

The Minister Rev Dr. Jane Craske

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MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

Do you remember the wonderful week of sunny, warm weather at the end of March? It may be a distant memory by now, or it may turn out to have been an early start to a wonderful summer, after a mild winter. Whichever it is, it has supplied plenty of interest for that cultural peculiarity of the British: frequent conversations about the weather!

Most of us like the weather to be sunny and warm, though some of us may become uncomfortable if it's too hot. But we're increasingly aware of other consequences of changing weather patterns due to climate change. We like it to be 'good' weather, but we may not be so keen on how dry it is. We need the rain – until it comes, of course, and then we can talk about how depressing it is that it's raining. I suspect we're not at our most logical in our conversations about the weather.

I see *The Garden* magazine (from the Royal Horticultural Society) each month at the moment. (John may not continue as a member of the RHS when we're a lot further away from Harlow Carr!) There's plenty of advice in that magazine about gardening in drier, warmer conditions, along with the challenges of different kinds of hungry insects feeding gratefully on the plants you were cherishing. And East Anglia is a lot more prone to drought than Yorkshire – so I'm trying to pay attention.

But the other magazine that's on the dining table at the moment (I generally read or scan magazines over breakfast!) is the latest edition of *Christian Aid News*. It focuses on the good work being done by the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone, the partner organisation featured in Christian Aid Week this year (now that can make you 'proud to be a Methodist!' – sorry that's an allusion to a current feature in the *Methodist Recorder*). But it also carries news of worsening drought in the West Sahel region of Africa, even at the same time as drought conditions have eased in the Horn of Africa. That rather puts our 'drought' into perspective. Others are facing the effects of climate change in ways we may never have to.

As a Christian, I want to celebrate the wonders and the amazing regular rhythms of the created world, even as we understand that the rhythms may not

be as regular as we once thought. As a Christian, I have responsibilities to care for creation, to use the resources of the earth wisely, not selfishly, and to open my eyes to the injustice which means the impact of Western lifestyles is felt most by the poorest in the world. At times it can seem there is so little we can do, but if we let that stop us doing anything, we have lost sight of the hope of Christ.

Let's take responsibility in the ways we can, however small – in our use of water in the home and the garden for example. And then let's support the organisations like Christian Aid who can work with the skills and in the places of need that we will never reach personally. Our Christian discipleship is made up of actions and commitments like these.

Enjoy the sun, the rain, the wind – and anything else that comes, unusually or not – as the summer begins.

Yours in Christ,
Jane

WORSHIP IN MAY

06	10.30	Rev. Jane Craske	Holy Communion
	6.30	Rev. Jane Craske	
13	10.30	Rev. Jane Craske	Baptism
	6.00	Bay Tree	United/Circuit Service
20	10.30	Mrs. Florence Doku	
	6.30	Rev. Jane Craske/Prof. Peter Howdle	Holy Communion
27		Pentecost	
	10.30	Rev. Jane Craske	
	6.30	St Andrew's	Ecumenical Service

MOLLY LOVELL

It is so sad that in last month's issue we were congratulating Molly and George on their 60th Wedding Anniversary and this month we are mourning the death of Molly. She was a lovely lady and will be sorely missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with George and their family at this sad time.

LADIES GROUP

The Ladies Group meets fortnightly on Thursdays at 7.45 p.m. in the Youth Hall.

10th May Mr. Barry Claughton “An Artist at Work”
24th May AGM Rev. Jane Craske.

SPONSORED SWIM

I am doing the Great North swim on Sunday 23rd June to raise money for SURF which is the spinal injury recreation fund at Pinderfields Hospital. SURF arranges social trips for both current and ex spinal injury patients. In 2010 a good friend of mine, who was a colleague of Howard Clinkard, was left paralysed after a surgical error and spent nearly 8 months in hospital. He and others have found these activities very beneficial as they adjust to their life changing circumstances. The swim is a one mile open water event in Lake Windermere. If you feel able to sponsor me please see the noticeboard or Peter & Vivien Harper for the sponsor form or details of how to donate on line. Thank you very much.

Helen Harper

MEA CULPA

Some of you will have thought last month “ed must feel Stan Pearson’s proposal for a new housegroup is very important as he has put it in two months running”. Most of you probably didn’t even notice and an uncouth minority may have thought “ed doesn’t even know the day of the week, let alone what month it is”. Which is correct I leave to you to decide.

*Some of you may also have thought “we have a new quiz compiler”, since as well as our normal one we had one from Gillian Cements. It’s nice to have a new **setter** (ouch) but it was of course a mistake and both of them came from Gillian Clements. Sorry Gillian, please send us some **more ta**.*

...OH YES WE CAN

*I’m delighted to say that after all my moaning about rules last month **Pat Brooke** kindly contacted all the parents of the younger members of the cast and has obtained permission for us to publish their pictures as they starred in the panto.*



Here on the left we see the babes in peril from the evil schemes of Witch Hazel. In fact our witch made many dire threats but didn't actually

seem able to carry any of them out.

Below we see the full cast in their final rousing number, sending us off with a song in our hearts.



NORTH LEEDS DANCE ACADEMY

North Leeds Dance Academy meet on our premises on Tuesday evenings.

The children in this class range in age from 3 to 8 years old, although the Academy as a whole has 150 students rising in age to adulthood.

They will be concentrating on a performance relating to the Olympics soon but at the moment they are working towards producing a "Summer Ball" show. This will be held on Saturday June 16th at Pudsey Civic Hall. There will be 22-piece band, a buffet and a bar. They will be advertising it soon for any who would like to go. All funds raised will be for St. Gemma's Hospice.

Soon after that they will be participating in Roundhay Live on Saturday June 23rd on the Soldiers' Field. The churches in Roundhay are also hoping to be involved in that. It would be good for us to support that whole event in practical ways and by being there. Please look out for more information about it.

Please pray for these children:

as they prepare for their show in order to do their best;

that they will learn to perform in spite of nerves;

that they will learn to work and play together and support one another;

that the relationships they make now will help them in their relationships throughout their lives.

Patricia Davies

EXTEND EXERCISE CLASS.

I have been asked to let you know of changes to the above class. The details follow –

A new extend exercise class meets on Tuesdays (excluding school holidays) at Lidgett Park Methodist Church from 11.15 to 2.45.

This is exercise to music for the over sixties. The exercises are mostly done seated with a little standing.

The cost is £2.80 per session, including refreshments.

This class will increase your mobility and independence and also improve your strength, coordination and balance.

Ring 2165562 for more details,

MORE ON OLD AGE

Hazel Rayner *has contributed the following piece.*

In this age of mass communications, with mobile phones, text messages and e-mails the art of letter writing appears to be a dying trend, but not for all of us. The following letter was written by a senior citizen to her friend.

Dear Annie,

You mentioned in your last letter that you had received an increase in your pension, but did you know that we old folk are worth a fortune? We have silver in our hair, stones in our kidneys and lead in our feet, plus gas in our tummies! Frankly, in my old age I have recently become quite daring, as I am seeing six different gentlemen every day! As soon as I wake up, Will Power helps me to get out of bed, then I go and see Jimmie Riddle and then it's time for breakfast with Mr Kellogg, followed by the refreshing company of Mr Tetley, or my other friend who keeps his full name a secret and likes to be known only by his initials of P.G. Then later on in the day comes someone I don't like at all, but he insists on visiting me each day, he is of course Arthur Itis, he knows he isn't really welcome, but he stays the rest of the day. After such a hectic day I'm ready to go to bed and snuggle up with Johnny Walker to keep me nice and warm and cosy.

The vicar called round to see me the other day and told me that at my age I should really be thinking more of the hereafter. I told him I do this all the time, in the kitchen, bedroom, sitting room or garden, I often ask myself "What am I Here After?"

Well, I will close now and hope that Will Power is your constant companion too, but do take care that Gerry Atric doesn't creep up on you from behind one night when you're not expecting him.

Your loving friend

Margaret

I intended to comment on this piece but have forgotten what it was I intended to say.

THE MEANING OF LIFE

Have you heard about the dyslexic agnostic insomniac? He used to lie awake in the small hours of the morning wondering if there was a dog.....

Pat Nolan *has kindly contributed this in the belief that there is not enough profound material appearing in The Link. Thanks Pat.*

BROWNIE GUIDES (3rd ROUNDHAY)

The Brownies meet on Friday evenings. There are 24 of them, which is the full complement. They are led by Jan Ridsdale, who is helped by Shirley Beaver, Joanne Beaver, Gina Bowers and Eloise Dunn.

They are preparing to do a big Olympic themed piece of work from June 15th to the end of July. There will be Opening and Closing ceremonies, to which we are all invited! Look out for more news about that. Each week they will be tackling some different Olympic theme. Because their leader is called Brown Owl, they are calling the whole thing the “Owlympics”.

Please pray for these children as they work and play together;
as they learn to be responsible;
as they learn new skills;
as they become aware of their civic duties;
and as they learn more about God.

Please pray for their leaders, who give their time freely, to encourage the development of these young girls.

Please pray for these and all children who meet on our premises:
that they may be aware of our Christian presence here;
that the notices they see on our walls and the people they meet here will all reflect the love of God and our concern for his world.

Patricia Davies

CHURCH PROJECT UPDATE

The committee continues to work hard organising events to raise money for the Sylvia Wright Trust. Sylvia was here in Leeds in April, to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the start of her work in India. We were delighted that she could join us for our April Coffee Morning and also as our guest of honour at the celebration dinner just after Easter.

Future events

There is to be a Jubilee Barbecue Lunch after Church service on the 3rd June. This will be held in the Church garden and will include fun and games for everyone.

A Jubilee Concert is being held at Church on Saturday evening 16th June. We look forward to a return visit from the Wesley Singers and the Yorkshire

Evening Post Brass Band. This promises to be a wonderful evening's entertainment.

Finally we come to the highlight of the North Leeds social calendar – Kathy and Andrew Benson's Wine and Cheese Party. This will be held on Saturday evening 30th June.

Please put these dates in your diary now. There will be further details nearer the time.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Barbara Dodman and the Fund Raising Committee

BREAKING NEWS – AMAZING SCOOP BY 'THE LINK'



Sylvia Wright, our guest of honour, in the centre of the picture



The joyous throng enjoying the delicious food.

You saw it here first – the exclusive pictures of the Church Project meal held on Saturday 14th April. Eat your heart out Rupert Murdoch.

We are happy to report that as well as being an enjoyable and informative evening the event raised well over £700 towards our project to buy a new bus for the School for the Hearing Impaired in Tamil Nadu, South India.

MAY PRAYER FOR CHANGE



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

We hold in our prayers our three churches in Roundhay where we continue to increase the sense of community which binds us to each other.

We pray that our churches continue to be places of belonging where people are welcomed and valued.

May we continue to grow in our commitment so that we all bring our special gifts to the whole church as well as to our individual churches.

Remind us that whenever we gather in our combined services, we come together in a spirit of unity and trust, building up faith and strengthening fellowship, so that we come as one family to worship.

Keep us firm in our faith, faithful in our duties and diligent in using all the gifts god has given us.

Amen.

Plant & Gift Fair

QUALITY PERENNIALS & BEDDING PLANTS
AT REASONABLE PRICES

Saturday 9 June 2012

10.00am – 1.00pm

St Edmunds Church Hall
Lidgett Park Road
Roundhay, LS8 1JN

Entrance: Adults £1.00 – Children FREE

GIFTS • CARDS
BOOKS • CAFÉ • CAKES
NEW 2U TOYS • TOMBOLA
BRIC a BRAC
RAFFLE



LAST MONTH'S YORKSHIRE QUIZ SOLUTION

1. It looks like a rabbit in the trees. (4, 4)

HARE WOOD - HAREWOOD

2. Plus a bad actor. (6, 3)

ADDING HAM - ADDINGHAM

3. Shout out loud, "I love you". (4, 3)

YELL WOO - WOOLLEY

4. The old auction item. (2, 3)

YE LOT - OTLEY

5. The Norse god drew water from it. (4, 4)

THOR WELL - ROTHWELL

6. A very heavy spike (3, 5)

TON THORN - THORNTON

7. What is the value of the edges? (5, 4)

WORTH HEMS - HEMSWORTH

CONTROVERSY CORNER

The last few months' quotes have all been pretty 'left wing' views of religion. So here's a quote from the other end of the spectrum. It's a currently popular hymn – and it's in "Singing the Faith". So how are you with "the wrath of God"?

Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied -
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

Stuart Townend, Keith Getty

THIS MONTH'S QUIZ by Gillian Clements

Each clue gives two separate words. These words can be scrambled to give a name found in the Bible. (Example: About an animal (2, 3) = RE, PET = PETER) The first letters of the names (in order) give another name.

1. The unit of power had an edge to it. (4, 3)
2. A single emblem. (3, 5)
3. I regret leaving the mountain. (3, 3)
4. I had contract and lost. (1'1, 4)
5. About a magical rod. (2, 4)
6. Listen to the buzzing insect. (4, 3)
7. He owns the fabrication. (3, 3)
8. Leave out your old ... (4, 3)

Last month's solution

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

All the letters used in the answers are Roman numerals. (*I told you it was ingenious!*)

CONTROVERSY CORNER REVISITED

The quote in the April Link's Controversy Corner from Iris Murdoch didn't make me furious but certainly made me try to work out what she was getting at. She says "What we have meant by God". There isn't one universal definition of God. That applies both to the past as well as the present. I wonder what Iris Murdoch understood God to be.

The first sentence is "No existing (PRESENT) God could be what we have meant (PAST) by God". Perhaps she was looking at God as portrayed in the Old Testament. My belief is that God is a God of love (first, second and last) and God as portrayed in the OT (ie the Israelite's understanding of God) is alien to me. So to that extent I agree with her first sentence, as my belief (PRESENT) does not match the OT's description (PAST).

Her second sentence "Any existing God would be less than God" I think is still harping back to God (vengeful etc) as portrayed in the OT. Somewhere along the way she's missed Christ and the true revelation of God through Him.

The third sentence says "An existent God would be an idol or a demon". This would apply if one's idea of God was as a super-human being (with humanity's frailties as well as strengths).

I believe in a God who is "other" and beyond our ken. It's a mistake to attach human attributes to Him. As God is beyond our understanding, the gift of Christ was given to us as a living demonstration of love.

Gillian Clements

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Editor of April "Link" asked us to let him know our views when he could not include a lovely photo of all the pantomime cast showing "the little ones" as it was not practical to get permission from all the parents. He also said that sometimes "the law is an ass" and I could not agree more with him, so this Easter time as I pondered on this apparent injustice, the words of a song by Salvation General Albert Osbourne (1886-1967) came into my mind.

"Yet once again by God's abundant mercy
We join our song of thankfulness and praise
Ever the light of our redeemer's victory
Shineth before us in the world's dark ways.
(chorus) Jesus shall conquer, lift up the strain!
Evil shall perish and righteousness shall reign.

We followers of the Lord Jesus know, and have confidence that "Evil shall perish and righteousness shall reign" when at Easter time we come to worship in gratitude and adoration the Victory of our Saviour through the cross then the glorious resurrection.

Joyce Wood

GREETINGS FROM BELIZE (ACTUALLY FROM ENGLAND!)

I am writing this newsletter from my house in Leeds where I am home on furlough. It is spring here, and as the seasons are something I have missed in Belize, it is really good to see all the daffodils and buds on the trees. Thankfully it is lovely and warm, with some beautiful sunny days.

The Belize/Honduras Annual District Conference took place in January, in Belize City, with a wonderful turnout at the weekend from the children and youth. As well as the usual sports activities for the children and the Young Adults Social on the Saturday, we also had a Youth Gospel Fest for the teenagers on Saturday Evening, which was a great success, with several bands

singing and playing, and our youth group from Roatan, who had travelled all the way by bus through Honduras and Guatemala, also gave us an item.

The Conference Youth Service was a wonderful festival of praise and worship, with a moving message from our Deacon In Training, Sis Tanya Welcome, It was followed, as always, by the Youth Demonstration through the streets of Belize, and once again we were blessed with a beautiful sunny day!

Following on from previous work, and agreed to by our District Conference, we are now going ahead with rolling out child safeguarding and other training for all those working with children and young people in the Methodist Church, starting with those wishing to volunteer to help with the annual summer camps. Sessions started in February, and will continue throughout the coming year. We will also be developing policies and procedures for child safeguarding, at all levels within the Methodist Church in Belize / Honduras, and we are also working hard at improving our church schools and are in the process of getting the new curriculum in place, which was developed for and by the MCCA (Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas).

February and March have also been a busy time for those working with mission teams, with construction on the High School continuing at Belmopan, the Youth Enhancement Services building completed, and medical and other teams working at various places in the country – and in Honduras too. In total we had at least 10 teams in 2 months!

The visit by Rev Nials to Houston also developed relations with previous teams as well as making new links – keeping both Lisa and myself very busy with all the logistics and planning for later in the year. Lisa, and her husband Rev Jamie Williams, from the Kentucky Conference of the United Methodist Church, are in Belize as individual volunteers, and are working with us for at least this year. We are really grateful to all the teams who come to partner with us in our work, as well as for all those who stay at home and provide the support and funding for them – the team behind the team! I also want to say thanks to the British Methodist Church Fund for World Mission who gave us a grant of £30,000 towards the work on the High School, the work is progressing well.

I returned to England at the start of March for my furlough. Now this is normally taken at the end of a Mission Partner's term, but I still have another year to serve in Belize. The reason for the timing was to fit in with the process for candidating for ordination as a Deacon in the British Methodist Church. After a lot of work over the past year, and a series of interviews, I heard in late March that I have been accepted! I feel truly blessed to have been supported throughout by so many people. Thanks to you all for your prayers, but especially to my two church families of Lidgett Park and Ebenezer! Now comes the time of training and preparation

As we come to the end of the Lent season, and prepare to celebrate afresh the joy of the Resurrection this Easter, I pray that we all may grow ever closer to

God, and continue to share the love and grace of our Lord and Saviour with all those we meet along our journeys. Have a blessed Easter.

With love and prayers from

Maggie Patchett

As you can see Maggie wrote this when we were having our lovely early "summer". Now we are back to our more normal miserable cold weather that seems a long time ago.

LATEST UPDATE: LIDGETT LADIES AT CARING FOR LIFE

Two new comments on our Lidgett Belles photo. The first is a poem from one of the ladies herself –

Oranges and lemons sang the three belles of Lidgett
We cut them and squeezed them and Anne cut one digit.
Twill cost you five "fifties" to buy from their shop
But once you have tasted you won't want to stop.

*The other was much more succinct –
Cranford revisited.*