

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Hi folks

This will be the last copy of 'The Link' issued whilst Graeme and I are working together at Lidgett. As you will know Graeme is leaving us to serve in the South Bradford Circuit and I'm sure we all wish him well in his new appointment. Whilst not everything in terms of leaving arrangements have been sorted yet, keep an eye out for news in the weekly notices, can I unashamedly plug the circuit service on 28 July at Shadwell. This begins at 4:00pm and will be a final Leeds North East Circuit service before we become a new circuit. There will be a chance to look back over the years as well as say farewell to Graeme, Becky, Mia and Owen. And if that doesn't tempt you there will be refreshments afterwards, outside in the garden at Shadwell, weather permitting.

I wanted to use this opportunity to say thank you to the people of Lidgett, for making Graeme and I so welcome in this first year of sharing ministry with you. Hopefully this won't be premature, but if the circuit meeting voted to continue with shared oversight in what we have come to know as the 'western section', and following the meetings in each church I have no reason to think they won't, then Palo and I will continue in September where Graeme and I left off. We would very much appreciate your continued support and prayers especially as we begin to consider how we will work together across the section.

New beginnings can be challenging, exciting and at times worrying. I am sure Jesus' disciples found their new beginnings just the same, but they took up the challenge and set off on an adventure. I am also sure that at least one of those twelve disciples, if not all of them, at some point disagreed with things Jesus did or were unsure about the way forward. I would hope that when such occasions arose conversations took place and views were shared. I hope that as we set off on this next part of our adventure we would try our hardest to accept the challenges before us, but most importantly that we too will be open to conversation and sharing views, as communication is vital in all we do. Till next time

Andrew

WORSHIP IN JULY

07	10.30 Mr. John Clay 6.30 Chapel Allerton	
14	10.30 Rev. Andrew Atkins 6.30 No Service	Holy Communion
21	10.30 Rev. Andrew Atkins 6.30 Rev. Andrew Atkins	Holy Communion
28	10.30 Dr. Karen Illingworth 4.00 Shadwell 6.30 St Edmund's	Circuit Service Ecumenical Service

WORSHIP IN AUGUST

04	10.30 Mrs. Susan Howdle 6.30 Chapel Allerton	
11	10.30 Prof. Peter Howdle 6.30 Chapel Allerton	
18	10.30 Rev. Michael Stopford 6.30 Rev. Andrew Atkins	Holy Communion Holy Communion
25	10.30 Mrs. Patricia Davies 6.30 St Andrew's	

THANK YOU

Marion Colbeck and family would like to thank all the members and friends from Lidgett Park for the flowers, cards and messages they received during their recent bereavement. They were a great source of comfort then and will continue to be so in the coming months.

CONGRATULATIONS

Linda Shaw, daughter of Aster, is a member of the Leeds Swimming Team that topped the table at the North East Region Youth and Senior Championships in Sunderland

They scooped 8 golds, 4 silvers and 5 bronzes.

Linda has now been chosen to go to Poland and represent GB at the European Junoir Championships in July.

Congratulations to Linda on her achievements.

Betty Ashton.

SCENE FROM THE DRAMA GROUP'S LATEST PRODUCTION



This one surely has to call for a caption competition. If I had the nerve I'd submit "Peter's sermons are always SO interesting".

SIMON ON THE STREETS

The last fund-raising for Simon on the Streets will be in the form of a Flower Festival in church on Thursday 9th,, Friday 10th and Saturday 11th August. The entrance fee will be £5 and include refreshments. If you would like to help arrange the flowers, which will be connected to street names of Leeds, or could provide some garden flowers which would last for 4 days or greenery please have a word with Ruth Albiges, Val Faint or Liz Pearson. Later a Rota system will be set up (as we had for Treasures Revealed) and your help then will be very much appreciated.

Val Faint

THE FIG, THE VINE AND THE OLIVE by John Summerwill

The final part of a three-part sermon delivered at Lidgett Park in February 2013.

The Olive

In the Palestinian economy in biblical times the fig was a useful tree and the vine a valuable one. The olive, though, was the most important and indispensable. A beautiful tree with its silver grey, misty leaves, it grew well



in hilly regions where other trees were less successful, and yielded huge crops for little effort. The Mount of Olives overlooking Jerusalem got its name from the forest of olive trees that covered it: indeed olives and religious pilgrimage were Jerusalem's principal

sources of income. Olives raw, or cooked, or pickled, were eaten with most meals, and olive oil was used in large quantities in every household. One third of every olive is oil.

On one visit to a biblical resources centre in Israel I saw a reconstruction of the sort of simple home-made olive press that would have been common in Jesus' day. Low walls of plastered rock built out from the side of a house or a natural cliff make a small square enclosure a few feet across and a few feet high. The floor is above ground level and sloping to an exit hole high enough to allow a jug to capture the oil that will flow out. The enclosure is then filled with bags or sacks of olives and a heavy stone placed on top. Into a slot in the back wall is inserted the end of a long heavy pole, which rests on top of the big stone. Then at the other end of the pole hangs another heavy stone, so that the pole acts as a lever exerting pressure on the olives much as a nutcracker does. Today centrifuges are used to extract six grades of oil from olives: the crude biblical contraption produced four. The first oil that oozed out was the sweetest and purest—the sort that today is sold as extra virgin olive oil. In biblical times it was reserved for sacred uses: donated as an offering to the Temple for anointing and healing rituals, or offered in devotion, along with grain and wine, in home shrines, as it still is in Orthodox churches. When the oozing ceased another rock was tied to the pole to increase the pressure and produce a second grade of oil, slightly more acidic but still very palatable as a

dressing on food or an oil for cooking. Another stone weight added brought out the third grade of oil, too acidic to consume but good for burning in the lamps which everyone used to light their homes at night. The final pressing produced the lowest grade of oil, which was mixed with ashes to make soap (—think Palmolive). Oil, then, for blessing, for nourishment, for illumination and for cleansing. How does this connect with the gospel story of Jesus' last days?

It was across the Mount of Olives that Jesus came to make his entry to Jerusalem on an ass, as we recall on each Palm Sunday. Every evening of that final week he went back through the olive groves to Bethany, returning each morning to teach in the Temple courts. But on the Thursday evening, after the Last Supper and Judas' departure, he stopped at the foot of the Mount of Olives, in the Garden of Gethsemane. Today there is a Franciscan church marking the place, built in the 20th century with money donated from throughout the Roman Catholic world and called The Church of All Nations. When you enter it from the brilliant light of Palestinian sunshine on white rock, you find yourself at first in darkness and it takes time for your eyes to adjust. Gradually you become aware that the pillars supporting the roof are shaped something like trees, and that such light as there is is coming through blue glass above the 'trees'. You are in the garden at night, voices are hushed, and the one place that is more brilliantly illuminated is a small area of bare bedrock in front of the altar. This is the place to remember how Jesus wrestled with his dilemma, whether to run or to stay and face the prospect of arrest and possible death. 'Father, if you will, take this cup away from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done' (Luke 22:42). Some manuscripts of Luke's version of the story say that great drops of sweat fell from him like blood (Luke 22:43-44), and we remember that 'Gethsemane' means an olive press. Jesus—the source of blessing, nourishment, illumination and cleansing for us—was crushed in Gethsemane as the olives are crushed. We call him Christ in Greek, or Messiah in Hebrew, both of which mean 'anointed'—the one marked for office with the oil of anointing, though in his case it was with the perfume of a woman who was no better than she ought to be (Mark 14:3-9).

The fig tree reminded us that we live under the judgment of God, who expects of us fruitfulness. The vine spoke to us of Christ as the root from which we draw the sustenance that enables us to be fruitful, and its juice is our constant reminder of the blood of Jesus and his costly self-giving for us. The olive gives us another symbol of the sacrifice of the one to bring life to the many.

The story of Jesus, though, does not end in Gethsemane, nor on the cross, nor with his burial. There's something more to be said above olives. Olive trees are remarkably resilient, long lived and difficult to kill. Chop them off even at the main stem and they will put out new shoots from the roots and begin again. That has happened on the Mount of Olives. When the Romans laid siege to Jerusalem in 64 AD they cut down almost the entire forest of olives.

But the trees came back, and there are olive trees today in the Garden of Gethsemane whose roots were there when Jesus was. They remind pilgrims of the Resurrection. A large part of the Mount of Olives today is taken up by an enormous Jewish graveyard where the wealthiest Jews in the world have bought themselves burial plots, for Jews believe that when the Messiah comes and raises the dead to judgment, it is here, by the Valley of Jehoshaphat, that he will first arrive. The origins of that belief are in scripture (Joel 3:2, 12). No doubt that is why Luke ends the story of Jesus' life on the Mount of Olives, not in Galilee as the others do. He has Jesus ascending from the Mount and men in white robes giving a promise to his disciples that he will come again as they have seen him go (Luke 24:50f; Acts 1:9-12) . In the olive we may find a symbol of the resurrection to eternal life for which we hope.

The judgment and salvation, sacrifice and renewal, death and resurrection, stimulation for faith and hope are the themes that run through the gospels from end to end, and these few simple symbols can call them all to mind. Next time you eat a fig, a grape, an olive, or consume their juices, think on these things.

John Summerwill

PLAY – CAPTION NUMBER TWO REQUIRED



I'm stumped for a suitable caption for this one. I hope you bright ones out there can come up with something dramatic.

PRAYER FOR CHANGE



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

As the dark of winter is changed
by the light and warmth of spring,
and the promise of summer to come,
may our hearts and lives be uplifted and changed.

As the days lengthen,
and our spirits rise,
may our hands and our hearts
reach out to all whose financial, mental
and emotional well being has been
threatened by bad weather, poor harvests
or loss of livestock.

If we are tempted to grumble about
the weather or complain about rising food prices,
may we be more aware of their struggle and need.
With each new day, may we count our blessings
and give thanks for all the love that comes to us from God.

Revive our faith, O God;
restore our hope and refresh our love,
that our commitment and care for all your world
and for all our neighbours may continue to grow.

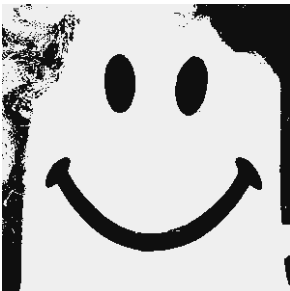
Amen

IS THIS THE STUPIDEST THING WE HAVE EVER PRINTED?

One afternoon a man came home from work to find total mayhem in his house. His three children were outside, still in their pyjamas, playing in the mud, with empty food boxes and wrappers strewn all around the front yard. The door of his wife's car was open, as was the front door to the house. Proceeding inside, he found an even bigger mess. A lamp had been knocked over, and the rug was piled up against one wall. In the front room the TV was loudly blaring away and the family room was strewn with toys and various items of clothing. In the kitchen, dishes filled the sink, breakfast food was spilled on the worktops, dog food was spilled on the floor, a broken glass lay under the table, and a small pile of sand was spread by the back door.

He quickly headed up the stairs, stepping over toys and more piles of clothes, looking for his wife. He was worried she might be ill, or that something serious had happened. He found her lounging in the bedroom, still curled up in the bed in her pyjamas, reading a novel. She looked up at him, smiled, and asked how his day went.

He looked at her in bewilderment and asked, "What happened here today?" She again smiled and answered, "You know every day when you come home from work you ask me what in the world I did all day?" "Yes", was his incredulous reply. She answered, "Well, today I didn't do it".



I always try to use home produced material and not to include material from other sources. The above demonstrates why. It was published in a nearby Methodist Church's magazine recently. I was told by a member, who should be ashamed of herself, "you WILL publish this". As I am scared of her I have reluctantly done as instructed and, being the decent fellow I am, will not embarrass her by telling you who it is.

CHURCH FLOWERS

You might remember a few issues ago that Joyce Wood wrote a nice article about church flower ladies and donated money for the flowers to celebrate her and husband Robert's anniversary. Garth White took a lovely picture of them with the flowers and here it is.



Joyce writes –

It was the anniversary of the Queen's coronation and I am wearing a replica blue ring as worn by Diana and Katherine. (If you look closely you can just about see it on Joyce's right hand. Another time when colour would have been a good thing). The flower arrangement was so beautiful making it an occasion to remember our Diamond Wedding Anniversary. Thank you to the "Flower Ladies".

As you know Joyce is the lady who writes about the hymns. Not all of you know her as she doesn't attend Lidgett, although she and Robert are regulars at our coffee mornings. Most of you will know their son, Lester, though as he is a regular attender at morning worship.

WALKING GROUP



To cheer you up from the terrible news on the previous page, and to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the conquest of Everest here is a picture of our intrepid explorers on their last outing. They are heading up from Conistone Dib across the moors. It's a pity you can't see it in colour because the sky is actually a beautiful blue.



Mission completed – the team celebrate .

MY FAVOURITE PRAYER

I did ask you to send me yours some time ago. Even allowing for email going missing I haven't been snowed under by your replies. However I have had a reply from Joyce. I have to say her favourite prayer looks suspiciously like a hymn to me but she does take a lot of comfort from hymns so that's fine.

My favourite prayer - as requested by the Editor

Nathaniel Niles (1835-1917) wrote these verses on the margin of a newspaper when he was travelling to work, based on Psalm 32 v 8 (King James Bible).
"I will guide thee with thine eye"

When I pray to God the words of this song often come into my thoughts, so that I know that I can trust the Lord for guidance when I pray and know that he listens and answers prayer.

Precious promises God hath given,
To the weary passer-by,
All the way from earth to Heaven,
I will guide thee with Mine eye.

When temptations almost win thee,
And thy trusted watchers fly,
Let this promise ring within thee,
I will guide thee with Mine eye.

When thy secret hopes have perished,
In the grave of years gone by,
Let this promise still be cherished:
I will guide thee with Mine eye.

When the shades of life are falling,
And the hour has come to die,
Hear thy trusted Leader calling:
I will guide thee with Mine eye.

The Bible speaks and there are many promises we can claim, so let us pray with all our might, in the name of Jesus, and hold God to his own word. Our God never fails.

JOYCE WOOD

YOUR LAST CHANCE TO COME UP WITH A CAPTION

Well at least until September)



*My version "Wow this Link magazine is good stuff"
Alright, it's not brilliant so let's see you do better.*

BUMPER SUMMER QUIZ SUPPLEMENT

As you will all be suffering from Link withdrawal symptoms over the summer Gillian has very kindly provided a complete set of puzzles to keep you occupied as you sit on the beach. Many thanks Gillian.

Quiz 1

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

1. You musn't rage in a tomb. (4,5)
2. Harvest the material. (4,3)
3. Applaud the bowler. (4,3)
4. Don't hit the Buddhist priest. (3,4)
5. Is it in this place or that place? (4,5)
6. The sprite was a Zulu warrior. (3,4)
7. The fish came to a conclusion. (3,4)
8. What cost royalty? (5,6)
9. Eliminate the euphorbia. (5,6)

Quiz 2

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

1. Spot the agent. (4,3)
2. I assume the summary is correct. (7,6)
3. The filament floated in the atmosphere. (4,3)
4. The sheep ate a lot of paper. (3,4)
5. Look at the weed. (5,4)
6. The last king of Troy looked silly in the baby buggy. (5,4)
7. Don't hit him in the stomach. (5,6)
8. The adolescent held the golf ball. (4,3)
9. I carried the slate over the steps in the wall. (4,5)

Quiz 3

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

1. An inexpensive pile. (5,4)
2. Put it where the Queen lives. (5,6)
3. The fruit is normal. (4,3)

4. Talk about the herb. (6,7)
5. The first man was a mother! (4,3)
6. The shellfish looked silly on the chessboard! (5,4)
7. Paradise is a sanctuary. (6,5)
8. A liquid measure of emulsion. 4,5)

Quiz 4

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

1. The joke is in French. (4,3)
2. You can't get an infection from a chimney! (3,4)
3. A potato stuck in the pipe. (5,4)
4. Get rid of the parasite. (4,5)
5. A spread or a spread. (5,4)
6. Attempt to carry it on the salver. (3,4)
7. The colours don't match but it still cost money. (5,4)
8. Make a wooden box. (6,5)
9. Tell a tall tale about the citrus fruit. (3,4)

Quiz 5

Each clue gives rise to two words which differ by one, two or three letters (eg ant/aunt, ant/antic or ant/antler). The 15 differing letters, when rearranged, spell out three names in the NT. Which name is missing?

1. At first he was hanging around and then he started enticing people. (7,6) [1]
2. The valley had worth to the community. (4,5) [1]
3. This beetle is wicked. (6,4) [2]
4. He could have passion, but was sometimes grim. (6,4) [2]
5. I had an idea I should do it. (7,5) [2]
6. The woman held the bed cover. (3,5) [2]
7. Lucky (colloquial) bird. (5,3) [2]
8. I was creeping up on it, but it suddenly hurt. (8,5) [3]

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S QUIZ

1. The horse-drawn vehicle can easily carry this weight. (4,5)
2. I ramble with a snipe. (6,5)
3. The viceroy wore a thong! (6,5)
4. It is rare. What a fright. (6,5)
5. The keystone was one of five. (5,4)
6. The rodents walk in a camp way! (4,5)
7. Wear down but still smile. (5,4)
8. Prison steps. (4,5)

SOLUTION

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 1. CART, CARAT | A |
| 2. WANDER, WADER | N |
| 3. SATRAP, STRAP | A |
| 4. SCARCE, SCARE | C |
| 5. QUOIN, QUIN | O |
| 6. MICE, MINCE | N |
| 7. GRIND, GRIN | D |
| 8. STIR, STAIR | A |

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REMINISCING

We've ended up with a page and a half with no material to fill it so I am going back to September 2004's Link. This was the very first one were I was the editor. Gerry Leake had just retired as editor after two stints, which must be well above and beyond the call of duty. Neil had just returned from his year as President of Conference and we'd bid a fond farewell to David Laycock, who had filled in admirably as President's Assistant.

I notice that I fondly imagined that I would be receiving biographies, holiday reports and letters from all of you. I must have been naïve in my young(er) days. I also used a lot of song titles as headings; so tell me who recorded the song "Reminiscing"?

It has been a joy being editor but I realise that next year will be my 10th. I think it is time for someone new to take over and bring in new ideas. So as to give you plenty of time to consider whether you feel a "calling" to take over this esteemed post I am letting you all know that I will be retiring as editor after the end of my next year.

If you think you might be interested I would be delighted to talk to you about what it entails.

FILLER ITEM

As I said We do have a bit of space going spare so I'll use it to address one of the important current issues. And that is –

Whatever Johnny Depp may think The Lone Ranger and Tonto do not look like this



They look like this



HI-YO SILVER AWAY