

Donations

July 2026

GREETINGS FROM LUDLOW METHODIST CHURCH



Henry and his dad exploring
the worship area during the
20th Anniversary celebrations

Life Beyond Death: 'the Best is Yet to Be'

Two funerals in one month rightly prompt us to think about life beyond death. What does the Bible and our Christian faith encourage us to look forward to? And what do they say about the future of the world?

We Christians are having to re-think much of what we've been taught in the past. It's all too easy to read into the Bible ideas which aren't there at all. Recently the Pope told people -smugglers to expect divine judgement, and they should repent before it is too late. A newspaper reported him as saying that they would go to hell. But he didn't say that. In fact, the Bible says little or nothing about hell, but it says quite a lot about the purifying fire of God's judgement, and that is what Pope Leo was referring to.

The New Testament proclaims a new heaven and a new earth. This 'new creation' began with the coming of Jesus at what we might call the first Christmas. The resurrection of Jesus and Pentecost confirmed it. And God won't rest until the coming together of heaven and earth is complete. We can't imagine that, and shouldn't even try; as Paul says, 'Now we see through a glass darkly', (1 Corinthians 13).

The reality is: God has never stopped loving us and never will, and 'us' means every human being who has ever lived or will live.

So what will we be like beyond death? One of the later letters of the New Testament tells us: 'when he (Jesus) is revealed, we shall be like him because we shall see him as he is' (1 John 3.1). And that's only the start. Beyond death, Paul tells us, we shall be changed 'from glory into glory'. ((Whatever we Methodists might think, Paul said those words before Charles Wesley!).

That's the crucial thing. And then we shall see Jesus and God as they really are. We can start, or continue, to 'love God and enjoy him for ever' – the purpose of life in the first place. But, beyond death, we won't do this in splendid isolation. We shall all meet again.

Tom Wright, the great New Testament scholar, writing about 1 John, asks 'What will we be like (beyond death)? He answers '.... like we are, only much more so. More gloriously physical, not less. Embodied *but not subject to sickness or death*', (my italics).

But we won't enjoy all this in splendid isolation. We shall meet again. That is part of what the Church means when it affirms its belief in 'the communion of saints'.

The key to everything is the simple but profound reality that 'God *is* love' – not to be confused with the idea that God is a supernatural being who loves us. This is why Paul could write those glorious words at the end of Romans 8: 'What can separate us from the love of Christ?' he asks. His answer: nothing at all – neither life nor death, neither the world as it is nor the world as it shall be.... nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord'.

This has far-reaching implications for how we face and live life now – more of that next month!

Neil R., (deputising for our minister, Denise)

People 'nourish' the communities they live in - Lord High Commissioner

In a time of "global division and conflict, it is our common ground that brings us together", King Charles' representative has said.

So said the Lord High Commissioner Lady Elish Angiolini, after visiting projects and organisations across Scotland.

She said they showed signs of the Kingdom of God, and she promised to share with His Majesty "the great unity and purpose" of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Lady Elish said communities across Scotland and elsewhere need the church now more than ever. She said that an important part of her role is to "affirm the connection" between the Church and the communities of Scotland.

"Over the course of the General Assembly, I have had the great privilege of meeting many people who are walking in God's ways," she said. "We saw how committed people nourish the communities they live in."

A BEACON OF HOPE FOR FRIDAH

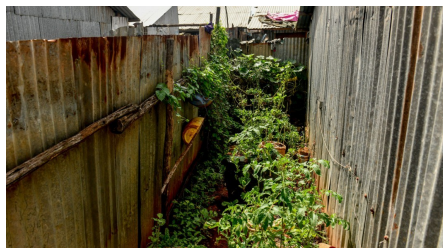
"What can I get Sam for his tea?" Every day was the same as lunch hour approached, when I was working in a factory - how we students laughed, as well as coming up with suggestions. I have often thought of Ethel and her daily challenge.

For millions of mothers in the poverty-stricken districts of Nairobi, struggling to feed their children, it's not a question of 'What can I get', rather 'Can I find enough food to feed my children this evening?' Parents wake daily knowing that if they don't go out and earn some money their children won't eat that evening. In the informal settlement of Dagoretti, Fridah, a recently widowed mother and grandmother, became the sole provider for her family having to find money for rent, school fees, water and food. The family lives in a rented corrugated metal shelter with no refrigeration or storage. Fridah travels long distances six days a week to sell vegetables at a market stall but does not always earn enough, adding to her stress and anxiety.



Life began to improve for Fridah when she and other families met Christian Aid's local partners 'Beacon of Hope'. Through her membership of Kalimo, an urban farming project run by Beacon of Hope, she received tools,

seeds and training enabling her to grow fresh vegetables in a small city space - food she could cook for her family or sell to receive income to reinvest. At first the idea seemed impossible. 'Where can I possibly farm here?'



But Fridah learned how to grow food in small spaces, how to use cone gardens to make compost and conserve water. At the end of a narrow alley near her home Fridah tends her own urban farm. She grows kale, tomatoes and indigenous vegetables. It means more than food to her - her vegetable plot means stability and choice: 'Now I can plan. I can buy this. I can buy that. I can help my family. It's hard, but in God I trust for the strength to keep going day by day'. Her urban farming may be small but it carries big hopes: hope for education, independence and a future beyond daily uncertainty.

As we give thanks for the work of Christian Aid, we give thanks that we can contribute. Let's remember especially, the women of Nairobi who respond to our gifts in such positive and creative ways. We can make a difference.

Claire Wilcox
07906 894027

I was walking to Chapel beside Anne Donnelly who referred to a school song I had never heard before. Stephen Dalton found the words. They remind me of the wonders of creation we often take for granted:

God bless the grass that grows thru the crack
They roll the concrete over it to try and keep it back
The concrete gets tired of what it has to do
It breaks and it buckles and the grass grows thru
And God bless the grass

God bless the truth that fights toward the sun
They roll the lies over it and think that it is done
It moves through the ground and reaches for the air
And after a while it is growing everywhere
And God bless the grass

God bless the grass that grows through cement
It's green and it's tender and it's easily bent
But after a while it lifts up its head
For the grass is living and the stone is dead
And God bless the grass

God bless the grass that's gentle and low
Its roots they are deep and its will is to grow
And God bless the truth, the friend of the poor
And the wild grass growing at the poor man's door
And God bless the grass

Adrian Williams

Quotes for the month

1. Forbidden fruit creates many jams. - *Anon*
2. The tyrant dies and his rule is over, the martyr dies and his rule begins. - *Soren Kierkegaard*
3. An egotist is a man who talks about himself so much that you don't have a chance to talk about yourself. - *V Havner*
4. God is a little like American Express - don't leave home without Him. - *Anon*

Holy Days

3rd July, St Thomas the Apostle – confused and doubting

Thomas, one of Jesus' 12 apostles, was an impulsive, confused, honest sceptic. Jesus could understand and work with such a man. Thomas' impulsiveness was evident when Jesus prepared to visit Lazarus in Bethany. It was a dangerous trip to make, because of the Jews, but Thomas urged his fellow disciples: "Let us also go, that we may die with Him." (John 11:16) Instead, Jesus brought Lazarus back to life.

Thomas' confusion is shown in later talks with Jesus. He was not really sure where Jesus was going long-term (John 14:5). But Jesus accepted this confused commitment, and began to untangle it, patiently explaining: "I am going to my Father", and "No one comes unto the Father but by me."

Finally, Thomas' honest scepticism is revealed after the Resurrection, which he flatly refused to believe - unless he could touch the wounds of the risen Jesus. Sure enough, Jesus appears - but instead of scolding him, shows him the wounds. Thomas responds: "My Lord and my God" (John 20:26ff).

Thus Doubting Thomas' honest doubts, turned to honest faith, have become a reassurance for thousands of men and women across the centuries, who also want to follow Jesus, but who require some proof of this amazing event - the Resurrection. In Doubting Thomas' complete affirmation of faith, after meeting the risen, crucified Christ, they can find support for their own faith.

Ancient legends tell how Thomas went on to India as a missionary. There are rumours that Thomas even built a palace for a king's daughter in India, and thus he is the patron saint of architects. It is believed that he was martyred by a spear on 3rd July, 72 AD in Mylapore, near Madras. 46 ancient churches in England were dedicated to him.

15th July, St Swithun (or Swithin) - saint for a rainy day

St Swithun is apparently the saint you can blame for rainy summers. It is said that if it rains on his special day, 15th July, it will then rain for 40 days after that. It all began when Swithun was made Bishop of Winchester in 852 by King Ethelwulf of Wessex. It was an important

posting: Winchester was the capital of Wessex, and during the 10 years Swithun was there, Wessex became the most important kingdom of England.

During his life, instead of washing out people's summer holidays, and damping down their spirits, Swithun seems to have done a lot of good. He was famous for his charitable gifts and for his energy in getting churches built. When he was dying in 862, he asked that he be buried in the cemetery of the Old Minster, just outside the west door.

If he had been left there in peace, who knows how many rainy summers the English may have been spared over the last 1000 years. But, no, it was decided to move Swithun. By now, the 960s, Winchester had become the first monastic cathedral chapter in England, and the newly installed monks wanted Swithun in the cathedral with them. So finally, on 15 July 971, his bones were dug up and Swithun was translated into the cathedral.

That same day many people claimed to have had miraculous cures. Certainly everyone got wet, for the heavens opened. The unusually heavy rain that day, and on the days following, was attributed to the power of St Swithun. Swithun was moved again in 1093, into the new Winchester cathedral. His shrine was a popular place of pilgrimage throughout the middle ages. The shrine was destroyed during the Reformation and restored in 1962. There are 58 ancient dedications to Swithun in England.

Notices found in church newsletters - that didn't quite come out right!

1. Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of the vicar's sermons.
2. The Rector will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing: 'Break Forth Into Joy.'
3. Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married last weekend in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their schooldays.
4. Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Military chaplains vital to “spiritual resilience” of service members

The key role played by Church of Scotland military chaplains at a time of rising international tensions has been recently highlighted at the General Assembly.

Group Captain (Ret'd) Andrew Tait, who is convener of the Committee on Chaplains to HM Forces, said that as people in the services "prepared like never before" for whatever demands the country asked of them, chaplains would stand alongside them "wherever they go and whatever they do".

Mr Tait went on to refer to the “dangerous state of the world today.” He said: "There is war in Europe, tension in the Persian Gulf and many other conflicts and hotspots around the world. Some informed commentators believe this country is closer to major conflict than it has been for many years.

"As a result, the men and women of his Majesty's Armed Forces are preparing like never before to meet whatever demands the Government and the country ask of them.

"Chaplains stand alongside the people of the Services wherever they go and whatever they do, to support them and care for them morally, pastorally and spiritually.

"Chaplains, of any faith, working with those of all faiths and no faith, are there to listen, to advise and to support."

I can take my telescope and look millions of miles into space; but I can go away to my room and in prayer get nearer to God and heaven than I can when assisted by all the telescopes of earth. – *Isaac Newton*

Christians are the only people in the world who have anything to be happy about. – *Billy Graham*

Christians, keep the faith – but not from others! – *Anon*

Let us make God the beginning and end of our love, for He is the fountain from which all good things flow and into Him alone they flow back. Let Him therefore be the beginning of our love. – *Richard Rolle*

Plenty of people wish to become devout, but no one wishes to be humble. – *Francoise, Duc de la Rochefoucauld*

Green Pages

A round-up of environmental
and climate-change news

July 2026

Some quotes from Sir David Attenborough

- “It seems to me that the natural world is the greatest source of excitement; the greatest source of visual beauty, and the greatest source of intellectual interest; It is what makes life worth living.”
- “Young people care. They know that this is the world they’re going to spend the rest of their lives in. But it’s more idealistic than that, they believe that humanity has no right to destroy and despoil.”
- “There are some four million different kinds of animals and plants in the world; four million different solutions to staying alive.”
- “If working apart we are a force powerful to destabilise our planet, surely working together we are powerful enough to save it.”
- “When I was a young boy, it was thought the sea was a vast wilderness to be tamed and mastered for the benefit of humanity. As I approach the end of my life, we know the opposite is true.”
- “We only know a tiny proportion about the complexity of the natural world. There are still things we don’t know about and don’t understand. There are always new things to find out.”
- “Real success can only come if there is a change in our societies and in our economics and in our politics.”
- “The best motto is not to waste things. Don’t waste electricity; don’t waste paper; don’t waste food. Live the way you want to live but just don’t waste.”
- “The natural world is changing. It provides our food, water and air. It is the most precious thing we have and we need to defend it.”
- “The final chapter is ours to write. We know what we need to do. What happens next is up to us.”

Plastic wet-wipes ban

It will soon be illegal to sell or supply wet-wipes containing plastic fibres in all four nations of the UK: December 2026 in Wales, May 2027 in England and N Ireland, and August 2027 in Scotland.

Plastic wet-wipes cause two major problems: they wash up on beaches as litter and, when flushed down toilets, they clog sewer pipes. Fewer blocked sewers mean lower operational costs and less pressure on household bills. Fewer plastic wipes entering the sea mean healthier habitats for fish, seabirds, and coastal wildlife.

Between 2015 and 2020, surveyors found an average of 20 wet-wipes per 100 meters of UK coastline. Unlike paper, plastic wet-wipes do not break down in water. Over time, they fragment into micro-plastics, tiny pieces of synthetic material that harm marine creatures and degrade water quality.

In the UK wet-wipes are linked to 94% of sewer blockages, costing water companies around £200 million annually to clear. That figure illustrates how a single everyday product, flushed in the wrong place, creates a costly chain of consequences for infrastructure, wildlife, and the public.

Most wet-wipes sold today contain plastic fibres that keep them sturdy and moist during use. Those same fibres persist in the environment long after the wipe is thrown away or flushed. Plastic-free alternatives made from plant-based materials like cellulose are already widely available, and major retailers began phasing them in as far back as 2022.

Scotland has a strong track record of cutting unnecessary plastic, banning plastic-stemmed cotton buds in 2019. Beach surveys following the ban showed a measurable drop in the numbers washed up on the shores, giving real confidence that the plastic wet-wipes ban will deliver similar results.

The plastic **wet-wipes ban** removes a harmful product from general sale, protects the natural environment, and shifts an entire product category toward cleaner alternatives.

Happy Eco News

Low climate-impact chocolate?

If you've ever stood in a supermarket aisle choosing between dark, milk, or white chocolate, climate impact probably wasn't part of your decision. But scientists have found that the ingredients, especially milk content, play a major role in determining how environmentally friendly different chocolate types of chocolate are.

At first glance, chocolate seems like a plant-based product. It begins with cocoa beans grown on tropical farms, often in regions close to the Equator. However, the journey from bean to bar introduces additional ingredients that significantly change its climate footprint.

Milk powder, commonly used in milk and white chocolate, is a major driver of emissions. Dairy production requires land, water and feed, and livestock emit methane, a potent greenhouse gas. Because of this, chocolates with higher milk content tend to have a much larger carbon footprint. This is why dark chocolate often ranks among the lowest-impact chocolates. It typically contains little to no dairy and a higher percentage of cocoa.

Still, dark chocolate is not impact-free. Cocoa farming itself can contribute to deforestation and biodiversity loss, especially in areas where forests are cleared to make way for plantations. For that reason, chocolate with the lowest climate impact depends on how the cocoa is grown. Agroforestry, for example, involves growing cocoa alongside trees and other crops. This can improve soil health, support biodiversity, and store carbon, reducing the environmental impact.

Other factors, such as processing, packaging, and transportation, also contribute to emissions. However, their impact is generally smaller than that of producing raw ingredients such as milk and cocoa. So choosing chocolate with higher cocoa content and less dairy is one of the easiest ways to reduce the environmental footprint of your purchase.

For now, the choice often comes down to the individual. The next time you reach for a chocolate bar, the darker option may not just be richer in flavour, it may also come with a lighter climate footprint.

Happy Eco News

Amsterdam pulls the plug on fossil fuel ads

Amsterdam has become the first capital city to outlaw advertising for high-carbon products, including meat, flights and cars with internal combustion engines. The ban came into force on May 1st this year, following similar moves by other Dutch cities, including The Hague, Utrecht and Delft.

"There is no longer a place in Amsterdam for advertising by companies that fuel the climate crisis," said councillor and policy instigator Jenneke van Pijpen of GroenLinks Amsterdam. *"We are very pleased that there is now a ban on fossil fuel and meat advertising in our public spaces."*

Not everyone welcomed the policy, however. The Dutch meat industry reacted angrily to the ban, arguing that its products provide nutrients to citizens. Others claimed the measures curtailed the commercial freedom of companies.

Shweta Narayan of the Global Climate and Health Alliance defended the move. *"Banning fossil fuel advertising is a logical and necessary first step to discourage their use,"* she said. *"The public health evidence from bans on tobacco advertising is clear: this approach works."*

Positive News

Don't forget the Ludlow Green Festival

Sunday 12th July, 10.00 am - 4.00 pm

There will be live music, tasty food and drink, sustainably produced things to buy, family activities and interactive workshops.



**The Green Pages of the Ludlow Methodist Church monthly magazine
are brought to you by the Care for Creation Group.**

For more information please contact Elizabeth Wright.

Who mowed the lawns of Eden, who kept the gardens trim?
Adam never volunteered, I'm sure it wasn't him.
Who pruned all the fruit trees to which Genesis refers?
Did the Angel Gabriel have some secateurs?

Satan in his serpent skin was busy tempting Eve,
he had lots of nasty gardening wiles hidden up his sleeve.
He scattered weeds and tares about, and greenfly that he found,
but none of Satan's weed-seeds ever fell on stony ground.
He never helped with digging, and he never used a rake,
he couldn't if he wanted to, being dressed up like a snake!

Who mowed the lawns of Eden, who kept the garden green?
Eve was not a gardener, and the cherubim weren't keen.
The Angels and Archangels, they were pretty much the same,
they refused to weed as well as magnify His name.

The Seraphim, they could have helped in several different ways,
but they had all their time cut out, singing hymns of praise.
The heavenly host was small then, because nobody had died,
but none of them liked digging, even though they'd never tried.
I bet the saints and martyrs would have loved to dig and hoe,
for martyrs up in heaven act the same as down below!

Who mowed the lawns of Eden, who helped the garden grow?
Who made it a paradise? I'll tell you 'cos I know:
God, he fixed the garden, the first one that he made,
He pruned all the roses, and was handy with a spade.

On Sunday nice and early He went out to smell the dew,
(There wasn't any church then, so he'd nothing much to do.)
He wandered to the potting shed, behind the tree of life,
and he got his spade and trowel out, His fork and pruning knife.
He looked after Eden and He watched the lilies grow,
and Eden's still a paradise where gardeners can go.

© Miles Kington & the Sunshine Band, 1975

Supplied by Mike Owens

The Bank Account

I thought I should try to explain what has gone on with the bank account recently.

It all started with them converting our account from a business account to a charity one – of their own choice though it probably means lower charges.

They took a list of our trustees from the Charity Commission website and asked for more information about everyone – address, DOB, nationality, previous address if less than 3 years, confirming full name, mobile phone number. This information had to be loaded onto an online portal. I believe the original request was delayed in the post but once I received it I did as I was asked. Then they came back saying they couldn't trace 4 people electronically so could I supply verified photo ID such as passport or driving licence for them, countersigned by a solicitor or accountant. I did this, but one trustee had neither. I told them all about her long status as a Lloyds customer including some other pertinent information which meant that she should be very traceable by them. It was 10th March when I sent the last items together with an email saying I hoped that they had all they need and that was the process completed. Silence. Until one of our room hirers reported that they had tried to pay their bill but it was returned. That was how we found out that the account was blocked and they had started the process of closing it.

I complained. They then asked questions about two new trustees from our list and queried the other trustee again. I supplied all they asked for but they could not accept the argument about the outstanding trustee so she had to resign off the CC list. It then still took ages for the block to be lifted.

By this time two formal complaints had been raised, the original one about the lack of communication for a crucial 4 weeks, plus the fact that I had received emails about North Wiltshire Methodist Church. I had been pestering the complaints department on a regular basis. They often said there was no sign of a block. This first complaint was upheld and they awarded us £150 compensation - which was paid into our Wesley's account. They had been checking the wrong account all along.

The second complaint was about this mistake and the ongoing delay. This too was upheld and they have awarded us a further £500. The block was eventually lifted on 18th May.

Nothing moved in or out of the account between 9th April and 18th May – except the bank took their service charge.

So we have had to cope with standing orders being cancelled and/or returned for all of you who donate that way, plus all our utility providers and room hirers. No bills could be paid, I paid over £700 from my personal account for 2 months gas.

I am very grateful to all of you who have already replaced the donations for the time it was blocked. We are still trying to reinstate some direct debits, the mess is not totally sorted out but we are getting there.

Joyce Evans
Treasurer

World Cup

Many across the world are united in watching the World Cup in the United States, Mexico and Canada. However, football is more than just a game; it can illustrate some key points about the Christian life. As Paul writes: *'But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.'* (Philippians 3:13b,14).

A prize to be won: The dream of every player in the competition is to be able to hold up the World Cup themselves. Christians grasp to the prize of eternal life, God's gift to us of relationship with Jesus for now and eternity. However, there's an important difference between football and the Christian faith. To win the World Cup you have to be good enough, while Christ's love for us is underserved and not dependent on how well we've done.

Training to be undertaken: If a team is going to win the World Cup, training is vital! Our training, as Christians, starts the moment we accept the gift of God's life. On a daily basis, we train ourselves to say *no* to the wrong things in our lives. As we build up our *godly muscles* we are better able to choose to do what is right in God's eyes. To enable us to do all this we need to engage in the spiritual disciplines of prayer, studying the Bible and being part of a church and small group. How is your training going?

The former Liverpool Manager Bill Shankly famously said, *'Some people believe football is a matter of life and death, I am very disappointed with that attitude. I can assure you it is much, much more important than that!'*

Canon Paul Hardingham

'Teddy' Roosevelt's Rough Riders

Roosevelt's charge up San Juan Hill with his Rough Riders, during the Spanish-American War of 1898, is one of the most myth-saturated episodes in American military history. The reality is far less heroic than the legend suggests.

Roosevelt was the Assistant Secretary to the Navy, a post he relinquished to join the war and helped form the 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry. The regiment was initially under the command of Colonel Leonard Wood, they were mocked as 'Wood's Weary Walkers'. Roosevelt assumed command on Wood's promotion. Things started to go awry once they arrived at the quay to board the transport that was to take them to Cuba.

They had neglected to make transport arrangements for their horses and the ship had also been earmarked for two other regiments. Not big on sharing, Roosevelt boarded the ship and secured it for his men. However, warnings of Spanish warships waiting for them caused a delay of ten days, finally sailing on 13th June.

With no experience of disembarking into surf, the experience couldn't have been much worse. With men still in the water, the pack mules were released with the thought that they would merely swim ashore. No-one thought to tell the mules that! Some swam away, some just swam from boat to boat while some panicked and started attacking the men in the water, who were desperately trying to avoid them. Many mules that didn't drown were shot.

The Rough Riders, a mixture of cowboys, Native Americans, Texas Rangers and Ivy League athletes - a cavalry unit without horses. They didn't take well to being infantrymen. The advance to the San Juan Heights had to be made through dense jungle. To act as a guide Lieutenant Colonel George Derby went aloft in his hot air balloon. The problem here was that this elevated position gave the Spanish gunners a good idea of where the American column was. They didn't waste the opportunity, and simply fired blind into the jungle directly below the balloon.

Approaching the base of the hill the Americans ran into barbed wire, it was not a good time to discover that no-one had brought wire cutters! The Americans breached the wire and began to advance. American artillery mistook them for Spanish and began shelling them, forcing them to retire. The Spanish declined to provide counter-battery fire at the obvious American gun positions, perhaps regarding them as something of an ally, they were, after all, shooting at their own troops.

Meanwhile, Roosevelt and his weary Rough Riders, still minus horses, charged up nearby Kettle Hill by mistake. By the time he had secured this position, the action on San Juan Hill was virtually over. Not to be outdone, however, he decided to assault San Juan Hill as well. He rushed off without giving any clear commands to his men and charged up the hill shouting 'Charge', but he was on his own! By the time he got back to his men the Spanish on San Juan Hill were in a rout.

They say that history is written by the victors, this was certainly the case here. Roosevelt carefully crafted his own version of the day, which was duly amplified by newspapers.

History will tell you that Roosevelt's Rough Riders won the battle by themselves. The attack, though, was an integrated effort involving thousands of U.S. troops, crucially black soldiers of the 9th and 10th Cavalry. They were among the hardest-fighting troops on the field. Roosevelt later downplayed their role in his own version of events. He was not the unquestioned hero of the day that he would have everyone believe. Although he fought bravely, he didn't win the day alone. The victory was the result of combined infantry and cavalry assaults. But still, he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions on that day.

Nevertheless, his version of the truth propelled him to become the Governor of New York and then the 26th President of the United States from September 1901 to March 1909.

His presidency fared better than his solo charge up San Juan Hill. He will be remembered for breaking monopolies, protecting consumers, building the Panama Canal and transforming the presidency into a powerful, activist institution. He was also the first American to win the Nobel Peace Prize (1906), awarded for mediating the Russo-Japanese War.

Ron Gittings

Source: *Loose Cannons* by Graeme Donald



Ten years ago the following was printed in the magazine. I have been asked whether it could be repeated as it is felt to be very appropriate at this time.

We were privileged to hear Rev Dr Keith Garner, AM preach at St John's Llandudno in their 150th anniversary year. Incidentally the AM does not show that he is a member of the Welsh Assembly, this is the Australian equivalent of the Order of Merit, which he was awarded in the Queen's birthday honours. St John's have invited all surviving previous ministers back to preach during this year as well as surviving Chairs of their District. As always Keith's message was challenging and very thought-provoking so I thought I would share the salient points from it. He was talking about what makes a Church and made the following three points:

1. Church is a distinctive community.
2. Church is a community of broken people, not one of us can claim to be complete and perfect.
3. Church is a community of tellers about and doers of the essence of Christ – you cannot have one without the other!

The premise of his sermon was particularly challenging as he said, while pointing around the congregation 'YOU are the future of the Church!' On what we do now depends the success of this Church. Think about it, I need say no more.

John Eadie

A dad's three words of wisdom: 'Ask your mother!'.
I used to be a banker, but then I lost interest.
Jokes about German sausages are the wurst.
I stayed up all night to see where the sun went and then it dawned on me.

Geoff's Quiz (Answers)

1 Who developed the first successful polio vaccine?

Jonas Salk

2 They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old. etc, etc. are words we say every November. Who wrote them and what are they from?

(1) Laurence Binyon (2) For the Fallen

3 What is the name of the science of determining a tree's age by looking at its growth rings?

Dendrochronology

4 What was the capital of the Aztec Empire?

Tenochtitla'n

5 What number comes next in the sequence 1,1,2,3,5?

8

6 Who composed the music for the oratorio Saul?

George Frederic Handel

7 What dynasty ruled China for nearly 300 years until 1912?

Quing Dynasty

8 Which Shakespeare play includes the characters Rosencrantz and Guildenstern?

Hamlet

9 What Great Lake does Niagara Falls empty into?

Lake Ontario

10 What is the longest river in Asia?

Yangtze River

(I missed 'Asia' off question 10 last month, sorry about that. But take a free point anyway)