

Keyworth Methodist Church

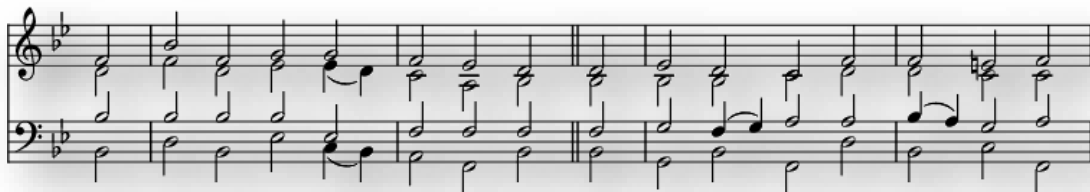
Minister
Website
KeyNotes Editor

Rev Tony Simpson On Sabbatical From April 1st – June 30th J
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EASTER 2024 ISSUE 14



'KEEPING US CONNECTED
AT KMC'



What's that
tune?
Answer page 11



EASTER EDITION 2024



SERVICES AT KMC DURING EASTER TO MAY

Services at 10.15 unless stated

March 31st Easter Day Rev Hilary Cheng

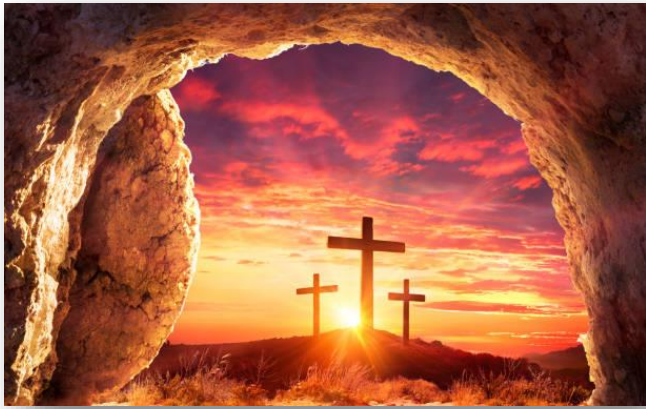
April

- 7 Circuit Service at West Bridgford (all other Circuit Churches Closed)
- 14 Own Arrangement
- 21 8.30 Mark Roberts 10.15 Leo Cheng
- 28 Janet Clark

May

- 5 A 'Vine Service' led by the Stewards
- 12 Helen Fyall HC
- 19 8.30 Mark Roberts 10.15 Rosie Farrow All Age Service
- 26 Marion Crawford

MANSE MUSINGS



This Easter will be a little odd for me because Easter Sunday will be followed on 1 April by a three-month sabbatical that the Methodist Church gifts to its ministers after seven years of 'travelling' – the quaint word we use in Methodism for being a Methodist Minister in 'active work'. That in turn is another odd phrase that bounces around Methodism and means a Minister who is still working as a Minister (as opposed to being retired which we call 'sitting down'). Are you still with me?

All these phrases hark back to the time when the founding fathers of Methodism were

travelling itinerant preachers who went around their Chapels on horseback and were 'sent' to their Chapels each year from the Methodist Conference. We still have the tradition of itinerancy today with Ministers appointed annually to a Circuit with the normal period of service in any given Circuit being five years. If, like me, you were brought up in the Methodist Church then this is all known and understood but the way we operate and the phrases we use can appear quite unusual if not downright confusing to those coming to join us with no history of the Methodist Church to fall back on.

This time of Easter also offers a plethora of words and phrases that are not in general understanding. Most people, I venture, equate 'Easter' with chocolate eggs and fluffy bunnies or yellow chicks. 'Lent' is when we give something up for some archaic reason. As for 'Atonement' and 'Resurrection', let alone 'Christus Victor' or the 'ransom theory'....

As in so many areas of life we can lose ourselves in words and phrases that are seductive and appeal to our sense of belonging to a group that nod and say that they understand these things and so exclude others who don't 'know the language'. Yet the Bible uses no such words.

It talks of a man who is betrayed by a friend; who is charged with a crime that is false using witnesses who do not speak the truth; is abandoned by his friends and who is chosen by a baying crowd, motivated by those who wish to see him dead, to be publicly killed in preference to a convicted murderer who is allowed to go free. After being spat at, whipped, beaten and mocked he is nailed to a cross between two others until he is dead. He is then buried in a borrowed tomb. Yet that is not the end. He appears to his friends after he was supposed to be dead, he talks and eats with them and shows them that he is indeed alive again.

All of this is simple enough. Amazing, yes, but simple in its telling. There are certain beliefs that we need to hold to fully understand the enormity of what this means – that this man, Jesus, was the Son of God for a start - but the story itself is as basic as that. It is a simple message that Jesus came back from the dead and by doing this proved that death was not the end. That there was an eternal, heavenly life after our earthly life and that He proved it by rising from the dead.

May your Easter be a blessed one and may you know the joy of the Risen Christ in your life this day and always. *Rev Tony Simpson*

JELLY BEAN POEM

Red is for the blood he gave, Green is for the grass he made,
Yellow for the sunflowers bright, Black is for the dark of night.
White is for the grace he gave, Orange for the sun he made,
Purple for the hours of sorrow, Pink is for our new tomorrow.
A bag full of jelly beans, colourful and sweet,
It's a prayer of promise, and a Easter treat!



EASTER MEMORIES Anyone for Burnt Salmon?

I spent my childhood in a tiny village in North Norfolk, and our family used to go to church regularly. Our vicar at this time was a rather eccentric man. We all used to go on Easter Day, 7 of us, and when we returned home, Mum would hide our Easter eggs all over the garden, sometimes it would take us ages to find them!

I remember one Easter Day, there was a big congregation and we were all sitting in church listening to the sermon from our 'eccentric' vicar. Half way through the sermon he suddenly paused, and there was a hushed silence, we all wondered what he was going to say. He put his hand to his forehead and thought for a moment. We were all anticipating that maybe he felt unwell..... Then he said,

"Oh no!! I've left the salmon in the oven, and I've got eight people coming for lunch today. It will all be ruined!!"

Everyone stared at him, not knowing what to say. This was in the middle of a serious sermon and he was standing up high on the pulpit. (We wondered if it was a joke). He then asked a member of the congregation to drive to his house and turn his oven off for him, while he carried on with the service!

He was such a strange man..... *Helen Swift*



EASTER FUNNY

What do you get when you cross a rabbit with a shellfish?

An oyster bunny!!!!

GRAB THE PROMISED LAND

'Promised land-grab': What does that phrase mean? Over the centuries we have mined and made, bought and sold. We have conquered the earth. We have made some of us rich and more of us poor. Now – climate change - we are sucking life out of the planet. Is that putting it too strongly? That's what 'promised land-grab'. suggests to me. It doesn't look much like God's picture of the

promised land in the Bible:

'a land of flowing streams... of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees... where you will lack for nothing from whose hills you shall mine copper... where you shall eat your fill, and bless the Lord.' (Deuteronomy 8)

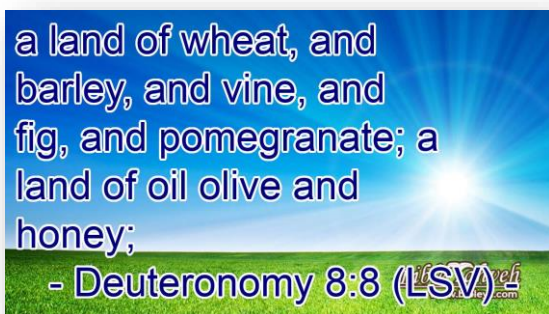
Perhaps, looking back, once God had given us our freedom and the run of the earth, we should not have rushed into creating our own version of the promised land. Like the people in the Old Testament, we should better have spent more time in the wilderness to

prepare ourselves, to find our place in the world, to learn how to use our shared home, to work out how to care well for each other, to live God's way.

The good news is that God gives us a second chance. This is where Jesus comes in. Each year, in Lent, we recall how Jesus went into the wilderness, by himself. He was testing his faith, his conviction that you can't live by bread, material consumption, alone. Jesus represents us all. His faith and conviction are for sharing.

Jesus, famished, said 'no' to bread for himself. He wasn't saying 'no' to prosperity. He was saying 'yes' to God's kind of prosperity; the kind which all can share among ourselves, and our children, prosperity which we understand as a gift from God, not as ours by right.

It was the Jesus, who said 'no' to bread for himself in the wilderness, at the beginning of his ministry, who shared bread with his friends at the Last Supper at the end of it. *Paul Johns*



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

I've been travelling quite a bit on our local Medi-Link buses while Bob has been in the City Hospital (now out, I'm glad to say) and using the connection from the Wilkinson Street Park & Ride. It isn't an area I have known at all before and the ride has been an interesting one. If you know it, you will understand why.

It wasn't so much the architecture or the different shops that caught my attention, though interesting to see the remains of various former works and businesses, and *Captain Cod* (fish & chips, of course) was always a point of reference. It was for me the street names.

Do you ever wonder who comes up with the names of our towns and streets, and what might lie behind the choices? Currently we have the examples of new street names in developments in and around Keyworth; the one nearest to us, Spinners' Croft, presumably has something to do with the past home industry of our area, but the street names are a memorial to some of the local lads who died in World War I. Such names as Armstrong Road, Bennett Gardens, Disney Grove, Hopkinson Close, Lacey Street, Marriott Close, Wilson Avenue, are a constant and right reminder of personal and family sacrifices on which our freedoms are built.

The names I noticed on my short bus rides were somewhat different - from each other and from the usual generalities, and a few spoke to me because of particular memories or thoughts that they conjured up.

I was first amazed to find a small clutch of roads with very far-away references: Suez Street, Cairo Street, Egypt Road and - Zulu Road! What lay behind these? I wondered. From a personal point of view, Egypt has been a place of mysterious attraction since early childhood; in my very first scrapbook there is stuck a much-thumbed article about the discovery of the tomb of King Tut (known more respectfully as the Pharaoh Tutankhamun), but I never



Gully Gully Man

made it there until our dear friends Peter and June, helped by the Maranatha travel group, arranged it. However, as my father had worked in East Africa all through my youth as a district doctor, we did travel between

Africa and England several times, twice on-board ship through the Suez Canal, where we experienced the magic of the famous 'Gully Gully Man', who once told me to throw something over the ship's side, only then to produce it again from his robes intact! And I still have a marvellous green leather pouffe bought about the same time, 65 years ago, from one of the vendors who came alongside in their boats to haggle and pass items up to the deck high above via a system of ropes and pulleys.

So much for Egypt . . . another connection for me was the name Zulu Road, reminiscent of my father's home country of South Africa, one of our visits to grandparents there being by car all the way down through the continent from our then home town in Tanganyika. (*Now part of Tanzania. Ed.*) That was a journey and a half, including a wonderful stay at the Victoria Falls.

Sweet memories. But I wonder what prompted the choice of these far-flung names for one particular little patch of Nottingham. Any suggestions? I passed also other much more 'English' names: Vicarage Road, Perry and Wimbledon Roads (in memory of Fred Perry and his arena of success?) and even Girton Road - what, I asked myself, could be the connection with a famous women's university college? Any ideas out there? And have you come across little clutches of interesting related road names? *Anne Leake*



Anne rides a camel in Egypt!

AN EASTER FUNNY? How does the Easter Bunny stay in shape?

Eggs-ercise

A BRIEF TIME IN THE LIFE OF A PROPERTY STEWARD!

You may recall a poem about volunteers in a previous issue of KeyNotes. So, what follows tells us about some of the recent work carried out by our volunteer Property Stewards.

Not long ago you may remember when you were sitting with your coat on all through the Sunday morning service that the heating was not working, well during January and February that was just the start of it. Yes, the heating boiler broke down but in these 2 months the water boiler broke, the dishwasher broke, the hot water urns were faulty and one toaster kept fusing our electricity supply!

So here is where the Property Stewards come in. First the heating boiler people were contacted and came out and met with the Steward and repaired it. Fortunately, the boiler was under warranty so that was fixed for free. However, the engineer noted a fault in the flue. So, Amy from Resolve Heating & Plumbing was called and Pete came straightaway and fixed it for us for no charge. How blessed we are to have local tradesmen who are willing to come in an instant to save us.

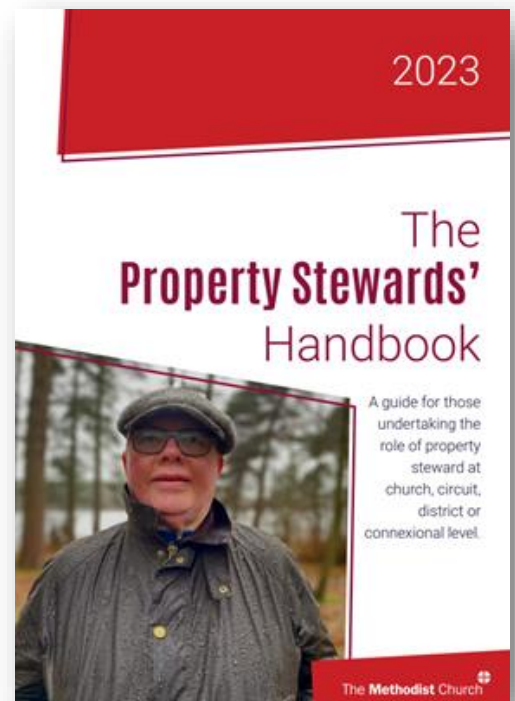
Then there was the hot water boiler on the wall in the kitchen, it stopped boiling water to supply our tea & coffee. It was due for a service so thoughts turned to perhaps a replacement as we had already spent several hundred pounds on it over the last couple of years. So, the Stewards started the task of finding a suitable replacement and we now have a larger capacity item sourced and fitted.

However, whilst the boiler was out of action an urn was brought into use. Little did we know the temperature cut-out was faulty so after a while it 'cut out' but before it boiled the water!! Cue bring out the spare urn which the Steward did. Yes, it worked but we found out it had no temperature cut-out so when left unattended with no one to watch over it, it boiled over and filled the kitchen with steam [then the foyer, then the Hall]. So, a third urn was brought into use, a new one was obtained [the faulty urns were disposed of]. It's a good job the Steward bought a second kettle several months ago as this saved the serving of drinks for us all.

Then the Dishwasher stopped working so our Steward commenced investigations to see if the fuse had gone etc. The 'fuse' in the fuse box would not stay in so Steve Phillips the electrician was called and diagnosed a faulty circuit breaker, this was then fixed. Another job done. Then the Toaster stopped toasting! So, our Steward went out and bought a replacement.

So, what's next, well you never know if January and February were anything to go by. However, we do know there is work to be done on the building as a result of the Quinquennial inspection, so the work of the Property Stewards goes on.

There are of course other Property Stewards and they ensure we have the correct supplies in the right place at the right time. *Alan Withington*



AN EASTER FUNNY?

Did you know that Lord Nelson was only 5 feet 4 inches tall.

His statue in Trafalgar Square is 16 feet tall.

That's Horatio of 3 to 1!!



CUP HALF FULL OR HALF EMPTY?

By Peter Curtis

Are you a 'cup half full' or a 'cup half empty' person? It's just possible some of you are aware that I support a certain football team. After every match I exchange emails with a long-standing friend who supports the same team. His emails are always positive whatever the result. By contrast, he's always accusing me of being a pessimist. I guess that makes me 'half empty'.

Here's a little test for you. In each of the following, which plays the more on your mind?

Score two points if it's the first part of each question, one if it's the second.



First world-wide:

- That all EU members have supported a large aid package for Ukraine, **or** that millions support Trump, Putin, and Netanyahu in their respective countries?
- That Sir David Attenborough is a hero in the eyes of so many, **or** the fact that the world's icecaps and glaciers are shrinking fast?
- That human beings can explore outer space, **or** that so many people live in poverty?
- That at the touch of a button we can communicate with friends and family the other side of the world, **or** that people can go days without seeing another human being?

Now here in the UK:

- The long tradition the UK has of democracy and justice, **or** the possibility that legislation could pronounce a country safe irrespective of evidence?
- That a very highly paid footballer campaigns successfully on the issue of school meals for children, **or** the fact that he feels the need to?
- That we have some of the world's most prestigious medical research facilities, **or** that we apparently lack the resources to provide adequate support for children with severe learning difficulties?
- That Children in Need 2023 realised £44million, **or** that that equates to about 65p per person?

And what about within Methodism?

- That John Wesley was one of the great pioneers in the anti-slavery movement, **or** that it took until 1968 for Methodism in the UK to ordain women?
- That there are some 80 million Methodists worldwide, **or** that Methodist numbers in the UK have decreased to about a quarter of what they were less than a century ago?
- That the Methodist Church played such a prominent role in the formation of the Trades Union Movement, **or** that today's UK Methodism is largely middle class?
- That the Methodist Church practices an 'open table' at Holy Communion, **or** that the debate within Methodism worldwide over gender issues has created such division?

And what about our own church?

- That we are maintaining our membership numbers and welcome new members most years, **or** that even that represents a reduction in proportion to Keyworth's population.
- That we have so many talented people in our church, **or** that we struggle to fill vacancies in important church offices?
- That we have official Prayer, Fellowship and Study Groups, **or** that each is attended by less than a fifth of our members?
- That we have flourishing Toddler Praise worship weekly, **or** that many of our congregation have never witnessed it?

So out of a possible 32, what did you score? 28-32 make you super-optimistic; 24-27 fairly optimistic; 20-23 rather pessimistic; 16-19, well that leaves you pretty well where my friend thinks I am with my football team!

But here's a handful of further thoughts:

- Just over 2000 years ago a man was born in a small Judaeen town who would become the most spoken of person in world history.
- Pretty well exactly 2000 years ago that man, accompanied by a travelling group of men and women and an inner circle of twelve, wandered through Galilee and set in motion a movement that the world's strongest powers have never managed to resist.
- "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."
(Mother Teresa)
- If I am capable of loving one fellow human being, then I have within me something of the utmost importance and power.
- The greatest darkness cannot extinguish the smallest light.
- Easter occurs annually.



Grounds for optimism?

HAVE YOU A FEW MINUTES TO SPARE - QUESTIONS ANSWERS ON PAGE 11

A Puzzle for Lent and Easter

As we move through Lent and approach Easter, here's a word puzzle to exercise the brain. Can you think of words that contain the letters '**LENT**' consecutively and are synonyms for the clues? Example: Clue – aggressively forceful; answer – violent

Clues

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Soundless | 2 Persistent | 3 Having mixed feelings | 4 Sweetheart |
| 5 Well-wishing | 6 Extremely well done | 7 Dishonestly | 8 Skilled |
| 9 Gradually deceasing | 10 Tending towards fatness | 11 Tasty and juicy | |
| 12 In a disordered and chaotic manner | 13 Defiantly argumentative | | |
| 14 Two the same | 15 Causing serious infection | 16 In abundance | |
| 17 Troubled by wind | 18 Wishing ill | 19 Good in soups | 20 Causing disgust |

Word search: Can you find the names of sixteen (16) of the 66 books of the Bible hidden in this paragraph?

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible (merely by a fluke). It kept people looking so hard for the facts and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the name of the books were not capitalized, but the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now. There really are sixteen names of books in this story.

AN EASTER PROMISE

If we but had the eyes to see God's face in every cloud,
If we but had the ears to hear his voice above the crowd,
If we could feel His gentle touch in every Springtime breeze
And find a haven in His arms 'neath sheltering, leafy trees...
If we could just lift up our hearts like flowers to the sun
And trust His Easter Promise and pray, "thy will be done",
We'd find the peace we're seeking, the kind no man can give,
The peace that comes from knowing He Died So We Might Live!

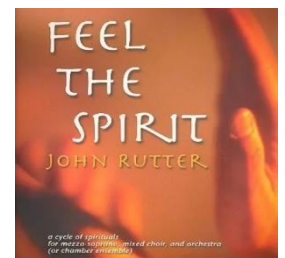
Helen Steiner Rice



KEYWORTH CHOIR CONCERT APRIL 13TH

Keyworth Choir are performing their Easter concert in our church on **Saturday 13th April - 7.30pm.** This year the programme will feature two works – ***Feel the Spirit*** by John Rutter, and excerpts from Handel's ***Messiah***.

Feel the Spirit is a cycle of seven familiar spirituals including 'Steal away', 'Deep river' and 'When the saints go marching in' with vivid and expressive arrangements by John Rutter. The arrangement is for a mezzo-soprano soloist and mixed choir and the choir's regular alto soloist, Rosemary Braddy, will join the choir to take the lead role.



Handel's ***Messiah*** is a well-known, well-loved work, and was performed for a number of years as a sing-a-long version at Keyworth Methodist Church - originally initiated by Derek Oakley. The choir will be performing some of the popular choruses from the Messiah, including 'For unto us a child is born', 'Surely he hath borne our griefs', 'Hallelujah chorus', and the final part - 'Worthy is the lamb'.

Tickets are now available at £12 each. Please contact Maureen Payne or Malcolm Shaw if you would like tickets. *Malcom S*

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE'RE TOO OLD TO BE USEFUL?

This is perhaps a question that many of us may have asked ourselves as our golden locks turn to grey, or our hairline recedes and suncream is required for the bald patch as soon as the sun comes out.

But with age comes experience and knowledge - and more time to browse idly on the internet! So, while researching various articles about pensions recently, I discovered all sorts of fascinating facts associated with their origin. For instance, pensions for soldiers date back at least as far as ancient Rome, but they didn't spread beyond the military until Bismarck in the 19th century.

A man called John Janeway, who fought in the American Civil War of 1861-1865 must surely hold the record for the longest time a payout was made on a pension! He received a military pension which included benefits for a surviving spouse when he died. However, since he married an 18-year-old when he was 81, the army was still paying his wife, Gertrude, a widow's pension in 2003, nearly 140 years after the war ended. Over the centuries, various civilisations have developed on each continent and whilst tiny fragments of the originals have survived in very remote and isolated places, in the main there is a degree of 'homogeneity' now between all the continents.

Their 'uniqueness' has been 'tainted', if you like, by the multitudes of explorers, scientists, television documentaries, 'progress' and the internet - but pockets of ancient civilisations do still exist in very remote places, even today.



This pleasant looking chap here, for instance, is a member of the Aché tribe in eastern Paraguay - a group of indigenous nomadic hunter-gatherers - who traditionally lived in small groups, relying on wild forest resources for their survival.

"I customarily killed old women. They all died, there by the big river. I didn't used to wait until they were completely dead to bury them. The women were afraid of me."

No wonder!! - and he looks such a nice chap too! He explained that grandmothers did help with chores and babysitting, but when they got too old to be useful, you couldn't afford to be sentimental about it. Meanwhile, Aché custom dictated a different

'fate' for the old men, they were just sent away..... and told never to return!

Among the Kualong people of Papua New Guinea, when a woman's husband died, it was apparently her son's solemn duty to strangle her; whilst in the Arctic, the Chukchi encouraged old people to kill themselves, with the promise of rewards in the afterlife.

Thankfully, many other tribes took a very different approach, in which the young had to 'do as the old say' and they were called gerontocracies. "Wishful thinking," we western parents might think - however some of these tribes even expected adults to pre-chew food for their aged and toothless parents! I'm not too sure who gets the worst out of that deal!

So, what obligations should we owe to our elders and what do we 'expect' of our descendants? The answers have varied widely if those surviving traditional societies are any guide and it looks as if there may have to be some hard-nosed 'trade-offs'.

Would you prefer to have your food lovingly pre-chewed by your daughter, or an axe swung at you by your son - dependent obviously on what, if any, benefits we can offer our 'tribe'! Once upon a time we relied on our elders to store knowledge and instruct the young, but now, knowledge dates so quickly - and who needs a Grandma when we have computers and Wikipedia?

Most of this, whilst true, is obviously written rather 'tongue in cheek', but it's an interesting thought - what does happen when we are too old to be useful? Does endless babysitting, lifts, help with homework, interest-free loans, free 'counselling', DIY help etc etcstill count as being useful? 'Ideas on a postcard' please - or you can please Geoff enormously by coming up with some fantastic ideas and thoughts for the next KeyNotes. *Mary Glodkowski*

STEP BY STEP

He does not lead me year by year
nor even day by day,
But step by step my path unfolds;
my Lord directs my way.

Tomorrow's plans I do not know,
I only know this minute;
But He will say, "This is the way,
by faith now walk ye in it."

And I am glad it is so,
today's enough to bear;
And when tomorrow comes,
His grace shall far exceed its care.

What need to worry then, or fret? The God who gave His Son
Holds all my moments in His hand and gives them, one by one.

by Barbara Cornet Ryberg

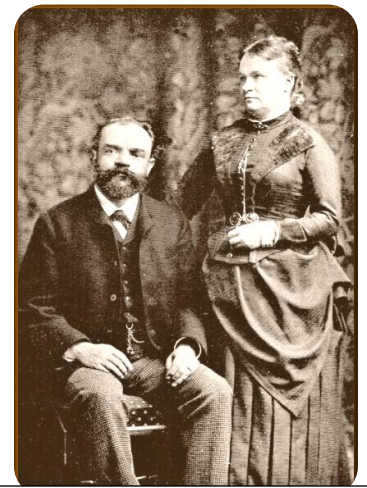


DID DVORAK AND HIS TUBA PLAYER FALL OUT?

As many of you know I play the tuba in our Church Music Group, and also in a Brass Quintet and an Orchestra. For more than 10 years I have played with the Djanogly Community Orchestra which rehearses at the Djanogly Sherwood Academy and performs three times a year. During the second half of our March Concert we played Antonin Dvořák's 'New World' Symphony which was first performed in New York in December 1893. This is not a happy experience for most tuba players. Of the four movements, the tuba has a part in just one! – The second movement - entitled 'Largo' which means slow and broadly.

The tuba part has just 15 notes, 7 near the beginning, 7 near the end of the movement and 1 in the middle! And that is it for the whole of the symphony!

Many people have wondered why Dvořák did this after using the instrument more extensively in earlier works. One theory is that Dvořák suspected that his wife Anna, with whom he had nine children, was having a flirtatious relationship with his orchestra's tuba player. Dvořák was so angry he did not include a tuba part for the 9th but later decided to add the 15 notes so the tuba player would have to go on tour with the orchestra and be away from his wife! It is certainly true that for professional tuba players they earn more per note in the 9th Symphony than in any other piece!!!



Antonin and Anna Dvořák

But that is not all the story. The well-respected Canadian conductor Robert Ryker was once the principal tuba player for the Montreal Symphony orchestra. Not wishing to sit quietly for all but 15 notes he wrote himself a tuba part for Dvořák's 9th symphony, playing in the 1st, 2nd and 4th movements, leaving the second movement as Dvořák had written it. The leader of our orchestra found out that Ryker's arrangement was available on line at 'Wessex Tubas' which I found, downloaded and I

managed to play most of my notes correctly! Indeed, we enjoyed a resounding ovation! *Geoff D*

HOW IS OUR CHURCH GOVERNED? Your Questions Answered



Given that we have greeted a few new members of late, it was suggested that I explain the role that members can play in the running of the Church here at Keyworth.

There is a history of Methodist links with the formation of Trade Unions and so it is not too surprising that there are similarities in the structure of governance between the two but there are also similarities with businesses and I often use the analogy that I set out here.

All members are eligible to attend and vote at what we call the 'General Church Meeting' This is, if you like, the shareholders meeting to which all are invited to attend. Anybody else with an interest in the church here at Keyworth are also able to attend and express opinions but only church members are able to vote.

The General Church Meeting appoints the Church Council to oversee the running of the church for the following year – in effect the Church Council is the Board of Directors who look after the church on behalf of the General Church Meeting to which they are answerable each year, much like shareholders can hold the board of directors to account.

It is the Church Council who make the major decisions during the year and so it is important that those serving on the Church Council represent a broad spectrum of views across all those who belong to the church. For example, we have Rebecca as our Young People and Families Worker on the Church Council to represent the views of those she ministers to. We also have a representative from the music group as well as a representative from the Worship and Ministry Committee.

There are other specific positions that have to be filled on the Church Council – Treasurer, Secretary, Pastoral Secretary – but the majority of the Church Council is made up of people elected at the General Church Meeting to represent the views of the members through the year and make decisions on their behalf.

Beyond this there are various sub-groups that are set up under the auspices of the Church Council to manage specific areas of church life such as finance, property and our outreach through the Pastoral Visitors.

The day to day running of the church falls to the Stewards, aided by others, who are responsible for making sure that worship happens as planned and that the life of the church is maintained. They are, in effect the management team who are answerable to the Church Council but are given clear parameters within which they can make decisions. Between them the Stewards attend most, if not all, of the other meetings so that they stay informed as to what is happening across the whole life of the church and this helps them to plan and arrange whatever needs to be done to further the life of the church and bring others into the knowledge of God. As a church we need people willing to take on the role of Steward as it is a vital link across the whole life of the church at Keyworth and the Stewards (and there has to be a minimum number of Stewards to fulfil our rules as a church).

It is important to note that the Stewards don't have to do all of this themselves, just to make sure that somebody does it or has the resources required. A good example is the recent Church Anniversary and Concert. There were many, many people involved across the whole range of church people – finance, catering, music, the 'turns' – all co-ordinated so that everything fell into place and ensured that a good time was had by all. The different gifts and graces that we all possess were pulled together into a coherent whole that made the whole weekend a joyful one.

All of this relies on people being engaged in the governance of the church, through the Church Council and its various bodies so that what happens at Keyworth Methodist Church is what its members want to see happen. So be engaged; it's your church fellowship that is part of the wider Methodist Church that worships God. *Rev Tony Simpson*

HAVE YOU A FEW MINUTES TO SPARE - ANSWERS

A Puzzle for Lent and Easter

1 Silent 2 Relentless 3 Ambivalent 4 Valentine 5 Benevolent 6 Excellently
7 Fraudulently 8 Talented 9 Rallentando 10 Corpulent 11 Succulent
12 Turbulently 13 Truculent 14 Equivalents 15 Pestilential
16 Plentiful 17 Flatulent 18 Malevolent 19 Lentils 20 Repellent

Word search: Did you find the names of sixteen of the 66 books of the Bible??

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible (merely by a fluke). It kept people looking so hard for the facts and for others, it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the name of the books were not capitalized, but the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others, it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now. There really sixteen names of books in this story. *Rebecca B*

What's that Tune? 'Ride on Ride on in Majesty'

WIDMERPOOL SCHOOL 1922

Do you recognise anyone?

Our thanks to Judith White who emailed this photo of her mother and her school friends. You will find her Mum - Edith May Toghill, on the far right of the top row.

So, does anybody recognise or have any family connection with any of the six boys and eleven girls from the photo?

The little lad on the front row looks none too happy sitting amongst the girls and I don't think the teacher was having a good day either!

Do let me know if you spot someone!

Geoff D



FROM THE BRIDGE



It is customary for the Captain of a passenger ship to issue a bulletin every day at noon, from his control room, high on the ship with all round visibility. All other broadcasts cease and his message can be heard from every loudspeaker on the ship. Some years ago, we were on a ship where the Captain always signed off with the words,

“ And from the Bridge, all is well.”

They are words that come to my mind with a much wider meaning when it seems dark clouds and threatening seas surround us.

'From the Bridge, all is well.' *Christine Cooke*

HAPPENSTANCE

We are always meeting people and it enriches our lives if we stop to chat and exchange pleasantries. Keyworth Methodist Church has made me so very welcome and I have been delighted to catch up with friends from the past and to make new friends.

On Mothering Sunday some folks from Belvoir Vale Home joined us for the service and for a cuppa afterwards. I sat down next to a charming gentleman from the Home and of course we got chatting. It turns out that his daughter lives next door to my daughter in Old Dalby. What are the chances? Why did he come to Church that day? Why did I sit next to him? That our paths crossed for those few minutes is just one of many coincidences we experience in our lives. *Clare Franklin*



MISSION FOR KENYA

On June 8th you are invited to supper at Keyworth Methodist Church and to hear from **Deacon Sue Fry** about her work in Kenya.

In the past 15 years Sue has set up and funded a nursery school in Western Kenya, as well as running Sunday School teacher training courses in villages across the Western Synod. Her work is mainly in the slums of Kisumu.

In the last year Sue has been collecting items to take to Kenya.

You will be seeing notices soon about items being collected to take to Kenya. Please see Linda Duncalf for more information.

Sue will be with us for supper on **Saturday June 8th** when she will be able to tell us more about her work in Kenya, and she will be preaching on **Sunday June 9th** at our morning service.

It would be good if we could have a supper with some Kenyan Recipes! If anyone has suggestions or would be willing to make something for the evening please contact June Curtis.



T-shirts and school dresses were very popular.



Our give-away stall at the free medical camp.



Linda was kept busy fitting children with clothes.



There was great surprise that anything was free.

TIME TO DISCOVER

We restarted the year with three meetings on - shared 'Objects of Faith', on War, Peace, and Hope with Andy Fyall, and on 'Eternity'. Currently during Lent, we are hosting, on Thursday evenings, one of the Churches Together groups based on the film 'The Man Who Knew Infinity' which tells the true story of a young mathematical prodigy from India who was encouraged to go to Trinity College Cambridge. This has led to wide ranging discussions including on cultural and faith differences, science and religion etc.

We restart after Easter on April 11th, and fortnightly thereafter (though not April 25th which is the church AGM), with topics yet to be arranged. As always, see KMC weekly notices for updated details, and for hosting addresses.

Our meetings are open to any who may wish to come along – whether regularly or whether just for an occasional topic of interest. And if so, it can be helpful to hosts if you let the host or myself know beforehand. If you want to know more about the group, just contact Robin Wilcockson. *Robin*



U3A EXPLORING WORLD FAITHS



We continue to normally meet on the third Friday afternoon of each month at 2.00 pm in the Centenary Lounge of the Village Hall, although occasionally we have a visit instead.

Back in January our topic was 'Religion and English Culture' introduced by David Charles, and in February, Peter Curtis gave an informative review of 'Scriptures of the Major World Faiths'.

Very recently our March event was the rearranged visit to an Eastern Orthodox Church at Carlton Hill. (see photo) This proved to be a most interesting visit, with the church in the former Main Street Methodist Church building, but inside festooned with most impressive icons. The church is of the 'Slavic' (Russian) tradition with a congregation ranging from Ukrainian, Russian, and former



Soviet bloc countries, who have, over the years, found sanctuary here in the UK, but also with a good number of members formerly with other mainstream Christian churches. They draw from a wide area, from East Anglia to South Yorkshire, with Sunday morning services standing up (!) for some two hours!

Our forward programme is still being developed and includes the topic of 'The Five Pillars of Islam' in April, and possibly later in the year a guided tour visit, to Southwell Minster.

In our group we have participants from various faiths (and indeed no-faith) backgrounds, and with a good representation from KMC. If you are interested in coming along, please contact Robin Wilcockson to find how to join u3a, if not already a member. *Robin*

(In reading Robin's report of the visit to a Russian Orthodox church I was reminded of this letter that Tony Simpson read out in a recent service at KMC)

MOTHER THEKLA'S LETTER TO A NEW CONVERT

Dear "John",

I understand that you are on the way to becoming Orthodox. I know nothing about you, beyond the fact that you are English. Before we go any further, there is one point I should make clear. I have not been told why you are about to convert, but I assure you there is no point whatsoever if it is for negative reasons. You will find as much "wrong" (if not more so) in Orthodoxy as in the Anglican or Roman Churches.

So – the first point is, are you prepared to face lies, hypocrisy, evil and all the rest, just as much in Orthodoxy as in any other religion or denomination? Are you expecting a kind of earthly paradise with plenty of incense and the right kind of music? Do you expect to go straight to heaven if you cross yourself slowly, pompously and in the correct form from the right side? Have you a cookery book with all the authentic Russian recipes for Easter festivities? Are you an expert in kissing three times on every possible or improper occasion? Can you prostrate elegantly without dropping a variety of stationery out of your pockets?

OR.....

Have you read the Gospels? Have you faced Christ crucified? In the spirit have you attended the Last Supper – the meaning of Holy Communion?

AND....

Are you prepared, in all humility, to understand that you will never, in this life, know beyond Faith; that Faith means accepting the Truth without proof. Faith and knowledge are the ultimate contradiction –and the ultimate absorption into each other. Living Orthodoxy is based on paradox, which is carried on into worship – private or public. We know because we believe and we believe because we know. Above all, are you prepared to accept all things as from God? If we are meant, always, to be "happy", why the Crucifixion? Are you prepared, whatever happens, to believe that somewhere, somehow, it must make sense?



Mother Thekla aged 93

That does not mean passive endurance, but it means constant vigilance, listening, for what is demanded; and above all, LOVE. Poor, old, sick, to our last breath, we can love. Not sentimental nonsense so often confused with love, but the love of sacrifice – inner crucifixion of greed, envy, pride. And never confuse love with sentimentality. And never confuse worship with affectation.

Be humble – love, even when it is difficult. Not sentimental so-called love – And do not treat church worship as a theatrical performance!

I hope that some of this makes sense,

With my best wishes,

Mother Thekla

(sometime Abbess of the Monastery of the Assumption, Normanby North Yorkshire)

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES' WORKER UPDATE

We have had a busy term with 'Open the Book,' visiting local Primary schools looking at the stories of King Josiah and from the New Testament, 'The Widows Mite'.

Toddler Praise enjoyed their all-age worship when members of Keyworth Churches, were invited to join in and experience the singing, Bible Story, Craft and Prayer of Toddler Praise.

In Junior Church we have been looking at the story of Moses and beginning to follow the Easter story. But, one event which has returned after its 6-year break was Mini Time Travelling!

The last time we 'Time Travelled' with Key Stage One children from all our local Primary schools was in 2018. It had been planned for March 2020 but of course, covid put paid to that!

So Mini Time Travelling returned this year with volunteers from 4 of the Keyworth Churches hosted by St Mary Magdalene's. We saw a total of over 200 children, staff and parent helpers from Willowbrook, Bunny, Keyworth and Crossdale schools. Each school came for either one morning or one afternoon session and explored the Easter Story and Prayer. They made music with bells and waved palm leaves outside the Church (maybe you saw them and waved back?), served each other refreshments and spoke about the importance of communion, made a beautiful flower cross (*see photo*) so that each school could display them and talked about new life – through pictures – and explored the different aspects of prayer ('Thank you', 'Sorry,' 'Please, 'You are Special').



We will soon be starting to organise the restart of our 'Holiday Club' which will take place at the beginning of the Summer holidays. This year it will be for two mornings on Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th of July and we look forward to welcoming primary school aged children to explore different Bible stories through games, crafts, activities, songs and lots of fun! *Rebecca B*

IF JESUS CAME TO YOUR HOUSE

If Jesus came to your house to spend a day or two -

If he came unexpectedly, I wonder what you'd do.

Oh, I know you'd give your nicest room to such an honoured guest,
And all the food you'd serve to Him would be the very best,

And you would keep assuring him you're glad to have him there -

That serving him in your own home is joy beyond compare.

But when you saw him coming, would you meet him at the door
With arms outstretched in welcome to your heavenly visitor?

Or would you have to change your clothes before you let him in?

Or hide some magazines and put the Bible where they'd been?

Would you turn off the radio and hope he hadn't heard?

And wish you hadn't uttered that last, loud, hasty word?



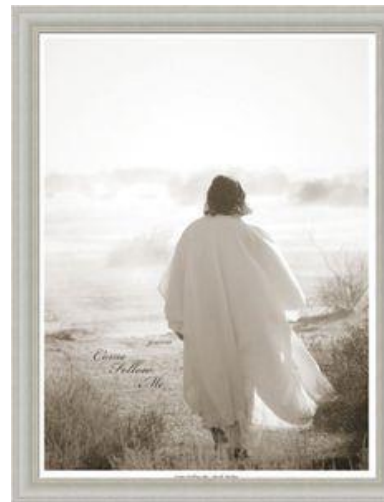
Would you hide your worldly music and put some hymn books out?
Could you let Jesus walk right in, or would you rush about?
And I wonder - if the Saviour spent a day or two with you,
Would you go right on doing the things you always do?

Would you go right on saying the things you always say?
Would life for you continue as it does from day to day?
Would your family conversation keep up its usual pace?
And would you find it hard each meal to say a table grace?

Would you sing the songs you always sing, and read the books you read,
And let him know the things on which your mind and spirit feed?
Would you take Jesus with you everywhere you'd planned to go?
Or would you, maybe, change your plans for just a day or so?

Would you be glad to have him meet your very closest friends?
Or would you hope they'd stay away until his visit ends?
Would you be glad to have him stay forever on and on?
Or would you sigh with great relief when he at last was gone?
It might be interesting to know the things that you would do
If Jesus Christ in person came to spend some time with you.

by Lois Blanchard Eades



A PRAYER FOR PEACE

As the fever of day calms towards twilight
May all that is strained in us come to ease.

We pray for all who suffered violence today,
May an unexpected serenity surprise them.

For those who risk their lives each day for peace,
May their hearts glimpse providence at the heart of history.

That those who make riches from violence and war
Might hear in their dreams the cries of the lost.

That we might see through our fear of each other
A new vision to heal our fatal attraction to aggression.

That those who enjoy the privilege of peace
Might not forget their tormented brothers and sisters.

That the wolf might lie down with the lamb,
That our swords be beaten into ploughshares

And no hurt or harm be done
Anywhere along the holy mountain.

*John O'Donohue, Irish poet and philosopher
(included in the Lenten service at St Margaret Clitherow)*



THE NEXT EDITION – SEPTEMBER 2024

After consulting with church friends, we have decided to Publish KeyNotes three times a year. There will now be an Easter, Harvest and Christmas edition published around April, September and early December. All will be printed, and usually delivered by Pastoral Visitors; an email copy will also be available.

My thanks to all who contributed to this 14th edition of KeyNotes and my apologies to anyone whose contribution I may have missed! So, you have almost five months to be inspired.

The first Keeping Connected was published on March 22nd 2020 and around 60 editions were delivered until October 2021. Since then, KeyNotes has taken over - so I hope you will continue to support this venture at Keyworth Methodist Church. Geoff D

And a final Easter Funny! Why do cows have hooves instead of feet? **Because they lactose!**