respond to Peter's invitation to join the group*

## **ACTION FOR CHILDREN**

The following amounts have been received as donations or payment. £52.99p from the sale of diaries and christmas cards, £347.58p from the collection at the Carol Service in December and £537.94p from Home Collection boxes.

Thanks to all for your contributions.

Anyone interested in having a Home Collection box please see me.

**Peter Bennett.**

## **REMINDER: TOUR DE ROUNDHAY**

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2014 – Roundhay High School Field. 12.30 – 5 pm**

It's getting closer! Come and join in the fun and excitement of our very own celebration of the Grand Depart of the Tour De France. This is a local event with activities for all the family and for all ages. There will be lots of cycling activities for children and adults plus Fun, Music and Food.

### **Registration**

Some of the cycling events will have a limited number of places and participants are required to register in advance. Entry fees (payable on the day) are £2 for children and £3 for adults. Details of the application process for children will be available from mid – March through local primary schools. Adults can register online through the Eventbrite website from the beginning of April. Look at the REAP [www.reap-leeds.org.uk](http://www.reap-leeds.org.uk) and Roundhay Live [www.is.gd/roundhaylive](http://www.is.gd/roundhaylive) websites [for more information and regular updates.](#)

If you would like to know more, or want to get involved (we will need lots of volunteers) email [nigel.jonesrcs@ntlworld.com](mailto:nigel.jonesrcs@ntlworld.com)

## TEXT FOR THE MONTH

*I haven't received any suggestions for this month's text. So I have resorted to a practice which I believe John Wesley often used. This is opening The Bible at random and seeing what you stumble on.*

*In this case it was Philemon Chapter one (and only), verses 8 and 9. Which in the New International Version reads–*

**Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, yet I appeal to you on the basis of love.**

## MATCH REPORT FROM THE YORKSHIRE EVENING POST

“Sinfield converted and then crossed himself moments later.”

*- So has Sir Kev become a Roman Catholic?*

## THIS MONTH'S QUIZ by Gillian Clements

Each clue gives rise to two words which differ by one letter. The differing letters spell out a place found in the New Testament.

1. If you stuff too much in, you could get a muscle spasm. (4,5)
2. Treated barley (for beer) could be found in a Mediterranean island. (4,5)
3. The very top of an 8-oared boat. (8,7)
4. I'd lay odds it's a crop you can make sugar from. (3,4)
5. The woman of easy virtue played a brass instrument. (8,7)
6. The cereal will take just a moment. (4,5)
7. The young lover gazed at the large, white bird. (5,4)
8. The monkey got it in the back of the neck. (3,4)
9. The nipple on the baby's bottle was rubbish. (4,3)

*... and it hasn't taken Gillian long to take up the challenge given in last month's issue.*

*So here are ten famous women for you to decode.*

## FAMOUS WOMEN QUIZ

Numbers 3, 5 and 9 are non-UK. The surnames are in alphabetical order.

1. (Medicine) *First name:* Present Queen. *Middle name:* Sounds like a place to find an impoverished artist. *Surname:* Bomb shelter. (9,7,8)
2. (Writer) *First name:* Tarzan's mate. *Surname:* Sounds like a type of car. (4,6)
3. (Singer) *First name:* Sound of Music character. *Surname:* Sounds like hard skin. (5,6)

4. (Heroine) *First name*: Say it before a meal. *Surname*: Dearest. (5,7)
5. (Poet) ONLY MICE IS KIND (anagram) (5,9)
6. (Reformer) LAZE BY THE FIR (anagram) (9,3)
7. (Sculptor) BOTH HARE BAR WARP (anagram) (7,8)
8. (Mathematics) *First name*: Programming language. *Surname*: Amour/Shoe tie. (3,8)
9. (Politician) *First name*: Starts with a precious metal. *Surname*: Rhymes with a river dam. (5,4)
10. (Reformer) HEN SUET PLANK MIMER (anagram) (8,9)

### **HYMNS ANCIENT AND ALTERED by Ed Dodman**

Do you ever worry about the morality of altering the words of old hymns? I don't mean doing away with the "thees" and "thous"; I'm all for that if it doesn't mess up the rhymes. But is it right to actually change the meaning of the hymn to suit our sensibilities?

An example of what I mean is in "Lead us heavenly Father lead us" that we sang the other week. James Edmeston wrote

"Lone and dreary, faint and weary, Through the desert thou didst go".

But in Hymns and Psalms it was amended to

"Tempted, taunted, yet undaunted, Through the desert thou didst go".

A much more positive image of Jesus striding out boldly and bravely.

And yet that isn't what Edmeston wrote; maybe he wanted to give the image of Jesus passing through a "dark night of the soul" and chose his words with great precision. Or maybe he just liked the rhyme. We don't know; but should we take it on ourselves to decide we know better? It seems somewhat like Orwell's Newspeak to me.

But at least in Hymns and Psalms altered hymns were indicated as in James Edmeston (Alt). In *Singing the Faith* the alterations just appear to be slipped in without any indication of change. Maybe I am being a bit paranoid. At least with some of the hymns in the new book the words are unlikely to be altered as they don't seem to mean much to start with.

### **PRAYER FOR CHANGE**

*Once again the prayer for change hasn't turned up in time for inclusion. So I thought you might like to go back to the very start.*

*As far as I can ascertain the very first prayer for change appeared in the June 2005 Link, just before the G8 summit that was supposed to address the problems of world poverty.*

*Here it is again. I'm afraid that not a lot has changed in ten years.*

Give us, Father,  
a vision of your world  
as love would make it;

a world where the weak are protected  
and none go hungry;  
a world whose benefits are shared,  
so that everyone can enjoy them;  
a world whose different peoples and cultures  
live with tolerance and mutual respect;  
a world where peace is built with justice,  
and justice is fired with love;  
and give us the courage to build it,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen  
*Betty Hares*

*'While poverty persists there is no true freedom' Nelson Mandela*

### **ANSWERS TO LAST MONTHS QUIZ**

Each clue (or pair of clues) gives rise to two words which differ by one letter.  
The differing letters spell out a country found in the New Testament.

1. A speed competition. A driver may need them in an emergency. (4,1.1.1)
2. The bishop's headgear got stuck in the mud. (5,4)
3. It was either a dog or a farm animal. (4,3)
4. The big dipper and carousels were a long way off. (4,3)
5. It can measure an astronomical body. (5,6)
6. Sign indicating an omission. A floor covering. (5,6)
7. Share out the cards in a perfect way. (4,5)
8. He played the wind instrument whilst standing on a barrel. (4,3)

### **SOLUTIONS**

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 1. RACE, R.A.C.  | E |
| 2. MITRE, MIRE   | T |
| 3. CHOW, COW     | H |
| 4. FAIR, FAR     | I |
| 5. METER, METEOR | O |
| 6. CARET, CARPET | P |
| 7. DEAL, IDEAL   | I |
| 8. TUBA, TUB     | A |

## **LAST RAMBLINGS**

*You can see we have been a bit short of material this month. So let's hear from you about your favourite hymns, Bible verses etcetera.*

*My favourite verse is Joshua 23, verse 34. In the NIV it reads -  
And the Reubenites and the Gadites gave the altar this name: A Witness  
Between us that the Lord is God.*

*Not very thrilling you might say; but just look at the Authorised Version -  
And the children of Reuben and the children of Gad called the altar *Ed*; for it  
*shall* be a witness between us that the Lord is God.*

*The italics are in the Bible and were not put in by me just so you can see why  
I like it.*

***May you have a blessed Easter***