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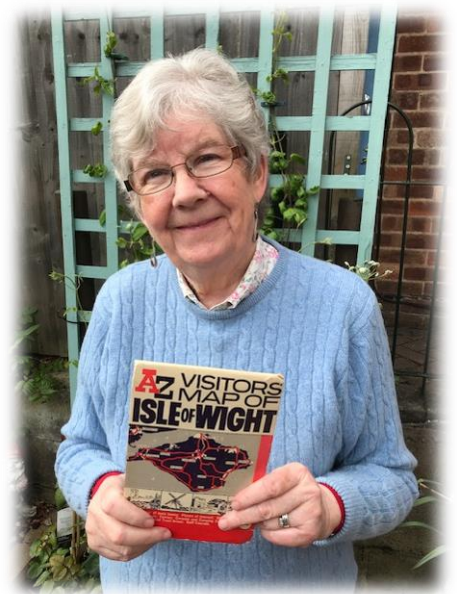
HOW MUCH LONGER IS IT?

I know exactly how long it is until I go on my holiday to the beautiful Isle of Wight, but I must not wish my time away. **I just can't help imagining sitting on the sands at Sandown, listening to the sea washing gently over the pebbles.**

This is possibly because I live nearly 100 miles from the nearest seaside, and we all crave a few days near the sea.

That is not all that we miss, because over the years we have built up a precious relationship with the fellowship at Avenue Road Evangelical Church in Sandown. **From day one they extended such a genuine warm welcome to two holidaymakers who might never ever return, that we were overwhelmed by their love.** One couple invited us for tea during our first stay on the Island and during the Covid years when we arrived at the Church, there were our names on the seats where we usually sat. Now, these days, certain members phone us up during the year and we exchange news.

Every year we attend two services on a Sunday, as well as the Bible Study and prayer meeting. Occasionally they send us a recording of the latest message



given by the Pastor, and what is more important is that we pray for them and equally, praise God, they pray for us.

This is more than a "holiday church", where busy people turn and give you a cursory nod and wish you a "Happy holiday" as they rush home.

This is a caring church who go out of their way to meet the spiritual needs of their visitors and pray God's blessing upon them. **Have we considered our response to visitors lately?**

*Daphne Hodkinson
(Friend of the Caulkheads)*

THE CORONATION Of King Charles III



After arriving home after a week away, Tom checked our emails, and I heard him calling me. **'Sue, you have an invitation to the Coronation!'**

The email said, 'As a recent recipient of a BEM I had been chosen...' No plus 1... sorry, Tom!

What to wear? I decided on a cerise pink suit, matching hat (Friends said, 'Wear a big hat so we can spot you!') and comfortable shoes!

On coronation day, as we waited for the queue to start its progress, there were some gentlemen handing out booklets. One was entitled God Save the King (yes, must be about the service) the other, The King is Coming. **To my delight they were both Christian publications. Lovely photos of King Charles III, but the last chapter spoke about The Saviour King, telling of the King, born 2,000 years ago, who died to save us.** The second booklet is the gospel according to Saint John and the book of Romans. As I looked through them **I prayed that those accepting these precious writings would read them and accept Jesus as their Saviour.** What a forward thinking church to take this once in a lifetime opportunity!

I sat next to a lady who had travelled from Norwich; we chatted and commented on all we saw as we waited: the hats, the celebratory national dress, the famous faces arriving, Ant and Dec, Joanna Lumley, Karl Jenkins and Andrew Lloyd Webber.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY SATURDAY 6TH MAY 2023

The music was absolutely wonderful, well-known melodies, ancient pieces that have been around for hundreds of years and then the glorious new uplifting strains of modern music, with orchestras, bands, amazing choirs and soloists.

As 11 o'clock struck, **the procession started with the faith representatives** followed by representatives from churches in Great Britain and the Commonwealth.

The Fanfare was sounded and we all stood as **the procession of the King and Queen and their entourage entered.** The choir sang from Psalm 122:

*'I was glad when they said unto me:
We will go into the House of the Lord.'*

The service was very moving... the congregation's opportunity to pledge our allegiance to King Charles III, the King being presented with a Bible and the promises that he made, being anointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury with Holy Oil from olives grown on the Mount of Olives, the choir singing the magnificent 'Zadok the Priest', written by George Frideric Handel for the Coronation of George II in 1727.

The congregation sang 2 rousing hymns and The National Anthem, and the service came to an end as the King and Queen exited the Abbey to the sound of 'Pomp and Circumstance' by Edward Elgar.

It was a day I will never forget and feel so honoured to have been invited.



In the Bible we are encouraged to pray for our king. **The King made many promises that day and I believe it is down to us to pray for him and the Queen and his whole family, that he will seek God's will in all he does and give him the strength and determination to keep those promises.** God, bless the King.

Sue Partridge-Underwood BEM
(Bozeat TLC)



A Sure Foundation In Turbulent Times – Part 1

Dear Friend

He will be the sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the LORD is the key to this treasure. Isaiah 33:6 NIV

We have become used to change but many of us feel that the changes we are now experiencing are more dramatic and disorientating than any we have ever known. We walk down our local high street and note the loss of familiar shops that we once took for granted; we struggle with new words and concepts; everywhere we see new choices celebrated and old values and virtues despised. Many people have a sense of **an old world lost and replaced by a new one** in which we no longer feel at home.

I think this disorientating sense of change has two main elements. **The first is the way a subtle tide of new 'Post-Christian' choices and beliefs has risen around us.** On the one hand there is a new morality with a brazen rejection of truth and righteousness. On the other, a cold morality so that we are now surrounded by harsh new rules and regulations – aggressively enforced by self-appointed guardians – on what can and can't be said. Publishers now need a 'sensitivity editor' to ensure that what is published does not offend anyone.

The second element of change is events. First, we had COVID and then, just as we hoped for a quiet year, a tempest of unexpected shocks has struck us: a war in Europe, political changes, and now an unnerving financial crisis. This combination of a rising tide of a new morality and the storm waves of events has been unnerving for many.

Now, in one way I am as concerned by these changes as everyone; yet in another, as an evangelist I'm intrigued and expectant. You see the turmoil of our days has made many people who have never asked questions query and question the way things are. What new 'Moses' has brought in the new commandments of our day? On whose authority? How, when inadvertently we use the wrong word in the wrong place, can we be protected from condemnation? Threatened by the surging and uncertain waters of change, **there is now an almost desperate pursuit of higher and more certain and solid ground.**

Pondering this and reading through Isaiah, I was struck forcibly by verse 33:6: *'He will be the sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the LORD is the key to this treasure.'* Here, in language that looks well beyond Isaiah's own troubled age, we hear of God's offer to be the 'sure foundation for your times'. It's a wonderful promise: amidst a culture overwhelmed by tide and storm, when the very ground beneath our feet is cracking and shaking, **the eternal God himself is proposing to be our stability.** The creator and sustainer of all things is offering to be our shelter from the storm, the tower in which we take refuge and the rock on which we build our lives. This great truth – never more needed than now – lies at the very heart of the gospel. As that great old hymn says, 'On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand ...'

Part 2 will follow in the next edition.

Grace and peace,
J. John - Revd Canon
Visit www.canonjohn.com



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

CONFERENCE

THIS WAS THE FIRST CONFERENCE WE HAD HELD SINCE THE FORMATION OF THE CIO.

It was good to see some new delegates from the individual churches, and of course to meet with old friends too.

Rev. Michael Hedley was inducted as the President for a two-year period.

Thanks were expressed to George Phillips who had served for a third time with his usual enthusiasm and commitment.

DURING THE CONFERENCE, REPORTS WERE BROUGHT BY THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS.

Here's a snapshot with quotes from the Conference handbook from some of the departments.

Women of Action 'This year has been such a blessing ... we are looking forward with excitement

and eagerness to spread the good news of Jesus'.

Overseas Missions 'We as a Union can make a difference when we work together with our overseas personnel and projects'. OM also reported that the project this year will be continuing to support the Hot Meals Project in Lebanon.

Home Missions and YPD 'In many of our churches, where there is solid growth, we can surely share resources ... with each other if we learn to communicate better'.

Local Preachers' Fellowship 'We feel we are in a time of change, not change for its own sake or to be trendy or fashionable but to ensure that we are fulfilling the calling we have to preach the Gospel'. They also reported that they are considering a change of name.



2023



Ministerial Committee ‘Our committee met in early September ... it was encouraging to hear what is going on within the churches of our denomination and how we can equip and pray for our Ministers, Pastors, and future leaders.

Christian Ethics and Social Action (CESA) ‘The committee has once again considered a number of concerning issues which have threatened both our Christian freedoms, and the moral code of this country. We believe however that God is in control.

OUR SPEAKER on Tuesday was **Rev. Dr. David Hull** who is Chair of Methodist Evangelicals Together. He brought two very helpful sessions with the theme of **‘Rekindling the Flame’**.

The first was based on **1 Kings 18 v 20 -44**, his points being:

- Proof of the Spirit
- Presence and power of the Spirit
- Purity of the Spirit
- Prayer of the Spirit

The second was based on **John 21 v 15 - 22**:

- Purpose of revival
- Path of revival
- Provision of revival
- Pattern of revival

The sessions will be available on the website.

ON TUESDAY EVENING THERE WAS A WORSHIP AND SHARING TIME, when representatives from **Bierley Church in Bradford, Heath End Church in Nuneaton, High Street Church in Rushden and Cliffe Bridge in Barnsley** shared how God is at work. *Again, this will be available on the website.*

The conference ended with a special time of Holy Communion.

Next year we meet at Swanwick again, 17th June - 19th June 2024. Why not book it in your diary and join us.



OVERSEAS MISSIONS

HOT MEALS PROJECT 2023-2024

Matthew 25:35 "For I was hungry, and you gave me food; I was thirsty, and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger, and you took Me in."

Blessings to you All.

The Overseas Missions Team would like to thank everyone for all the support given for our Hot Meal project in Lebanon.

We are continuing to support this project for another year as the Hot Meal programme with Safe Haven is new, and the need for the children to have one hot meal a day was very relevant in Lebanon. The programme was launched last June 2022-23, and we as a Union have supported this work. The Overseas Missions team felt in necessary to continue to support this project for another year 2023-24, to help and sustain the hot meal programme. Please pray and donate to this very needed project.

We launched the **SMARTIES** tube initiative at conference, to try and get everyone involved in the project, family, friends, children, in fact anyone you know.

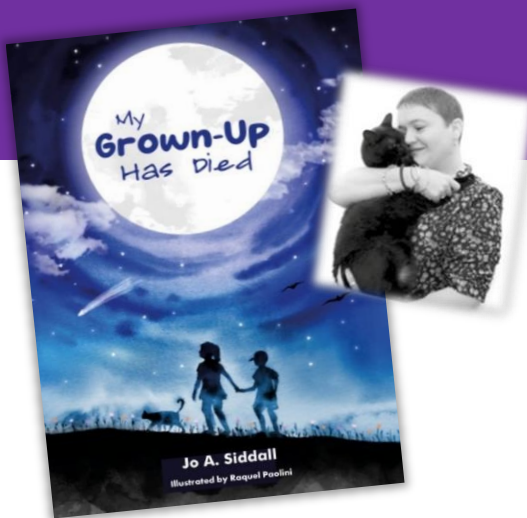


SMARTIES

1. Please buy a tube of Smarties.
2. Eat the Smarties ---- good to share them with others!
3. Then refill the empty Smarties tube with 20p coins (or £1 coins you can get £11 of 20p coins into a tube).
4. When the tube is full give the money to the Church Treasurer or OM personnel who will then send it by cheque or bank transfer to WRU Head Office, Reference Hot Meal Project (no money in the post). **The money collected is for the Safe Haven project to feed children in Lebanon.**
5. There's no limit on how many tubes you can fill!

Thank you!

(WRU Overseas Missions Team)



Jo from Hampden View Church in Sheffield is a Funeral (Civil) Celebrant, Soul Midwife and an ordained minister (Free Methodist Church) working within the Hospital/Hospice Chaplaincy setting. She is also the Group Co-ordinator for the Rotherham SoBS Group (Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide). She has worked for many years with families who grieve and last year decided to put pen to paper and write a short book to help

BOOK REVIEW

children as they prepare to attend a funeral for their 'grown-up'. Although there are resources to help children who grieve, **there seemed to be nothing out there that specifically spoke into or offered guidance for the time between the actual death of the 'grown-up' and the funeral service.** This is a particularly stressful time and children can feel lost, excluded and unsure of what is happening around them.

Jo said, "I once asked a little girl whose daddy had died, 'what do you think happens at a funeral?' The little girl, who was about 5 years old, started telling me all about vampires, ghosts and creepy coffins. She went on to describe graveyards with skeletons, not to mention a few green monsters thrown in too. **I realised she was either describing an episode of Scooby Doo, or the Halloween**

aisle in Asda. Either way, what she anticipated in her mind, was not quite what she would experience at Rotherham Crematorium!"

Jo went on to write a gentle poem that covers some of the emotions of grief and loss. The watercolour illustrations are beautiful, and the final page gives space for a child to draw their own grown-up and to place a photograph inside to help them remember.

The book is written from a Christian perspective and brings out the hope of heaven.

The book is published by 'Small World Big Imagination Ltd', a publishing house that specialises in educational resources. It is available to order from Waterstones and also on Amazon.

WHAT'S ON?

BEACON COMMUNITY CHURCH, BRADFORD



But how will the building make a difference to Beacon Community Church?

The Community Centre is home to 'Food For Thought' Community Café; Chairobics, Infant Massage sessions, Pilates; a Wellbeing Café; and a Community Choir as well as a refreshment and meeting area for Church groups. It is our prayer that this space is used in the way God intends.

In the words of our Pastor Paul Brown: "What an answer to prayer!" For what purpose? You may ask. Within our name is the key - "Community".

As you see the pictures, you will see the transformation! We know what the other words mean, in our church name. But the word "Community" can bring differing views or ideas. Without a neighbourly bond, there is no community!

Jesus tells us to love our neighbours as we love ourselves. Then, Acts 2:42 - 47 is the account of the first New Testament church "a Community of believers".

So, you see the Community Centre of our church is a "neighbourly community of believers" to serve God in enriching the surrounding district with sharing the love of God in every way possible, this will lift Christ high, so that some may come to know Christ as their Saviour.

A high calling indeed.

Beacon Community Centre 2023

After much discussion, prayer, monetary pledges, donations, grant sourcing and lots of hard work by members of the church our old Schoolroom building closed in September 2022 for refurbishment. Good Project Management and Building teams completed the basic work by Christmas as promised. A further month of fitting and finishing off, bringing back contents from storage, cleaning and preparing meant we could re-open our new Community Centre on 21st January 2023.

We enjoyed a weekend of celebrations including a Saturday evening Ceilidh and a Sunday morning Thanksgiving Service.

Thank you to the Wesleyan Reform Union for your support in this refurbishment and to our President George, Julie and family for attending the Thanksgiving Service. Having grown up attending Slackside Church and Sunday School, Julie in particular could see a great transformation.

Women of Action

"He Restores My Soul"



On the Friday before the **Ladies Day in Bradford** we were knee deep in snow, but the event went ahead and there was a good representation of our Bradford Circuit and other local churches in the locality.

Some of the ladies I have spoken to, experienced a real touch from God and others are still mulling over what was shared and what God is saying to them.

Sandra, Anne-Marie and Sue did a great

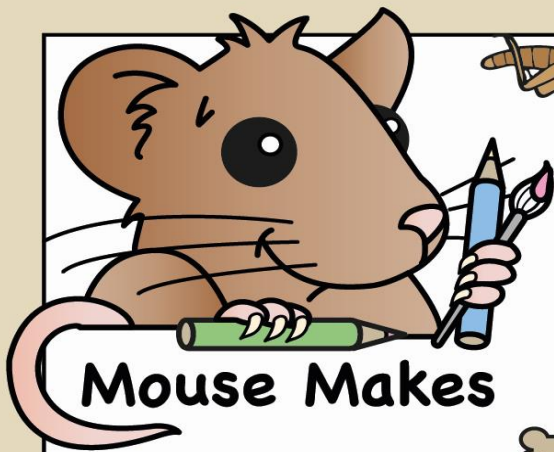
job in leading our time and we want to thank them for their faithfulness to God in giving of their time and energy to serve us as they did.

The Ladies from Addingham were great hosts. We thank them for their loving service.

Margaret Dennison

Next Ladies Day is on 23rd September at Syresham WR Church. To book please call 01208 850626 or e-mail

dotdunkley1@gmail.com



Mouse Makes

The Lord said to Moses,
 "Your brother Aaron shall tell Pharaoh
 to let the people of Israel go out of his land...
 The Egyptians shall know that I AM the Lord
 when I stretch out my hand against Egypt..."

As Pharaoh's heart was hardened against the
 Israelites, God sent ten plagues upon him...

1

Water turns to Blood

Which water turned
 to blood?

Read - Exodus 7:19

2

A Swarm of Frogs

In which
 places were the
 frogs found?

Read - Exodus 8:3-4

3

A Plague of Gnats

When Aaron struck his
 staff on the ground
 what became Gnats?

Read - Exodus 8:16-17

4

Swarms of Flies

In which land were the
 flies not be found?

Read - Exodus 8:22

5

Death of Animals

Which animals that belonged
 to the Egyptians died?

Read - Exodus 9:2

D F G B O I L S L
 L S O O T O P I B
 A W D P E O P L E
 N A N I M A L S A
 D R S N G N A T S
 U M I D N I G H T
 S S T A F F U U O
 T A A R O N E N O
 D E B K D F S D G
 T M A N W A T E R
 M O S E S R W R O
 C R F S N I L E U
 F I R S T B O R N
 I V O K N L C F D
 R E G H W O U I E
 E R S A K O S S A
 H W I N D T H T
 I L F L I E S E H

GOD • PLAGUES • MOSES • AARON
 WATER • BLOOD • STAFF • RIVER • NILE • FISH
 FROGS • SWARM • GNATS • DUST • FLIES
 GROUND • DEATH • ANIMALS • SOOT
 BOILS • PEOPLE • HAIL • THUNDER • FIRE
 MAN • BEAST • LOCUSTS • WIND • LAND
 DARKNESS • FIRSTBORN • MIDNIGHT

6

A Break out of Boils

What did Moses throw into
 the air before boils appeared
 on people and animals?

Read - Exodus 9:10

7

A Rain of Hail

What also rained
 down with the hail?

Where did it not hail?

Read - Exodus 9:24-26

8

A Swarm of Locusts

Where did the wind
 come from that brought
 the locusts to the land?

Read - Exodus 10:13

9

Darkness over the Land

How many days did
 it remain dark?

Read - Exodus 10:21-22

10

Death of the Firstborn

At what time would the
 firstborn in the land die?

Read - Exodus 11:4-6