



SALTAIRE METHODIST CHURCH

saltairmethodistchurch.org.uk

NEWSLETTER

September & October 2010

Dear Friends,

The other week Church notices in one of our churches included an invitation to all volunteers to play a part in spring cleaning of the church. Interesting to note; is this spring cleaning time? Is this spring? Or is it after spring, or before spring? I get confused with seasons you know, but does it matter really what period we spring clean? What matters is we spring clean. Maybe the spring cleaning of any Church should lead to self spring cleaning. I don't know when spring cleaning is done at Saltaire, but self spring cleaning is possible at any time and now is as good a time as any.

August marks the end of the Methodist year, while September marks the beginning of our year. We have worshipped for a year and we are about to embark on yet another year. How are we inside of ourselves? Have we grown spiritually? Maybe this is the point where we take stock, or spring clean, or tidy up, or refurbish, or redecorate, or whatever we might call it. I got hold of a piece of paper the other day from one church which posed questions of me. It was entitled; '*Spiritual Health Check*', with the following questions on it;

- What is your diet?
- Are you exercising your faith?
- Are you suffering from a build-up of Toxins such as; Bitterness, Jealousy, Spite, Anger, Hatred?
- Have you any other Health concerns?
- This gave me real food for thought, it further enquired;
- Do you need to be healed?
- Do you want to be healed?

I thought yes, I need to be healed and yes I want to be healed. Maybe you might have the same feeling after reading this!

Christians are not spared of the cruelty and injustice rife in our modern world, or the problems of consumerism which drive our wants into needs, resulting in unhappiness. How can we find happiness? As we do the Health Check exercise, are we finding ourselves perhaps lacking in true happiness? Jesus gives the key in His teachings as reported in Matthew 5 vs. 3; 'Happy are those conscious of their spiritual need, for the Kingdom of God is given to them.' True happiness can therefore be found only if we take steps to fill that God shaped void within ourselves, which only God can fill.

The obvious answer of course is prayer, yet sometimes we feel that we might not be heard even if we pray. I am no expert, but here is what works for me. Jesus taught us to avoid making use of our own set formula, repeating ourselves again and again, (Matthew 6 vs. 7) and perhaps making use of impressive language as if we could ever impress God. (He made us, remember?) Every person has his or her own way, but the scriptures do tell us how best to communicate with God. Jesus even supplied proper fool proof formulae in which the 'Will' of God is emphasised, (The Lord's Prayer!) 1 John 5 vs. 14 sheds light; 'And we can be confident that He will listen to us whenever we ask for anything in line with His will.'

Yes indeed prayer is the answer, but so is knowing the God you are praying to. Luke 11 vs. 28, Jesus responds to a woman who blesses him from the crown, '...but even more blessed are all who hear the word of God and put it into practice.

Have a prayerful Methodist year.

Shalom

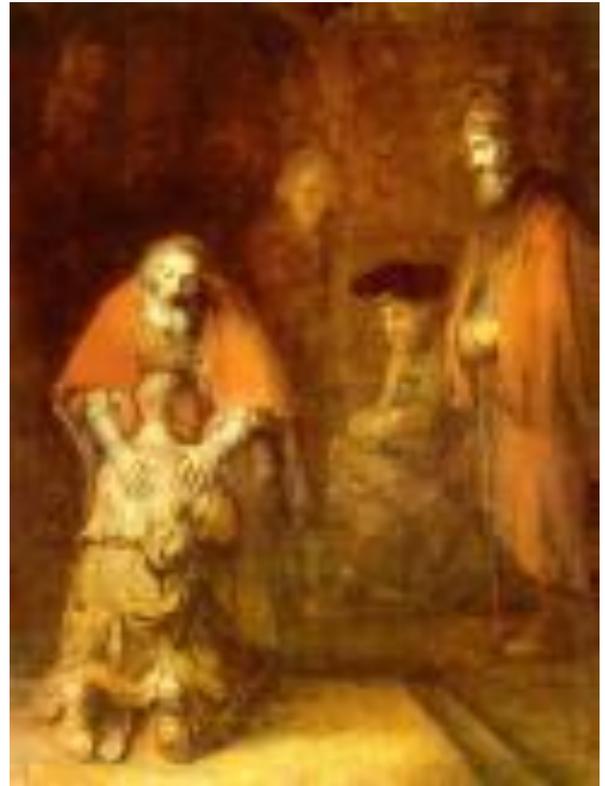
Freddy

RETURN OF THE PRODIGAL SON

By the Right Rev'd David James
who retired as Bishop of Bradford in July

On the wall of my chapel at Bishopscoft I have a large print of *The Return of the Prodigal Son* the painting by Rembrandt of what has been called the greatest short story ever told. In the picture the father is blessing his son who is kneeling before him, and surrounding them in various shades of darkness is a handful of spectators not looking particularly happy.

In the story Jesus told (Luke 15.11) the son was prodigal, over the top, in his rejection of home and family, in the way he went off and blew all his inheritance, spending it like water until he finished up with nothing and had to look after pigs, sharing their swill and probably smelling like them as well. The father too was prodigal, over the top, in welcoming his son back home, restoring him to the family and putting on a grand party to celebrate his return – 'this son was dead and is alive again, was lost and is found.'



It's a story of generous, prodigal, over the top love and, perhaps because we see so little of it around or at least fail to recognise it, we hardly ever give it its name – grace.

As I reflect on Rembrandt's painting, I recall an incident in the gospels when one person knelt before another surrounded by people in the shadows. Here the setting is a party given by a religious leader and Jesus is the guest of honour. Horror of horrors, a woman, a 'sinful' woman gate crashes the party and makes a beeline for Jesus. She kneels before Jesus and worships him. She loves much says Jesus, because she has been forgiven much, and he blesses her.

Jesus in the story he tells says, 'God is for you.' Whoever or whatever we are, it's all of grace, that prodigal, over the top and inexplicable love of God for each one of us.

MY GRACE
IS
ENOUGH
FOR YOU

THE WORLD CUP IS OVER: LEAVE NOW OR BE BURNT ALIVE

By Dan McDougall in the Times 12 July 2010



Thousands of Zimbabwean immigrants are fleeing South Africa because they fear reprisals against foreigners after the World Cup ends today.

Terrified of return to the violence that left more than 60 migrants dead in 2008, they have been crowding into lorry parks and motorway areas on the country's main roads to escape on trucks heading north.

Many waiting on the main route towards Johannesburg from Cape Town claimed they had been driven from their homes by neighbours' threats. Some said they had been given ultimatums to leave or die.

"We've been told to go by tomorrow or we'll be burnt alive," said Chempwapuwa Moyo, a Zimbabwean resident of the Philippi township near Cape Town, clutching her three children. "Things got so bad I had to flee here. For weeks now this has been coming. Zimbabweans are being threatened on the trains, on buses and in stores. I was told they will kill my babies and I can't stay and take the risk."

The threats appear to have been prompted by an expected surge in unemployment after tonight's World Cup final as the jobs generated by hosting the tournament are lost. Migrants are often accused of 'stealing' jobs and homes in South Africa, where unemployment stands at 25%.

Their fears have grown in the past few days after leaflets were distributed in townships, warning that foreign nationals must leave the country before the World Cup ends.

On the road out of Cape Town, Zimbabwean families including dozens of small children sat among piles of their belongings, hoping to hitch a lift. The lucky few who found one huddled against the cold under tarpaulins on the backs of trucks as they prepared for the 1,200 mile journey north.

Aneli Ndebele, a market trader from Zimbabwe, said she had decided to leave after being handed a crudely painted leaflet saying that any Zimbabweans trading at her market would be killed. Accompanied by her three children, all under five, she said, "This time they said they'll attack us during the night. The piece of paper I saw said they are going to set the shacks alight when we're asleep."

Many of the fleeing Zimbabweans witnessed the outbreak of xenophobic violence in South Africa two years ago, which displaced about 150,000 foreign nationals. Some of the victims were subjected to necklacing, in which a petrol-soaked tyre is placed around the neck and set alight.

Braam Hanekom, director of a charity that campaigns on behalf of migrants, said tens of thousands were leaving as a precautionary measure. He said it was a tragedy that people's lives had again been turned upside down.

A series of brutal attacks on foreigners in Cape Town has heightened tension. A Somali trader was killed earlier this month in the township of Khayeltisha. Somali-owned shops have been a frequent target for looters.

Last week a Zimbabwean national, Reason Wandu, was thrown from a moving train by passengers and suffered serious injuries. Wandu claimed his attackers had told him that all '*makwerekweres*' (a derogatory term for foreign black Africans) should leave immediately.

The total number migrants in the country is estimated to be 5m, out of a total population of 49m. Many left Zimbabwe because their prospects had become bleak amid the economic chaos and political repression of President Robert Mugabe's regime.

South African ministers appeared determined to play down warnings of xenophobic violence. Malusi Gigabi, the deputy home affairs minister, claimed there had been no reports of people leaving out of fear.

Walter da Costa e Silva, the chairman of a migrant support programme, said everything pointed to an imminent outbreak of violence, but the government could prevent it. "The police must take this potential threat to immigrants seriously," he said.

Kylie Hatton, a city spokesman for Cape Town, confirmed that the police were aware of the threats and were prepared to take action if necessary.

Watch for news of the ZEM launch!

Help us to raise money to educate primary school children in Mtapu, a district of Gweru in Zimbabwe. Mugabe has stopped free schooling and the country's young people are no longer being educated.

IN THE BEGINNING

In the beginning, God covered the earth with broccoli, cauliflower and spinach, with green, red and yellow vegetables of all kinds so Man and Woman would live long and healthy lives.

Then, using God's bounteous gifts, Satan created Dairy Ice Cream and Magnums. And Satan said, "You want hot fudge with that?" and Man said "Yes!" and Woman said, "I'll have one with too with chocolate chips." And so they gained 10 pounds.

And God created the healthy yoghurt that Woman might keep the figure which Man found so fair. And Satan brought forth white flour from the wheat and sugar from the cane and combined them. And Woman went from size 12 to size 14.

So God said, "Try my fresh green salad." And Satan presented Blue Cheese Dressing and garlic croutons on the side. And Man and Woman unfastened their belts following the repast. And God then said, "I have sent you healthy vegetables and olive oil in which to cook them." And Satan brought forth deep fried coconut king prawns, butter-dipped lobster chunks and chicken fried steaks, so big it needed its own platter and Man's cholesterol went through the roof.

Then God brought forth the potato, naturally low in fat and brimming with potassium and good nutrition. Then Satan peeled off the healthy skin and sliced the starchy centre into chips and deep fried them in animal fats adding copious quantities of salt. And Man put on more pounds. God then brought forth running shoes so that his Children might lose those extra pounds. And Satan came forth with Cable TV with remote control so Man would not have to toil changing the channels.

Then God gave lean beef so that Man might consume fewer calories and still satisfy his appetite. And Satan created McDonalds and the 99p double cheeseburger. Then Satan said, "You want fries with that?" And Man replied, "Yes, and supersize 'em." And Satan said, "It is good." And Man and Woman went into cardiac arrest. God sighed and created quadruple by-pass surgery. And then Satan chuckled and created the National Health Service.

THE FINAL WORD ON NUTRITION

After an exhaustive review of the research literature, here is the final word on nutrition and health

1. Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.
2. Mexicans eat a lot of fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.
3. Chinese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.
4. Italians drink excessive amounts of red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than us
5. Germans drink beer and eat lots of sausages and fats and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.
6. The French eat foie-gras, full fat cheese and drink red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.

CONCLUSION: Eat and drink what you like. Speaking English is apparently what kills you.

A PRAYER FOR THE STRESSED

Thanks to the GPO Sorting Office in Thornton Road

Grant me serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I cannot accept and the wisdom to hide the bodies of those I had to kill today because they got on my nerves.

Also help me to be careful of the toes I step on today as they may be the feet I have to kiss tomorrow.

Help me to give 100% at work – 12% on Monday, 23% on Tuesday, 40% on Wednesday, 20% on Thursday and 5% on Friday.

Help me remember

When I am having a Bad Day and it seems that people are trying to wind me up, it takes 42 muscles to frown, 28 to smile.

DOES GOD EXIST?

A man went to a barbershop to have his hair cut and his beard trimmed. As the barber began to work, they began to have a good conversation. They talked about so many things and various subjects. When they eventually touched on the subject of God, the barber said: 'I don't believe that God exists.'

'Why do you say that?' asked the customer.

'Well, you just have to go out in the street to realize that God doesn't exist. Tell me, if God exists, would there be so many sick people? Would there be abandoned children? If God existed, there would be neither suffering nor pain. I can't imagine a loving God who would allow all of these things.'

The customer thought for a moment, but didn't respond because he didn't want to start an argument. The barber finished his job and the customer left the shop. Just after he left the barbershop, he saw a man in the street with long, stringy, dirty hair and an untrimmed beard. He looked dirty and unkempt. The customer turned back and entered the barber shop again and he said to the barber:

'You know what? Barbers do not exist.'

'How can you say that?' asked the surprised barber. 'I am here, and I am a barber. And I just worked on you!'

'No!' the customer exclaimed. 'Barbers don't exist because if they did, there would be no people with dirty long hair and untrimmed beards, like that man outside.'

'Ah, but barbers DO exist! That's what happens when people do not come to me.'

'Exactly!' affirmed the customer. 'That's the point! God, too, DOES exist! That's what happens when people do not go to Him and don't look to Him for help. That's why there's so much pain and suffering in the world.'

NEW METHODIST HYMN COLLECTION

News from the Methodist Conference 2010

The Methodist Conference meeting in Portsmouth this year announced plans to publish 'Singing the Faith', a major new authorised hymn collection for the Church in 2011.

The collection contains 772 hymns and songs, plus 59 canticles and psalms. It has been six years in the making, and will be the first authorised Methodist collection in thirty years. Leading modern hymn writers, including many Methodists, are represented alongside the best of Methodist heritage, such as hymns by Charles Wesley.

Rev'd Barbara Bircumshaw, Chair of the Music Resource Group, said, "This collection represents the best of old and new. Worshipping through music and lyrics is at the very heart of what it means to be Methodist and drafting this major resource has been a real labour of love. Our expert compilers have sifted through literally thousands of hymns to produce a collection of unsurpassed quality and breadth. The collection draws on both the well-known and the modern, with songs for all ages, from Christian traditions around the world."

For founder of Methodism, John Wesley, singing was essential to a person's spiritual life. So much so that he wrote a list of seven 'directions for singing' for his fellow Christians. These included the entreaty to "Sing lustily and with good courage." The collection will be launched with a 'big sing' event at the 2011 Methodist Conference in Southport.

Singing the Faith will be published by Hymns Ancient and Modern. The full music edition will cost £30, the words edition £9 and the large print words edition £15. At a future date, these will be supported by electronic resources, including a website offering a free range of extra resources and products relating to the core hymn collection.

METHODIST CHURCH TO BOYCOTT GOODS FROM ILLEGAL ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS

News from the Methodist Conference 2010

During the 2010 Portsmouth Conference, the Methodist Church voted to boycott all products from Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territories, and to encourage Methodists across Britain to do the same.

The decision is a response to a call from a group of Palestinian Christians, a growing number of Jewish organisations, both inside Israel and worldwide, and the World Council of Churches. A majority of governments recognise the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories as illegitimate under international law.

Christine Elliott, Secretary for External Relationships, said, "This decision has not been taken lightly, but after months of research, careful consideration and finally, today's debate at the Conference. The goal of the boycott is to put an end to the existing injustice. It reflects the challenge that settlements present to a lasting peace in the region.

"We are passionate about dialogue across communities and with people of all faiths. We remain deeply committed to our relationships with our brothers and sisters of other faiths, and we look to engage in active listening so that we act as agents of hope together."

In December, DEFRA introduced new advice on labelling, recommending that packaging of products imported from the West Bank should distinguish between Palestinian areas and Israeli settlements.

The Conference also adopted a statement calling for a full arms embargo against all sides in the conflict. "This conflict is further fuelled by partisan support by other countries. Violence from all parties in this conflict must be denounced, and a just peace sought for all peoples living in the region," said Christine.

The move to boycott is just one among a number of measures agreed by the Conference, which also include a commitment to regular and informed prayer for the needs of those in region. Methodists across Great Britain are also encouraged to visit the region, write to their MPs and engage in respectful dialogue with Jews and Muslims on this issue.

NEW PRESIDENT & VICE-PRESIDENT DESIGNATE ELECTED

News from the Methodist Conference 2010

The Rev'd Lionel Osborn has been elected President Designate of the Methodist Conference for 2010-2011 and Ruth Pickles has been elected Vice-President Designate. The elections were announced at the annual Methodist Conference in Portsmouth.

Lionel – called Leo by his many friends - has been Chair of the Newcastle-upon-Tyne District for the past nine years and recently been nominated to serve on The World Methodist Council. He also serves as Convenor of The Stationing Action Group, Chairs the Ecumenical Committee for North East Christian Churches Together and the Oversight Committee at The Wesley Study Centre Durham.

"It is a great honour as well as a great shock to be elected as President Designate," said Leo. "But I am looking forward to all that lies ahead. In my year of presidency, it will be a delight and a privilege to encourage signs of the kingdom and Christians in their discipleship, especially in their care for others. I am excited about being a Methodist today as I see all that God is still doing among us."

Leo seeks to enable both Fresh and Refreshed Expressions of Church from a personal faith rooted in worship Word and Sacrament.

Ruth has been a teacher, residential social worker, alcohol counsellor and District Training and Development officer. As a local preacher in the Mow Cop, Biddulph and Congleton Circuit she enjoys leading participatory worship. She has served on the Methodist Council and as a former Memorials Secretary to the Conference. She is currently Synod Secretary of the Chester and Stoke-on-Trent District.

"I feel it's a real privilege to be elected Vice-President Designate," said Ruth. "It's very exciting to have this opportunity to play a part in the life of a changing Church. I would hope to be able to build on the work of the current Vice-President. I am passionate about there being a learning Church and the difference that new insights can bring."

Leo and Ruth will be inducted as President and Vice-President as the first items of business at the 2011 Methodist Conference in Southport.

CHURCH ADOPTS CARBON REDUCTION POLICY

News from the Methodist Conference 2010

The Methodist Church signed up to a series of carbon reduction commitments at its annual Conference in Portsmouth this year.

The Conference, meeting in Portsmouth's Guildhall, confirmed a pledge to reduce Church's carbon emissions by 80 per cent by 2050 in line with Government targets after adopting resolutions set out in a carbon reduction report.

The Methodist Church in Britain has a carbon footprint of around 120,000 tonnes of CO2 per annum for approximately 8,000 of its buildings. The annual energy bill to the Church and individual ministers is about £19 million a year. Cutting the carbon footprint has the potential to free up money that can be used for mission.

From now on, Methodist Circuits will be asked to provide smart meter devices to enable ministers to control their electricity use. Circuits will also be encouraged to fund Government sponsored smart driver training for presbyters, deacons and lay employees where appropriate.

The Church also plans to launch a carbon reduction service, which will save money through bulk energy purchases. The money saved can then be used to fund further energy reduction purchases, leaving churches with a smaller carbon footprint and lower energy bills.

Triumph Ayo-Isegun, Projects Officer, said: "The proposals agreed today are only the first step for the Methodist Church. It will be a long journey with massive challenges but we are very optimistic that the Methodist people will rise to these."

The Conference also directed Circuits to endeavour to use model trust money to put high standards of energy efficiency in place. Methodist Standing Orders will be amended so that energy performance and energy efficiency requirements become mandatory for Church buildings and manses. All local Methodist churches will be asked to sign up to the Hope in God's Future pledge now that Conference has adopted the report.

PRAYER LIST

Please pray for the following:

Weeks beginning 5 September & 24 October

Rev'd Peter Whittaker, Rev'd Alistair Newton, Bob & Sheila French's Pastoral Group, Allerton Methodist Church, Baildon Methodist Church, Saltaire United Reformed Church, Christchurch Windhill LEP and the Christian community in Bradford

Weeks beginning 12 September & 31 October

Rev'd Freddy Takavarasha, Rev'd Nick Blundell, Brian Hainsworth's Pastoral Group. Lesley Hainsworth's Pastoral Group, Bolton Methodist Church, Calverley Methodist Church, Shipley Baptist Church, Crag Road Methodist Church and the Islamic community in Bradford

Week beginning 19 September

Rev'd Ian Griffiths, Rev'd Keith Hunt, Charles Baker's Pastoral Group, Margaret Emmett's Pastoral Group, Eccleshill Methodist Church, Harecroft Methodist Church, St Anthony's RC Church Windhill, Christian Life Church & Westcliffe Chapel and the Hindu community in Bradford

Week beginning 26 September

Rev'd Sarah Jemison, Rev'd Joy Rulton, Clifford Gray's Pastoral Group, Maureen Gray's Pastoral Group, Haworth Road Methodist Church, Little Lane LEP, St Margaret's Church Frizinghall, St Walburga's RC Church and the Sikh community in Bradford

Week beginning 3 October

Rev'd John Allison, Rev'd Lynne Britten, Christine MacKay's Pastoral Group, Carolyn Shore's Pastoral Group, Kate Hainsworth's Pastoral Group, Northcliffe LEP, Saltaire Methodist Church, St Peter's C of E, Shipley Christians Together and the Jewish Community in Bradford

Week beginning 10 October

Rev'd Stella Hayton, Rev'd Andrew Taylor, Mrs Linda Atkin, Gill Roper's Pastoral Group, June

Whitaker's Pastoral Group, Sandy Lane Methodist Church, St Andrew's Methodist Church, Wrose Methodist Church, Salvation Army Corps and people of no faith in Bradford

Week beginning 17 October

Rev'd David Bonney, Mrs Sharon Fell, Marian Mawson's Pastoral Group, Pam Cadman's Pastoral Group, Thackley Methodist Church, Thornton Methodist Church, Wilsden Methodist Church, St Paul's C of E, Aire Valley Team Ministry

Coffee Morning

In the Church Lounge

In aid of McMillan Cancer Care

Friday, 24th September

10.00 a.m. to 12 noon

Coffee and Biscuits £2

Cakes/Books/Cards/Raffle



Raising funds in aid of



Charity reg no. 207994 (England and Wales), SC038731 (Scotland)