

Keyworth Methodist Church

Minister Website KeyNotes Editor
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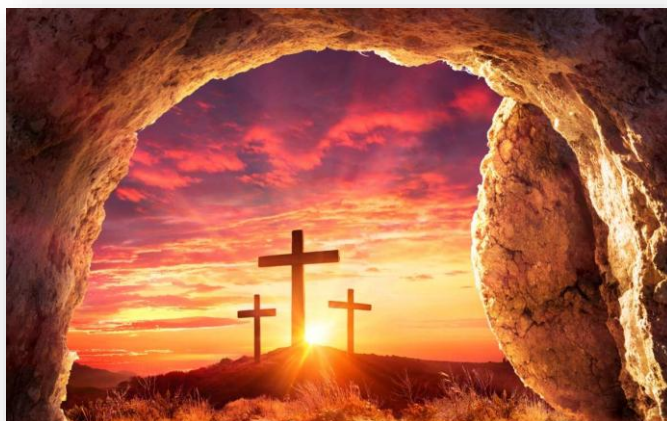
EASTER 2026 ISSUE 20



'KEEPING US CONNECTED AT KMC'



What's that tune?
Answer page 14



EASTER EDITION 2026

SERVICES AT KMC DURING EASTER TO MAY

Services at 10.15 unless stated

April	2nd	7.00 p.m. Maundy Thursday	3rd	9.00 a.m. Good Friday
	5th	Easter Day Rev Helen Fyall H.C.		
	12th	Leo Cheng		
	19th	8.30 Rev Mark Roberts H.C.	10.15	Peter Whitney
	26th	Rev Dr Simon Cartwright		

May 3rd Rev Roger Hoath 10th Douglas Kerr
17th 8.30 Rev Helen Fyall H.C. 10.15 Rev Helen Fyall
24th Rev Michael Lees HC
25th Circuit Service at West Bridgford MC

MANSE MUSINGS

Dear Friends,

Since reading the invitation to think about our most memorable and meaningful Easter, I have relived many different experiences ranging from sunrise services in various locations, being in a caravan in the snow in the early 1980's and celebrating at my brother's church in Perth, Western Australia, last year. But the strongest and most precious moment for me is from Easter Day 2000 when I gave Holy Communion to our daughter, Hannah, aged 2, who held the piece of bread in her tiny hand like it was a piece of gold and her face held a sense of wonder and reverence that I'd not seen before. What a privilege.

As Easter comes again there is much to contemplate and celebrate. We have four major festivals within eight days, going from the excitement of Palm Sunday, through the peace of the Passover meal of Mandy Thursday to the harrowing pain of Good Friday and ending with the joy of Easter Day itself. Which of those days speaks to you the most? It may depend on what you feel on the day.

For those who have had the experience of visiting Jerusalem and walked the road from Bethany into the city walls, Palm Sunday will have a special meaning. 'Hosanna' the people cried; 'save us and help us.' We still share their hope for change.

For some, Holy Communion is made extra special by celebrating it on the 'exact' day, gathering round the table just as Jesus did with his disciples. 'This is my body,' must have been shocking and confusing for them to hear, words which we are in danger of hearing without really knowing what it took out of Jesus.

The events of Good Friday are almost too painful to endure, I know some who find going to church that day too emotionally disturbing. 'Father forgive' is never said too often.

Finally, we reach Easter Day. We rejoice in our Saviour who is risen, risen indeed, for us and for all the world. These are not just events of the past but hold promises for us today:

Jesus comes, Jesus gives, Jesus dies, Jesus saves.

To be at every service gives the full impact, the progression of emotions as we go with Jesus through this momentous week.

Even if you can't be there in person, I encourage you to take the opportunity to read the story in the gospels and discover Christ's presence in a new and real way. This Easter, know that God in Jesus has done something life changing for us all and we too can hold out our hands like Hannah, to receive God's most precious gift in Jesus.

With love and prayers,

Helen.

A PRAYER FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

God of love, as we see and hear the news of the devastating violence wrought upon and within the Middle East, we hold your broken world before you in prayer,

We pray for lives lost, for people who mourn, and for those living in fear.

We pray for people stranded and in need of safe routes and safe harbours.

We long for peace and pray that those who wage war might exchange weapons for words.

Help us to know how to pray, how to speak and how to act,

that we might remember our call to follow the Prince of Peace, in whose name we pray,

Amen.



THE CREATOR AND THE ARTIST

Is it just an empty canvas
without colour, shape or form?
Do we need to have different paints
from when the picture's born?

Give us some yellow Lord,
the colours of the Sun,
the brightness of creation,
where life has just begun.

Let us have some green
for the fields and the trees,
and yellow for the flowers
for the swarms of honey bees.

What about some blue, my Lord,
for the oceans, and the sky.
A place where all the fish can swim
and birds can fly up high.

Can I have a dab of pink
for the colour of my skin,
now I am in the picture
of the world you put me in?

If there is no artist,
then paintings can't exist,
we need to have a creator,
a painter in our midst.

Every stroke of colour
laid gently with his love,
from our heavenly father,
watching from above.

Francis Parnham

CHOCOLATES!

Being born towards the end of World War Two I was born into a time of rationing, including sweets and chocolates. I don't remember getting Easter eggs when I was little, possibly because they were not yet available but at some point in my childhood, I do remember that at weekends my family shared a small box of Black Magic, a real treat!

Soon after I started school at the age of five, I became ill and was confined to my bedroom for weeks on end. Our family doctor was called in but had no idea what was wrong. I was running a temperature and was given penicillin but I did not improve.

My dad was a Methodist pastor, responsible for nine little churches in villages in North Norfolk and spent a lot of time visiting the members of these churches. Word soon got around that his little girl was not well and confined to bed and often dad would return home with bars of chocolate for me, generously given by people out of their meagre sweet/chocolate allowance. these were still rationed and would continue to be so until 1953. But as I lay there in a darkened room feeling really ill, chocolates had no appeal whatsoever and so they were put away in the top drawer of a large chest of drawers in my room, to be eaten later when I felt better and soon the drawer became quite full.

The weeks went by and still I did not improve. In the meantime, my brother often popped in to say hello and to ask if he could maybe have a bit of chocolate! I was more than happy for him to take what he wanted.

Nobody ever discovered what my illness was. With further medical information in later years, I believe I had TB (we were still drinking unpasteurised milk, collected from a local farm). Mysteriously one day I started to get better and eventually returned to school after an absence of over three months.

Needless to say, by the time I felt like eating chocolate and looked in the drawer, most of it had gone! *Gwyn S*



WHAT AN EASTER!

On Palm Sunday 1995 we headed off on a 'Curtis' trip to the Holy Land, leaving Gatwick at 9.20 and landing at Tel Aviv at 3.30. and were soon in our hotel close to Jerusalem. On the days that followed we visited many amazing sites almost too many to remember!

Holy Monday

Besides visiting the Wailing Wall and Temple Mount, the Al-Aqsa Mosque, and the Dome of the Rock, we visited Bethlehem bowing low as we entered the small doorway of the Church of the Nativity and quietly contemplated the small silver starred cave marking the place of Jesus's birth.

Holy Tuesday

First, we were driven to the top of the Mount of Olives so we could walk down to the Garden of Gethsemane with views of the Holy City. Later we walked into Jerusalem through the Lion's Gate and up the Via Dolorosa imagining Jesus carrying his cross to Golgotha now marked by the Church of the Holy Sepulchre which covers the traditional site of the crucifixion. We watched pilgrims kissing the stone of unction that marks the place where the body of Jesus was prepared for burial. Later we visited St Anne's Crusader Church, built in the 12th century close to the Bethesda pool built over a grotto believed to be the childhood home of Mary. It has the most wonderful acoustics and we tested them by singing

'All People that on Earth do Dwell and 'The Lords my Shepherd.'

Spy Wednesday



This day included an exciting visit via a cable car to the massive Hill Fort of Masada passing the 'Good Samaritan Inn', floating in a stormy Dead Sea where I managed to read the Methodist



Recorder and was then covered with black mud washed off by hot salty water!

Maundy Thursday

We journeyed South into the Negev Desert, visiting ancient caves, a huge crater, Abraham's Well and a kibbutz.

Good Friday

We headed back North calling in at Jericho and the ancient walls and journeyed up the Jordan valley visiting the amazing remains of the Roman Town of Beit She'an, the Mount of Transfiguration - Mount Tabor and finally our hotel in Tiberius by the Sea of Galilee.

Low Saturday

This was an amazing day visiting Magdala, home of Mary Magdalene, sitting by the Lebanese border, (see photo) driving through the foothills of snowcapped Mount Hermon and around the Golan Heights overlooking the Syrian border and onto the 'Peace Vista,' East of the Sea of Galilee with Tiberius and Capernaum in the distance.



For lunch we had a meal including St Peter's fish, caught in the lake before heading down to the Jordan river watching Coptic Christmas being baptised in white robes. Here we filled a bottle with Jordan water that was, years later, used to baptise our grandson, Franklin Hendry.

Easter Day 1995.

This special day began with a short journey to the Tiberius Quay where we boarded a large boat, sailing out into the middle of the Sea of Galilee which all of us had heard of so many times as we had listened to, or read the stories of Jesus and his friends. The weather could not have been better, clear blue skies, surrounded by hills and no chance of a storm on the lake! We all joined in with the Hymn, 'Dear Lord and Father of mankind forgive our foolish ways', and many tears were shed as we reached the third verse.

*O Sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with Thee
the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love!*



**Sailing out onto the Lake with
Marjorie Bradshaw**

What an Easter!

Whenever Galilee is mentioned in the Gospels I think of that fabulous Easter morning. *Geoff D*

MY EASTER STORY

When my husband Peter and I lived in Asfordby near Melton Mowbray, I made an Easter Bonnet. The hat was purchased from Poundland and I decorated it with chickens and Easter eggs with a ribbon around the outside. At St Mary's church in Melton Mowbray, I paraded in it with a few others. Although I did not win the

competition it was the taking part that was important to me. Later, at the Parish Church I wore my bonnet to Sunday Mass. People told me that I have done a good job so I felt very proud.

My favourite Easter Hymn is, 'There is a green hill far away.' It reminds me of the pain Jesus felt when he was hung up on a tree. In suffering he died for us all and for all the sins in this world and the next *Rosemary Iliffe*

A PRAYER FROM THE HOLY LAND

We pray for people around the world.

Oh Bethlehem, house of bread, under your skies the angels sang their song and in your humble surroundings the Creator's life on earth began.

Oh, Bethlehem's child, Prince of Peace, fill the world, we pray, with a hunger for justice that deep and lasting peace may come to the land of your birth.

Oh Jerusalem, city of God, outside these walls your divine hands were pierced, eternity held its breath as you were laid to rest in a borrowed tomb.

Oh Jerusalem, witness to your Resurrection, we pray that new life may triumph over destruction, fear, violence, oppression and death, and radiate from these streets to the whole world.

In the name of the incarnate, crucified and risen God, Amen.

David Hardman, Methodist Liaison Officer, Jerusalem



HAVE YOU A FEW MINUTES TO SPARE? A Puzzle for Lent and Easter

As we move towards the end of Lent and approach Easter, here's a hymnbook-based puzzle to exercise the brain. It's not easy, but if it encourages us to read our hymns it will have achieved its purpose.

Can you identify which hymns from *Singing the Faith*, all relating to Lent or the suffering of Jesus, contain the following lines or couplets?

CLUES

1. All the vain things that charm me most
2. Come, hated Lover, and gather us near
3. Come sinners, see your Maker die, and say, was ever grief like his?
4. He came to share temptation, our utmost woe and loss
5. Mine, mine was the transgression, but thine the deadly pain
6. So if Satan pressing hard, soul and body would destroy
7. Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble
8. Tempted, taunted, yet undaunted, through the desert thou didst go
9. He will not ask the fickle crowd's acclaim
10. There I walk amid the shades, while the lingering twilight fades
11. There was no other good enough to pay the price of sin
12. The scars that speak of sacrifice
13. This is where faith discovers the length to which Love goes
14. To make the earth the place in which the kingdom comes
15. 'Use your power,' the tempter tells him: 'turn these barren rocks to bread!'
16. Waiting for the traitor's kiss
17. We wondered if we'd ever live in peace again
18. What makes this rage and spite? He made the lame to run ...
19. Who could ever have conceived it? Who could trace God's hand behind it ... ?
20. When we are tempted to barter our souls

ANSWERS ON PAGE 14

A RABBIT HOLE

In 1930 my mother's favourite brother Dickie (my uncle) married Doreen, a junior school teacher at my mother's school Mattock Lodge in Ealing. They met at a school dance. Dick and Doreen had twins, Peter and Vryan in 1931 & Deirdre in 1936 (Yes, she will be 90 this year and sadly the twins are no longer alive, but they both made it to being 90!)

And the Rabbit Hole? I started to research Doreen and her side of the family. Her mother Jessie had married Herbert in 1894 and Doreen was born in 1895 followed by her brother Desmond two years later. The marriage ended in divorce in 1900 and I found all the documents on line: "Adultery coupled with cruelty towards petitioner," so it was Jessie who had filed for divorce. Really quite something in those days.

Then in 1901, Jessie marries a widower, Percy, with a 15-month-old baby boy: his wife had died due to complications in childbirth. Again, you have to think of the times they were living in. A woman with two young children and a man with a small baby: much better for them to join forces and marry. Then another baby comes along for the next 3 years + one more 6 years after that. I wonder what Doreen felt being the oldest and having 6 siblings to look after, or of being in charge. No wonder she became a junior school teacher!



It was the names that I found most interesting (and easy to find on line). Jessie's maiden name was Warburton and Percy's surname was Heanly, so all of their 4 children took both names. One was called Robert Leicester Souza Warburton Heanly, but the one I'm most interested in was Beryl Yolanda Warburton Heanly, because my mother often mentioned her and Beryl married Ronald Neame in 1932.

Ronald was a British film maker working as an assistant cameraman at Elstree Studios: he worked with Alfred Hitchcock on 'Blackmail' in 1929, one of the first talking pictures made in England. He co-wrote the screenplay for 'Brief Encounter' and co-produced the 1945 film. He took on various roles as assistant director, cinematographer, producer, and finally director. Ronnie worked on many classic films, 'One of Our Aircraft is Missing', 'In Which We Serve', 'Great Expectations', 'The Card', 'Scrooge' with Albert Finney, 'The Poseidon Adventure', many films with Alec Guinness and 'The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie'.

His father Elwin Neame was a film director and his mother Ivy Close was a film star. Elwin made many short films in the 1910s and also ran a photographic studio in Lindon. The 1920s studio portrait is of my mother, Hazle Kate taken by Elwin, who has signed the photograph.

Ronald and Beryl had Christopher Neame (actor and producer of Soldier, Soldier) and Christopher had 2 girls and Gareth Neame who produces Downton Abbey. So, we have four generations connected to film and small screen productions!!!

An interesting fact: in 1966 Ronnie directed Shirley Maclaine and Michael Caine in Gambit and his grandson Gareth Neame directed Shirley in Downton Abbey in 2012. Not a lot of people know that! *Clare Franklin*



AGE AND ME *By Elspeth Jackman*

The photo albums show the difference
But I'm me - the same inside.

The inner person does not change

"I didn't want to join those old people in the day room,"
Says 87-year-old Connie disparagingly.

Hallelujah! That means I'm young forever.

The fact of eternal life unquestionably demonstrated.

I'm me inside – the real me – just as I was.

Oh, I know that my temperament may have mellowed.

I may bite back my tongue now,

I may tolerate a little more, smile a little more,

But my loves, my mood, my desires, my joys –

They don't wrinkle up,



They don't fall out.

Hurray! I am more than my body.

I have proved it.

I inhabit a changing body,

Mine for four score years and ten,

plus, plus, nowadays.

But I, the real me –

cannot be equated with that frame.

And I go on.

It's a promise - Whoopee!!



Salem Chapel

EASTER MEMORIES Gymanfa Ganu

In Port Talbot from the late 1940s, Easter Monday was the day of the Gymanfa Ganu (Singing Festival). For four weeks before Easter, after Sunday evening service, members of the five Independent Congregational chapels (Capelau Annibynnwy) gathered in the largest church in the centre of town for rehearsals. Booklets of a selection of Welsh hymns, old and new, with Sol Fah notation were printed each year. As well as the hymns, an anthem and a chorus from an oratorio were also practised, the latter usually being the only English piece.

On Easter Sunday evening, rehearsals were held, again after the individual chapel services, now with a guest conductor.

Easter Monday morning was the children's service with hymns learned in Sunday School through the year. The afternoon session saw the adults really warming up. Singers were all in the gallery, grouped by voice, S.A.T.B. This session was shortened in alternate years as the local rugby derby between Aberavon (Port Talbot) and Neath was played. After the Benediction, the men's section rapidly emptied as most dashed off to see the match, Sunday suits and all.

The climax of the Gynanfa was Monday evening. The service began at 6, but to be sure of a seat, the women singers were there at 5. The men arrived en masse at 5.50! The main body of the church was also packed.

The singing was magnificent and so moving. As the evening wore on, the emotion (hwyl) grew and many choruses of the hymns were repeated two or three times. It was always a wonderful experience, alas no more. At least three of the chapels have been demolished, Tabernacl, Salem (See photo, where Malcolm and I were raised) and the Wern, which disappeared under the M4. But the memories of those glorious times still remain.

Ann Thomas

CHOSEN FOR SWITZERLAND

On the 22nd of March 1948, 238 children aged 5 to 11 from Manchester and Salford, left London Road station in Manchester, to make the long journey to Switzerland for what the local press described as a 'Three-month Health Holiday'. Accompanied by an escort party of teachers, nurses, and a doctor. They had been chosen from a local authority health list of delicate children, whose ailments included asthma, bronchitis, tuberculosis and lung and chest ailments common among those growing up in working class, districts. Fresh air was commonly prescribed for TB and other respiratory diseases between the 19th century and the 1940s, until antibiotics became widely available in the 1950s, and many of these children had spent considerable time in open-air hospitals and schools.

Their stay in Switzerland was intended as a three-month building up holiday with plenty of fresh air and good food after years of rationing and poor living conditions.



9-year-old Margaret Edwards

As the Manchester Evening Chronicle put it, "Living with Swiss families while the Alpine air works its miracles."

The Swiss Red Cross.

The children's visit to Switzerland came about as a result of an invitation to Manchester and Salford City councils by the Swiss Red Cross Society to identify children whose health would benefit from a stay in Switzerland. The scheme was part of an international Child relief programme by the Swiss Red Cross, which was offered to sick and weak children from across the UK and Europe. After the war similar invitations were extended to children in other British cities which had been badly bombed, including Coventry, London, Hull, Bristol, Cardiff, Portsmouth, Plymouth, Southampton and Swansea.

In 1947, well before the Manchester event, I was one of the children sent from Hull, aged 9 to a small village in Switzerland called Sirnach where I lived with the lovely Cocchi family. Their daughter Trina spoke English and helped me send letters home. I went to the local school and church and my main memories are of eating lots of macaroni and taking plum sandwiches for my packed lunch.



After a couple of months I was taken to the hotel, Valbella up in the mountains to help with my bronchitis. The hotel is still there and is now a very expensive looking spa. My parents must have been very brave to send me off on a long train journey across Europe. However, it certainly helped with my health, as I am still here 80 years later!

After I returned home, we kept in touch by postcard for several years including the one above from New Year 1949. The Cocchi family

sent me their best wishes and hoped that I had not had any more attacks of bronchitis!

Margaret Prebble

WHERE DO YOU FIT?

Now this may say something about the odd way in which my mind works, or it may say something useful. You decide!

Four things. First – In Thursday Bible Study in recent weeks we've been exploring Paul's dealings with the church in Corinth including the two letters that appear in our New Testaments. Second - On February 1st we had opportunity at KMC to renew our covenant with God through use of Methodism's annual Covenant Service. Third - February 14th this year was not just St Valentine's Day but also the day of KMC's 'Jigsaw Marathon' (with thanks to Evelyn, whose idea it was, and who oversaw the day). Fourth – at a recent Prayer Group meeting hymns were being discussed and reference was made to the old chorus, 'Jesus bids us shine' with its line 'you in your small corner and I in mine'. Now what links these four? That's where it's helpful to have a mind that works in odd ways!

Well first - One of the best-known passages in Paul's letters to Corinth is 1 Corinthians chapter 12 where Paul uses the analogy of the many complementary parts of the body to illustrate the many roles that exist within a church which need to work together for the good of the whole – apostles, prophets, teachers, miracle-workers, healers, speakers in tongues, interpreters of tongues,



not, perhaps, the list we would produce today, but we get the point – so reminding us that our own church has many roles that need to be performed and depends on members using their talents to fill those roles. Second – at our Covenant Service, those who were brave enough to do so said, 'put me to what you will' and, if we meant it, that includes any of the church roles that our age, health and talents permit, not just what we fancy doing (assuming we fancy doing something). Third – the Jigsaw Marathon reminded us that there are lots of pieces that must fit together if the picture is to be satisfying and complete. And those pieces will be varied – edges and centre pieces, colourful 'stand out' pieces that are very prominent and pieces that belong to the vast expanse of sea or sky and therefore don't stand out but look very alike though each serves an essential purpose. It can be like that in a church. Fourth – a puzzle (with the odd exception of the occasional round one) has four corner pieces and, far from being unimportant because they are consigned to the extremities, these are what holds the 'frame' of the puzzle together.

So, what does one odd mind make of all that? Simply this. There is a role for every single one of us within the church. It may be prominent and easily seen; it may not. It may require a very special talent (e.g. financial, practical or pastoral skills) or it may not. But like all the pieces in a jigsaw, those on the edge and in the corners included, there is a part for every one of us to play if the whole is to be complete. Our church flourishes as each of us plays the fullest part we are able. So, let's join in saying: **'Put us to what you will, Lord'**. *Peter C*

A SOCIAL CONSCIENCE ARTICLE

March the 1st was officially International Women's Day. A day when we celebrate the achievements of women around the world. For the majority of woman, however, equality is still something they can only dream about. These facts speak for themselves.

In the workplace

2.7 billion women are legally restricted in the type of work they can do and 113 out of 195 countries have no equal pay laws. 82 countries have no legal protection for women against discrimination at work and in 18 countries, husbands can prohibit their wives from working outside the home. 104 countries put certain jobs off limits for women and in 29 countries husbands restrict the hours their wives can work. Women earn on average 22% less than men for equivalent work.

Inheritance

In 39 out of 195 countries a daughter cannot inherit an equal share of her parent's wealth, unlike her brother and 18 countries limit the amount of money a wife can inherit from her husband.

Movement

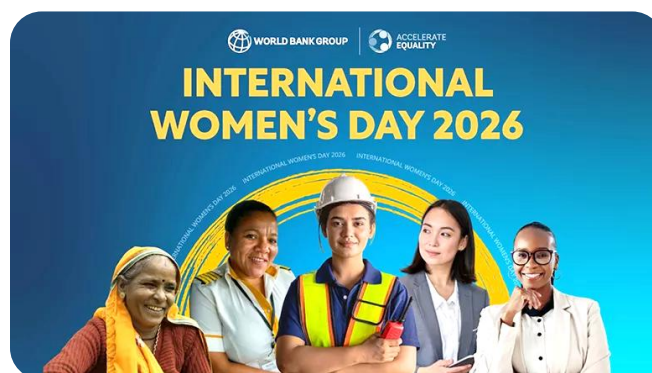
In 17 countries husbands can prohibit their wives from travelling outside the home.

Marriage

650 million out of around 4 billion women worldwide are married before the age of eighteen.

Violence

1 in 3 women world wide experience violence and 58% of female murder victims are killed by an intimate partner or a close family member. 200 million women are subjected to female genital mutilation worldwide. There has been an 87% increase in sexual violence against women and girls in conflict zones. 20 countries allow a rapist to marry his victim to escape criminal prosecution. Some countries allow a rape conviction to be overturned if the man marries his victim.



Law and Leadership

Only 25% of parliamentarians are women with only 11 female heads of state. Afghanistan is the only country that prohibits women from voting. Women have only 64% of the legal rights that men have world wide

Education

2% of countries ban girls and women who are pregnant from education and in Afghanistan in recent years over 2.2 million girls have been denied any education. Globally, around 119 million girls are missing out on school because of barriers like gender bias, disability or poverty.

Health and reproduction

In numerous countries female foetuses are aborted because of a preference for male children and in 93 countries abortion is illegal. In 56 countries abortion is only legal to save the mother's life. Women are far more likely to be under diagnosed than men. The UK has the 12th largest gender health gap in the world. Women live longer than men, but spend more time in ill health. In a UK recent survey 80% of women did not feel listened to by health professionals.

This data paints a sobering picture of a world still divided by gender. From the medical exam rooms of the UK to the classrooms of Afghanistan, women continue to navigate a landscape of systemic bias and restricted freedom. As we mark International Women's Day each year, these figures serve as a reminder that progress is not a straight line, nor is it guaranteed. We must move beyond performative gestures and address the legislative and cultural barriers that keep half the world's population in the shadows of the other. *Debbie Boote*

TREAT THE
EARTH WELL.
IT WAS NOT
GIFTED TO YOU
BY YOUR
PARENTS.
IT IS LOANED
TO YOU
BY YOUR
CHILDREN

Have you ever had the experience of someone putting into words what you have long held and acted upon but struggled to express? That happened to me during the Gift Day Service on the 8th March. If I understood her right, Helen made a point about 'giving' not just being a financial act but a spiritual act. This triggered in me a totally different realisation of a point I have of late been trying to put into words. If you ever get into a conversation about concern for the environment it often develops into:

"Oh, we do this and we do that...."

"How can we make a difference. They have to do something about it ('they' being unspecified or some distant 'other')

"What's the point of trying to do anything, we can't make any difference"

"Oh, you're not taken in by all that nonsense, are you? The climate is always changing"

Let's be honest: I drive a petrol fuelled car, I have gas boiler, many of my clothes are laced with plastic fibres, I am not vegan. I have a nonstick frying pan & so it goes on and on! I am part of the problem.

Helen's comment chimed with me relating to environmental action and the point with which I was wrestling. Any conscious act for the benefit of the environment can likewise be an expression of a spiritual act, however mundane or seemingly trivial. Thereby, the challenge 'How can you possibly make a difference?' becomes irrelevant, since, in a sense, it means everything. You are joining the 'dance' of the Creation before God. It prompts a state of mind and behaviours rather than suggesting a set of reluctant duties brought about by guilt.

Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" (John 6: 8-9)

If you have read this far, please, **PLEASE** search online for: 'The Man Who Planted Trees'. It should come up: YouTube . Reading Movies [4k]The Man Who Planted Trees (1987) – full movie (English) The precise link if you can't find it is:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=epTqUnKsuUY>

This is a dreamlike 30-minute film story and a powerful parable. *Liegh White*

TRAITORS

I am one of the few who has not watched Traitors! I prefer cosy Agatha Christie escapist crime programmes!

The reality of crime hits our screens daily on news programmes. Some politicians tell us our country is lawless and broken! The Office for National Statistics challenge this view. Crime rates have fallen over the last few years. Other politicians say we are overrun with immigrants, but again the figures don't bear this out, and where would our health and care service be without those from other countries? So much rhetoric in the media tries to persuade us that all is doom and gloom. A recent review of 'Traitors' suggested that the programme is helping to create or build on an air of suspicion and lack of trust amongst people.

A traitor is someone who uses a strategy to create deception and suspicion for personal gain or for a specific cause. We associate this often with treason. Recent news of accusations of people misusing their positions in public office comes to mind. A recent television film told the story of a former spy who gave the Russian KGB information about nuclear secrets. She maintained her decision was a moral one, based on the fact of all nations having the bomb was better for the greater good and would prevent WW3. She personally gained nothing from what she did. Moral choices in such situations present many difficulties and are not clear cut.

As we go through Lent we are presented with Judas's actions to betray Jesus. I doubt that was a clear-cut decision. He had a choice. He didn't do it for the money. He thought he was doing what was required. Jesus had got it all wrong. Judas was blind to the consequences of his actions until it was too late. The moral decisions we have to make in our lives seem small compared with Judas's actions. As Christians we base those decisions on our beliefs about what Jesus asks us to do. The actions we take may seem small in the big scheme of things. Small pebbles can make large ripples.

I am much heartened by reading The Big Issue! We read about the top 100 'Changemakers.' People who have made a choice to try to change situations for good. They range from a teenager supporting homeless people to a 91-year-old campaigner and community volunteer who has raised thousands of pounds for charity. Most of these people are trying to make changes for the good of their communities, breaking down suspicion and building up trust. I wonder if there is a television producer out there brave enough to make a successful series based on the principles of trust and the building of community. *June C*

I LOVE A GOOD PUN - CAN YOU DO BETTER?

- **The Calendar Factory:** "I got fired from the calendar factory. All I did was take a day off."
- **The Blanket Factory:** "Did you hear about the guy who lost his job at the blanket factory? Apparently, it folded."
- **The Scrabble Disaster:** "Swallowing Scrabble tiles could spell disaster!"





NEW LAMPS FOR OLD

Many of our church family will remember the pantomimes that once were a fixture in our calendar. One of these happened to be the story of Aladdin, and as I was delegated to design a cover for the programme. I 'borrowed' a bit of Chinese script to give it authenticity, despite having not the faintest idea of the meaning of the characters - but then, nobody else had either. And it all added to the

wonderful nonsense of a plot in which, if you remember, the wicked uncle's promise of *'New Lamps for Old'* persuaded Aladdin's gullible mother to part with his magic lamp. Who would normally believe in such generous eccentricity? *Something for nothing?*

Not long ago our garden looked to be no better than the old lamp; dull, with nothing of interest (or colour) to offer, apparently going nowhere, full of half-dead plants and weeds or bare earth. It is experience alone that keeps us believing, waiting, hoping.

This incredible world of ours is a constant spring of life, rejuvenating or replacing the (literal) dead wood. That is what makes our gardens such a delight, a source of wonder and thanks for gifts galore. I confess that I myself am not a very dedicated gardener and I'm quite sure my fingers are not green, but I have confidence in the nature that is not 'red in tooth and claw' but a deep and magical green.

So, let's go mad with mixed metaphors. It's the only way to explore the riches of Spring. Daily now the gardener's world is studded with jewels of all colours. I remember where previous plants have sprung up and so watch expectantly for buds to swell and petals to unfurl, laying claim with bright escutcheons to each patch of royal ground - for it is indeed royal ground, not mine alone. The King scatters largesse and his Head Gardener uses all his skill (and that of us more lowly gardeners) to tend and nurture and direct the plants so that the result may be a fitting setting for his master.

The colours are a wake-up call to my heart: white for purity, yellow for joy, blue for tranquillity, red for passion. Tiny and sweetly compact, or sprawling lavishly, these are gifts from the King to his people. They are also lessons for daily living, and if we take them seriously, they are promises too, promises of faithfulness and of renewal for us and our world.



The promises are so easy to see and understand at this time of year, when our focus is particularly on that first Easter; the dead times of failure and betrayal washed away, followed by the offer of a new beginning and a new Spirit-filled life. The apostle Paul tells us clearly, *'All the promises of God are made 'Yes' in Christ Jesus'* (2 Corinthians 1). Can anything else sound as good?

New lamps for old . . . *'Behold, I am making all things new'*, some of the final words in the Bible. Yes, please! *from the Garden Philosopher*

CAN YOU DO BETTER

- **The Atomic Truth:** "Never trust an atom; they make up everything!"

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10TH TO THE 16TH OF MAY 2026

By now you may have read about help that is needed with this year's Christian Aid fund raising in our Church notices or through a notice read out in church.

This year you can help in several ways:

1. To Deliver Envelopes
2. To Deliver and Collect Envelopes
3. Allow local people to drop their donations at your address
4. Helping for 1 hour at a 'collecting' table in the Square or by the Wolds Drive shops on Friday 15th or Saturday 16th May



You should find sheets to fill in on the table where the collection baskets are located. Please consider what you can do and return your sheet to the Collection Baskets, so supporting this important charity.

In this year's Christian Aid Week, it is hoped that some of the money raised will help mothers in Nairobi, Kenya, facing the devastating reality of urban poverty and the daily struggle to feed their children. See the C.A. website for more details.

TIME TO DISCOVER



Our **New Year restart** was initially delayed due to a winter storm. We were then delighted to have **Paul Johns** leading us on the topic '**The Story of Hagar**', that pivotal point in the Old Testament, when Abraham was promised many descendants, and how this came to pass via his two sons – Ishmael with the slave girl Hagar, and Isaac with his wife, Sarah.

The line from Ishmael eventually leading to Islam, and the line from Isaac to Judaism and eventually to our own Christianity.

We were then into **Lent**, and so now meeting **weekly** as one of the **Lent Groups**, with ours on the **Thursday evenings** at the home of Gill and Robin Wilcockson. The study theme for this year was the **film 'I Daniel'** comprising a number of social aspects, including how excessive bureaucracy stifled a Christian ethos of compassion.

We **restart** as '**Time to Discover**' after Easter on **Thursday April 16th**, with the restart meeting at Jennifer and Don Anderson's, and with forward topics still to be arranged.

As always, see KMC weekly notices for updated details, and for hosting addresses. Our meetings are normally fortnightly on Thursday evenings at participants' homes, and 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*

HAVE YOU A FEW MINUTES TO SPARE?

ANSWERS

A Puzzle for Lent and Easter

- | | | | | | |
|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. StF 287 | 2. StF 271 | 3. StF 278 | 4. StF 233 | 5 StF 280 | 6. StF 236 |
| 7. StF 285 | 8. StF 238 | 9. StF 235 | 10 StF 289 | 11 StF 284 | 12. StF 272 |
| 13 StF 282 | 14. StF 239 | 15. StF 237 | 16.StF 267 | 17. StF 241 | 18. StF 277 |
| 19.StF 290 | 20. StF 240 | | | | |

What is the Tune? (from page 1)

The tune is 'Winchester New' sung to 'Ride on ride on in majesty' or 'On Jordan's bank the Baptists cry'



u3a

EXPLORING WORLD FAITHS

We continue to normally meet on the **third Friday afternoon of each month** at 2.0pm in the **Centenary Lounge** of the Village Hall, although occasionally we

have a visit instead.

Our **January** re-start turned out **rather differently** than planned. **Musharraf Hussain** was due to be with us to share how his Islam faith inspires moral, spiritual and social goodness. However, a close family bereavement meant that at the last minute he was **unable to be with us**. In the event, our good friend of the group, our own **Peter Curtis** was with us intending to meet up again with Musharraf (who had linked with KMC some years ago), and Peter stepped in to give us an absolutely marvellous **Overview of the Islamic faith**, which will act as a useful setting for when Musharraf gives his more personal perspective at a rearranged date.

For our **February** meeting, **David Charles** led us into a lively discussion on '**Science and Religion**', reflecting on interactions over past centuries, and various understandings in current times.

In **March**, **Hilary Cheng** was with us on '**Mercy Ships**' with the added dimension of **multi-faith** involvements. Our forward topics are in **April** a re-visit from **Ian Todd** on **other** accounts of '**Spiritual Experiences**' in addition to this previous study shared with us on Near Death Experiences. Our **May** meeting will be the rearranged visit of **Musharraf Hussain**, and in **June** we will have a presenter from **Humanists UK**.

In our group we have participants from various faith (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*

PRAYERS FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

God of love, as we see and hear the news of the devastating violence wrought upon and within the Middle East, we hold your broken world before you in prayer.

We pray for lives lost, for people who mourn, and for those living in fear.

We pray for people stranded and in need of safe routes and safe harbours.

We long for peace and pray that those who wage war might exchange weapons for words.

Help us to know how to pray, how to speak and how to act, that we might remember our call to follow the Prince of Peace, in whose name we pray,

Amen.

Loving God, we come before you in sorrow for once again we are a world affected by war.

So many lives disrupted, so much destruction, so much needless loss, so much fear and uncertainty, so much grief and pain. Forgive our inability to live at peace. We pray for peace and unity, not just the cessation of hostilities and the laying down of the weapons of war but the costly, just peace that transforms hearts, structures, and lives.

We pray for those in power for wisdom and courage for world leaders and a willingness to negotiate. For blessed are the peacemakers

We pray for one another that we would be true to Christ who calls us to be peacemakers, who calls us to pursue justice, who calls us to love both neighbour and enemy. We pray for safety and security for residents and visitors across the Middle East. We pray for comfort and compassion for all those who are grieving, for all those who are afraid. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

MISSION IN BRITAIN COFFEE MORNING

Have you visited the Centenary Lounge of the Village Hall on the first Thursday morning of any month for a coffee/tea with cake served by Gill Bell and Ena Hyatt plus having a happy conversation with friends? Over the past 18 months they have raised an amazing £1,043 for the Mission in Britain Fund and Gill has been raising money for Home Missions/Mission in Britain for at least 31 years! It would be wonderful if someone or two or three or perhaps a rota would continue Gill's initiative. When you have read the following, might you be someone who would continue Gill's fund raising for Mission in Britain when she and Ena retire in August?

What does the MiB fund support?

The **Mission in Britain Fund** currently supports over 35 projects through grants aimed at transforming lives in local communities. Key areas include:

- **New Places for New People:** Funding for new Christian communities and pioneering projects.
- **Social Justice:** Supporting projects focused on poverty, homelessness, and justice via Districts and Circuits.
- **Community Services:** Funding for local initiatives such as food banks, children's play centres, and outreach cafes.
- **Chaplaincy:** Support for chaplains working in hospitals, prisons, and schools.

The "Our Calling" Framework The church organises its mission into four main priorities:

- **Worship:** Increasing awareness of God's presence.
- **Learning and Caring:** Helping people grow as Christians through mutual support.
- **Service:** Being a good neighbour to those in need and challenging injustice.
- **Evangelism:** Making more followers of Jesus.

Global Connections

While "Mission in Britain" focuses domestically, the church also maintains a World Mission Fund (WMF) that supports over 100 partner churches and organisations globally in regions like Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

I hope that some of us will be ready to continue Gill's wonderful support for Home Missions, now Mission in Britain for many more years! *Geoff D*

WHAT WERE YOU DOING FROM 1946 -1951?

Have you read Margaret Prebble's memories of her experience of being evacuated to Switzerland when she was nine years old? If you haven't it is on pages 8 and 9. So what were you doing from 1946 to 1951? What are your memories of the Post War period? Could you write a short article of your memories for the next KeyNotes? It would be great if you could.

Margaret P and Geoff D

*My thanks to all who have contributed to KeyNotes. My apologies to anyone whose contributions I have lost, misfiled or misplaced! **The September KeyNotes 21** will be published at the end of August. Please email all your ideas and contributions by **Sunday 23rd of August.***

***The earlier the better!** I hope you have enjoyed another 'bumper' edition! Geoff D*

