



ST JOHN'S NEWS AND VIEWS

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July 2nd, 2021

Worship



We are now meeting **in church** at 10.30 a.m. every Sunday. Please bring a mask and remember that social distancing is still required.

Although the rules are being relaxed, we are still being asked to minimise the amount of time spent together indoors, so please try not to arrive too early or linger for too long after the service.

Sadly, we are not yet able to sing or serve refreshments after the service.

Our preachers for the next few weeks will be

4th July Wendy Holt

11th July Revd. Tim Broughton

18th July Thomas Fawcett

25th July Revd. Roger Fox

1st August Margery Dowling

For those of you who do not yet feel ready to come to church, online services (morning and evening) will continue on our Facebook page and on YouTube.

Revd. Tim's ordination

After 2 postponements due to lockdown restrictions, Revd. Tim was finally ordained by Revd. Richard Teal (President of Conference 2020-2021) on 19th June. We pray for God's blessing on Tim and Pam now and throughout the years ahead.



Yorkshire Preachers: no.15

Richard Atkinson: (c.1843 - 1884)
Wesleyan

Richard's story has been told in "The Dale that Died" by Barry Cockroft (J.M. Dent:1975) and a remarkable story it is. He combined holy living and fervent zeal with a strange "second sight". Among other things, this gift enabled him, on some occasions, to foretell accurately who would be converted at services he conducted. He lived in Grisedale when that beautiful area was part of Yorkshire and worked as a gamekeeper. When he died, the room was said to be "full of angels". His wife (née Mary Moore) out-lived him by many years. She moved to High Bentham to be near her family and is buried in the Methodist Cemetery there. I have a link to Richard because my husband's first wife, Mrs Margaret Mansergh, was a direct descendant of his daughter Ellen.

(Last in the series)

Jane Mansergh



Coffee Pot

Don't forget our 'virtual'

Coffee Pot 10.30 -11.30

a.m. every Tuesday. Full details are posted on our Facebook page.

Volunteers needed!

Would you be willing to be on the rota of **Welcome Stewards** or to provide **flowers** for one or more Sundays - perhaps to mark a special anniversary? If so, please speak to Eileen Edwards (822669).

We are hoping that we will soon be able to meet for fellowship and to extend a welcome to visitors and members of the local community at **Coffee Pot**. If you could help with baking and/or serving, please contact Chris Taylor (823975).

Circuit Time of Prayer - 8th @ 8

You are invited to join in a Circuit Prayer Meeting at 8.00 p.m. on 8th July. Online details will be available on our Facebook page. If you are unable to join online, you are still invited to spend a few minutes praying for our churches and for the needs of the wider world, in the knowledge that others will be doing so at the same time.

Magnet

Originally a Methodist publication, contributors to this magazine are now drawn from all major denominations. Each issue seeks to nurture Christian faith in thoughtful, challenging ways. In addition to the main articles, there are always a number of short reflections superimposed on beautiful photographs. If you would like to see a copy and/or place an order (£16 per year for 3 editions), please speak to Wendy Holt.

Laughter

When I was a small child, my nickname was 'Smiler'; as an old person I am told that I am like the Cheshire Cat – my grin comes first and I follow! In between these two extremes my sense of humour has helped me through many difficult situations. Having been so well blessed in life, I thought that I would take a look at this subject; in particular – does God laugh? And so, as usual, I turned to The Bible for answers to my question.

Yes, God does laugh; He laughs at those who try to prevent his will being done; he laughs at the foolishness of man. There are 20 – 40 references to the laughter of God the Father, but Jesus does not seem to laugh as much as his Father – I wonder why not? Jesus has many more references to weeping than his Father; again, I wonder why?

God the Father is positive and sure of himself; He uses words like joy, hope, happiness, freedom from fear, faith in the future. One of my heroines from the past is Julian of Norwich, a hermit/wise woman who lived in the 14th century, and her words have come down through the centuries: 'All is well, all will be well.' These words are amazingly comforting when you feel as though your back is up against a wall!

Much of this has come into everyday language e.g. Laughter is the best medicine. Scientists have proved that this is true, that laughter has a positive effect on resistance to disease and gives a sense of well-being; also 15 minutes of laughing will burn up 10 calories!

Conversely there are at least 100 Biblical references to weeping but I prefer to be like the Cheshire Cat and smile my way through adversity; there are so many miserable people around today, but I firmly believe that health in old age comes from the love of God and belief in his authority.

Perhaps these are the musings of an old woman, but I do know that I still love every minute of life.

Audrey Daykin

Dear God,

How are you doing? We seem to have lost touch for a while. It's not that I've been too busy with other stuff - it's more that I have felt a bit bogged down by life's problems and found myself feeling cross and fed up. All of which meant that I just didn't want to talk to anyone and felt that I had nothing positive to say

because there seemed to be nothing positive going on around me. I suppose everyone has times like that and sometimes it just takes one little thing to turn the world around. I do try my hardest to find some humour in everyday events, but it isn't always easy. However, I did have a bit of a chuckle at work last week when a customer in the supermarket asked why the "dug today" potatoes and "freshly picked" strawberries were never in when the store opened at 7am. Trying to avoid stating the obvious I explained that it was because the products were dug and picked in the early morning and then delivered to the central warehouse for distribution to the stores. "Well," he asked, "Why can't they pick them during the night so they can be delivered earlier and be here when we want them?" Fighting to control the urge to resort to sarcasm, I answered that, although it would get them here earlier, they would not be in the best condition because picking strawberries by moonlight sounds romantic but isn't actually practical and digging potatoes in the dark and rain would not ensure that only the best were selected - apart from which they would have to be marketed as "fresh yesterday" which didn't have quite the same caché. I suppose I've been a bit like that customer - wanting things to be better than they are, simply because it would be so much more convenient for me instead of remembering that "to everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven." However, it would really help if things could happen sooner rather than later...

Yours hopefully,

Old Lil Nongle.



From the District Newsletter

As a District, we are examining our response to the challenge of climate change. We can all play our part and as a start we have listed a small number of ways that we can be kinder to the planet:

- Shop little and often - A lot of waste comes from doing big shops, putting two-for-one 'bargains' in the trolley and buying on repeat rather than planning meals.
- Buy half your food locally - The shorter the food chain, the less waste created before it reaches your kitchen. Aim to buy 50% of food grown within 25 miles of where you live.
- Minimise packaging - Look for loose fruit and vegetables and take your own containers to shops and markets. Look for bulk unpackaged food shops.
- Buy local flowers or grow your own - About 90% of the flowers sold through UK florists, supermarkets and wholesalers are imported, mainly from the Netherlands, but they are also flown in from countries as far away as Ecuador, Colombia, Kenya and Ethiopia.
- Recycle more - While 90% of us recycle our kitchen waste, we recycle only 40% of our personal care packaging, probably because our recycling bins are in the kitchen.
- Opt for green energy suppliers - but just because you're on a green tariff, doesn't mean you should stop worrying about how much energy you use. Switch to LED light bulbs and look at smart heating controls.
- Use water wisely - Check your WC; many new syphon toilets eventually leak water, but into the bowl so not as easy to spot.
- Let the grass grow - Letting your grass grow longer between cuts not only saves petrol or electricity, and therefore reduces carbon dioxide emissions, but also encourages more wildlife into your garden. Longer grass is more drought-resistant too.

Excuses

If you watched the Bible Study from Cliff College at the end of May, either in church or at home, you may remember that Revd. Ashley Cooper talked about the excuses which Moses

found when asked by God to lead his people out of Egypt. He also quoted some of the reasons for accidents given on insurance forms. Here are a few more:

- I collided with a stationary vehicle coming the other way.
- I pulled away from the side of the road, glanced at my mother-in-law, and headed over the embankment.
- I had been driving for 40 years when I fell asleep at the wheel and had an accident.
- My car was legally parked as it backed into the other vehicle.
- An invisible car came out of nowhere, struck my vehicle, and vanished.
- I was thrown from my car as it left the road. I was later found in a ditch by some stray cows.

(From *A Box of Delights*, J. John and Mark Stibbe, Monarch Books)

Action for Children (formerly NCH)

Action for Children is the children's charity of the Methodist Church, founded in 1869 by Methodist minister Revd Thomas Bowman Stephenson in response to the poverty and danger faced by vulnerable and destitute children and young people living rough on the streets of London. It now runs over 500 projects, working with more children and young people affected by poverty, disability and abuse than any other UK charity.

The following prayer is taken from material produced by the charity to mark the anniversary of the opening of the first children's home on the 2nd Sunday in July.

Newsletter

Thank you to all those who have contributed to this newsletter, which is now being produced monthly. Please send any material for inclusion to Philip or Wendy by the 1st of the month. Wendy will also provide weekly notice sheets as and when necessary; please let her have any urgent items by the previous Friday.



Prayer

We earnestly hold before you today all those children and families that need to be supported – those surrounded by the horrors of abuse, neglect, violence, poverty, exploitation and other peace-shattering circumstances. May they be blessed with all the things that will allow them to live and flourish as you intended, secure in the knowledge that they are loved and treasured.

Amen