

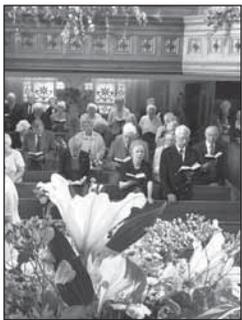


# Methodist Post

Boston Spa • Clifford • Bramham

June 2016





### Cover Picture

The picture was taken in 2013 during our own 'Songs of Praise' which the Wetherby News were kind enough to print as a full page spread. It gives us a last look at the downstairs pews, most of which will be removed, leaving a few at the back as a reminder of the original layout of the main body of the church.

So, as we give thanks for all that we have known and loved throughout the years of worship from the pews, may we look forward with glad anticipation as we continue to praise God in song from chairs instead of pews.

AWF

Ideas and contributions for future issues of the Methodist Post always welcome. For the July issue, please send copy to jovernon1@gmail.com by 10th June.

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*Graham McGuire on 01937 844838.*

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### Minister's Letter



#### Dear Friends

As I write this letter, the media are full of the news of Leicester, against all odds, winning the Premier League. Now anyone who knows me will know that I know next to nothing about football, but the story of this team has gripped even my imagination, and I found myself following their progress and hoping that they would win. It's incredible to think that this team which, in August last year was expected to be relegated, has come out on top. This is a team which, in the world of football where obscene amounts of money are paid for footballers, is quite an inexpensive team. Listening to Robbie Savage talking on Radio 2 this morning, he said that this team had no prima donnas so they all pulled together and they had a leader that was loved by all the team; they wanted to do their best and were valued.

As the football season comes to an end we will see clubs queuing up to get the best footballers to transfer to their clubs. It is true that players are becoming more and more expensive and their wage demands have gone beyond the pale reaching to beyond £300,000 per game for the best players – where will it all end? One of the greatest managers in football once said 'Some people think football is a matter of life and death. I assure you, it's much more serious than that.' (*Bill Shankly*)

Whatever we think about football and the wages paid, we cannot escape the fact that it has been for a long time, and still is today, at the heart and fabric of our society. In the ideologies of our culture we still like to accept that football was first established here in this country, but in fact the early formation and initial concepts of football were probably first introduced to the world in China around the 5th century AD – the game was known as 'Cuju'. However, the game developed on these shores around the 11th century, and growing in popularity in the 14th century it was banned by Edward II because it became a huge distraction from more important activities, such as archery, as England prepared to go to war. It was only in the mid1800s that the game really established itself to looking like something we know today. But the idea of this ball sport has been kicking around for ages from one country to the next notably across the Egyptian and Greek stages for many centuries.

The conventional game today has become an institution with many teams being formed for well over a hundred years. It has touched every part of society from the poor to the rich, from young to the old, in peace time and in war. As we recall the Christmas Eve truce of 1914 where both the Germans and the British came out of their trenches onto no man's land to play football, it demonstrates the impact football has had in this country and indeed the world, and helps to explain why it is the nation's favourite pastime.

Perhaps you might like to ponder on this question though; if Jesus were to pick a team today to play for him, who would he pick? Of course we're not talking about a football team, but a team of fantastic Christians who would win the world for him. Maybe he would pick Francis of Assisi, Bede or Anselm, Clement of Rome, Ignatius,

Irenaeus or Tertullian? Or maybe familiar names such as Martin Luther, Wilberforce, Tyndale or Mother Teresa – the list is endless. Or maybe Jesus would just stick with the original 12 he chose out of hundreds. The extraordinary thing about Jesus is that he never looked to fantastic people to be on his team, they just became fantastic because of their passion and love for him.

So be encouraged that the moment we said 'yes' to Jesus, we are already playing on his side; the question remains as to how much we think we are worth to him, and how much we expect to get from him. We should never underestimate what we mean to Jesus. Our life is priceless to God, and how much is eternal life worth? Yet it does demand our life and demands our faithfulness, that's what it cost Jesus; he gave everything so that we could gain everything. So we could say 'Some people think Jesus is a matter of life and death. Let us assure them, you can't get much more serious than that!' We may not be in a team that will win the World Cup, or bring home Gold Medals in the Olympics, but let us stand up with Jesus and transform our lives every day through his!

With every blessing

*Rev Steve*

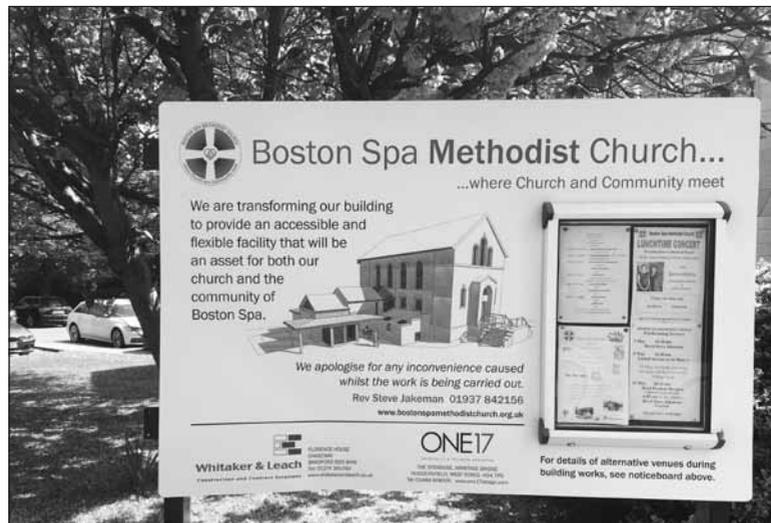
*Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever'.*

1 Corinthians 9:25



## Birthday Greetings

Women's Friendship Group  
23rd – Angela Coleman



*Have you seen our temporary noticeboard .... with the beautiful blossom on the trees in the background?*



### June Diary

*10.30am Sunday services will be held in the Lantern Room in the Village Hall*

Wednesday 1st	10am-4pm	Fundraising Event – St Crux, York
Saturday 4th	10.30am	Development Project Reference Group meeting – Village Hall Café
<b>Sunday 5th</b>	10.30am 6.00pm	Fellowship Service Revd Mark Stennett – Holy Communion – Village Hall Café
Monday 6th	7.30pm	York Mystery Plays – York Minster
Wednesday 8th	7.30pm	Men's Group – Open Meeting to be held in the Jubilee Room, Village Hall Trevor Moody – National Trust in Lancashire
Friday 10th	12 noon 1.00pm	At St Mary's – Lunch, followed by: At St Mary's – Lunchtime Concert ( <i>see page 13</i> )
Saturday 11th		Boston Spa Gala
<b>Sunday 12th</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	United Service – St Mary's Church Revd Steve Jakeman
Friday 17th		Methodist Women in Britain ( <i>see page 7</i> )
<b>Sunday 19th</b>	10.30am following morning worship 6.00pm	Revd Mark Stennett Development Project Reference Group meeting Revd Steve Jakeman – Reflections Service – The Manse
Tuesday 21st	10.30am	Evergreens Luncheon Club – St Mary's Church
<b>Sunday 26th</b>	10.30am	Revd Steve Jakeman – Holy Communion with Sue Jakeman as Worship Leader
Wednesday 29th	3.30pm	Messy Church – Jubilee Room, Village Hall

### Other Regular Groups

Monday	5.00pm	Senior Table Tennis – Jubilee Room, Village Hall
Tuesday	Evening	Brownies – St Mary's
Wednesday	9.15-11.15am	Busy Bees (Mums & Toddlers) – Clifford Methodist Church Hall
	Afternoon	Upholstery Class – Lantern Room, Village Hall
Thursday	Morning	Pilates – Lantern Room, Village Hall
	Afternoon	Upholstery Class – Lantern Room, Village Hall
Saturday	10am-Noon	'Drop In' for Tea or Coffee – Village Hall Café

## Boston Spa Church Rotas – June

	Door Stewards	Flowers	Church Stewards
5th	Bob Wade Wendy Wade	Betty Aspinall	Bob Hutchinson Barbara Hudson
12th	UNITED SERVICE AT ST MARY'S		
19th	Peter Smith Margaret Smith	Mavis Nettleton	Jean Walne Pauline O'Melia
26th	Ken Grimditch Judith Grimditch	Chris Tunnicliffe	Joan Dyer Heather Grant

Saturday Coffee	
4th	Angela Coleman Barbara Hudson
11th	Heather Grant
28th	Brian & Jackie Marsden
25th	Mike & Jean Walne

Sunday Coffee	
5th	Graham & Kath McGuire
12th	Dennis & Carmen Ashton
19th	WFG
26th	Julie Thompson Val Woodhams

Busy Bees	
1st	HOLIDAY
8th	Jackie Faulkner
15th	Wendy Wade
22nd	Christine Mitchell
29th	Jean Walne

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## Norman Ruston 1923-2016

On 28th April, following his death on 18th April, members of the church and friends met to meet with Norman's family to celebrate his life in a Thanksgiving Service led by Revd Steve Jakeman.

Norman Ruston was born, in Barnsley, on 22nd August 1923. He attended Bately Grammar School and eventually went to work on the railway. It was his knowledge of the railways that ensured he was drafted into the Army during the war, and not the Royal Navy as would have been Norman's choice.

On leaving the Army, Norman joined the Civil Service in the Department of Employment for whom he worked, in its many iterations over the years, for his whole career until his retirement in 1983; almost 40 years of dedicated service.

In 1946, Norman married his first wife, Mary, with their son, Brian, following in 1947. They had a great life as a family, but their time together was tragically cut short when Mary became ill with cancer and subsequently died in 1971.

Norman later met Mary Eaves after her husband Bill had also died of cancer and who had been a colleague of his at the Department of Employment. They were married in 1983 in the Methodist Chapel in Menston, near Ilkley.

They have lived most of their married life in Boston Spa, and started to attend this Chapel, after Mary met some people at flower arranging classes.

Norman was a popular member of the Men's Group and both he and Mary were regulars at the Saturday Morning drop-in where they shared stories and conversation with their friends over a cup of coffee or tea. Both Norman and Mary were part of the brass polishing team where Norman's pride in a job well done shone – quite literally.

A great love of Norman's life was Barnsley Football Club. He was also, along with Mary, a member of the Bowls Club here in Boston Spa and was, at one time, President of the Club.

Norman was a very kind, caring and generous man. He loved his family and was always delighted with each new addition to the family. On the very wet April day when we joined together to give thanks for his life, the love in which he was held filled the Chapel, blotting out the grey skies outside.

It is with a mixture of sadness for having lost a friend but with gladness for him that he is now at peace, after a short time in hospital, that we give thanks to God for the life and love of our friend Norman Ruston.

*Sue Jakeman*



Methodist Women in Britain, Tadcaster Circuit – Summer Event

Friday 17th June at Toll Gavel United Church, Beverley

Speaker: Deacon Jill Taylor from Hull

Buffet from 5pm. Tickets available at the March meeting £5.

CLIFFORD  
METHODIST CHURCH



The church is a bit tucked away at the end of Nursery Way, or from the High Street, where a blue noticeboard points the way

**June – Sunday Worship at 10.30am**

- 5th Fellowship Service
- 12th Revd Stanley Jackson
- 19th Revd Steve Jakeman – Chapel Anniversary
- 26th Revd Don Tuttell – Holy Communion

	Door Stewards	Flowers	Vestry
5th	Catherine Catton/Ros McCall	Ros McCall	David Barrow
12th	Carol Smith/Mavis Rodgers	Alison Smith	Jason Turner
19th	Hazel Greenwood/Julie Batchelor	Joyce Forth	David Mountain
26th	Sheila & Katy Biercamp	Carol Smith	Michael Whaley
<b>Schoolroom cleaning</b> – Margaret Suggate			



**Celebration of the Queen's 90th**

We had a wonderful afternoon on a Sunday in April as we celebrated HM Queen Elizabeth's 90th birthday with Afternoon Tea. Festooned in red, white and blue, Clifford's schoolroom looked beautifully patriotic and helped set the mood for an enjoyable two hours of eating, drinking of tea and flag waving. There was a silent film running of our Queen's life and a short quiz to test our royal knowledge. The afternoon was finished with a half hour of community singing.

Such a good time was had by all, that Clifford have decided to have a similar afternoon on Sunday June 12th, the weekend of the Queen's Official Birthday. Don't miss out! Details below.

**'A Picnic on the Mall'** (*in the School Room*)  
Clifford Methodist Church, Sunday June 12th, 3-5pm  
Includes afternoon tea and community singing  
Tickets £6 available from Kathryn 845692.

**Chapel Anniversary and Strawberry Tea**

On Sunday 19 June at 10.30am it is our Chapel Anniversary Service led by Rev Steve Jakeman, followed in the afternoon 2-4pm by our annual Strawberry Tea at the home of Keith & Carol Smith (thank you once again Keith & Carol).  
Tickets are £5 and a raffle will be held. Everyone is very welcome.

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## Building Project Update

It is strange to be writing this update when we have just cleared the Church and held the last Service before going "on tour" and are now waiting for the contractors to begin. By the time you read this article the contractors will have been on site for at least 2 weeks. You will know how much progress has taken place and be aware of all that still has to be done.

It is a time to look back to see how far we have come and think about how the future of our Church will progress. For some, as Rev Steve said at our last service of Communion, a time of sadness as we look back through our Church memories, for others a time of joy as we look forward, for yet others a time of mixed emotions. All of us will be reacting differently to these changes. I am reminded of one of the hymns we sang at that service –

*Thank you for hopes of the day that will come,  
For all the change that will happen in time  
God, for our future our spirits prepare.*

However, as Rev. Steve rightly reminded us, many changes have been taking place in this building since it was built 169 years ago. We are part of a community that has been evolving through the ages; part of a community that seeks to be a beacon of hope in a dark world. We hope and pray that our Church building will continue to be used for worship and outreach into the community. We are reminded that buildings change; times change too. But everything we do is done in faith, knowing that we are carrying out God's will for us here in Boston Spa. After years of planning and preparing, at last the contractors have started work on this ambitious and exciting project to redevelop and enhance our building. We travel in faith that the vision we hold will indeed become a reality.

The Steering Group has re-instated the Reference Group meetings to update everyone on what is happening. Everyone is welcome as we seek input from as many people as possible as the way of testing and validating requirements. Our first Reference Group meeting took place on 7 May and was well attended. There were updates on colour schemes, heating and chairs. We will be guided by the architect's recommendations as to colour schemes, through a colour palette suggested by him. Requirements for chairs are to be circulated widely so that everyone has the opportunity to be involved with the process of choosing a suitable chair. Heating will be through two new energy-efficient boilers which will provide underfloor heating in the Chapel area and in the new entrance. We have been told that, at various points during the project, the contractors will invite us to go into the building to see what is happening. Communication with the builders will be carried out by David Bull so if you have any queries, let David know.

*Work begins on the stripping out of our pews*



And it's from  
the old we  
travel to  
the new...

Keep us travelling  
along with You.



The next dates for Reference Group meetings are Saturday 4 June at 10:30am in the Boston Spa Village Hall Café and Sunday 19 June after Morning Worship.

There is still be a need to continue our fundraising events to meet the ongoing costs involved in running our Church as well as renovating the cottage.

The list of events planned so far is printed below.

**1 June – St Crux**

**15-17 July – Floral Display** (our part of the wider Boston Spa Weekend Festival)

**15 July – Lunchtime concert**

Lord God, you called Abraham to leave where he was and journey to a place you had not yet shown him. As we hear your call today, help us to let go of who we are and where we have been. Aid us in our journey of faith. When we are blind to where you are taking us, give us the faith that sees the next step and takes it.

As always we ask you continue to support our building project with your prayers. Your ongoing support and prayers are invaluable.

*Jackie Marsden*

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The next Lunchtime Concert will take place at St Mary's Church, Boston Spa on Friday 10th June at 1pm

Light lunches will be served from 12 noon.

We are fortunate to have a brilliant young violinist from near London. Her name is Charlotte Rowan and she will bring her accompanist Charlotte Stevenson. Charlotte performs in many of the great cathedrals of Britain and enjoys teaching young people at the Perse School and Leys School, Cambridge and King's School, Ely.



Please come and support this talented young musician. There will be a small party outside after the performance.

*Judith England*

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**FAIRTRADE**

## Fair Trade

As most of our congregation will know, we at Boston Spa Methodist Church elected some years ago to become a Fairtrade Church and many of you have supported our stalls held on the last weekend of every month when we sell Fairtrade products.

The Fairtrade organisation started in earnest 21 years ago and has made much progress since then. The concept arose because many farmers in developing countries were receiving so little money from the sale of their goods that they were unable to feed or educate their families, whereas other businesses in the distribution chain were making large profits.

Fairtrade works to change this by buying direct from the producers and paying them realistic prices which they can rely on and can therefore plan ahead for the future of their families.

The Fairtrade mark also gives you, the consumer, a guarantee that the food and other items, such as textiles and household goods, have been fairly produced and traded.

At our church we sell mainly food items which Clifford Methodist Church kindly orders for us, so that the volume of sales at the two churches means that we can provide a wider variety of goods. These are not bought on a sale-or-return basis, but have to be purchased outright.

We are particularly anxious to maintain and, hopefully, increase the quantity we sell, so we do ask that you come and look at the stall on a Saturday or Sunday and spend generously to help the producing farmers.

Being a Fairtrade church also gives us an obligation to serve Fairtrade coffee and tea and biscuits where possible.

We are very grateful to all those who have supported us generously in the past and hope to increase sales in the future.

*Ken and Judith Grimditch*



*“In the end, it's not the years in your life that count,  
it's the life in your years.”*

Abraham Lincoln

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## BBC Songs of Praise

St Aidan's Church, Leeds on Sunday 1 May

Jo and I have been to five 'Songs of Praise' recordings over the years and when we found another recording happening, almost on our doorstep, we had to grasp the opportunity.

So, immediately after our church service on 1 May, we drove off to Leeds. St Aidan's is a very large Church of England parish church, brick-built in 1894 and grade II listed. It has a famous wall decoration (The Brangwyn Mosaic) and the website [staidan-leeds.org.uk](http://staidan-leeds.org.uk) is well worth a look. Certainly, the interior is very impressive. St Aidan's bills itself as 'Anglo-Catholic' and is one of the few parish churches still offering a daily mass, so it is quite 'high church'.

As expected there were cables, sound engineers and cameras all over the place, but you can imagine our delight when we found that the conductor and MC was none other than our old friend from Peterborough, Geoff Ellerby. Geoff is a musician and arranger (and, incidentally, a superb church organist) and he was involved in our church in Peterborough for some time. He is freelance but does quite a bit of work for the BBC. Geoff worked really hard during the recording but still seemed very relaxed and happy to chat with us afterwards.

There were some good 'standards' sung but also some new songs, including one we had not come across before "God is everywhere present" written by John Bell and Graham Maule. Geoff had done the musical arrangement for this and other items and there was a five/six piece group playing, with organ accompaniment occasionally.

By the time you read this, the programme will probably have been broadcast so, unless you are a keen Songs of Praise addict, you will have missed it.

*Iain Vernon*



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presents

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**Safari Supper**

held on 29th April

Day dawned unpromisingly for those intending to walk to their various hosts' homes. Bright spells and heavy showers settled down by mid afternoon, and come 6pm, the starting time, for the first course to be served at the various venues, the sun shone brightly.

How do you serve a meal of "starters" only, without looking mean? The paucity of eating irons and food we put out on offer did not dent the enthusiasm of our guests for this peripatetic style of dining and as soon as the course was consumed, it was time to walk/drive to our next hosts.

A new set of diners joined us at the next venue for the main course which, in our case, consisted of a delicious chicken casserole with all the trimmings. Here, our host confessed to finding it disconcerting and odd to lay his dining table for a single course and was haunted by the feeling that he had forgotten something.

The Wesley Room at Chapel was the final venue for all the diners to meet for desert and – my – what a groaning board greeted our eyes! There were cakes, tarts, meringues of every description plus hot puddings with custard. Those of us who had room, attacked the cheese platter with gusto.

Then came the raffle. In 1997 at our Chapel's 150th anniversary celebrations, a consignment of commemorative mugs and plates was purchased. The mugs were quickly purchased by our congregation, but sadly the plates were not so popular. No one thought any more about them until 19 years later, a massive clear out of Chapel cupboards in readiness for the building alterations brought them to light. Much to our amusement they appeared on the table of raffle prizes and now have safe havens in various Chapel members' homes.

We appreciated so much being able to come together at the end of such a happy evening – our last social event in the Wesley Room for a while. Thank you so much all you hosts, desert makers, washers up and organisers of every kind for making this such a memorable evening; and a big thank you to Jackie Faulkner for arranging the event and working tirelessly in the kitchen all evening seeing that everything went smoothly. We all dispersed on a high note, with feelings of gratitude for our Chapel building that has served us so well during the years, and of excited anticipation of what is to come.

*Wendy Wade*

An amazing £620 was raised from this event. Well done everyone. Ed



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### **When a Samaritan woman came... Jesus said to her...**

Recently, race and religion have entered into politics in an ugly way. Several months ago Donald Trump – at the moment the likely Republican contender for the American Presidency – was heard saying that he would build a wall across the United States to keep out all Mexicans; and that under his Presidency there would be a total ban on Muslims wishing to enter America. He has said it again.

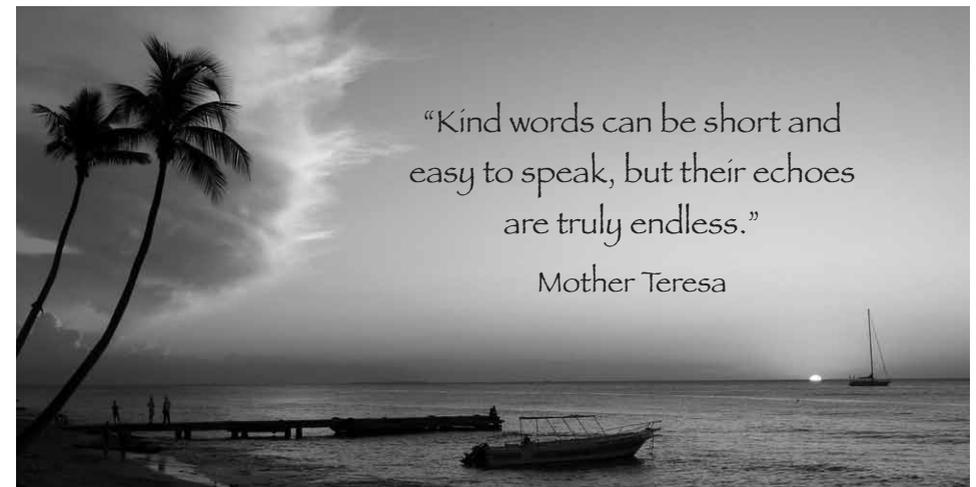
Although our own politics are normally anything but genteel, we have in the past largely been spared this kind of infighting. But we have recently seen and heard in the media in the run-up to, and aftermath of, last week's elections widespread allegations of racism, anti-Semitism, religious extremism and even support for terrorists. The bona fides of key figures have been challenged not so much on the grounds of ability but of supposed undeclared and unwanted personal attitudes,

Allegations have been headlined. Rebuttals – which there must have been – have been hard to find in the media. Of course, they are not "news".

We now live in a multi-racial, multi-cultural society and we are part of that society. That may not be very obvious in this Circuit, but who would have thought 10 years ago that London would now have an elected Muslim Mayor, Sadiq Khan? (Professionally he is a human rights lawyer who has held ministerial office in government). One of his first formal acts as Mayor was to attend a Holocaust commemoration.

If we are truly to be the place where church and community meet we need a Christian understanding of that place – and of our place and others' places – in the real world. What's more, we need that understanding now, when all this is happening and when we at Boston Spa have for the time being no church building to call home. So let's remind ourselves once again that Jesus saw everyone as a child of God, irrespective of race, and that he was not impressed by status conferred by formal religion.

*Dennis*



*"Kind words can be short and  
easy to speak, but their echoes  
are truly endless."*

Mother Teresa

## **A bible, a tandem and a rusty nail**

*~ Recollections of a Local Preacher 6 ~*

### **The Tandem – Also ‘On Trial’!**

Having completed my period of being ‘on note’, I was allowed to take services without being accompanied by a fellow ‘recognised’ Local Preacher. This is known as being ‘On Trial’ and, as well as preaching, three courses of study comprising Old Testament, New Testament and Christian Doctrine had to be completed and essays presented for assessment. My mentor was a solicitor for whom humour was in short supply and for whom precision was abundant, the latter being a problem for, as far as I can recall, I have always been a bit lacking on the memory front. Nevertheless, he was fair and assiduous in his duties which did not include helping with service and sermon preparation; I was very much on my own in that respect.

The Trinity Circuit in Wolverhampton comprised three large town and two small rural churches and a house church. Getting to the country chapels involved a 10 mile bike ride for my girlfriend (now my wife and chief critic, Jackie), and I. As this took about an hour, I decided that if we bought a tandem we could complete the journey in half that time, so I advertised in the local newspaper and was offered one at a price that we could just about afford – probably less than £5. Despite running it into a bus when both brake cables snapped, the tandem passed its trial with flying (almost) colours and took us round and well beyond the circuit on preaching appointments.

As our circuit had a surplus of Local Preachers, those ‘On trial’ were only given one appointment per quarter and so a number of us would be driven out into Shropshire and take two or three services. These always culminated in a lavish feast after the evening worship, usually in a large farmhouse. Jackie would frequently accompany us and was sometimes called upon to play the harmonium. I well recall one church which had no organist and when she volunteered to play, they presented her with a music edition of the old Methodist Hymnal in which the music was in tonic-sol-fa and not notes and staves – and she played it! On another occasion, middle C was missing on the harmonium but undaunted, she peddled away and the congregation sang with great gusto; which was fortunate as we were very few in number.

Frequently, prior to the service, we would be entertained by elderly (or so they seemed) ladies who would supply us with dainty sandwiches and cakes. Unfortunately, I was so nervous that my digestive system could not cope and I would enter the pulpit with my suit pockets stuffed with the goodies which our kind benefactors had so generously provided.

In those days, preachers were expected to preach and pray extempore and my attempt to abandon my notes were thrust upon me in such a manner that I interpreted it as a word from ‘above’. I turned to pick up a bible and caught the papers upon which my sermon was written. Dismayed, I watched them float gracefully from the pulpit to lie under the communion table. As no one was prepared to retrieve them and carry them up the pulpit steps, I let them lie there and continued. For me personally, this freed me from constraint and thereafter I preached from highly annotated notes and I feel sure that many times the Holy Spirit guided me and put thoughts into my

head in order to meet the needs of one of the congregation. Having said that, I rarely preached for more than twenty minutes, and I have great respect for anyone who writes out their sermon in full.

Every preacher has their own method of preparation and mine is not unique. Two weeks prior to taking a service, I would decide prayerfully upon my subject. I would write headings down for the structure and for the next ten days would mull over them in my mind. On the Thursday prior to the appointment, the service would be designed and the full sermon notes written. Frequently, after one or two nights of lying awake going over the sermon in my mind, I would wake at around five on the Sunday morning and rewrite the notes complete with underlining, colour and in big letters across the top of each page would be written the legend – SLOW DOWN!

For the past thirty years I have used the Lectionary as this allowed me to cover a wide range of subjects and has guarded against giving the same sermon attached to a different text each time. Whilst ‘on trial’ I had attended a short course on ‘expository preaching’ in which the preacher attempts to reveal the meaning of a text or passage of scripture. Later on, when I moved from industry to become a Polytechnic lecturer, explaining the meaning of scientific work was the essence of my job and so the expository techniques fell happily into both preaching and teaching.

But, whatever the methodology used, the keys to good preaching lie in the skills of the preacher, the time devoted to preparation and most importantly, the influence of the Holy Spirit.

*Arthur Faulkner*

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