

Keyworth Methodist Church

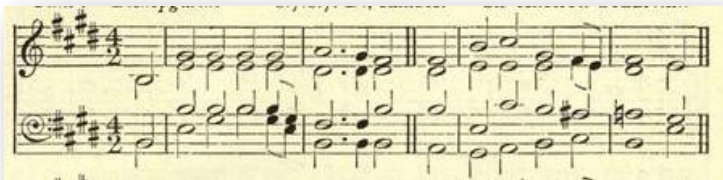
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SEPTEMBER 2026 ISSUE 21



**'KEEPING US CONNECTED
AT KMC'**



**This is the first line of a
'Harvest Hymn'
but which one??
Answer on page 16**

THE AUTUMN EDITION

**SERVICES AT KMC DURING SEPTEMBER,
OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER**

Services at 10.15 unless stated

September

6th Peter Whitney
13th Rev Helen Fyall H.C.
20th 8.30 Rev Helen Fyall H.C. 10.15 Paul Johns
27th Harvest – All Age service led by Rebecca Bilsbrough

October

4th Ian Collinson
11th Rev Naomi Sparey
18th 8.30 Rev Helen Fyall H.C. 10.15 Rev Helen Fyall 4pm Tea Time Praise
25th Local Arrangement

November

1st Rev Helen Fyall (All Souls' Day)
8th Douglas Kerr
15th 8.30 Rev Mark Roberts H.C. 10.15 Rev Helen Fyall 4pm Tea Time Praise
22nd Circuit Service at Keyworth Methodist Church - Rev Mark Roberts
29th Rev Marian Crawford



4pm Tea Time Praise

A SUMMER'S WALK WITH GOD

Dear Friends,

In 'The Black Tower' by P.D James, a 10-year-old boy is talking to an old priest. The priest is sitting at his desk with his diary in front of him. 'It's just an ordinary diary then?' asks the boy, 'it isn't about your spiritual life?'. 'This is the spiritual life,' the priest answered gently, 'the ordinary things one does from hour to hour.'

I read this many years ago and it has stayed with me. Spirituality is about where we find meaning and purpose in life. It is found in many things, such as nature, music, creativity and for some, in faith. The priest's words came to me as we walked from Hunmanby Gap to Filey in August. It was like doing a walk with God.



To my right was the sea and the old beach mission chorus, 'Wide, wide as the ocean' filled my mind. I sang it and thanked God for His love for me. Along the path were blackberry bushes full of ripe and juicy fruits. I recalled my mum who always stopped to pick them and I said to Andy, 'God even gives us snacks on our

walk.' They were delicious.

Seeing a ladybird on the bench next to me as we paused to take in the view, reminded me of a prayer for a friend many years ago, that she might, 'fly once again like a ladybird,' when the cloud of depression lifted and with God's help, she did.

The butterfly that led us along the path as it fluttered beautifully along, spoke to me of the youth worker and song writer, Elaine Buckley, who loved butterflies and her song, 'God has gone before you,' spoke to me about trusting God in whatever is to come.

And finally, seeing the neat piles of straw bales with the sun's warm glow upon them was a wonderful view of the harvest. Though difficult for the farmers this year with the lack of rain, still a reminder of our need to give thanks for all that God provides and those who work so hard in so many ways.



An ordinary walk which gave me moments of reflection and I felt closer to God through being open to His prompting along the way. I wonder if you have had a similar experience?

I encourage us all to keep our eyes, ears, minds and hearts open to seeing God in the ordinary things of life for these are spiritual times that can enrich our faith and draw us closer to God.

With love and prayers,

Helen

WORDS OF THE WESLEY BROTHERS

"The person who bears and suffers evils with meekness and silence is the sum of a Christian man." Charles Wesley Miles of travel on horseback, sea journeys, and exposure to the dangers of such endeavours did take a toll. Their message was not always well received, either. But that is for all those who "take up their crosses" to follow Jesus, Charles remarked,

CHILDREN AND FAMILY WORKER UPDATE

It has been a while since you last heard from me in KeyNotes and I thought it might be good to give you an update of exactly what I've been up to in my role.

Regular Groups

Wednesday Toddlers – We meet each Wednesday, term time, with a selection of toys out for everyone to explore and is a great space for new parents/carers and grandparents to share stories and experiences. After just over an hour, everybody helps to tidy up and we finish with a song time singing nursery rhymes from our song bag or books. We have around 15 children attending each week. We have also introduced this year, a 'Bring and Swap' table where people can bring in their child's outgrown clothes and toys for another family to take for free. At the end of each half term, any items not taken are given to 'City Hub Ukraine'



Toddler Praise We meet each Friday for a time of age-appropriate worship songs, followed by a Bible story, themed craft and prayer ending by going into the hall for a time of refreshments, cake, toys and fellowship. We have an average of 20 families attending each week which can consist of a parent and child, or siblings along with parents and grandparents. It has a lovely family feel.

Tea Time Praise We have restarted our Tea Time Praise sessions which occur monthly on the third Sunday at 4pm. This is a service aimed at Primary school aged children and their families, but everyone is welcome

to attend. So far, we have explored the stories of the Prodigal Child and Jesus calling his Disciples. Each month is led by a different group of people and can include, live Worship, Lego, videos, drama, discussions, challenges, crafts and much more. It is followed by a 'bring and share' tea.

Open the Book We go into each of the 3 Keyworth Primary Schools, plus Bunny Primary School, with a small team of 4-7 of us acting out a story from the Bible using the 'Bible Society - Open the Book' material. This year we have performed Mary and Joseph travelling to Egypt, The Road to Emmaus, Esther and more.

Ignite An afterschool club (based at Willow Brook this year) where Alex and Linda from Stanton Church and I explore a Bible story with the children for an hour after school and include games, crafts, creative prayer and often drama (which the children always love). We have had groups of 18-26 throughout the year.

Encounter – A Bible Study group for parents/carers/grandparents who are exploring faith, most Fridays during term time after Toddler Praise. This came from a project I completed for my Masters, wanting to 'bridge the gap' of Faith Development. We have been exploring the resources from 'Refresh Café'.

Events

Mini Time Travelling We had around 200 children, school staff and parent/carer helpers come through Saint Mary Magdalene's doors over the 2 days. Children move around the Church in groups and explore different parts of the Easter story and what it means to be a Christian.

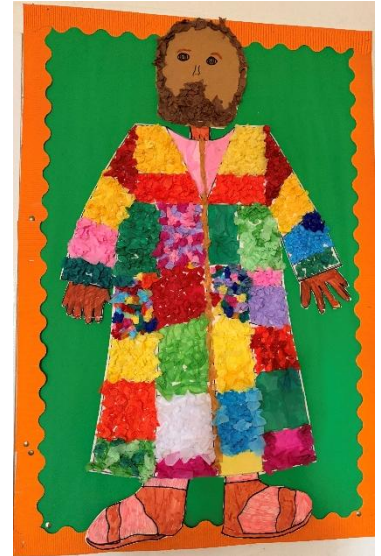
Good Friday Workshop We had roughly 60 children, and their parents/carers come through our doors for our annual event. We have a selection of Easter themed crafts and activities in the Church and Hall followed by a short, informal service in the Church and ending with a small snack lunch.

It's Your Move I went to Bunny and Crossdale Schools to deliver the 'Scripture Union - It's Your Move' programme to their year 6's about preparing for the move to Secondary school with a Christian aspect and looking at Jesus calming the storm.

Keyworth Show This year we did rock painting (which everyone really liked), I estimate we saw about 75 children come to our table where we spoke to them and their families and handed out leaflets for Tea Time Praise and our Toddler Groups. Thank you to everyone who came to do their slot.

Holiday Club We had 61 children and 24 volunteers from 4 of the 6 Keyworth Churches (KMC, KBC, St.MM and The Rock). Children arrived each day greeted with games to play followed by a whole group session where we explored the main Bible story of the day and danced to worship songs. Children then split up into their age groups and completed 3 activities (crafts, home group and games) and we finished with an 'altogether' closing session with a drama, a quiz and pie in the face (the children's favourite bit).

Fun on the Field – A free community event that we support, held each year on the playing fields by the Village Hall. This year we decorated plant pots and filled them with soil and sunflowers! About 71 children came to our gazebo.



Coming up we have our Light Party, Festivities Day, Travelling Mary and Joseph and everything else in-between! If you would like to find out more about any of these activities and groups, please do get in contact with me and – of course – we are always in need of prayer. *Rebecca B*

THE BRICKLAYER

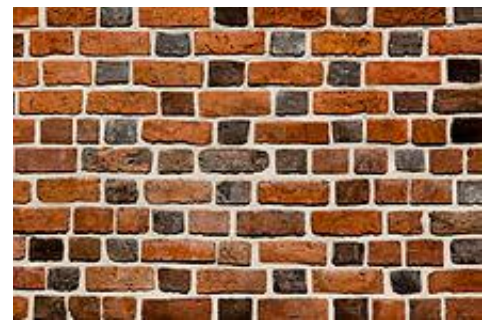
The bricklayer laid a brick on a bed of cement,
Then with a precise stroke of his trowel, spread another layer,
And without a by-your-leave, laid on another brick,
The foundations grew visibly,
The building rose, tall and strong to shelter people,
I thought, dear Lord, of that brick buried in the darkness at
the base of the building.

No-one sees it, but it accomplishes its task and the other bricks need it.

Lord, what difference does it make whether I am on the roof-top or in the foundation of your building.

As long as I stand faithfully at the right place.

Father Michael Quoist



WORDS OF THE WESLEY BROTHERS

"Be friends of everyone. Be enemies of no-one." Charles Wesley

In seeking fellowship with one's fellows; peace must necessarily follow. Jesus had said, "Love your neighbour as yourself." Charles reminded us of that.

"I look upon the whole world as my parish." John Wesley

But John went beyond mere sentiment in his reaching out to all men. For him it was a duty.



PAUL ROEBUCK

As most of you will know Paul passed away recently on the 4th of July and his life was celebrated at KMC on Friday August 8th. On the 25th of May this year, Paul wrote an email saying,

"In the last KeyNotes you asked for articles relevant to the end of the war. I've written a short piece, attached. Not offended if it doesn't fit the theme you're working on." *Paul*

Paul's Early Memories.

I was born in the fateful month of the Munich Crisis in September 1938. Thus, I was almost one when World War 2 broke out. My earliest memories of wartime are subconscious. My parents were in their second manse, in Bridgwater, Somerset. The town's two main factories were jam making and cellophane; neither were of much interest to the Luftwaffe. However, the town was overflowed by Heinkel's, etc., en-route to Swansea or Cardiff docks. But when the air raid siren went off, apparently my parents put me in a trunk in the hall, with the lid down, for a bare minute. They collected the necessary items to take to the shelter at the bottom of the garden and took me out of the trunk. All very simple, you might think.

But the sound of a siren instils fear into me, to this day. Many years ago, we were taking a friend round the Broadmarsh caves, where an air raid shelter had been reconstructed. The siren sounded off, without warning. I was standing a yard away and burst into tears. That was my subconscious memory. Then earlier, whilst at Kingswood School in Bath, I went caving with friends in the limestone Mendips. My head torch went out and suddenly I was back in that trunk in the hall, aged two. Claustrophobia I learnt to call that sensation; it has never left me!

One grew up with austerity as the norm. Young men away, food rationing was the norm, didn't have my first banana until I was 7.

My most tangible memory was the victory procession down the village street of Combe Martin, North Devon; my father was one of three clergymen in a row. Clergy were exempt from being called up as they were required to maintain the morale of the people. That was May 1945.

By the September we'd moved to Barnsley, in the then West Riding of Yorkshire. This was my third home-cum-manse, just before I was 7! In Devon the education system was relaxed enough to have allowed me transition from infants to lower juniors just before I was 6! But the rule was rigidly enforced in Barnsley, so I was sent back to the Infants School. I must have been a nuisance, with nothing new to learn. Obviously, it was the training ground for being a nuisance for the rest of my life!
Thank you, Paul!

HAVE YOU A FEW MINUTES TO SPARE?

*There are names of sixteen books of the Bible hidden in the paragraph below.
Let's see how many you can find. HAVE FUN!*

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 names 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 Bible books in this story.

HAPPY Hunting Linda D

ANSWERS ON PAGE 16

MOUSE IN THE HOUSE!

Oh yes, you must be used to it.

Nine entries stopped up...

But they still love my house.

They enjoy the secret area round

The back of the kitchen drawers.

They come in when it's cold.

Well, wouldn't you?

But droppings in my bed.

Just awful, it must be said.

I've cleared the kitchen spotless.

And each drawer close tight!

But they squeeze themselves behind them

They think they have the right.



I look down from the landing.

As fast as any train

A long black creature ran the course

I tried to catch it, but in vain.

Today I saw a shadow flit from fireplace to telly.

Only when it's sped right back again,

I saw that it was one of many!

HELP!

Elspeth Jackman

A SKEGNESS ADVENTURE



During the period in the 1980s and 1990s when Mick and I worshipped at St John's Church in Carrington we were both on the social committee and I ran the Beavers and the Sunday school.

We were in the regular habit of going on trips to many various locations, all of which was memorable but no more so than the Sunday School trip to Skegness with some 25 children.

It was a lovely warm day and the children all enjoyed their time, both on the beach and Dingley Dell. We had travelled on the Jolly Fisherman train which they loved and all went well for the rest of the day. We all finished up by having the usual

traditional fish and chips before going to catch the train home.

Little did we realise the surprise that awaited us at the station. We were informed that the train to Nottingham had been withdrawn and there were no more that day! I promptly went to see the station master, confirming that I had 25 children whose parents would be anxiously waiting at Nottingham Station (In those days there were no mobile phones to let people know.)

The stationmaster then arranged to put on a double-decker bus to transport us to Grantham and then catch a train to Nottingham. The bus arrived for us and what a rickety old vehicle it was. The children were all full of fish and chips and they all wanted to travel on the top deck so you can imagine that I was expecting the worst! However, to our surprise, the children loved every minute and said it had made their day.

We all arrived safely back in Nottingham and it was the talk of the church for many Sundays to come. It was, nevertheless, a sign that we were being looked down upon that day most favourably! *Julie Marlow*

WORDS OF THE WESLEY BROTHERS

"Were I to let any soul drop into the pit whom I might have saved from everlasting burnings, I am not satisfied that God would accept my plea 'Lord, he was not of my parish'." **John Wesley**

GREAT-GREAT-GRANDMOTHER F.J. LECLERQ – YOU COULDN'T MAKE IT UP!



Let me take you back to the Low Countries and to the 3rd of March 1825, when my husband's great great-grandmother was born in a village called Moustier-sur-Sambre, in the commune of Tamines, which lay in the province of Namur, in what was then the Spanish Netherlands.

Her parents were Antoine Emmanuel Leclerq and Caroline Francot. At the time of her birth, her father was 39, but I have no dates for her mother. So, this great-great-grandmother spent her childhood in Moustier and sadly her father died in July 1834 at the age of 48, when she was only 9 years of age.

The family had good neighbours, who proved to be very useful and supportive when in 1846, the said great-great grandmother reached the age of 21. She was now a property owner, which supposes that her mother too had died, and she inherited the family home which now lay in the new country of Belgium.

It is at this point that she is sent papers to call her up for military service. Even in a foreign country, being called up in 1846, supposed that you were male. As far as we are aware, she did not undergo a sex change between the years of 1825 and 1846. So, she has been living as a woman for 21 years (because she is by birth, female) and up until now, she has had no reason to question her birth certificate. But what was she to do? She checked the original birth certificate, which did contain errors...and she had to go through the courts to have the errors rectified.

So what was the problem – what is this case about?

- **For a she, add an "e"** (This is a rule in French, which can change names: for example, Aunt Simon(e) and Cousin Martin(e).
- **né** means born - masculine **née** means born – feminine; but they sound the same.
- **fils and fille** (do not sound the same) = son / daughter

So, you can see where I'm going, there was a clerk in the civic offices where her birth was registered who was either drunk or deaf, or it was Friday afternoon and he forgot a very important **"e"** or **"é"** and assumed the rest. I do blame Antoine and Caroline, they did pick names that were popular at the time but you can see where a mistake could be made:

Mademoiselle Ferdinande Joseph

To explain the Joseph: Catholic families would choose their favourite Saint and use either Marie (Mary) or Joseph as a second name. Well, it doesn't stop there, because when we were in Brussels in 2011, my husband's 90 year old Uncle Jean (who has Marie in his name) gave us photocopies of the original legal documents of 1846, when 21-year-old **Ferdinande** went to court to have her birth certificate rectified.

So here we are, with an abbreviated English translation: -

The Story Of Ferdinand(E) Joseph Leclerq

"Nous Léopold premier Roi des Belges à tous presents et à venir faisons savoir:"

We, Leopold the 1st, King of the Belgians, to all present and to come, let it be known...

To the President and judges of the Tribunal of the first instance being at Namur, **Ferdinande Joseph Leclerq**, property owner, domiciled at Moustier sur Sambre, has the honour of bringing to your notice that on her birth certificate drawn up by the public clerk of the commune of Tamines, the 3rd March 1825, a copy of which is attached, she was declared as being male.

Wanting to rectify this error, she asks you to look at the piece of evidence and to order that the said birth certificate be rectified in the sense that the word "male" be replaced by the word "female" and that the words "Ferdinand" "né" and "fils" are replaced by those of "Ferdinande" "née" and "fille".

Signed: *Henricot*, Attorney

Namur, 28th February 1846

Witnessed by Antoine Salmon aged 40, trader, Theodore Lambert aged 54, labourer, Antoine Teressaint aged 35, labourer, Marie Anne Lubert aged 43, housewife.

All lived in Moustier and are neighbours and friends of the Plaintiff in question and have been heard under oath and filed separately as requested. **They all testified that they had known the Plaintiff as being female from birth.** And so Great-Great-Grandmother Ferdinande was excused from Military Service! You couldn't make it up, could you? *Clare Franklin Summer 2026*

WHY DO THEY KEEP MESSING AROUND WITH OUR HYMNS?

Do you ever (like me) find yourself singing away on a Sunday morning and suddenly realise that you've sung something different from everybody else because you've sung the words you remember and everybody else is following the screen which contains altered wording? And do you then (like me) ask, 'Why do they keep messing around with our hymns? Why can't they leave the wording of hymns as they were?'

Often, of course, changes are small – 'you's and 'your's in place of 'thee's and 'thy's but sometimes it's much more than that. Sometimes it's the omission of one or more verses. What I have to tell myself, of course, is that the process of altering hymns is longstanding. For example, Charles Wesley's 'O for a thousand tongues to sing' (StF 364) was originally an 18-verse hymn celebrating the anniversary of conversion. I'm glad we don't have to sing 18 verses now! Likewise, his 'And can it be ...?' (StF 345) initially contained a sixth verse which read:

Still the small inward voice I hear	That quench'd the wrath of hostile Heaven:
That whispers all my sins forgiven;	I feel the life His wounds impart
Still the atoning blood is near,	I feel my Saviour in my heart.

I know what Wesley is saying, but do I really want to sing of 'the wrath of hostile Heaven'? That verse was omitted from Methodist singing as early as 1780 and I'm grateful!

The much-loved hymn 'For the beauty of the earth' (FS Pierpoint – StF 102) originally had 8 verses. Recent hymn books have reduced it to 5. Two of the omitted verses read:

For thy Martyrs' crown of light,	For thy Virgins' robes of snow,
For thy Prophets' eagle eye,	For thy Maiden-mother mild,
For thy bold Confessors' might,	For thyself, with hearts aglow,
For the lips of infancy ...	Jesu, Victim undefiled ...

Again, I think I understand (though I'm not so sure about the 'hearts aglow') but think the editors who decided on omission got it right. Likewise, the decision to omit the verse:

No more let sins and sorrows grow,	Nor thorns infest the ground:
He comes to make his blessings flow	Far as the curse is found.

from Isaac Watts' familiar 'Joy to the world' (StF 330).

These omissions remind me that hymns do have to be edited if they are to remain fit for purpose in the world of changing worship, and I accept that that process must continue. I guess the two things I want to see when change is made are consistency wherever possible and sensitivity to the spirit of a hymn. The decision to change 'thee's and 'thou's to 'you's and 'your's in some places in Singing the Faith but not in others looks random to me and niggles. And there's one place where, for me, it seems insensitive to the spirit of a hymn. Theodore Monod's hymn 'O the bitter shame and sorry' is, in my opinion, a deeply moving reflection on the transformation possible within the heart as one gazes on the cross. In the Hymns and Psalms version (538) the four five-line verses take the gazer from

All of self and none of thee! via Some of self and some of thee!
and Less of self and more of thee! To None of self and all of thee!

In the interests of change to 'you' and 'your' the StF version (432) now takes us from

None of you and all of me! via Some of you and some of me!
And More of you and less of me! to All of you and none of me!

In other words, every verse now ends with the focus on 'me' rather than on Christ. For me that's one instance where the spirit of the hymn requires the older language.

The change is too big a price to pay. *Peter Curtis*

A MESSAGE FROM THE FAIRTRADE FOUNDATION

It's been pretty hot for the last few months - But this isn't new for farmers across the world, who have been dealing with the worst effects of the climate crisis for years. They're being pushed to breaking point, dealing with temperatures which destroy harvest and reduce their income. It's an unfair trade system; they're the ones who suffer most.

For coffee farmers, conditions matter. Every decision is made based on the weather. Since March, supporters have been speaking out for fair business that protects people and the planet, urging our Government to introduce a law requiring companies to tackle human rights abuses and climate harm in their supply chains. So far, the Government have promised a review but taken no action. This means we need to keep building momentum. With a new Prime Minister in place, progress could stall or disappear from the agenda. Challenges will only grow if action isn't taken and the climate crisis is already making it harder for farmers to grow crops, while workers continue to earn too little to support their families.



Please email your MP. and ask them to urge the new Secretary of State and Business, Innovation, Science and Trade to publish its review of responsible business and keep protections for people and our planet moving forward. Too many businesses are profiting from deforestation, exploitation and climate change- they must be held accountable. Three quarters of people in the U.K. believe businesses should be legally required to show they are protecting workers' rights and the environment.

While farmers continue to face these challenges, we can support them by choosing Fairtrade products. The people behind our favourite foods and drinks are dealing with the extremes of climate change - a crisis they didn't cause. It's having a direct impact on farming and production - putting our morning coffee, chocolatey snack and our pick me up banana under threat!

But seriously - Take Action.

Action for the month - Email your MP and the Secretary of State for Business and trade calling for business that is Fair on Our Planet. You will find more information on the Fairtrade Foundation website.

First Advance warning

Christmas cards are coming! You can order Traidcraft Christmas cards from June Curtis. Leaflets showing the cards are now available.

Second Advance Notice - Charity Card Sale on **October 31st.** *June Curtis*

HAVE YOU A FEW MINUTES TO SPARE?

Biblical Chain-making

Using the names of the books of the Bible, how long a chain can you make using the last letter of one book as the first letter of the next? For example:

Obadiah – Hosea – Acts – Samuel – Luke etc. etc. etc.

You can Ignore the numbers 1, 2 and 3, but you can use Chronicles, Corinthians, Kings, Samuel, Thessalonians, Timothy and Peter twice if you wish, and John four times.

Two warnings: First, don't start with Deuteronomy. You won't get far! And second, there are lots of books ending in S! *(deliver your answers to Peter Curtis!!!)*

NIGHT VISITOR

from *Garden Philosopher*

I've been waiting and hoping for ages. I tried to make things easier for the potential visitor by creating a pathway through our boundary, and (inadvertently in our case) wilding the garden; also, by leaving out small gifts of water and food to soften the barrenness of this present season when the ground is so hard that tender noses and tiny claws can't root out those delicious grubs that make up their daily bread, and when water disappears like morning mist . . .

You don't know who I am talking about? Well, I wasn't sure myself that there would be a visitation because, in spite of the regular disappearance of food, there was no *appearance* of our guest. All my fault of course. I had obviously fallen asleep and missed him / her. However, the time came when *Mrs Tiggywinkle* (?) arrived a bit earlier than usual and I spotted in the dusk, a vague, plump shape, barrelling food-wards across the parched grass. Soon *she* was in a huddle over the dish and crunching away; not a dainty, but an enthusiastic, diner.

Peeping from behind the curtains, I had a ringside view and relayed details to B-- who was by now tucked up in bed. It was such a delight, not only being able to see our visitor at last, but to know that I could make a substantial difference to her life. The huddling and crunching went on for some time until she decided on a drink from her dedicated saucer. Finally replete, off she



trundled round behind the flower pots, presumably to sleep it off before making further foraging expeditions to other neighbours. Yes, you can rejoice with me, I'm a hedgehog's neighbour now!

Strangely, the little saga brought to mind something that one of the prophets said to encourage people whose trust in God was wavering: speaking of what seemed to be the rather long-

delayed fulfilment of a vision and a promise, Habakkuk urges them, *'Though it linger, wait for it. It will certainly come and will not delay.'* (Hab. 2.3)

Nothing to do with hedgehogs of course, but looking back over the years of garden philosophising I see that waiting, patience and trust have been frequent themes. They are a basic part of Christian life, a deep wellspring of hope and joy in God our Saviour.

Other parallels spring to mind. Like the Holy Spirit, the hedgehog cometh and goeth at will, whence and whither all unknown. It is not commanded, though it can be encouraged by the willing and eager gardener. And when he/she appears, a new perspective on the garden and gardening is revealed; it is not all for my pleasure, indeed it is not really *mine*, except in so far as I have the privilege of living and working there. It is all part of the labour (and joy) of sharing this great Creation designed by an Owner who has handed it over to us for imaginative use and our own development, not least in caring for all others who live here with us. If we attend to his Head Gardener we will learn from him best garden practice - that is, Love.

P.S. Last night we thought we were seeing double, as not one but *two* hedgehogs turned up! Our cup runneth over . . . P.P.S. And the night after, guess what, there were not only two but *three* visitors! How can I contain myself? Bless all prickly neighbours and those who befriend them.



GOD WORKS TOGETHER WITH ALL THING, FOR THE GOOD OF THOSE WHO LOVE HIM. Romans 8:28,

The Truth of the above chapter and verse was proven again in Jean's life and my life on the 23rd July 2026.

I was paying a bill at around 5 in the early morning on that day when I found that my Debit Card had been hacked, yet again, to the sum of nearly £38. Firstly, I reported this to our bank's fraud team, but later I had a call from the building manager of our flat's complex, who told us that he had found my driving licence. I checked our car to find that it had been ransacked. Everything was gone; personal information and personal belongings which included financial information. This hit my wife Jean really hard and we had to go into our bank to change all our bank details.

The following Sunday, a local church friend called to say that they had found some items of our possessions which had been taken from our car.

The whole incident was traumatic, but, from a different viewpoint, there were many positives. Everyone we dealt with were friendly and helpful and exhibited empathy giving us a feeling of calm assurance.

So, praise be to God! We felt people cared and we were not alone in this.

God was truly with us. Keep the Faith

Dave and Jean Smith



BABIES AND BATHWATER



Are you familiar with the saying 'don't throw the baby out with the bathwater'?

Well..... I can reassure you that I didn't throw the baby out. But.....

In this time of drought, I've been trying to make best use of the water I use. So, a couple of weeks ago I decided that every evening, after washing up the pots, I would leave the water in the bowl to cool down. The following morning, when the water was cool, I then carried the bowl outside and threw the contents over a hydrangea bush which was looking particularly thirsty. The next day I did the same again and also the following day. It was at this point that I wondered why my cutlery drawer seemed to be getting empty. When I looked, I had fewer forks than usual and virtually no teaspoons.

I imagine, by now, you can guess where they were! Sure enough: scattered on the ground around the hydrangea bush!

So, I didn't throw the baby out with the bathwater but I did throw my cutlery out with the washing up water! *Gwyn S*

WORDS OF THE WESLEY BROTHERS "Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore; Mortals, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore: Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; Rejoice, again, I say rejoice." **Charles Wesley** "The desire of nothing but God," seeking and serving him with gladness was on the tongue of the Wesleys.

TIME TO DISCOVER

Following our Lent participation as one of the Churches Together Lent Study Groups, we **restarted as 'Time to Discover' after Easter**, with a comparison by Peter Curtis of passages in **Mark and Matthew** where the same event is described with sometimes a different insight. We saw this not as a problem but as enriching our understanding of those events. We then had an evening sharing **object from our lives** with their significance for our personal or faith journeys. Paul Roebuck then led us through a selection of **Psalms**. Paul will be much missed by the Group.



During **June** we didn't meet as 'Time to Discover'. This was to allow full participation in the **'Bible Month' study of Philippians**. We re-convened in **July** with Peter Curtis leading us into a discussion on **'Knowing and Believing – Faith and Certainty'**, which was both thoughtful and stimulating. This took us into our **summer break**.

We **restart on Thursday 17th September** with a meeting at Jennifer and Don Anderson's. We already have a number of Autumn topics, including sharing of **hymns** of significance to us, and a similar sharing of **Bible passages** we may particularly value. And in October we will have with us **Paul Johns' grandson, Adam**, who is going to share with us some of the PhD study he is currently undertaking on 'Nigerian Communities and Churches' in London.

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*



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. Back in **April** we had a re-visit from **Ian Todd** on **other** accounts of **'Spiritual Experiences'** in addition to his previous study shared with us on 'Near Death Experiences'. Some of you will have known Ian when he and his family lived in Keyworth and were members at KMC. He was an immunologist by profession, but is also a researcher into reported accounts of 'Near-Death' and other Spiritual Experiences, for which he has recently published a second book. We had another fascinating meeting, hearing about dreamlike encounters with often then unknown and sometimes historic people, and instances of apparently miraculous 'healing' experiences. Ian's research has been very much from an objective and thorough scientific standpoint, revealing tantalising glimpses of a 'beyond', from no one particular faith explanation, though often consistent with understandings within our own Christianity.

Our **May** meeting was the rearranged visit of **Musharraf Hussain**, of the Karimia Institute on how his **Islamic faith** sought to inspire moral, spiritual and social goodness. Some KMC friends also came to this meeting to meet again with Musharraf from exchanged visits some years ago with his Mosque and KMC.

Interestingly their Institute has published their own English transcription of the Quran! By contrast in **June** we had a presenter from **Humanists UK**, which led to interesting discussion and touched on funeral commemorating. After our summer break **Peter Curtis** will be with us in **September** with his review of **'The Triple Tradition'** parallel gospel accounts. In **October** we will be hearing all about the **Salaam Shalom Kitchen**, a **joint Jewish/Muslim** partnership charity in Nottingham. 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*

God Bless



MY THOUGHTS ON CREATION

The beauty of the sky, the stars as they twinkle and shine.

The radiant colours as dawn breaks through and a new day comes to life.

Where does the water go as it seeps into the Earth?

Down, down, giving the roots of the plants, a drink giving them life to flourish and grow as they emerge from the soil.

The beauty of the colours, the shades that we can enjoy through the wonder of this world.

The waterfalls, the mountains, the animals, birds, insects, each one makes the Earth a special place.

The sea that laps our shores, the life living deep beneath the waves.

As night comes, we see the moon giving us light.

As you walk through your life's journey, open your eyes, drink in all you can see.

God 's creation is all around you.

Linda D

WORDS OF THE WESLEY BROTHERS

"Give me one hundred preachers who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God, and I care not whether they be clergymen or laymen, they alone will shake the gates of Hell and set up the kingdom of Heaven upon Earth." John Wesley

KMC SOCIAL CONSCIENCE

Ageism - The acceptable prejudice?

In a society obsessed with youth we have all encountered ageism in everyday life, but what is ageism

Defining ageism.

Ageism refers to stereotypes (how we think), prejudice (how we feel), discrimination (how we act) towards others based on their age.

There are different types of ageism as defined below

Internalised ageism: This is where we think that something is not for us because of our age. It is also when older adults marginalise and discriminate against other older people.

Implicit ageism: Unconscious bias that include attitudes, feelings and behaviours towards older people that operate without conscious bias.

Interpersonal ageism. This is ageist comments and behaviours in everyday interactions. This may be negative but can also come from a positive intention, but is still based on stereotypes.

Benevolent ageism: This is the patronising, paternalistic belief or behaviour that older people need to be protected from because they are no longer capable of making decisions for themselves. An example of benevolent ageism is 'Elder-speak'. This is when someone speaks slowly or in a higher pitch to the older person as they would to a small child and as if they are incapable of making decisions for themselves. It could be an exclusion from conversations or speaking to a family member of caregiver even when the older person is quite capable of participating themselves. Dismissing genuine concerns as just ageing or imagined without proper investigation. Not listening to the older person or constantly interrupting them so as not to give them time to make their point.

Cultural ageism. You see this all the time, the normalised negative messaging about ageing in the media, in our newspapers, on television and in advertising.

Institutional ageism: Unfair age-based restrictions in laws, public and private institutions with rules that discriminate and sideline older people in the workplace.

Health ageism. Ageism in health care is not always overt or intentional. It is often subtle and ingrained into the system. One of the more insidious forms of ageism in health care is the over or under treatment stemming from age, -based on assumptions rather than from clinical assessment. Often overly complex medical jargon is used with a failure to explain medical conditions in an understandable manner.

Ageism is socially ingrained in our society Even by the age of three children are familiar with age stereotypes. and these are reinforced over their lifetime. A 2020 poll found that 82% of adults between 50-80 experience ageism daily. Those people facing multiple forms of ageism are more likely to suffer with chronic health conditions or depression, yet, older people with a more positive self-perceptions of ageing live on average 7.5 years longer than those with a more negative self-perception of ageing. This has been found to be one of the most important factors in determining longevity.

So, how do we combat age-based bias (ageism) as a church? We must treat all of our congregation with the dignity that they deserve and remember that age is a number not a medical condition.

Debbie Boote KMC Social Inclusion Representative

As Saint Paul said in his first letter to Timothy. *"Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity."*



MMiB So What is the Methodist Mission in Britain once Home Missions?

The Methodist Church has many areas for mission. Mission in Britain is the umbrella of all the activities which happen within Great Britain. The Mission in Britain fund helps local churches serve their communities in lots of different ways – from providing play centres for children, cafes for outreach into city centres, supporting chaplaincy in hospitals, prisons and schools, or working with Food Banks. Through Mission in Britain, the Methodist Church seeks to get involved in our communities, meeting the needs those communities; showing the love of God in a practical way.

The Keyworth Mission in Britain Coffee Morning



31 years ago, two friends Gill Bell and Ena Hight began a Methodist Home Mission Coffee Morning and retired this August after organising over 320 events! Gill and Ena have been friends for more than 52 years and had the idea after speaking to Doreen Gee who also wanted to move the Tuesday Lunch Club into the newly built Village Hall Centenary Lounge in 1994. They wanted it to provide 'A good place to be,' and they remember many regulars over the years including Derrick Summers, his Mum Ruth Harman and wife Gwyn. Derrick always ordered drinks and 'Three pieces of coffee cake!'

In the first five years they also supported an R.A.F. charity, a favourite of Gill's husband Bernard. This alternated with the Methodist Charity and was often supported by John Hartley, once Head Teacher of Keyworth Primary School.

The format has always been Tea and Coffee and Cake..... plus bric-à-brac and sometimes different individuals have sold cards and given some of their takings to the MMiB.

So thank you Gill and Ena for all you have done over 31 years

Mission in Britain Coffee Morning 2026/27

So, can you help continue Gill and Ena's enterprise? So far, we have volunteers for September, October and November and are hoping that we will have many more come forward over the months ahead. The event occurs on the first Thursday of every month and we expect to begin setting up at 9.30, starting to serve at 10.00 and finishing at 12.00. In the past hot drinks and cakes have been sold with the Community Bus transporting some to the venue. Sometimes people ask to take cake home, so you need to have a few bags ready. So, to an extent, you can do what you want even, perhaps providing toasted tea cakes! To find out more see Geoff or Jenny Daft who are liaising with the Village Hall staff. *Geoffrey D*

A Prayer for Mission in Britain

Gracious God, we thank you for calling us to serve. We lift up the work of Methodist Mission in Britain. Bless every local church, community project, and outreach worker. Grant strength to the weary, wisdom to leaders, and open hearts in our neighbourhoods. May your love transform lives and bring hope to all.

Lord, send your Spirit into our towns and villages. Help local churches reach out with open hands. Give us grace to meet real needs and share your good news with joy.

Guide our hands to fight unfairness. Help us stand with the poor, the lonely, and the broken. Make our fellowships safe spaces of healing and true welcome.

Renew our faith when we feel weak. Fill your people with courage for the days ahead. Keep our focus fixed on Jesus Christ, our living Lord.

Amen

ANSWERS TO HAVE YOU A FEW MINUTES TO SPARE?

Here are the 16 books!

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 names 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 Bible books in this story. *(Thank you Linda D)*

What is the Hymn?

Answer from page 1 'To thee, O Lord, our hearts we raise,' Singing the Faith 129

A DIFFERENT WAY TO LOOK AT FINANCES

Sunday Coffee Boxes

As most of you know the money donated for coffee after our Sunday morning services is paid into the Church Benevolent fund. Recently, as the boxes were very, very heavy, it was decided it was time they were emptied and counted before the weight damaged the boxes. The amount collected over the 3-month period since they were last emptied was £210, a record amount! After taking the money to the Post Office to bank, I thought I would share some facts about these latest donations which is mostly in coins and depending on the amount can be many individual items that in total weigh a lot.

This time there were only 2 notes and the rest was in individual coins. They counted up to a total of 350, this included £150 in one-pound coins and these themselves amount to 2lbs or 1.1kg in weight. The remaining 200 were in various denominations; 50p, 20p, silver and bronze, no foreign coins this time!

In order to fill in the breakdown of the total for the 'Paying In slip' each denomination of coin was counted and put in the appropriate plastic coin bag, so that amounted to 16 bags altogether. The Post Office counted them all again to confirm the total and yes, it balanced and I received 5 empty bags back for reuse.

For the numismatists among us the newest coin I noticed, I didn't look at them all (!), was a King Charles III £1 from 2026, so less than a year old and the oldest a 50p piece dated from 1973 so 53 years old. So now we have a good fund and the Post Office, at the time of writing, had plenty of change! *Alan Withington - Treasurer*



My thanks to all who have contributed to the 21st edition of KeyNotes. My apologies to anyone whose contributions I have lost, misfiled or misplaced! The Christmas KeyNotes 22 will be published at the beginning of December.

Please email or hand me all your ideas and contributions by

Sunday November 22nd The earlier the better!

I hope you have enjoyed another 'bumper' edition! Geoff D