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## MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends

As you read this, we will I suspect be somewhere in Lent, as we once again begin our long journey towards the bleakness of Good Friday and the new hope of Easter Day. But let's not get ahead of ourselves, there's another issue of the Link before then so I need to save something to say about those times for that issue. Perhaps, *not getting ahead of ourselves*, offers us a new challenge for this Lent.

I am not one for *giving up* during Lent, and before anyone else says it, it hasn't got anything to do with being weak willed or loving chocolate too much to contemplate 40 days without it... well, not much. For me Lent is more about a time of reflection, or a time to take on a new challenge or adventure. So, thinking on *not getting ahead of ourselves* I am reminded of a pocket card that many of my friends in AA carry with them as a daily help and guide. It is called "**Just for Today**". So here are a few parts of that card as a Lenten adventure or challenge for you and me to take up over these next few weeks.

Just for today I will try to live through this day only and not tackle my whole life problem at once.

Just for today I will try to strengthen my mind. I will study and I will learn something useful.

Just for today I will do somebody a good turn and not get found out; if anybody knows of it, it will not count.

Just for today I will have a quiet half hour all by myself and relax.

Just for today I will be unafraid. I will enjoy that which is beautiful and will believe that as I give to the world, so the world will give to me.

I hope that these forty days or so will give you time to live **Just for Today**.  
Till next time

**Andrew**

## WORSHIP IN MARCH

02	10.30 Rev. Andrew Atkins 6.30 <i>Chapel Allerton</i>	
09	8.30 Rev. Andrew Atkins 10.30 Mr. Grenville Jensen 4.00 <i>Roscoe</i>	Holy Communion United/Circuit Service
16	8.30 Rev. Robert Creamer 10.30 Mr. Michael Prince 6.30 <i>Chapel Allerton</i>	Holy Communion
23	8.30 Rev. Andrew Atkins 10.30 Rev. Palo Tshume 6.30 Rev. Andrew Atkins	Holy Communion Holy Communion Ecumenical Service
30	Mothering Sunday 8.30 Rev. Andrew Atkins 10.30 Rev. Andrew Atkins 6.30 <i>Moor Allerton</i>	Holy Communion All Age Worship/Parade Service

## LIDGETT PARK LADIES' GROUP

Meeting at the usual time of 7.45 pm in the Youth Hall

6th March Tara Greatorex is coming to talk to us about St. Gemma's Hospice

20th March Ian Dawson, Lecturer, Historian and Author will be relating the story of Anne Herbert - "A Life in the War of the Roses". This should be of interest to those familiar with the recent books by Philippa Gregory.

**Lynne Pulein**

## THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who sent so many lovely cards and messages and the beautiful flowers and the prayers. Thank you to Rev Andrew Atkins for his care and support and the meaningful service and to David Wilks for playing the organ.

I have felt the love of the whole Church family at Lidgett at the sudden loss of Malcolm.

God Bless you All

**Christine Firth**

## **THANK YOU**

Winifred Hill died peacefully in St James's Hospital on December 29<sup>th</sup> 2013. Mum was so grateful for all the visits and flowers she received during the last couple of years when unfortunately her health prevented her from playing a more active part at Lidgett Park.

On behalf of all the family I would like to thank everyone who has shown us so much love and care with phone calls, cards and prayers since she has died. We thank everyone who attended her thanksgiving service. To Andrew for his support and his kind words and prayers at her services. We thank David for playing Mum's favourite music. To all the ladies who organised and served refreshments and made those lovely cakes. Lastly thank you to all who made a donation to Yorkshire Air Ambulance.

It is at a time such as this that we really remember how lucky we are to belong to such a caring church family and we thank God for this.

May God bless you all

**Stephanie Haydock**

## **THE RAJAH FAMILY**

Our thoughts and prayers are with Irene and Mano and their family following their recent tragic bereavement.

## **ADVANCE NOTICE**

The Saturday Coffee Morning scheduled for 5th July has been moved to 28th June so as not to clash with the 'Grand Depart' of the Tour de France.

On the 28th June there will be a French theme to get everyone in the mood; do come to savour some French delights!

**Howard Clinkard**

## CHANGE OF TELEPHONE NUMBER

The telephone number of Vi and Andrew Walker has changed. It is now 3451543.

## WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?



*Mary Patchett has kindly sent this photo for inclusion in this issue. The question is what is this group of suspicious looking characters up to? I know we like to think of ourself as a friendly Church where all are welcome but I'm not so sure we want this lot hanging around the premises.*

## FUND RAISING QUIZ NIGHT: SATURDAY MARCH 15TH AT 7 P.M.

We are again having a Quiz Night, this time to raise funds for the Education Belize project. Dave Farrar will once more be hosting a light-hearted evening seeking our knowledge of things both serious and silly plus our cryptically clued picture quiz! Do join us either as an individual or bring a team (of between 6 and 8 people). Individuals or smaller groups will be sorted into teams before the night, so it is very helpful to have names beforehand to enable us to do this.

There is an entry charge of £5 per person which includes interval refreshments.

For further details please see any Project Committee member or ring Margaret Farrar on 2931867.

We look forward to seeing you.

**Margaret Farrar**

## TOUR DE ROUNDHAY.

It's getting closer! Le Grand Depart of the Tour de France is taking place in Leeds on 5 July. Come and join in all the fun and excitement in our very own Tour celebration in Roundhay.

REAP and Roundhay Live are starting the celebrations early with an exciting cycling based community event on Sunday 22 June at Roundhay High School from 12.30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

There will be activities for all members of the family whether they cycle or not, including,

- **Children's Cycling** organised by West Yorkshire Track Cycling and Bikeability with some track races, skill tests and mini time trails for different age groups, including under-fives, on the school field and on off road paths [ for older children]

- **Adult Cycling** for riders of all abilities organised by Leeds Cycling Campaign. There will be several different "social road rides" covering 5 miles, 12 -15 miles , 25 miles and over 70 miles, setting off at intervals from the front of the school

Some of the cycling events will have a limited number of places and participants are required to register in advance. Details of the application process for children will be available in March through local schools. Adults can register through the Leeds Cycling Campaign website from the beginning of April. [www.leedscyclingcampaign.co.uk](http://www.leedscyclingcampaign.co.uk)

- **Fun, Music and Food** organised by Oakwood Tenants and Residents Association to raise funds to restore Oakwood Clock. There will be lots of delicious local and French food, a music marquee with a brass band, **Las Camaradas salsa band**, and other local bands, "funfair" activities, a bouncy castle and cycling related stalls e.g. "beat the clock", a cycle powered smoothie machine and other attractions

Put the date in your diary now! - 22 June 2014 - and keep an eye on the Roundhay Live and REAP websites – [www.is.gd/roundhaylive](http://www.is.gd/roundhaylive) and [www.reap-leeds.org.uk](http://www.reap-leeds.org.uk) [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)

## LIDGETT PARK METHODIST CHURCH ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The following tables provide a summary of the accounts of the church for the year to 31 August 2013. A full set of the accounts will be presented at the church AGM and can be provided to any member on request to the Treasurer.

Income and expenditure, year to 31 Aug. 2013      year to 31 Aug. 2012

<b>INCOME</b>	£	£
Offerings	57,801	65,149
Gift aid tax refunds	12,926	15,276
Property lettings	28,214	27,340
Other income	3,094	2,376
<b>Total income</b>	<b>102,035</b>	<b>110,141</b>

<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Circuit assessment	60,000	58,000
Repairs and maintenance	5,044	4,140
Caretaking, cleaning, insurance	14,291	17,003
Utility costs	10,172	8,454
Grants and donations	9,000	8,900
Other expenditure	5,392	5,155
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>103,899</b>	<b>101,652</b>
Excess expenditure over income	1,864	
Excess income over expenditure		8,489

In addition to general funds summarised above, the church had special collections for external organisations and passed on a total of £2,061 (£2,708 in 11/12)

Furthermore, the church raised a net £13,044 for the Simon on the Streets project during the year.

Other expenditure not in the above figures included £13,312 for solar panels which was withdrawn from the Mary Raine bequest which is held in a trust fund, and £12,058 was spent on a new church boiler which was funded from the property repairs fund.

<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>	<b>at 31 August 2013</b>	<b>at 31 August 2012</b>
	£	£
General fund	28,488	29,500
Property repair fund	4,280	16,338
Simon on the streets project	13,044	
Memorial gift		1,500
Sylvia Wright project		12,635
<b>Total</b>	<b>45,812</b>	<b>59,973</b>
Represented by:		
Cash	50	50
Current account	13,256	13,417
Deposit account	12,954	27,550
Debtors and prepayments	20,553	19,965
Less creditors /accruals	(1,001)	(1009)
	<b>45,812</b>	<b>59,973</b>

Note: In addition to the above , the balance of the Mary Raine Bequest Trust fund at 31 August 2013 was £22,373

The above accounts show that the Church had an excess of expenditure over income in 2012/13 and had to dip into reserves to balance the books.

Although expenditure increased as expected, income was well short of expectations primarily because weekly offerings have not kept pace with inflation and the church has lost a number of regular donations. Although we are living in difficult economic times, everyone is encouraged to reconsider the level of their regular giving.

The financial situation will of course be discussed in more detail at the AGM later in the year.

**Alan Wittrick (Church Treasurer)**

## **TELEPHONE NUMBER**

My new address was published in the January Church Notices (Flat 9 Forest Hill, 11 Park Crescent, Leeds LS8 1DH) but unfortunately there was an error in the telephone number published. (My fault – there was a typo in the email I sent to Susan.) Could you please note that the correct number is **225 38 42** (two two five three eight four two).

Thanks.

**Gillian Clements**

## HAVE YOU EXPLORED THE NEW CIRCUIT WEBSITE?

I am not a natural website browser. Yes, I do know how to explore the internet but I don't often do it for pleasure. However, one time recently I looked on the new circuit website to check something out and on Lidgett Park's pages I spotted the words "See a slideshow". I clicked to view and what a delightful surprise. There came up a wonderful display of all the "Streets of Leeds" flower displays which proved such a success in last year's Simon on the Streets project. There were other slide shows equally interesting but modesty prevents me from mentioning some. I emailed John Summerwill to congratulate him on such an interesting website and he said Mary Patchett had contributed a lot towards some of the slide shows. So thank you Mary. I must return to explore some of the other churches more thoroughly. Try it out – you don't have to look too far as there is a short slide show on the home page. Look it up and start clicking; [www.leedsnandemethodist.org.uk](http://www.leedsnandemethodist.org.uk)

And before closing: have you also marvelled at the colour, layout and amount of information on the circuit plan for our new circuit? John – both the website and the plan are a *tour de force*. Congratulations!

**Peter C. Harper**

*And while we are on websites the official website of the Methodist Church has recently been given a makeover. I think it is quite attractive and well worth a look. Maybe we are moving into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century at last.*

*For some reason the mention of moving into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century makes me think of our dear friend and regular contributor, Colin Watson. Colin has gently taken me to task for maligning him as the following sentences make clear – "Aggrieved (December 2013) and "moaning" (February 2014) are not words I would have used for Caption Time. I was only replacing a lost caption for the February issue".*

*Colin is of course correct and I apologise for my intemperate use of language. As most of you know this is most out of character, I am renowned for my sweet temper, tact and modesty.*

## FINE WRITING

*I have just read "Derby Day" by D.J. Taylor. A Victorian adventure novel. But what a skilled writer the man is. Consider -*

*"I draw the line at a girl who looks as if she's about to ask me to see if the carriage is back from the stables". "That would change, I should think" said Captain Raff, who was a bachelor, "when you were married".*

*See how skillfully those four words who was a bachelor have been placed-brilliant.*



## **THE OLD HYMN BOOK**

I have recently received a Thank You card from the Minister of the Kollupitiya Methodist Church in Columbo, Sri Lanka.

The background for this is that some weeks ago Mrs Irene Rajah asked me if we could provide this church with a copy of the 1933 Methodist Hymn Book, Music edition. I possessed a copy but this was rather on the tatty side but we managed, with the assistance of Peter Bennett, to find a large copy in a cupboard in the Minister's vestry. Taking the view that we at Lidgett Park had no further use for the book and following an inscription in the book by our good friend the Rev George Lovell, the book was handed to Irene for onward transmission to Columbo.

I must admit that our actions were taken without any authority of say the Church Council here, and George is conscious of the fact that he had no mandate to inscribe in the book on behalf of Lidgett Park. I do hope that nobody feels aggrieved by what we have done - I can only plead that a quick decision had to be made!

It is very comforting and assuring to know that some item of worship which no longer we had a use for is now having a future life in a Methodist Church in Sri Lanka.

**David Wilks**

*The card reads –*

This is to thank the congregation at Lidgett Park Methodist Church for the generous gift of the MHB with tunes (1933 edition). It opens up for all at KMC to sing lustily.

Wishing you a blessed New Year.

Rev. P. Shihan L. Fernando (Minister Kollupitiya Methodist Church)

## **PROMINENT PEOPLE (10/10)**

Only after this year's puzzle had been completed and the answers checked did I fully wake up to the realisation that of the 100 prominent people included only 11 were female, so I now hasten to reassure the ladies that the balance of 89 to 11 did not represent my opinion of the relative importance of the sexes. I had grouped the 100 people into ten categories of ten each and it was the choice of these categories that helped an apparent overall male dominance to be inevitable. In my defence, an analysis of the entries in "The Hutchinson Dictionary of Biography" would appear to result in proportions not too dissimilar. However it is important to remember that entries in this publication as in the puzzle reach a long way back into former times when

there was usually little or no equality of opportunity between the sexes: restricting nomination of prominent people to those living in the last few decades would no doubt produce a different picture, but just how different would it be?. Whilst I did include some more recent famous names I should probably have tried harder in this respect. Another factor affecting choice for this sort of puzzle is whether a name lends itself to the cryptic treatment. There were several people I would have liked to use but they were not suitable for this reason. The objective was to offer a challenging puzzle – not to purport to engage in social analysis. It may be of interest to see the breakdown of the categories so here it is:

American presidents	10 M	0F	British prime ministers	9M	1F
Actors / actresses	5	5	Other entertainers	6	4
Sports	10	0	Authors	9	1
Composers	10	0	Artists	10	0
Scientists / inventors etc	10	0	Religious connection	9	1

### **Fred Langley**

*Methinks the gentleman doth protest too much. Come on ladies don't let Fred get away with this, let's be having your lists of prominent women.*

*Admittedly the presidents and prime ministers were pretty inevitable but what about the other categories? Especially since the best author of all was a woman.*

*And Gillian how about some entries in cryptic clue form for us to look at? Have a bash and if you are too busy I might try myself once I have retired as editor. But as they say "The man who says a task is impossible should keep out of the way of the woman who is doing it".*

### **THIS MONTH'S 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)

## PRAYERS FOR CHANGE

*These prayers appear in the magazines of Lidgett Park, St Andrew's and St Edmund's.*

*Prayers for Change are like buses; you wait for ages and then two turn up at once. This time round for whatever reason I have got two prayers for March. The first is from our own Mary Patchett and the second comes from St Andrew's or St Ed's.*

Whenever I find myself observing changes in nature's evolutionary path I try and remember to remind myself of the wonders of the current phase, as well as its drawbacks. I think of the effects of nature, positive and negative, on others across the world. I remind myself of the role humans could play and do play in minimizing those impacts, positively and negatively.

We wonder at the evolving miracle of your creation God. May we appreciate it in all its fullness and give you thanks. May we be slow to lay blame for natural disasters at your doorstep, but rather ask for your strength and grace to do what we can; to promote and encourage in others ways of caring for all humans which affords your evolving creation the respect it merits. We pray this as those to whom you gave the responsibility for your world.

**Amen.**

As the season of Lent approaches may we be open to the challenge of rethinking and changing our lifestyles

Christ of the Wilderness, tempted yet triumphant, strengthen us to resist the temptation to overeat, overspend, or to be overanxious about material possessions.

Stand beside us when we find this hard, and help us to change our ways.

**Amen**

## ROUNDHAY ART TRAIL 27<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2014



Do you know how much creativity and artist skill there is in our local area?

The Roundhay Art Trail is being organised to demonstrate and show the diverse talents of professional visual artists working in Roundhay. On Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April, a number of local artists will open their working spaces and studios to visitors, from 10.00am until 4.30pm. The trail will include artwork in a wide range of styles and media including, paintings, sculpture, jewellery and textiles. The aim of the event is to raise the profile of visual arts in Leeds LS8. Some artworks may be available for sale

on the day or by commission.

There will be a route map with the profiles of the participating artists and this will be available to download from the Roundhay Live website, [www.is.gd/roundhaylive](http://www.is.gd/roundhaylive) from the end February. Copies will also be available at Oakwood Library and Oakwood Farmers Market on the 15<sup>th</sup> March and 19<sup>th</sup> April. If you are an artist who would to open your workspace contact the organisers asap or a visitor who 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; 07962 230752 [debbie.samuel@clara.co.uk](mailto:debbie.samuel@clara.co.uk)

### SOLUTION TO LAST MONTHS QUIZ

1. You need these and some snakes for a game.  
LADDERS (ADDER)
2. I wish I weighed as little as this boxer!  
BANTAMWEIGHT (BANTAM)
3. Now won. Eat tea.  
ANAGRAMS (NAG/RAM)
4. Spot on.  
ACCURATE (CUR/RAT)
5. Two dozen carrot (I hear) in an unminted state.  
BULLION (BULL/LION)
- 6 This tree can be a copper! (5)  
BEECH (BEE)
7. Cheapest way to travel by ship. (8)  
STEERAGE (STEER)

## **IS CHRIST DIVIDED?**

This is a sharp and challenging question, offered this year by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland as the theme for the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity. We will engage with this material for 2014 against a backdrop of significant change in West Yorkshire. As Methodists in the Leeds district we wish to be prayerfully supportive of all three of the Church of England Dioceses (Ripon & Leeds, Wakefield and Bradford) as they prepare to come together into a single Diocese to serve West Yorkshire and the Dales, from Easter Day this year. This journey of change means that they are currently in a time of transition, with Diocesan Bishops departing and Suffragan Bishops preparing for changes in their roles as they become Area Bishops within the new Diocese. The staff of three Cathedrals and many others, lay and ordained, are caught up in the uncertainty of how new ways of working will impact them. In recent years there have been radical changes in every Christian denomination, and of course we have experienced our fair share of change and reshaping as Methodists. As I bid farewell to valued ecumenical colleagues at this time, one of my reflections has been that if we were 'divided', we could each remain untouched and unmoved by the changes around us. The reality, however, is that we are deeply affected by them because across North and West Yorkshire at least, the whole breadth of Church traditions are closely interwoven. We are co-dependent in valuable partnerships for mission and ministry; we value the commitment and insights of our sisters and brothers in Christ; we benefit from the energy they bring, the prayerfulness that they embody, and the resources they are willing to share with us. In short, we have come to know and respect and love one another, in all our variety of gifts and faults, and we recognise one another as members of the Body of Christ. Is Christ divided? Of course not! Does it appear to the world that Christ is divided? Only if we are determined to live within theological barricades of our own constructing. Is Christ divided? No! But there is a challenge for each of us: where do we glimpse something of the colourful creativity of our shared rootedness in Christ's sacrificial love, that will convince us of the unity that we already share in Christ?

**Liz Smith**

**Chair of Leeds Methodist District**

*Unfortunately we don't often publish Liz's pastoral letters. This is because they normally are very topical and also normally arrive too late for publication in The Link. . This actually is her February letter, but as it is not time constrained it is a pleasure to be able to print it.*

## **THE CHRISTMAS STORY by Gillian Clements**

I was interested to read Andrew's letter in the December/January issue of The Link and Ken's response in the February issue. When I read the Bible these are the things I consider:

- It was written by human beings. Humans are fallible, therefore what is written is fallible. Some of what is written may be the exact truth, some may not. There is a need to use your judgement when reading the Bible or any holy book.
- There must have been a huge temptation for the writers of the Gospels to tie in Jesus' life story with the prophecies of the Old Testament. For example I would suggest that travelling back to Bethlehem for the census (which gives rise to Jesus' birth in Bethlehem) could well be a fabrication. A census usually looks at people where they are – why, on this occasion, would people be required to return to their place of birth? Does this make sense?
- The Bible is sometimes contradictory so to accept everything in it as exactly the truth is impossible.

I do believe it's vital that Christians (and indeed all people who profess a faith) can speak openly about their beliefs and enter into a discussion. So I hope Andrew continues challenging us on how we look at things, and that Ken carries on voicing his disagreement if he can't see the point of what's being said.

And the more people who join in the debate, the better.

**Gillian Clements**

## **THE CHRISTMAS STORY by Colin Watson**

Well done Andrew for a start to a Minister's Message (Dec/Jan edition) which ensured a hundred percent readership. Generally I found your comments not particularly radical and I expect that the majority of the Lidgett Park Congregation would agree that, throughout our lifetimes the Gospel accounts of the birth of Jesus have become increasingly sentimentalised due to the rampant commercialisation of the Christmas/festive season.

Although admitting that you "loved watching my kids in those (nativity ) plays" it now appears that your "take on the birth narratives" has fundamentally changed. I find this change not in the least surprising if, as is stated "For years I was taught that these stories were factual". Looking back on my own upbringing and involvement within the Methodist Church I cannot recall ever (although I will admit to the odd senior moment!) coming away from Sunday School, Youth Fellowship and Church Services with the

teacher's, leader's or preacher's ringing assertion that the birth of Jesus as recounted in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke were actually fact.

Whether there were angels. Shepherds, unusually bright heavenly bodies or the Magi are relatively inconsequential elements to the fundamental story that there was a very important birth that gave rise to a movement starting in earnest approximately 30 years later.

The old Methodist Hymn Book has a section entitled "For Little Children" (no such thing as Singing the Faith!) which has a number of hymns having the word story or stories in the first line. My dictionary definition of parable is "a short story to illustrate a religious or moral point". Therefore I would suggest that the Nativity story belongs with the other Biblical stories which children were happy to sing about (and act out as appropriate) as an early introduction to Christianity. The weaning off from the superfluous images to be left for a later date should the opportunity, in this increasingly secular society, arise.

I am surprised that Andrew thought that anyone could consider the story of the prodigal son to be factual. I have commented on this particular story before so will make no comment this time.

If my dictionaries are again to be believed then the simple statement "that there is a huge difference between truth and fact" is somewhat difficult to accept as in certain instances they could be interchangeable. The word "truths" however is something different. Where there is a huge difference is in opinions and theories. However excellent Borg and Crossan's book may be, being the old cynic that I am, I expect that there are many such books on library/bookshop shelves on all aspects of the Nativity.

If I was a Sunday School or Primary School teacher I would prefer to borrow tea towels, packets of straw and shepherds' crooks so that parents have the opportunity to love watching their children performing in probably not the most theologically correct Nativity play rather than having to explain the thoughts and theories of authors from the latest Amazon book list.

Now how does one of the aforementioned hymns go - oh yes "Tell me the stories of Jesus..."

What about Father Christmas? That is definitely Humbug – or is it? Early to bed on Christmas Eve is still a prerequisite for a visit from you know who. Just ask any grand or great grandchild.

**Colin Watson**

*I know that Neil told us "Christmas continues" but we will draw discussion of the Nativity narratives to a halt there.*

*Interestingly, relating to the accuracy of Biblical stories, The Times recently published the results of archaeological work which indicate that camels were not domesticated in the Middle East until late in the 10<sup>th</sup> Century B.C. This is centuries later than the days of the Biblical patriarchs and decades after the reign of David. So all the mention of camels in the early books of the Bible appear to be because the writers were writing centuries later and couldn't*

*imagine a society without camels. (Personally I wish the archaeologists would come up with a way of disposing with that awful “little donkey”, which is, of course, totally unbiblical.)*

### **PASTORAL LETTER!**

*Life is full of surprises and after what I said about Liz’s letters always arriving too late the March one has turned up just in time to be included!*

### **NORMAL SERVICE IS DISRUPTED!**

In Yorkshire we have watched from a safe distance as powerful seas have battered coastal communities, and as river levels have risen and flooded whole neighbourhoods, and still the rain is falling. Our prayers and compassion are stirred for those who have had to evacuate homes, and abandon livelihoods; our encouragement and admiration go to all those who have been there to assist, to rescue, to provide shelter, cups of tea, and shoulders to cry on. The news footage of the railway line battered and washed away at Dawlish was dramatic, and particularly shocking for me, as this route is the lifeline to Cornwall where I grew up. It is this route that carried me as a child from Cornwall to other places on holiday (when most others were heading into Cornwall for a break!); as a student I travelled to and from university in London always by train (once in a compartment with John Betjeman, once through ‘high seas at Dawlish’ in the dark, with rain and waves lashing the train!); as an adult the sight of the sea at Dawlish has always been the first intimation that the journey to the end of the line is progressing into familiar territory – a foretaste of what is to come. It is hard to welcome disruption into our lives. The breaking of what is familiar, dependable, and perhaps take for granted is always uncomfortable and can often be traumatic. Those images served to remind me that, even from this geographical distance, I experienced them as a disruption of the givenness of life, and of my experience of it. Brunel’s railway “belongs to be there”, as we might say in Cornwall! Some disruptions to life can shatter not only our present experience, but also our memories of the past, and our dreams for the future. The death of a loved one, or serious illness, or the break up of relationship, disrupts life, and can disturb our very understanding of who we are, even as people of faith. Happily, there are some events in life that bring major disruption in their wake, but which can be welcomed: the birth of a child, a new home, a change of role. Looking across our rain-sodden landscape, we are mindful of the painstaking journey that lies ahead if lives and homes and communities are to be rebuilt. May God help us to know courage, resilience and grace in all of life’s disruptions.

**Liz Smith**

**Chair of Leeds Methodist District**



## **RECIPES FOR BELIZE**

As part of our fund-raising for the Education Belize project, we are hoping to produce a book of favourite recipes for cakes, buns and tray-bakes. If you have a recipe or recipes that you would be willing to share with others, we would be delighted to receive it. Maybe it is an old family favourite that has been handed down or one you have just found and enjoyed baking ( and more importantly, eating!) If you want to add a comment about it, that would be great and add a personal touch. Photographs would be useful and can be either digital or on paper, which we can then scan. If you don't want to add a photo. don't worry.

If this booklet is a success, we may try producing ones for sweets / desserts and main courses. A whole series of luscious Lidgett delights!

You can e-mail your recipes to either **Christine Stopford** at [christinestopford@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:christinestopford@yahoo.co.uk) or me on [margaretf1@live.co.uk](mailto:margaretf1@live.co.uk) or give paper copies to either of us at any time. Many thanks.

**Margaret Farrar**

## **ROUNDHAY SCIENCE FESTIVAL**

Churches together in Roundhay is holding a festival in celebration of science to run in mid-March in the period of the National Science and Engineering Week. There will be a number of events which are listed below and we hope some of them will be of interest to you.

### **Faith and Wisdom in Science**

A talk by Tom McLeish, Professor of Physics and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) of Durham University; to be held at St Andrew's at 7.30p.m. on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Shaping our Future**

Talks by four leading experts on where four different areas of science (genetic engineering, the cure and repair of human tissue, drones and tall buildings) may be taking us. To be held at St Andrew's at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March.

Discussion of the enthusiasm for, or concern about, these future developments, including their perceived benefits or ethical issues. To be held at St Edmund's at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Planetarium**

Planetarium Day during the day and early evening on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March, St Edmund's Church, with opportunities for different groups, including schools and uniformed organisations to book a visit.

### **Grind and Brew**

A coffee morning with a difference- a chance to discover the science behind making top quality coffee. Gordon Howell of Harlequin coffee and Tea House and The Attic in York, is an award-winning barista and SCAE Trainer. He will demonstrate some of the chemistry behind a top class cup of coffee with an opportunity to taste coffees brewed in different ways and from different beans. Saturday morning 22<sup>nd</sup> March, possibly at Lidgett Park.

### **Exhibition**

There will be an exhibition of items or photos of items which mean something to the members of the churches and the community of the value of science. This exhibition will move between St Andrew's, St Edmund's and Lidgett Park.

### **Worship**

The Festival will conclude with an ecumenical service at Lidgett Park on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 6.30p.m.

**Please come along and support these events.**