

GREETINGS
FROM
LUDLOW
METHODIST
CHURCH

For in hope
we were saved.
Now hope that is
seen is not hope.
For who hopes
for what is seen?
But if we hope
for what we
do not see,
we wait for it
with patience.

Dear Friends,

I'm still working for Kim even though he has gone to pastures new!
I'm a 'filler in' between an ending and a beginning which is my subject for the magazine.

Throughout life we have so many endings and beginnings. For instance, leaving school for either University or employment, both with an amount of anticipation and trepidation. Getting married ends single status. Moving to a new area without knowing anyone and, at the end of our earthly days, going into the unknown.

I remember when Geoff and I considered moving to Ludlow after visiting for just one day and liking what we saw. Although it would be a wrench for me leaving behind sixty one years at Bethesda Church in Elland, nevertheless, we came house-hunting. Whilst staying in a hotel for a few nights we attended Broad Street Methodist Church. It was over eighteen years ago before the Church alterations. Mavis Morris was on the door and made us feel very welcome then she came to sit with us in the pews so we weren't isolated.

When we finally moved, on the first Sunday when we came to Church, Brenda Coleman was preaching from the Upper Room as alterations were underway. She made us feel welcome then afterwards, during coffee time in the Garden Room, Mary & Pip Hollins invited us for coffee; Len Price announced he would be paying us a visit; Gloria Baillie invited me to join the Choral Society; Colin Precious asked if I was interested in playing table tennis at the Assembly Rooms and Jean Brown got Geoff interested in being part of the Ludlow Historical Group and the U3A meetings. What a wonderful new beginning. You will all have your own stories to tell.

As you read this Kim & Stella will be finding their feet in their new home although, as they have only moved a stone's throw away, they will already know a few people but it is still another beginning on their journey together.

Now we think of Denise & Maurice as they are already in the Manse in preparation of their new beginning with us in Ludlow. They too have left a congregation behind no doubt with a certain amount of sadness. However, I'm sure they will also have feelings of excitement and a little

apprehension but if they receive the same Broad Street welcome as we did then they will be truly blessed. Likewise the welcome will be reciprocated at the other Churches under Denise's care.

However, there is one thing that is a certainty. Through all our changing scenes of life, God is always with us. His love is constant and never changes. As Kim said at his farewell service – love one another, it made me think of the words in the Gospel of John Ch. 13 vs 34 & 35. when Jesus said:-

“A new command I give you: love one another.
As I have loved you, so you must love one another.
By this everyone will know that you are my disciples,
If you love one another”.

God bless you all,

*Maureen Farmery,
Senior Steward.*

When you walk through a storm...

As many people know, many popular modern songs have their origins in folk songs and music. One such song was '*When you walk through a storm*' from *Carousel*.

It has been discovered that this tune was first sung in a Cornish fishing village called Heada Cove. The village was destroyed by a fierce storm many years ago and no longer exists.

The village was famous for its unusual pastie which was square in shape. The Cornish people would not accept it as a pastie because of the shape, and so it became known as the Heada Pie.

Whenever the village was struck by a violent storm the population would congregate in the local church and take the pies to eat as they never knew how long the storm would last. To pass the time they would sing local folk songs.

One of the most popular songs was '*When you walk through a storm hold your Heada Pie*'

Ron Golby

A summary of the Ludlow Food Bank Half Yearly Report for June 2023

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, as this has been done by those who refer people to us.

So far this year we have given out 337 food parcels which is 89 fewer than this time last year but still fed 484 people for at least a week, so with repeats, we have fed 799 people. 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 213 single adults, mostly men, 248 couples, 268 children, 70 dependent adults, 35 homeless people, 32 with health problems, 11 Ukrainian refugees and 4 victims of domestic violence.

We have also fed 78 cats and 82 dogs.

The most common need for a parcel is 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 include being a victim of theft and being homeless.

82 % of those we helped live in the town although we helped people in Bucknell, Clun, Craven Arms, Clee Hill, Chirbury and Cleobury.

We give one voucher for each person in a family, including babies, redeemable at local butchers, bakers and greengrocers. This gives people the dignity of choice and supports local shops. 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)

We now run the Fuel Poverty Fund which 'tops up' people's energy cards or keys. If you would like to donate to this fund the details are below. In this way we have helped 34 households.

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 and have your blood pressure checked, both for free.

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 where you live, but 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'.

Ruth Davies

Mind Your Words

A careless word may kindle strife

A cruel word may wreck a life

A gracious word may soothe the way

A joyous word may light the day

A timely word may lessen stress

A loving word may heal and bless

Lynda Young

Return of the Kite

My copy of The Reader's Digest/AA Book of British Birds, third edition (1980) is well worn. The page for 'Kite' (*Milvus milvus*) required attention after the dog and I stood on the village bridge admiring the aeronautical skills of a fine specimen one afternoon recently. Larger and slimmer than a Buzzard (that we also have in the woods around Orleton), the forked tail and narrower angled wings are their statement features, and their grace. He, or she, for both sexes are similar, was so low over the neighbouring gardens it was easy to see the grey head and redness of the body plumage.

My book explains how once kites were widespread across Britain, until human intervention and persecution reduced their numbers drastically. Up until the 18th century they were common scavengers, finding the dirty streets of large cities like London exactly to their liking, but over the next 200 years, the population has dwindled. It was calculated that Welsh numbers were reduced to 20 pairs in a tiny enclave in Central Wales, and in Scotland and Ireland the kite was extinct.



Since 1989, several charitable organisations have taken remedial action ¹. The re-introduction in the Chilterns, west of London was reported across the world at the time, and now kites are easier to spot than pigeons in the skies above the A40, A34, M4 and other main roads in Oxfordshire and beyond. Addressing the Welsh situation, by 2009, the RSPB reported that numbers had recovered naturally to approx. 900 pairs, and many individuals have spread to our shires too. Owing to its absence from Irish skies since the mid-18th century, a public education programme was mounted to ensure public acceptance and support, to persuade and reassure those who perceived these large birds as a threat ². In 2007/8, two areas of Ireland were identified for reintroductions as the Welsh expansion was not likely to spread naturally. With support from the Welsh Kite & Golden Eagle Trusts in 2008/9 providing a donor stock of 27 chicks, settlement was successful. Another positive programme was based in Aberdeen, where figures suggest that

approximately 300 chicks have grown in the wild, especially in the Cairngorms, and are now themselves breeding. After around 200 years' absence, kites are a regular sight.

Unfortunately, it is not all good news. There are disturbing reports about continued persecution, with kites shot in Co. Durham, Co. Down, Bedfordshire and the Peak District. These are all from the re-introduced or spreading population, so suggesting some people perceive these magnificent birds as a threat. Jenny Skelton, Investigation Officer at the RSPB says 'Kites mainly feed on carrion, so pose no threat to people, pets or game, so there is no logical reason for these birds to be targeted. To most of us they are a treat to see ³. ' Couldn't agree more.

BMG.

1. RSPB, Welsh Kite Trust, Golden Eagle Trust, with funding from Heritage Lottery, local councils and many other voluntary organisations and interested parties.
2. The male can grow to 22in/ 61cms, with the female larger at 24in/ 65cms.
3. Kites are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, so please report any suspicious incident.

I hated school, I just wanted it to be over and done with as quickly as possible. I was good at the practical things, such as Woodwork (for which I gained my only GCE), but dreadful at the academic things. Although I do recall winning a book for something at one of the end of year prize givings. But I was lucky, the army later gave me a second chance at education, which I grabbed with both hands. I got very little praise at school, but I can remember being congratulated by the English teacher for being the only one in the class to raise a smile at a poem he read out:

'Beneath this slab
John Brown is stowed
He watched the ads
And not the road'

A message that is probably even more relevant today than it was 60 years ago!

Ron Gittings

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

September 2023



Shropshire & Marches Methodist Circuit
Care for Creation

Away Day

Saturday 16th September 2023
Minsterley Parish Hall SY5 0EH
9.45am to 3.30pm

*A day out for the whole circuit focusing on our care for creation
and our concern for the environment.*

Speakers and activities include:

- Dr Hamish Leese – Action for Hope
- Rev Rachel Parkinson – Ethics of Investment
- Worship led by Rev Dr Neil Richardson
- Forest Church led by Deacon Carys Woodley
- Stalls and information stands
- An opportunity to view the ‘Tiny Church’ trailer

*There is room for all at Minsterley: the main hall seats 300 with parking for 100 cars,
and plenty of green space for your picnic (weather permitting).*

Bring a picnic and a chair.
Drinks will be provided.
Please try to car share!

**Get to know other people in the Circuit
while celebrating creation, sharing ideas,
learning more and worshipping together!**

Gold Award: if they can do it in Cheltenham, so can we!

Behesda Methodist Church, in a conservation area in Cheltenham, has received the Gold Eco-Church Award from A Rocha UK.

Church members have sought to improve the insulation of the building, put solar panels on the roof, installed a new boiler and now have green gas and carbon neutral contracts, which means that they get gas from a company that sells gas made from waste produced in a sustainable way. They have achieved Net Zero, which is their big claim.

The journey towards eco status has been a long one, starting in 2002, with a Gold Eco-Congregation in 2011 which was then discovered only to translate to Silver in the new Eco-Church survey. The process has proved to be challenging for individuals as well as for the church.

The solar photovoltaic (PV) panels were installed in 2009 and since then the building has undergone a part refurbishment. The panel installation combined with green contracts for the supply of both electricity and gas has enabled the church to reach a net zero carbon footprint in the operation of the premises. The exported PV electricity provides an offset for those minor emissions that can't easily be reduced. With these low carbon energy resources church members decided to join the Warm Spaces scheme during last winter.

Recycling is also an important part of the church's commitment and the congregation are encouraged to use local and national recycling schemes. A Café Church was held looking at the six Rs of sustainability: Rethink, Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair and Recycle.

Action for Hope

Dr Hamish Leese will be our main speaker at the Circuit Away Day on September 16th – see the advertisement elsewhere in this magazine. Hamish is the new Action for Hope Implementation Officer for the Methodist Church in Great Britain. His job is to help the Church reduce its carbon emissions, aiming for net zero by 2030.



In his own words: *“The climate emergency is one of the most pressing concerns in the world today, but it is not merely a secular one. As Christians and Methodists we are called to care for God’s Creation and challenge injustice, so climate concerns are part of our discipleship. Net zero by 2030 is a challenging target and it will take all of us to achieve it.”*

Reducing carbon emissions has been a long-term desire of the Methodist Church, referenced in the 2011 report *Hope in God’s Future* and regularly raised by children and young people at 3Generate. Caring for creation is a core part of a Methodist Way of Life, because we want all of God’s created Kingdom not just to survive, but to flourish.

Closing our ears to the voices of those most vulnerable to climate change would be nothing less than giving up our claim to be disciples of Christ. Acting with renewed urgency, the 2019 Conference acknowledged the climate emergency and created an aim for net zero carbon emissions by 2030.

The Methodist Church has already started: its investment policies were changed; the new Methodist Church House in London at Tavistock Place is currently under refurbishment and will abide by the net zero emission aim; the Methodist Church is also creating resources to support churches starting their journey into becoming carbon neutral. As of September 2022, no less than 643 Methodist churches had registered for EcoChurch (England and Wales).

After creating a Connexional action plan, Hamish will help Methodist Districts develop their own action plans and support churches in their path to net zero emissions. The Methodist Church is hoping to have 50% of its churches registered with EcoChurch or EcoCongregation (Scotland), and 50% of these churches to have achieved a Bronze award by 2026.

The Amelia Trust Farm

Opened in 1992 in partnership with the Methodist Church of Wales, the Amelia Trust Farm near Cardiff was set up to help young, disadvantaged, vulnerable young people, who do not fit into the education system. It has grown to be so much more, caring for people, animals and the environment.

The GROW Programme is the heart of the Amelia Trust Farm, helping young people who had fallen between the cracks of the education system. The objective is to improve their confidence and teach them some skills that will help them with their lives. *“Young people come to us for a variety of reasons. For instance, it could be they have ADHD or autism, which causes some behavioural issues that schools cannot cope with. Some find the traditional classroom setting overwhelming,”* explains Vicki McCoan, the Visitor Officer.

The Amelia Trust Farm provides them with a variety of skills such as taking care of the animals, which have mainly been rescued or given to the farm. They have donkeys, alpacas, sheep, guinea pigs, ferrets and reptiles, to name but a few. The young people also learn how to work in the woodlands, with activities such as cutting trees and planting. There is woodwork training, nutrition, budgeting, a gym, a basketball court and a music studio.



The Trust has other projects on site. For instance, Woody’s Lodge – Monday to Thursday – helps veterans of the armed forces, police or ambulance services to emotionally and practically settle back into civil life. The Innovate Trust’s Field Days Project works with adults with learning disabilities teaching them horticultural skills.

The café is currently closed for refurbishment but should reopen by next spring. *“We are hoping for it to become a community café for groups such as mothers and daughters, parents and maybe a book club,”* says Vicki.

The farm can be visited and is open all year around. It would not be able to work without its army of volunteers. They help with maintenance, the animals and also the Woodlands. There are also students in need of placement and corporate volunteers. Some companies send staff to volunteer on the farm, which helps with team building, particularly after the pandemic when remote working has broken the link between employees, especially for new workers.

Let's eliminate food waste

The UK is thought to throw away a total of 9.52 million tonnes of food each year. This includes food thrown away during manufacturing processes, retail and hospitality sectors, and households. But households are the worst culprits, accounting for a total of 6.6 million tonnes of food waste a year, 4.5 million tonnes of which is edible. This is a cost of £491 per household.

The most thrown away food is fresh vegetables and salad, with potatoes topping the list at 28%. Bakery and bread account for 11%.

There are some simple things we can all do to reduce food waste:

- **Check your fridge temperature.** T should be between 0 – 5°C. If it's warmer food will go off more quickly.
- **Use your fridge wisely.** Some foods, such as bread, bananas, pineapple, potatoes and onions, keep better in a cool dark place like a cupboard.
- **Make a shopping list** and stick to it when you go shopping. Keep a list in the kitchen and add to it as you think of things, and plan meals ahead.
- **Water your kitchen veg.** Stems of broccoli, asparagus and celery keep fresh and crisp in water.
- **Freeze what you don't use.** Some fruit and vegetables lose texture when frozen, so freeze them pureed or stewed.
- **Freeze leftovers.** Many leftovers, including chilled convenience foods, freeze well. If you've made pasta or rice with a sauce, freeze the sauce separately will work better.
- **Measure portions.** Reduce waste by cooking only what you need. If you are 'batch cooking' for the freezer then freeze it in individual portions.
- **Sauces and dips:** lots of leftovers can be made into sauces, hummus, salsa and other dips.
- **Freeze dairy products.** Semi-skimmed or skimmed milk works better than whole milk. Hard cheese freezes well in small portions or grated to use later.
- **Revive bread that is past its best** by crisping up in the oven for a few minutes, or turn stale bread into breadcrumbs for use in recipes later.

Methodist Recorder

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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.

Immigration

Perhaps I should begin by declaring an interest, says Maurice. But for the potato famine in the 19th century which caused so many to leave Ireland for England and the USA, my great grandfather would have stayed in Co. Mayo and become a husbandman (farm labourer) like his father before him. Or perhaps not, for it was common to raise large families so that some would emigrate, earn good money, and send some home. An early form of benefits system.

As it was, in 1840, a fourteen-year-old Edward Coleman was to be found, apprenticed to a bit-maker (the metal parts for a horse's bridle) in Bloxwich, Walsall. No doubt trade was good, Walsall being a centre of the leather trades, not for nothing is their football team called "The Saddlers". So, like a great many families, we stem from immigrants. This means my blood is one quarter Irish; I'm happy with that.

It used to be a proud boast if one could trace one's ancestry back to William the Conqueror; but what of the many other races who made this their home, those Picts and Scots who drove the Angles west, the Vikings who left us with so many Scandinavian words and the Dutch who made such a mark on East Anglia. Is there really such a thing as a pure blood Englishman? We are all some mixture of the various races which have swept through these lands, and we know that we ourselves are but temporary residents; whatever marks we make will become history, as "time's ever rolling stream bears all its sons away".

Conflicts and Climate Change are causing large-scale migration. Certainly, this is creating problems for European Nations; we are not alone. But we do need to keep a sense of balance. Immigration brings benefits as well as problems. In a recent letter to one of our national newspapers the writer listed the many immigrants who helped him, from the dentist who cared for what was left of his teeth, the nurses in the NHS, to the vicar and 'at least half the choir' of the church he attends.

The many tons of fruit which rotted in our orchards because workers who would at one time have picked them were prohibited from coming, or felt that they would be unwelcome, bear witness to the benefits that immigrants can bring. We have recently been reminded of the first wave of Jamaicans, the Windrush Generation. They were

not made very welcome, yet at a time when large numbers were leaving (despite Churchill's appeals for them to stay and help us rebuild after the war) the incomers made it possible for the trains and buses to run, and many other essential services to take place. It would be many years before they or their descendants, would be enabled to show their true worth, display their true talents, and become embedded in our society.

Yes, we have a right to be selective as to who we accept, for there are those who will abuse our systems, but always remembering that they too are God's children, and therefore our brothers and sisters in Christ. They merit our care and respect.

Brenda and Maurice Coleman

20 Questions

1. What type of creature is an oryx
2. Who wrote '*She walks in beauty, like the night*'
3. Who, in the Bible, was Esau's brother and the son of Isaac
4. What name is given to a tapering flag, as used on a ship
5. Which was the only historic bridge in Florence that was not destroyed in 1944
6. What term is given to the paper on which music is written
7. How many quires of paper make up a ream
8. Which Italian author created the character of '*Inspector Montalbano*'
9. Who sang '*January February*' in 1983
10. What is the name of Jersey's parliament
11. Who played the bass guitar on Midge Ure's 1986 no. 1 '*If I Was*'
12. What colour is associated with stocks and shares that are considered to be a safe investment
13. What was notable about a football game played at Brammall Lane on October 14 1873
14. Elizabeth Woodville married which king
15. What imperial measure is just over half a litre
16. What was the title of the US version of *Broadchurch*
17. What is October's birthstone
18. Who partnered Neil Tennant in The Pet Shop Boys
19. What is another name for the cross of St Andrew
20. What type of food is 'ziti'

answers on page 19

Singing the Faith

When I took up my first job in East Africa over 60 years ago I went along to the local church, hoping to participate and also to improve my tenuous grasp of the local language. I was made very welcome, but not offered any hymnbook. They simply didn't use such devices. Almost all the local people were illiterate, and written language had only been introduced by missionaries a few decades earlier. There was no organ or piano or keyboard – but there was great singing, led by what in the West we would call a cantor. He pitched the note, sang a few words, and the congregation joined in. He sang a few more words, and again the congregation joined in, but this time with some great free harmonising. I couldn't get the words, but felt drawn in and tried to hum along.



Then let me jump from my own early days in Africa to the visit much later of a Swedish Lutheran choir to South Africa at the height of apartheid. The choir went to show solidarity with the suffering African people, to bring the joy of music that transcends cultures.

They arrived at a secondary school, and found the singing had already started. Not the visiting choir but the gathered youngsters, singing powerfully in their own Zulu language. The Swedish choirmaster asked what the words meant, and was told that translated into English they meant **WE ARE MARCHING IN THE LIGHT OF GOD**. They were not words of praise to a distant deity, but the direct affirmation of human experience of a God present in the here and now, powerful light, light by which to live, to struggle, to march on.

So the visiting Swede made a record of the meaning of the words in English, and of the music. He started sharing these with others at home, and then in North America, and then they started to reach the shores of Britain, appearing in several modern Christian hymn books. And you can

find them in our own Methodist *Singing the Faith* 483, along with the great original tune *Siyahamba*.

This basic song has triggered many people to develop further words based on their own experience. For what it's worth, here are some of mine -

*We are marching in the light of God
We're surviving by the grace of God
We're delighting in the joys of God
We're forgiven by the love of God
We're transfigured by the power of God
We'll be dying into life with God*

Laurence Taylor

'CARE FOR CREATION' - CIRCUIT AWAYDAY 2023

The Circuit invites you to a 'Care for Creation' Awayday on Saturday 16th September, 9.45am - 3.30pm at Minsterley Parish Hall. This year's theme is: 'Action for Hope' and our keynote speaker will be Dr Hamish Leese, The Methodist Church's 'Action for Hope' Connexional Officer. During the day we will share in worship, listen to outstanding speakers, take part in discussion, share ideas, and celebrate God's creation! Please see the poster for full details and come to meet others from around the Circuit.

For more information about Dr Hamish Leese, please follow the link to the Methodist Church website:

www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/news/latest-news/all-news/action-for-hope-new-implementation-officer-to-help-the-church-reach-net-zero/



A fortnight in a new job

In the late 1960s I applied for and was appointed to a post as lecturer in chemistry at the University of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland. The academic year started in June so I planned to arrive a month early to allow for preparation and accustoming myself with the laboratories. One warm Mayday I embarked on a BOAC Vickers Viscount at Heathrow bound for Johannesburg. Even though I heard on the news that the prime minister of Lesotho had staged a coup and imprisoned all the opposition leaders the day before a general election was due.

I arrived early the next morning in Johannesburg expecting to transfer to a local plane that would take me up to Maseru the capital of Lesotho. I found my case being bundled off a conveyor belt and moved to immigration control, hurrying because the connecting flight was due to leave in 45 minutes. I was taken from the main queue and asked to open my case where a policeman began to meticulously examine every article. I had rather a luxuriant beard and lots of hair at the time so to the South African police was probably a suspicious looking character. Eventually they pulled out a small group of books that they separated on the counter. "Vot are Deese?" It didn't seem a good time to be flippant so I bit down the temptation to say books. "That is a Bible", I said "and those two are chemistry text books". This didn't seem to go down well. They opened the bible to ensure it wasn't hollowed out to conceal anything. "Why you carry chemistry books, you some sort of bomb maker?"

Clearly my case was above their pay grade so a sergeant was called, then a higher officer. I explained that I was university lecturer and taught chemistry. He then wanted to know why I was going to Lesotho. I explained that I was going to my new job at the university there. This mystified him. After a few moments he let forth a string of Afrikaans some of which would probably not be translatable. "But dere is only *****s up there. Dere can't be a university." At this point they just stuff the books in my case and squeezed it shut. They turned their attention to the queue of three black people that had been held up behind me. Of course I had missed my connection as had the three Basotho behind me. They were able to inform me that the next plane to Maseru was in three days.

My new acquaintances suggested that if we could get a flight to Bloemfontein we would be within 100 miles of Maseru and their friend would drive down and pick us up. The problem being that as black people in apartheid South Africa they would be unable to negotiate the transfer of tickets. I had to take responsibility so sought out the airport manager to complain at my treatment. My transfer was easily dealt with but after a little use of half-truths saying I was responsible for my three friends. It was done. The three explained to me that it would be wisest to separate now and that I should wait outside the Bloemfontein Airport entrance and they would pick

me up. They did and delivered me safely to the university only 10 hours later than planned. Rather cold in midwinter and one mile above sea-level.

The next few days were caught up with practicalities like opening bank accounts, getting a bank loan to buy a car. Essential when you live on a campus 23 miles out of town and for any serious shopping needed to go to Bloemfontein - 120 miles. So it was that a new colleague gave me and another newcomer an American called George, a lift to Bloemfontein where we both walked into a showroom and to our surprise came away with a car each.

In my second week the deputy vice-chancellor knocked on my office door and explained that as nearly all the lecturing staff were still on leave I was one of the few science staff around. Would I go down to the jail and fetch a student who was to be let out on parole. His father was an opposition member and Thabo had been rounded up during the coup. I dutifully drove into town and stopped at the police station/jail. Explaining why I had come I was asked to wait. A few minutes later a police sergeant appeared. He shook my hand and asked how I was settling in. He was the driver who had taken me and his three friends from Bloemfontein that first day. All smiles he handed Thabo over to my keeping. This student was a chemistry student who I got to know well as I supervised his final year project.

So it was within 10 days of arriving I had friends on both sides of the political divide in Lesotho.

Dick Henson

Smiles:

Scientifically, a raven has 17 primary feathers, the big ones at the end of the wing. They are called pinion feathers. A crow has 16. So, the difference between a raven and a crow is only a matter of a pinion.

I once dated a guy who broke up with me because I only have nine toes. Yes, he was lack toes intolerant.

I've started telling everyone about the benefits of eating dried grapes. It's all about raisin awareness.

Quiz answers

1. Antelope
2. Lord Byron
3. Jacob
4. Pennant
5. Ponte Vecchio
6. Manuscript paper
7. 20
8. Andrea Carmileri
9. Barbara Dickson
10. States
11. Mark King
12. Blue
13. First floodlit match
14. Edward IV
15. Pint
16. Gracepoint
17. Opal
18. Chris Lowe
19. Saltire
20. Pasta

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