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MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends

Here we are again – (hoping the editor is lenient on my late submission) and although I've been on leave for two weeks I'm sure somebody came one night and stole a week out of August without me knowing. Anyway I want to begin with an unashamed plug for a circuit event and encourage as many of you as possible to come along.

On Saturday 19th October there is a *Living Mission* day at Chapel Allerton. It was originally set up by my wife Vicky in her role as District Evangelism Enabler ably helped and supported by others (including our own Mary P) and it has been very successfully touring the Leeds District. The event is open 10:00 – 3:00 and is a *drop in* event for you to EXPERIENCE. It is NOT a “this is how you should do it” day, nor do you need to be there all that time. It is an opportunity for you to come and share the experience of the day; when you want and for as long as you want; and hopefully feel encouraged, challenged and maybe as you reflect on your experience, find some ideas sparking around in you of something you and/or our church could consider in response to God's call to us in how we live out and share God's unconditional love with others.

Last month I talked about how we will be reviewing our pastoral system in the near future and how I hope as many of you as possible will have some say in that and how I hope some of you will want to help us carry that forward.

We also have our new church charity focus as well which will again involve a variety of events to be planned and carried out.

We have had some challenging and encouraging discussions with those who are involved with young people in our church, and how we might want to take things forward there.

And of course there are many of you involved in much of the... well how can I put this... the nitty gritty of just making sure all that we are doing can be done by helping with people, the building, and so on and so on. BUT despite your busyness I really would encourage you to come and spend a bit of time at the *Living Mission* day.

Finally another invitation. Like others who have commented, I too have been greatly encouraged with the discussions and articles that have been exploring faith and beliefs in recent issues, and I hope they continue. I know that such discussions take place within groups as well. Over the last 18 months or so I have gone to groups in other churches in our section and done "Ask me a question!" This is where the members of the group can bring along any question they want to ask me. It can be a question on faith, church, ethics, favourite food, life in the Atkins house, or any other topic you want to ask me about and I will answer to the best of my ability. So if you are part of a group and want to invite me along to a session where you can ask me anything you like and I mean anything please feel free to get in touch. Till next time

Andrew

WORSHIP IN OCTOBER

06	10.30 Rev. Andrew Atkins 3.00 <i>Leeds Minster</i>	Holy Communion
13	10.30 Dr. Stan Pearson 6.30 <i>Chapel Allerton</i>	
20	10.30 Mrs. Sue Mason 6.30 <i>Chapel Allerton</i>	United/Circuit Service
27	10.30 Rev. Andrew Atkins 6.30 Rev. Andrew Atkins	Dedication of Pastoral Visitors Ecumenical Service

LADIES' GROUP

The Ladies Group meet on Thursdays at 7.45 pm in the Youth Hall.

On the 3rd Oct, we have Louise Lancaster (an Archaeologist) telling us "A Tale of Two Objects" and, on the 17th Oct, Doug Simpson on "Yorkshire Red Kites". The latter is an OPEN Meeting, so all who are interested in finding out about these large birds that we get so excited about (or is it only me? Surely not.) are welcome to come along. Two pounds for the evening, with refreshments. On 31st Oct we have Sue Firth "Aloe Vera - A Gift from Nature" - and there will be products available for purchase, Ladies, so don't buy your Christmas presents before you see what Sue has to offer!

Lynne Pullein

SOUP

As I write this Summer appears to have ended, and in no time at all Winter will be here and we shall be thinking of — Hot Soup!

Yes, once more the individual churches of the Roundhay Council of Churches are holding their soup lunches in aid of Christian Aid (with the exception of Immaculate Heart, where the lunch will be in aid of Cafod). Lidgett Park has usually supported all these lunches, and I hope we shall do so again this winter. (Well, it's nice for someone else to do the washing up for once!)

We shall start with the lunch here, at Lidgett Park, on 2nd October at 12 noon. Then November will probably be at St Andrews; February at St Edmunds; March at the Friends' Meeting House; and, finally, April at Immaculate Heart. See the church notices for the exact dates and times.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at these lunches.

Margaret Mattocks

“EDUCATION BELIZE” - THIS YEAR'S PROJECT.

You may all know by now that Lidgett has again decided to support our friends in Belize to further develop and equip their new school. We have heard how potential students had to be turned away this September due to the limited number of classrooms – strong evidence of the desperate need for education in the country. We are also aware of the need to better equip the school, especially with up-to-date IT equipment.

Our personal connection with Belize is, of course, Maggie Patchett, and anyone who has talked with Maggie knows of her deep commitment to the country and her love of the people there. Our official “Launch Dinner” has been timed later than usual this year to enable Maggie to be present and talk to us about the country, people and school. It is in the evening of **SATURDAY OCTOBER 26TH** and further details will be in the Notices. As usual, there will be no charge, but donations to get the project off to a flying start will be very welcome.

We have arranged further events as noted on the next page and would also welcome other suggestions or offers.

Please make a note of these dates in your diary – we look forward to seeing you there!

COFFEE MORNINGS as usual on the first Saturday of each month. (Please sign the sheet on the Notice- board if you are able to offer help on any of these dates.)

SATURDAY OCTOBER 26TH – Official Launch Dinner (donations)

SATURDAY DECEMBER 14TH – Afternoon Tea with waitress service.

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 18TH – Concert with The Wendel Singers and Yorkshire Post Brass.

EVENTS FOR 2014 – final dates are to be arranged and will be advertised in the Notices & the Link :

FEBRUARY – Quiz with Dave Farrar

SPRING CONCERT - with Rebecca & David

MAY - “CAFE de PARIS” - with cooking by Monsieur Dalton.

We will keep you up-to-date with both events and the money raised as the year progresses. Lidgett has always been very generous in supporting the annual project and we hope that the calendar of events we are arranging will encourage you to maintain this generosity, whilst at the same time having some fun! Thank you.

Kathy Benson, Pat Brooke, Jenny Dalton, Margaret Farrar, Joan Roberts

(With this crew involved I can't see how we can fail to have a lot of fun. So roll up and have a good time).

TEXT FOR THE MONTH

Proverbs Chapter 3, verses 5 and 6.

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

In all thy ways acknowledge Him and he shall direct thy paths.

MOSES' HORNS – A CLARIFICATION



According to Exodus 34:29, ‘when Moses came down from Mount Sinai, with the two tables of the testimony in his hand ... Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God’ (RSV).

The Hebrew word for ‘shone’ here is *qaran*. This is similar to the noun *qeren*, meaning a horn. Both have the sense of something emerging and protruding. The Hebrew text used by St Jerome when he translated the Bible into Latin did not have vowels written in it, so it was easy to mistake the two words. Jerome read it as ‘Moses was ignorant that his face was horned’. His Vulgate translation was the Bible of the

western Church until the Reformation. Protestant Bibles corrected the error, but it persisted in the Roman Catholic Church, which used an English translation of Jerome’s work, the Douay-Rheims Bible, well into the 20th century. This is the source of the artistic representation of Moses with horns. The sinister aspect of it is that it played into the hands of anti-Semites who used it to associate Jews with the Devil.

John Summerwill

Thanks John, I knew you would be able to enlighten us.

The statue depicted is Michelangelo’s Moses. This is probably the most famous statue of Moses and here he most definitely has horns.

GREETINGS FROM MAGGIE PATCHETT

I am now back in England, having returned last April from Belize, after 6 years there. I joined the course at the Wesley Study Centre, Durham University in the NE of England in May, and will be there for the next year, as part of my formation and study for ordained ministry as a Deacon in the Methodist Church.

I have found the transition really hard. Saying goodbye was very difficult as I have made so many wonderful friends in Belize. And then there was coming

back to England. You would think by April it would be starting to get warm but there was still snow on the ground when I arrived! Since then though we've had a great British summer, and more than getting used to the temperature change, it's about re-adjusting to the way of life and culture back here, where attitudes, values and expectations are so different. You would think that 'coming home', back to your roots, would be easy but actually it is more difficult than the initial journey of leaving. We go expecting to meet new and different situations, expecting to be challenged and to need to adapt and adjust our ways of thinking, but we assume when we come 'home' that we will fit right back in. Not so, and in fact it is much harder 'returning' than the original journey out was. During the time away we change, and I know that my time in Belize has had a profound effect on me. I'm asked so often just now 'where are you from?' and I honestly don't know how to reply! My heart is still definitely in Belize and I've been in so many places over the past 5 months that I still do not feel settled anywhere here!

But it has been great to be able to spend time (and holiday) with my family and some of my old friends again, and to meet and start to get to know so many new people! Eventually I may work out who is who among all the new acquaintances, and I have certainly had some wonderful support and understanding from quite a few of them – for which I am very grateful. And Durham is a beautiful city in a beautiful part of England; all the walking up and down the hills to college each day is bound to help with my fitness levels (and yes my broken ankle can cope with it now!).

Right now, I'm spending 4 weeks in Cornwall – the very SW of England - working alongside a Deacon in Falmouth, experiencing what her life is like on a daily basis. I arrived 2 days ago and spent yesterday on the beach! About 10 people from a variety of church denominations working together have been building a beach labyrinth every Thursday throughout the school holidays, where people of all ages are given a chance to reflect on their lives, lay down worries and concerns, and experience (we hope and pray) a little peace and renewal in the centre of the labyrinth, taking away a pebble or shell memento. It is obvious from conversations and observation that some people are deeply moved by the experience.

Another thing which took place this week – this time in Belize – was the official opening of the Belmopan High School!

This is a momentous achievement! Praise be to God!

I remember being at the meeting when it was first suggested that the Methodist Church in Belize might consider building a new High School, and agreeing to do it, having then no idea how or where the funds were going to come from for such a huge project, but responding to the need! Only about half of the teenagers in Belize get to go to High School because of the lack of places (and then they need to pay to go!). Since the ground-breaking ceremony in 2011, numerous people have been involved in fund-raising, in

giving of their time, energy, and money, from many different places, and a huge thank you goes out to all who helped in any way!

There are 96 children about to start school at Belmopan Methodist High School! But the task is by no means finished! By next September the next set of classrooms needs to be completed, ready for the next intake of students, and the same for the following 2 years, as well as all the admin, labs, equipment etc, etc. A High School in Belize has 4 year-groups. So while we thank you and celebrate this massive milestone, we ask for your continued support, in prayers, financially, and if you are able and willing to be part of a team, to go to Belize and help with the building! Lisa Williams has taken over the co-ordinating of teams since I left so email her in Belize (methodist4belize@gmail.com) if you can help in any way!

From October I will be living in Durham for the next 9 months, and through God's grace, will discover where I am to go after that! The 'stationing' process starts in October, so prayers are always welcome, not only for myself, but for everyone who is involved in the process this year, including all those on the decision-making panels.

Blessings to you all, where ever in the world you may be. It is wonderful to realise how many people I am connected to in so many places!

With love and prayers from

Maggie

PRAYER FOR CHANGE

I don't seem to have got a prayer for change this month. So as a substitute I've managed to find a payer from a proper Yorkshireman which I hope you will like.

(Probably one of our knowledgeable local preachers will now write in to say Alcuin was actually a Lancastrian).

0 King of glory and Lord of Valours,
our warrior and our peace,
who hast said 'Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world',
be thou victorious in us thy servants,
for without thee we can do nothing.
Give us to will and to perform.
Grant thy compassion to go before us,
thy compassion to come behind us:
before us in our undertaking, behind us in our ending.
And what shall I now say, unless that thy will be done,
who dost will that all men should be saved.
Thy will is our salvation, our glory, and our joy.

Alcuin of York,

I thought you'd like to see a picture of Alcuin but the problem is digital cameras were thin on the ground when he was alive. So this is the best I can come up with.

The contest this month is to tell me which of the three people shown is Alcuin. Ministers or local preachers are not allowed to enter the competition.



BOOK REVIEW

The Liars' Gospel by Naomi Alderman

(published Penguin Group 2012)

This is an interesting novel.

Four people tell their stories about their connections with a healer and preacher, Yehoshuah (Jesus), a year after his execution. They are his mother Miryam (Mary), Jehudah of Qeriot (Judas), Caiaphas the High Priest, and Bar-Avo (Barabbas). In telling their stories of life in Roman occupied Judah they vividly portray the fear of ordinary Jewish folk. The ever-present threat and mistrust and the cruelty of the occupying power is well told.

This novel is the story of Jesus as people of his time may have seen him before the Gospel writers had given their sparse (to modern standards) accounts of his ministry. It brings home how Caiaphas worked to keep in with the Roman authorities and the ferment against Roman rule by many people.

The two characters I found particularly interesting were Mary and Judas Iscariot. Mary as the mother of Jesus has become so venerated over the centuries that to read this story of a totally different, but very human and vulnerable woman, is refreshing and we see her in a completely new light. This light also offers an understanding, or possible explanation and background to some of the very hard sayings Jesus uttered about his family. The gospels make no mention of Joseph, Mary's husband, when Jesus is a man. Tradition has it that he died but here another reason is hinted at. Joseph is airbrushed out of the gospel story. Judas Iscariot has been removed by suicide but that may be a deliberate blackening. Here he lives on.

It is interesting to read the story of Jesus as seen by these four people who knew him, or had dealings with him. He is so much the central character in

church services that it is refreshing and salutary to read about him as a person, a human being, which is not a work of theology.

And the title of the book? I quote from (almost) the last page: "Storytellers know that every story is at least partly a lie. Every story could be told in four different ways, or forty or four thousand. Every emphasis or omission is a kind of lie, shaping a moment to make a point..... Storytellers know that people enjoy tales that explain to them the origin of things, the way things come to be the way they are. This story is no different. Every story has an author, some teller of lies. Do not imagine that a storyteller is unaware of the effect of every word they choose. Do not suppose for a moment that an impartial observer exists."

This is a story well worth reading.

Peter Harper

COURAGE, COMMITMENT AND CASH!

If you are reading this before **Sunday 6th October**, then you still have time to make your way on that day to **Leeds Minster** (formerly Leeds Parish Church) **at 3pm**, to celebrate 200 years of Overseas Mission activity through the organisation that grew into **The Methodist Missionary Society**. The service will include a dramatic presentation of the origins of the first Missionary Society, formed in Leeds, in 1813 under the influence of Jabez Bunting and George Morley. Those who offered to travel to distant lands were people of courageous faith and commitment. From 1813 they were supported by a growing army of fundraisers at home. Since the 1960s every member of the Methodist Church in Britain has also been a member of the MMS. I suspect many have not realised that this is the case! During the 200 years since 1813 the relationship between Methodists in Britain and Methodist Churches in other parts of the world has evolved and grown. We have shared resources – finance and people – in many different ways, and today the Methodist Church in Britain continues to relate to 60 Partner Churches around the world. We are delighted that three Church Leaders, President Albert Jebanesan from **Sri Lanka**, President Arnold Temple from **Sierra Leone** and District President Cuthbert Edwards from the **South Caribbean District** will be with us in Leeds to share in the celebration – as will Revd Ruth Gee and Dr Daleep Mukarji – our own **President and Vice President of Conference**.

Sunday 6th October will be a day of celebration for the Leeds District and for the whole connexion. At 2pm Revd Ruth Gee will unveil a blue plaque close to the West Yorkshire Playhouse, close to the site of the Boggard Chapel where it all began. The service in the Minster will a great occasion. **Do come along and help us to provide (literally) a thousand tongues to sing!!** If you are unable to join us, or if you are reading this after the 6th October, please do remember in your prayers the work and witness of hundreds of thousands of

Methodist people around the world today, and over the past 200 years. Methodist Church House at 25 Marylebone Rd, London, was built as the MMS HQ. The doorway of that building continues to be a reminder of its history. We praise God for all that is past, and trust God for all that is to come!

Liz Smith **Chair of Leeds Methodist District**

I thought you would like to know what Liz was talking about when she says

“The doorway of that building continues to be a reminder of its history.”

Unfortunately all the pictures I have been able to find have been pretty useless. The cameraman or woman was obviously a good Methodist but a bad photographer. Anyhow below is the best picture I can find.

You can see that there is a relief above the doorway that shows some sort of activity going on – presumably of a missionary nature.

I've also attached a brief history of the building



The union of the three main branches of British Methodism in 1932 brought together their missionary societies into the Methodist Missionary Society, and 'Mission House' was begun as their headquarters in 1939 as a symbol of this unity in action.

However, the BBC occupied the premises until 1946. Since 1996, the building has been 'Methodist Church

House' when it became the offices for the major part of the British Connexional Team.

TIME TO CATCH OUR BREATH

Well it's been pretty heavy going this month and not many pictures either. So here's something light from a faithful correspondent who can be relied on to come up with something daft.

A London lawyer and a Yorkshire man are sitting next to each other on a long flight to Leeds.

The lawyer is thinking that Yorkshire men are all 'cloth cap and clogs' and that he can fool them easily...

So the lawyer asks if the Yorkshire man would like to play a fun game. The Yorkshire man is tired and just wants to take a nap, so he politely declines and tries to catch a few winks.

The lawyer persists and says that the game is a lot of fun. I ask you a question, and if you don't know the answer, you pay me only £5; you ask me one, and if I don't know the answer, I will pay you £500.' As may be expected, this catches the Yorkshire man's attention and to keep the lawyer quiet, he agrees to play the game.

The lawyer asks the first question. 'What's the distance from The Earth to the moon?'

The Yorkshire man doesn't say a word, reaches in his pocket, pulls out a five-pound note, and hands it to the lawyer.

Now, it's the Yorkshire man's turn. He asks the lawyer, 'What goes up a hill with three legs, and comes down with four?'

The lawyer uses his laptop, searches all the references he knows. He uses the air-phone; he searches the Net and even the British Library. He sends e-mails to all the smart friends he knows, all to no avail. After over an hour of searching, he finally gives up. He wakes up the Yorkshire man and hands him £500. The Yorkshire man pockets the £500 and goes straight back to sleep.

The lawyer is going crazy not knowing the answer. He wakes the Yorkshire man up and asks, 'Well! What goes up a hill with three legs and comes down with four?'

The Yorkshire man reaches in his pocket, hands the lawyer £5 and goes back to sleep.

THIS MONTH'S QUIZ

Each clue gives rise to two words which differ by one letter. The differing letters spell out a location in Leeds.

1. Note the whip. (3,4)
2. Bar the legume. (3,4)
3. Put a layer of paint on the small bed. (4,3)
4. A deer map. (4,5)
5. Warm up the core. (4,5)
6. An area of OOO. (4,5)
7. Plenty is to be found under the roof. (3,4)
8. More than nine is half an em. (3,2)

You live and learn; I had no idea what an em was, let alone half an em. Now someone is going to write in and say "you an editor and you didn't know that – disgraceful."

COMMENT ON SERMON

At the morning service on 8th September (Racial Justice Sunday) Mr Roger Richardson gave the sermon. It may not have been his intention but he appeared to imply that racists could only be found among white people. I know from my own experience that this is not the case. I once lived in a neighbourhood where the white population was in a minority and some of the Asian population there were racist towards me. I also recall once being on a bus listening to two West Indian women talking very loudly and negatively about Pakistanis and another occasion when I was talking to an Indian man who spoke in a derogatory way about Pakistanis and Bangladeshis. All countries and races have members who are racist, it is not just the white population.

Mr Richardson also asked us to be tolerant of other cultures. What about cultures where women are subjugated – where they are denied education or even physically mutilated? I would like to see women the world over having the same freedom and choices that I enjoy. If you are tolerant of a culture which oppresses women, aren't you condoning the oppression of women?

Gillian Clements

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S QUIZ

Each clue gives rise to two words which differ by one letter. The differing letters spell out a place where they care for life.

1. Down the pit they like this sort of Christmas pie. (4,5)
2. This feline wore a long jacket. (3,4)
3. The lady loved footwear. (3,4)
4. The small bloodsucker gave me a twitch. (4,3)
5. It is always the day before. (4,3)
6. Moving the medal. (5,4)
7. The herb made me poorly. (4,3)
8. A spectre was the one running the pub! (5,4)
9. There were soap suds on the hide. (6,7)

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. MINE, MINCE | C |
| 2. CAT, COAT | O |
| 3. SHE, SHOE | O |
| 4. TICK, TIC | K |
| 5. EVER, EVE | R |
| 6. GOING, GONG | I |
| 7. DILL, ILL | D |
| 8. GHOST, HOST | G |
| 9. LATHER, LEATHER | E |

Nice one Gillian; the hint is very clever.

LAST WORD

This month it's coming from Joyce Wood. Joyce has been having a go at me for my lack of faith so I think I should let her have the final say.

Dear Ed,

The Link prints honest opinions from various people thus enabling us to see different points of view to inspire, help and learn from each other. I am in agreement with Gerry Leake when he put - "My understanding of what Jesus stood for is Love, Compassion and Justice, also that being a Christian means following these principles."

Personally speaking I admit to being inspired by hymns, written by people who lived godly lives and practised what they preached. There are many different Christian denominations who are part of the body of Christ perhaps because "we see through a glass darkly" (Corinthians chapter 13 verse 9)

Joyce Wood