

50p

November 2023

**GREETINGS
FROM
LUDLOW
METHODIST
CHURCH**



Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path. I've promised it once, and I'll promise it again: I will obey your righteous regulations. I have suffered much, O Lord; restore my life again as you promised. Lord, accept my offering of praise, and teach me your regulations.

My life constantly hangs in the balance, but I will not stop obeying your instructions. The wicked have set their traps for me, but I will not turn from your commandments. Your laws are my treasure; they are my heart's delight. I am determined to keep your decrees to the very end.

Psalm 119: 105-112 (Hebrew-nun)

The letter 'nun' comes from the image of a fish, tadpole or snake, and means "to propagate, to increase", "offspring", and "prosperity".

A fish represents life and activity.

It also includes the idea of faithfulness and rewards for faithfulness.

To walk safely in the woods at night, or over the Clee Hills, we need a light so that we don't trip over tree roots, fall into rabbit holes or stumble over sheep.

In life, it could be said that we walk through a forest of temptation and sin, as well as kindness and compassion.

Our Lord, Jesus, shines the light of compassion and example through our reading of scripture, attendance at worship and the study of scripture.

He also lights our way when spotting and dealing with temptation and sin. The psalmist did not have the example of Jesus, but he did have God's words in Scripture, and it is through his reading of God's word, scripture, and God's guidance that God's light shines.

Scripture, the Bible, is therefore, like a lamp to our feet, showing us the way ahead; revealing the tangled roots of false values, right and wrong, what is bad and what is good, so we won't stumble as we walk through life's journey.

Denise

Living Nativity

The Living Nativity pageant will be going ahead again this year on Tuesday 12th December. So please put the date in your diary. More details next month. We have lost some of those who have previously been involved, so it would be good to include some new people this year. We need stewards, actors, a catering team and some general helpers. If you are interested in helping in any way, or simply want to know more, then please talk to Mike Owens

What it means to be a Methodist:

M	MEETING PEOPLE OLD AND NEW
E	EXPECTATION -WORKS BOTH WAYS
T	TRANSFERABLE SKILLS -BOTH WAYS
H	HEAR WHAT PEOPLE SAY AND THINK
O	BE OPEN TO NEW WAYS OF DOING THINGS
D	DEDICATION AND DISCIPLINE
I	INITIATE THINGS
S	SEEK SOULS FOR CHRIST
T	TRY NEW THINGS AND TRUST

A Lament over the state of the world

Creator of all life,

I cry to you with terror of living; the injustice, the pain.

I read of idols, false gods, fake news and shallow lives.

I hear of destruction which people claim come from you.

People are hungry, poor, selfish, in pain; hungry for peace.

I despair, I am overwhelmed, I am confused beyond my limits.

And yet, O God, I have always trusted you.

I can name times you have settled my mind, calmed my heart.

My shelter is because of you, my deepest self has been touched by your presence. My living has been blessed with your Spirit.

Come to me in my complex and unsettled self.

Invite me again to know your generosity and grace.

Restore my awareness so I may hear pain and share hope.

Resurrect me to confidence.

I do praise and trust you; give me insight, courage and action.

Then Creator and energy of all Life, I will praise you with my life.

Elizabeth Gray -King, United Reformed Church prayer handbook 2023 page 55. (Slightly adapted.) Thanks to Stephen Dalton

My Christian Journey..... So Far! Part 2 – The Teenage Years

From 12 – 14 we were in the Senior Department where I really began to enjoy myself. A lot of children had fallen by the wayside and I became friends with those who stayed. I still correspond with one to-day who lives in St. Annes. Now we attended Church three times a day and I remember listening to preachers and thinking there's no way I could ever lead a meeting or stand in a pulpit and do that! In those days preachers were mostly men spouting from a high pulpit.

I joined the Junior Choir. Although we only sang at Sunday School Anniversaries, Easter and Christmas, rehearsing was a pleasure and prepared the way for any member to progress to the main Choir at age 16.

At that time we held Musical Festivals at Bethesda mainly because we were the largest Chapel in the Circuit and had the best stage facilities. Each April contestants from all the Circuit put their skills to the test. From Monday to Friday evenings and Saturday afternoon 11 – 18 year old competitors volunteered to perform in various categories, graded by age. These included pianoforte (solo and/or duets) vocals (solo and/or duets) elocution and sight-reading plus Choirs. All were adjudicated by specialists from outside the Circuit with the top three in each category receiving a certificate which would be presented on the Saturday night. I entered elocution and sight-reading and, thankfully, received certificates. It may be hard for you to imagine me doing elocution with a strong Yorkshire accent but then we all had. Trophies were awarded to the highest all rounder in each discipline. The Church with the overall top marks was also awarded a trophy to keep until the next year. Saturday night was really exciting as the results were read out. Bethesda always won as we had so much talent in each category. The outlying small village Chapels didn't have a chance of winning but they still had some quality contestants. It was the other larger Chapels who complained that Bethesda always won so it was agreed that each year we would have 1/3 of our marks deducted to make it fairer. We still won.

When I was 14 we held a 'Joe Blinco Crusade' which was an offshoot of a 'Billy Graham Crusade'. The Chapel was packed each night for a week with standing room only in the gallery. At the end of each Service we sang 'Just as I am, without one plea' to the tune 'Woodworth'. That's why when we sing it here in Ludlow I love that tune best. On the Thursday night I made my mind up that I was going to commit my life to Jesus so I walked to the front to be blessed.

It didn't end there because all those who had walked forward were escorted to the Sunday School building for counselling in case the euphoria had got to them. Looking back, that is what happened in most cases but one man joined our Chapel, along with his wife, and they became great assets to us. We were all given a pocket sized St. John's Gospel. When I went to school the following day I thought I would feel different but I didn't. However, I still remember the occasion to this day and have never looked back.

At the age of 14 we moved into the Young People's Department where you stayed until you felt old enough to go various ways. Some went to play the piano in other departments or became teachers. By that time age didn't matter although I was always the youngest. Only one or two went to University so we who stayed behind held discussion groups.

At 16 I joined the Choir in the alto section. I loved it. We had a strong four part Choir under the leadership of our brilliant organist. On each first Sunday in December for many years we performed Handel's 'Messiah'. Other talented singers in the district joined us and the soloists were usually a quartet who performed frequently in the locality under the direction of our organist. The Choir also had an impressive conductor and trumpet soloist. I always looked forward to these annual events.

Another part of our fund-raising was where our organist gave recitals which were always well attended.

Up to present most of my Church life had been on the entertainment side. That continued for many years whilst stuck up in the Choir stalls being at the end where I couldn't get out without disturbing others. However, as members got older and either left or died it was decided the Choir would be housed at the front in the main body of the Church. That is when I began to take up various positions.

Maureen Farmery.

Next month – Part 3 – Adulthood. You may find this could surprise or even shock you!!

11.11.11 – Armistice Day

At the eleventh hour on the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918, all hostilities on the Western Front ceased. The Armistice was signed, in a railway carriage, at 5.15am on the 11th November, to come into effect at 11am. It would take some time for the information to be promulgated to all fighting troops. The Armistice (suspension of hostilities) was only designed to last for 36 days, but it was repeated four times before peace finally came with the Treaty of Versailles on the 28th June 1919. *Adolf Hitler, quite deliberately, accepted the French surrender in the same railway carriage and in the same woods in 1940.*

Both sides were ordered to continue fighting until 11am that day. 'What utter nonsense' we would say today, but this was a different time.

The first Armistice Day was hosted by King George V in the grounds of Buckingham Palace. Although the Royal British Legion started selling Remembrance Poppies in 1921, Remembrance Sunday, as we now know it (the closest Sunday to the 11th November) was not officially sanctioned until after the Second World War, in 1946. It was thought that 'Armistice Day' focused too much on the Great War, but a 'Remembrance Sunday' would allow the nation to pay its respects to all who had given their lives for the country. To this day Remembrance Services are held in towns and villages across the land.

The tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Westminster Abbey is still visited by many who wish to pay their respects. The remains of four soldiers killed in battles across Europe were exhumed and taken to a chapel near Arras. The four coffins were draped with a Union Flag so that they could not be identified, and Brigadier L. J. Wyatt with closed eyes rested his hand on one of the coffins. The other soldiers were then taken away to be re-buried. The unknown soldier was given a state funeral, the only time this honour has been bestowed on an anonymous person or a representative of a whole group of people. He truly was a universal and unknown warrior.

Commonwealth Countries observe Remembrance Sunday, and while other nations also observe the date it has a different name. In Poland, for example, it's National Independence Day and in America it's Veteran's Day. The common factor though, is that they all pay their respects to their countrymen and women fallen in the cause of freedom and peace.

Ron Gittings



An inspector calls

Have any of you read any of Gervase Phynn's books? He was a school inspector and wrote a very amusing series of books on his inspection experiences. I too have had several amusing or interesting tales from my sorties into schools. I was involved in inspections for over 25 years and inspected nearly 300 Primary, Junior, Infant and Nursery schools from Exmouth to Jordieland, Carlisle to Canterbury. I hope that none of these schools will be able to be identified!

On my very first inspection the children were fascinated by the wealth of colourful displays around the school. This was encouraging until they were asked how long these had been up. 'They appeared over the weekend' was the reply. So what was there before – 'Nothing'. The really sad thing was that the teacher who had been given the responsibility for putting up and annotating the displays couldn't spell!

There were some happenings which brought you up short. We were inspecting a school in a very run-down area where there was a closed-down car factory where many of the parents had worked. I observed a girl arriving at school at least half an hour late, so went to ask the headteacher whether there was a problem with lateness. He explained to me that this girl had had to get up her three younger siblings, give them breakfast and get them ready for school and send them off, before clearing up the mess, which was indescribable, that her alcoholic parents had left from the night before. That certainly opened my eyes having lived a pretty sheltered middle-class life.

We visited a school in a poor urban area, where the school was surrounded by a 12 foot high fence. We wondered why as the school looked to be surrounded by pleasant housing. However, most of the children came from tower blocks behind these houses. I arrived at about lunch time and went into a little general stores to get a newspaper. I was totally surrounded by a 4 inch thick plastic shield, everything had to be passed out to customers through a small rectangular hole in this sheeting. Numbers were shrinking in the school and there were several empty classrooms. Despite this the deputy still taught in a room on the upper floor which leaked when it rained, turning any wall displays into a streaky mess. When asked why he did not move to a dry room on the ground floor his response was that this was his room and he had always taught there! Perhaps this will be the first of an irregular series as I have a considerable fund of these stories.

John Eadie

A summary of the Ludlow Food Bank Quarterly Report for September 2023, compiled by Ruth Davies.

Showing God's love to people in crisis.

If you know someone we could help get them to contact us via a professional such as Connexus, Ludlow Foyer, Citizens Advice, GP, a Church, Hands Together, the Domestic Abuse Team, Social worker or school. We don't check on each applicant's circumstances; this has been done by those who refer people to us.

So far this year we have given out 479 food parcels, which would feed 1149 people for at least a week, so with repeats, we have fed 798 different people. Last year we gave out 569 parcels and fed 1359 people. The numbers are slightly down because we have given out fewer repeat parcels, and the Open Table and Hands Together Community Fridge schemes and government Cost of Living payment have all helped to reduce demand. But we expect the recent announcement about benefit sanctions will cause some problems.

Thank you for your donations of money, food or time. We can only give to our clients because you give to us.

So far this year we have helped 119 single men, 70 couples, (some of whom may be siblings,) 114 single parents, and 102 2 parent families, 74 single females and 12 Ukrainian refugees.

We have also fed cats, dogs, and the occasional ferret.

The most common request for a parcel is from working people whose wages do not cover their bills. This is a real change; in the past the main reason was delays in benefit payment. Other reasons can include being a victim of theft, being homeless, losing their job or suffering domestic abuse.

Over 81 % of those we have helped live in the town, though we have helped people in Bucknell, Clun, Craven Arms, Clee Hill, and Cleobury.

We are very grateful for the support of local supermarkets and shops acting as collecting points, including Aldi, Tesco, Myriad Organics, One Stop, Applegreen, Blue Cross, Sainsbury's, Spar and Teme Leisure, the Library and Blue Cross shop (pet food.) The local butchers, greengrocers and bakers will also accept our vouchers.

We also manage the Fuel Poverty Fund which 'tops up' people's energy cards or keys. If you would like to donate to some of your winter fuel payment to this fund the details are below.

The monthly Open Table event is a success, with people enjoying a chat over a hot drink and piece of cake in a warm space. There is also the chance to get some professional advice from Citizen's Advice, Christians

against Poverty and Connexus. You can also exchange school uniform items and have your blood pressure checked, all for free.

As Christmas approaches you might consider making a special donation of money or groceries as this is one of our busiest times.

The food bank was begun in 2005 and our records go back to 2008 when we gave out 50 items in the whole year; last year we gave out 479!

There are lots of volunteering opportunities such as making up parcels, shopping, collecting or delivering, stock control and helping grant application, so if you would like to help contact Ruth Davies at foodparcelsatlbc@gmail.com or ring 07896 706 109.

Ludlow is not just your street, it's also home to real people in real need. THANK YOU for your prayerful support and for putting an extra item in your shopping to leave in one of the collecting points around town or in the church vestibule.

Fuel Poverty Fund Sort code 40-30-30, account number 01274554, the account is in the name of Ludlow Baptist Church and please mark the back of your cheque 'fuel poverty fund'.

Tales from the Royal Marines

In August 1968, I began my nine months training to become a Royal Marines Commando at the Depot in Deal in Kent.

Soon after I joined, together with the rest of my squad, the drill Sergeant told us that this morning we would be inspected by the Colonel. The Sergeant explained to us that the Colonel's name was 'Uniacke' which was easy to remember if you thought of 'Union Jack'.

The Colonel appeared, the sergeant called us to attention and saluted. The Colonel then started walking around the squad, looking each man up and down. When he reached the fifth man in the front rank he stopped and said, "Do you know who I am?"

"Yes Sir", replied the recruit, "Your Colonel Union Jack!"

"Who told you that?" asked the Colonel, now somewhat red in the face.

"The Drill Sergeant", said the recruit.

"Sergeant!", shouted the Colonel, "Please see me in my office after this parade".

On the drill sergeants return he informed us that we would drill for an extra two hours that day!

Maurice Hargreaves

Green Pages

A round-up of environmental and climate-change news
including useful advice about what we can do and our progress as an Eco-Church

November 2023

Why buy Fairtrade?

With the increased cost of living many shoppers are concentrating only on price when food shopping to save a few pennies, but there are currently millions of hardworking farmers, particularly in developing countries, that are not being paid enough to support their families. If we buy food without thinking where it comes from or who produced it, we become part of the problem.

By choosing Fairtrade products we can ensure that farmers get a better deal and a more stable income so that they can feed, educate and take care of their children. When farmers sell their crops through Fairtrade co-operatives and plantations they get more money to invest into better farming methods, clean water and to improve the health of their communities.

Fairtrade International is the most widely recognised ethical label in the world. Its standards include protection of the environment, workers rights and the payment of a fair minimum price as well as an additional premium to invest in business and community projects. Fairtrade also means zero-tolerance of child labour, so children under 18 are banned from work that endangers their education, and children under 15 are not employed by Fairtrade organisations.

There are 6,000 Fairtrade certified products for sale in the UK, so it's well worth shopping around. The Fairtrade food sold in the biggest quantities worldwide are bananas, coffee, sugar and cocoa. In the UK we eat around 5 billion bananas a year, but only one in three of these are Fairtrade. Most Brits drink at least three cups of tea a day - that's more than 100 million cups! Not surprisingly, the UK is the biggest market for Fairtrade tea, accounting for 60% of the total supply. 31% of us drink more than three cups of coffee a day.

Methodist Recorder



Can tax be fair?

At the Circuit Away Day in September (as reported in last month's magazine) Dr Hamish Leese suggested one thing we could do is to visit the website justmoney.org.uk (which, incidentally, is based in Kington). The following is taken from an email received by Elizabeth Wright from JustMoney. Whether you agree with this or not, it is certainly a subject for discussion.

In his keynote speech at the Conservative party conference, Chancellor Jeremy Hunt proclaimed, **"the level of tax is too high"**. Moving on to reassure the British public of his tax intentions he said, **"If you're asking me if I want to bring down the tax burden, the answer is absolutely yes."** So are the British public asking Government to bring down the tax burden, and what does that mean?

A Blessing not a "Burden"

It's important we do not look at tax as a "burden"; taxes are an essential part of a thriving society, contributing to the public services we need, like health, education and so much more. At the JustMoney Movement, we want to flip the "burden" narrative on its head, and suggest that instead a fairly designed and responsibly tax system would benefit the whole of society - taxes are a blessing!

A Low Tax Economy or a Fair Tax Economy

The answer to Hunt's question should be "no". Research just last year from the NatCen Research Institute actually suggested the majority of Brits support tax rises and more spending. The important question to ask is not how high is tax overall, but who is paying it? If the Government were to simply reform the way it taxes wealth it could raise up to £50 billion. Just imagine what that could do for our crumbling schools, struggling NHS and out of date public services. Less low taxation, more fair taxation.

At a recent Good Money Week event hosted by the JustMoney Movement we were joined by Shane Claiborne (an evangelical Christian leader and one of the founding members of the non-profit organization, *The Simple Way*). He closed by summarising his vision of Jubilee Economics with a reflection on Mary's Magnificat by saying, **"Those who have lived in excess will be humbled, and those who have lived in poverty will be lifted up - that is all a part of what God is doing in the world"**. JustMoney wants to urge MPs to strive for a fair and just tax system, through which those living in excess may be humbled and those living in poverty will be lifted up. Less about ladders and safety nets, more about common ground where all may share in the wealth of our community.

Bryn Lauder
Communications and Campaigns Manager, JustMoney Movement

Plans to release beavers in Shrewsbury

The Eurasian beaver was native to Britain, but sadly they were hunted to extinction in the 16th century for fur, meat and scent glands. The loss of this species also led to loss of the mosaic of lakes, meres, mires, tarns and boggy places that it so brilliantly built and managed.

Shropshire Wildlife Trust now has an opportunity to release beavers into an enclosure at the 37 acre Old River Bed nature reserve on the northern edge of Shrewsbury. The Old River Bed is owned by Shrewsbury Town Council, who have managed the site for grazing livestock for many years. It's a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) that is protected for its wetland plants.

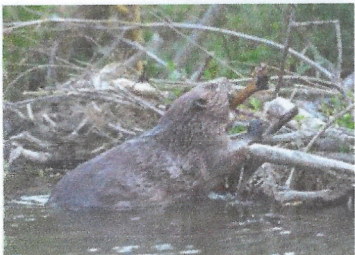
Wetlands store more CO₂ than woodlands, but if left unmanaged the willow trees at the Old River Bed would soon outgrow other plants, dry the site out and impact its ability to store carbon. Beavers are a natural solution that will help the site flourish. They will help to control the growth of willows through natural coppicing and reduce their impact on the sensitive wetland habitat. Their engineering should also improve water quality for other wildlife as well as slow the flow of water.

Over the next few months, the phase one construction of the secure beaver enclosure will take shape. Roughly rectangular in shape the enclosure will be approximately 8.5 hectares. The security and welfare of beavers and other wildlife is of paramount importance and so the fencing is specifically designed to continue deep down into the ground to dissuade beavers from digging under it. Wildlife and biodiversity monitoring will continue throughout the whole project.

There will be an external pedestrian boardwalk across the wetland area to provide safe access for people to cross. Once the secure enclosure has been completed phase two will start to translocate a pair, or family, of beavers and the associated welfare tasks, as well as education and engagement in the community.

England is one of the world's most nature-depleted countries, and beavers offer a chance to reverse the dramatic decline in our wildlife by

allowing nature to restore itself. Release projects are already under way in several locations across England and Wales. They have proved to be hugely successful in managing wetlands more sensitively, enabling nature solutions to many environmental issues.



Shropshire Wildlife Trust

Fuel saving myths

Making fewer journeys in your car is the most obvious way to save fuel, but here are five popular tips and whether or not they really work.

56mph is best speed. According to the RAC, there is no ideal fixed driving speed. The 56mph myth came out of fuel consumption tests - comparing driving in a built-up area to driving at 56mph and at 75mph. The most efficient of the three was 56mph, which led people to think this was the best speed. However, depending on the type of car, the RAC says 45-50mph is most efficient.

Switch off air conditioning. Extra energy is needed to power a car's air conditioning system and can increase fuel consumption by up to 10%. This is more noticeable on shorter trips, because the air conditioner has to use more power initially to bring down the temperature inside your car. Opening windows might be better, but this creates a problem called 'drag'. This is where your engine has to work harder to compensate for the air resistance created by the open windows. So, best use air conditioning above 50mph because the faster you drive the greater the drag.

Coasting saves fuel. The AA recommends against coasting, because you can't accelerate out of a tricky situation. However, most cars have electric controls which cut the supply of fuel each time you take your foot off the accelerator - so there's nothing to be gained by coasting.

Cruise control saves fuel. Cruise control is often seen as a sure-fire way to save fuel, as it avoids unnecessary acceleration and harsh braking. However, this may only be true for motorway driving. On other road types cruise control will take time to adjust to changes in gradient, using more fuel going uphill. Normally you take your foot off the accelerator to go down a hill, but cruise control spends extra time adjusting, leading to worse fuel consumption.

Wrong tyre pressures use more fuel. Underinflated tyres will use extra fuel. The advice is to check tyre pressures regularly, especially before a long journey. Remember that you may need to increase pressures if you're carrying several passengers and heavy luggage. However, extra weight will use up additional fuel, so leave out anything you don't need.

BBC News

The Green Pages of the Ludlow Methodist Church monthly magazine are brought to you by the Caring for Creation Group. For more information about the group please contact Elizabeth Wright.

Three kings, several saints and a monk.

Part Two: - Iona v. Rome, and the tricky question of timing.

Have you ever considered the effect time has had on faith? For example, why do we celebrate the birth of Our Lord on Christmas Day – 25th December, when there are so many vague and contradictory alternative dates to consider? According to David Ewing Duncan, in his book 'The Calendar', the true moment of Christ's birth is unknown. The interpretation of available information regarding his early life provides no clear answer. The Gospel of Matthew claims his birth occurred during the time of Herod the Great, who died in 4BC. Other Gospels and historical sources suggest dates from 6/7BC to AD7, though most historians believe 4-5BC most accurate.

And then, how was time measured over millennia, and by whom? What explanations are there about the differences between the *tropical* year, the *lunar* month, the Early Roman year applicable to early Christians; who made any necessary changes, and why? Are you confused yet? Timing is a complicated matter, especially as some Christian celebrations can contradict mathematical and astronomical thought.

From an historical perspective, it is the Roman Emperor Constantine who we have to thank for much of the time-order that we use today. When Christianity arrived in Rome it faced competition from other established religions, some with strong links to empirical government and the science of time. It was Constantine, being influenced by his British-born mother Helena, herself a long-term Christian, who eventually accepted Christianity as the formal religion of the Roman Empire, becoming baptized on his death bed. By then, he had accepted the ancients' seven-day week, linked to the movement of the planets; introduced Sunday as a holy day (Sun's Day, when farmers were ordered to abstain from work); recognised Christian holidays as fixed days, such as Christmas; and attached the calculation of Easter to the Jewish lunar calendar that was in use when Christ was crucified. Constantine caused much controversy, refusing to recognise the accepted Jewish holy day (Saturday – Saturn's Day). A resolution proposed by early Christian leaders was that as Jesus was crucified on the Jewish week's sixth day, and, as the Bible says, rose again on the first day of the next week, Christianity should recognise Sunday as their holy day.

Does this explain why we celebrate Easter in what appears an arbitrary manner? Not quite. Because Jesus' crucifixion occurred during the Jewish Passover, which itself is linked to the phases of the moon in their calendar month of Nisan, the commemoration date changes every year. Also, expecting Christ's promised return to be imminent, dates and times were not considered relevant to record.

Constantine attempted to determine this principal question in AD325 with a council of bishops at Nicaea. However, for them attendance must have been a trying experience, as many had suffered persecution, imprisonment, and torture. Christianity was rapidly becoming a religion based on the facts (or perceived facts) of Jesus' life, yet the counter argument for some was a debate about 'the doctrine of eternal life and a God that exists outside of

time'. How then to find a proper date for Easter? Agreement was reached – Easter would fall on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the spring equinox, but not before the Jewish Passover. Yet, there was a discrepancy between the various calendars being used across the known world. For example, the spring equinox could be several days in March. Unfortunately, during the interim to the synod of Whitby in AD664, a mindset of antisemitism developed, leading to rejection of all methods of calculating Easter that referred to the Jewish calendar. The impact was devastating.

It was Abbess Hild of Whitby, a respected figure in her own right and a member of King Oswiu's family, who presided over the ultimate discussion to settle what is known as 'The Easter Controversy'. The Jarrow monk Bede's writings outline the strength of some deeply held opinions, forcefully expressed by church leaders with considerable intellectual power. Augustine, whose belief was deeply rooted in *God's time*, held a view about predestination – meaning that no one could influence their own destiny by their behaviour through life. Ionian philosophy was more temperate, possibly because their leaders encouraged integration between their church and local professionals, such as lawyers, poets and genealogists. So, for them, Roman control would have been an unwelcome interference. Even though, by then, Britain had become a refuge for those risking prosecution from Rome as religious outcasts, the Ionian arguments were considered out-moded and they were at risk of losing their influence, including Northumbria and also their foundation on Lindisfarne.

The argument raged around the difference between the western, conservative, Ionian calculation, meaning Easter could be on a different Sunday than churches influenced by strong continental debate following the Roman ethic. Wilfred, bishop of Ripon, called the Ionian representatives 'heretics', maintaining a campaign against them if they did not follow the Roman way. Oswiu's decision was to recognise the authority of Rome and insist that the church he had introduced to Northumbria would adopt Augustine's teachings. Yet more harshly, he expelled those from the abbey on Lindisfarne, severing all links with Iona - the very centre of Christianity that had welcomed him and his brother Oswald, and given them shelter.

Next time: Part Three: Two kings behaving very badly, so why did they become saints?

BMG.

SOURCES: 'The Calendar' by David Ewing Duncan; 'Kings and Kingdoms of Early Anglo-Saxon England' & 'The Conversion of Britain 600-800' both by Barbara Yorke.

NOTES: Tropical year = 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, 45 seconds.

Lunar month = 29 days, 12 hours, 44 minutes, 2.9 seconds.

Early Roman year = 304 days, amended in 700BC to 355 days.

Wesley's Talkin' Tables

I was listening to 'You and Yours – Gap Finders' on Radio 4 on 12 October, which was an interview with Marjorie Hayward from Chorley. She was talking about several charities she has set up to help people combat loneliness and mainly about 'Talkin' Tables'. She set this up at the end of the lockdown to help people on their own to have the confidence to go out again, to visit a cafe, knowing there would be someone there to talk to. She started by booking one table in a cafe for one hour so people could come in to meet and chat with other people. She gradually contacted more cafes so that there was a cafe table every day of the week in Chorley. It has now grown so that there are 'Talkin' Tables' in many towns of the north west.

This set me thinking about Wesley's and its hospitality. Just before Covid arrived John Eadie came across a scheme for sharing a table if you were on your own. There were printed cards for putting on your table to say you were happy to share your table (if you were!). Then along came Covid and lockdown so even when we could open the cafe again we couldn't share tables with people we didn't know.

Now things have opened up again we can share tables if we wish but Wesley's has the added feature of just being a friendly place where the staff will talk to you if they feel that is what you would like. Without breaching any confidences I know there have been several occasions recently when people have come in on their own, maybe for the first time, knowing they will be welcome, someone will talk to them, and they feel comfortable enough to take the plunge. Among our regular customers there are groups of friends who come in to support each other, some of whom otherwise would be lonely.

I found this idea very interesting but think that in Wesley's we have our own version of 'Talkin' Tables'.

Now comes the ad. section of this article – we are all I have said at Wesley's BUT we are becoming short of workers so I am appealing for **more volunteers**. If you, or anyone you know, might be willing to be one of Wesley's 'Merry Band' please talk to me or any of our volunteers. There are application forms in the cafe (ask the Team Leader for one), then you can state whether you wish to be a regular volunteer or on the standby list and which day/s would suit you. All training given! We would love to hear from you.

Elizabeth Wright

Christmas Parcels for Teams4U

If you have not already done so, now's the time to think about the child you'll never meet, whose language you wouldn't understand but whose life will be brightened - and maybe transformed **by your shoe box**; the one filled with items that every child needs and wants and shows them God's love is real because they are holding a sign of that love in their hands. **It's time to think about what you'll put in your shoe box.** Take a leaflet from the worship area display and check the list. You might add a photograph of yourself, a postcard of Ludlow, a Christmas card, and some balloons!

Last year we donated 22 shoe boxes of the 508 created locally and 46, 907 nationally by individuals, schools, churches and youth groups which were sent to Moldova in Eastern Europe.

Just a thought... keep an old leaflet and buy an item or two each month when you see them on offer, or make some items, like gloves and scarves, instead of buying them. If you don't think you'll be able to fill a box by yourself share one with friends or put some items in the box on the worship area display and these will help to create more boxes.

Alternatively, you can sponsor a shoebox for £15 by going online.

As Dave Cooke Teams 4 U founder says, "People say, it's just a shoe box', but it isn't. It tells a child that someone, somewhere, has done this for them; that someone cares about them". And let no one say 'men don't do shoeboxes!'

For information or help, contact Stephen Dalton. (01584 873 405.) or go online to www.teams4u.com

Stephen Dalton

Open Gardens - 2024

On behalf of the Fun in Fund-Raising Group Maureen requires volunteers to open their gardens to us for next year in May, June, July or August. Please feel that you can host one of these events as help will be given on the day in providing cakes, serving or washing up! Please contact her on maureen.v.farmery@btinternet.com.



Celebrate Christmas

at Ludlow Methodist Church

Saturday 2nd December 2023
10.00am to 2.00pm

A Christmas Fayre with a difference:

Stalls with things for you to buy as you prepare for Christmas, alongside activities to help you to think about the true meaning of Christmas.

Stalls will include:

Cards, Cakes, Preserves, Books, CDs, 'good as new' Gifts

Activities will include:

Carol singing, Crafts, Graffiti Wall, Reflective space

The Café will be open for tea, coffee & cake, and soup lunch.

No charge will be made but a donation will be appreciated.

All proceeds to church funds

Ludlow Methodist Church

Broad Street, Ludlow

Celebrate Christmas. 2nd December 2023 10am-2pm.

Our Christmas Fayre will soon be here. We call it 'Celebrate Christmas' because it is an opportunity not just to raise funds for the church, but also to celebrate all that Christmas means. We hope that visitors will be challenged by the message of Christmas as they enjoy everything that our Christmas Fayre has to offer.

Eileen Precious has made a desperate plea for someone to help her on the 'Unwanted Gifts/Good as New' stall, as well as more goods to sell. Maureen Farmery is asking for jams, chutneys, relishes, etc. Lots of baking will be needed - but please don't bring it to the church until early on Saturday morning or the day before. Any books for sale can also be brought in the day before. Ideas for new stalls will be welcomed - please talk to Maureen as soon as possible. Mike Owens will also welcome suggestions for new activities to help people think more deeply about the meaning of Christmas.

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/brian-dawson-1697189985689>

Donating through JustGiving is simple, fast and totally secure. Your details are safe with JustGiving - they'll never sell them on or send unwanted emails. Once you donate, they'll send your money directly to the charity. So it's the most efficient way to donate - saving time and cutting costs for the charity.

For the last two years I have done a double journey from Lands End to John O Groats in Memory of a former Chair and Route Advisor who had MND to support him and his wife via Macmillan Nurses.

Earlier this year I was diagnosed with Chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL) and after a "watch period" my treatment starts this October. I will be doing a further journey in the next few weeks to keep up my promise to help,

As Chair of Lands End John O Groats Association I have seen and met many wonderful people who have raised thousands of pounds for very worthwhile causes and it never ceases to amaze me about human endeavour.

I have had wonderful support from Leukaemia Care and wish to open this up to anyone who feels able to make a donation to Leukaemia Care.

May I thank you in advance .

Brian Dawson

Harvest Supper



Contact Numbers:



Minister: Rev. Denise Hargreaves
01584 318628

Church Administrator: Mrs Sarah Kellett
01584 879233

Community Chaplain: Mrs Ruth Downes
01584 890186

Website: www.ludlowmethodistchurch.org.uk

Church Stewards

Geoff Edwardson	01584 879895	Maureen Farmery	01584 874590
Janet Williams	01584 875220	Annie Jones	01584 876105
Cathy Pritchard	01588 660579	David Evans	01584 890670
Roger Clayton	01584 319413		

Church Secretary Joyce Evans 01584 890670

Church Treasurer David Harlington 01584 879614

Junior Church Cathy Pritchard 01588 660579

Prayer Coordinator Heather Price 01584 876480

Pastoral Secretary Elizabeth Wright 01584 874548

Sunday Church Notices John Eadie 01584 877761

Magazine Ron Gittings 01568 780733
rongittings47@yahoo.co.uk

Room Bookings Church Office 01584 879233

Church Website Mike Owens 07925 173857
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