

# Section News

21 JULY 2021

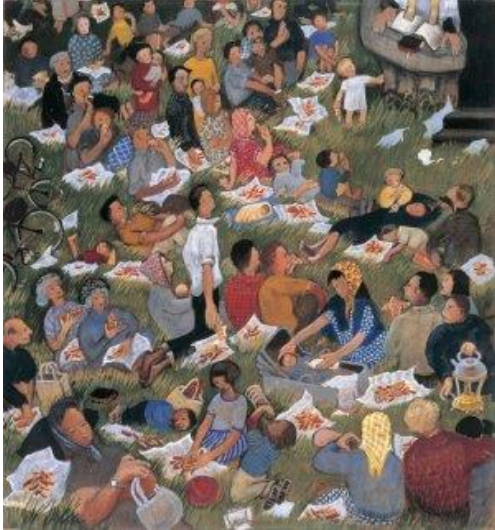
**Reflection**

**Notices**

**YCCN**

## Superintendent's Thoughts

### GENEROSITY...



This picture by Eularia Clarke is one of my favourites from the Methodist Modern Art Collection which you can view online [here](#). (As an aside, did you know that one of the Supernumerary Ministers, Rev Dr Peter Howson, has a picture in the collection?)

I love the freedom of the picture with people gathering in different sized groups across all ages; the chips smothered in tomato sauce and served in newspapers; the bicycles and the pram. There are also those (at the top right-hand corner) who seem to be sitting and waiting for something to happen... their eyes and bodies focussed on the one standing behind the table (a fallen tree?) with hands outstretched. Notice too the toddler, wanting to be part of what is happening, despite probably not understanding it.

Above all, it is for me a picture of generosity and life. There are no conflicts portrayed here; all seem to be part of the group, even those towards the edges, for there are no large gaps between the people. The only person I would doubt feels comfortable is the lady standing at the front of the picture with her arms crossed and headscarf firmly tied. It is a picture more reflective of a church picnic than a biblical miracle and probably not a scene we should seeking to recreate at the present moment, despite the advent of 'Freedom Day' last Monday.

It is, of course, based on the feeding of the five thousand, although the artist has followed the text in Matthew rather than John's account, as the woman and children are present. I am sure that many of us will have attended that much-loved event in the life of churches and other groups across the country – the bring and share lunch or faith tea. These are events when people are invited to bring some food to share with others... My experience of such events over twenty years of ministry is that people always bring more than they would ever eat themselves (just in case someone has forgotten!) and the 12 baskets of leftovers in John's biblical account can sometimes be surpassed (depending on the size of the baskets of course!)

Throughout the accounts of the feeding miracles, the recurrent theme for me is God's generosity expressed through God's people sharing together. This is a theme we need to consider seriously as we return to church from a season where there has been so much that we could not do, for very good and understandable reasons. However, now that rules are being relaxed, too quickly for some, what is God asking us to share generously with our communities? What will your contribution be to the feast? What needs are you aware of, to which you could be the answer by sharing your wisdom and skills? What a difference a generous gift of time or prayer or .....? could make!!

The feast is ready to begin, will you bring yourself and share...?

Peace,  
Rachel.

# Notices

## Dates for the Diary

Week beginning	July 25 <sup>th</sup>	August 1 <sup>st</sup>	August 8 <sup>th</sup>	August 15 <sup>th</sup>
Sunday 4.00 pm <i>Reflection – a short 30-minute gathering using images, music and words led by Revd Rachel Borgars.</i>  <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84235746908">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84235746908</a>	✓	✓	✓	
Monday 7:30 pm <i>Discussion Group – originally called the ‘Hot Potatoes’ group, this is an opportunity to discuss current issues with some theology as part of the mix.</i>  <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84961411119">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84961411119</a>		✓		✓
Thursday 7:30pm <i>Circuit Bible Study – a more formal Bible study which usually meets monthly on the last Thursday in the month.</i>  <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88651459988">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88651459988</a>	✓			
Friday 9:15 am <i>Prayer Group – an opportunity to pray together, bringing both joys and concerns in prayer.</i>  <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82103846709">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82103846709</a>	✓	✓		

## Pastoral News

Please remember the following people and circumstances:



For all in Germany and Belgium affected by the recent devastating floods, especially for those involved in the recovery of bodies and property and those who wait for news.

For children and families who have an abrupt end to the school year due to having to isolate and for those for whom the summer holidays will be a really big challenge on so many levels.

For all whose anxiety levels have risen since the Government's announcement yesterday about the lifting of restrictions around the pandemic and for those who are trying to make sense of the guidance.

***“Be still and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10)***



The Youth Christian Climate Network (YCCN) Relay Pilgrimage started from Truro Cathedral at the time of the G7 Conference and is on its way to Edinburgh for COP26. Today's team walked from Keynsham to Bath and are pictured outside one of Rachel's previous churches. As well as the walkers, representatives were welcomed from other churches in Bath and the local Christian Aid and CAFOD groups. Bath MP Wera Hobhouse had hoped to attend but was unable to at the last minute. She sent a message expressing her support to the 'pilgrims' as they continue the journey and for their commitment to tackling climate change.

You can find more info about YCCN and the pilgrimage here <https://www.yccn.uk>



The churches in Thatcham are hoping to start “Vintage Adventure” in September.

It will be a time of fun, singing, informal worship, activities, craft, tea and cake for the young at heart in our town.

Vintage Adventure will be held at the Methodist Church on 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each

month, from 2.30pm-4.00pm.

**We are looking for volunteers** who can make and serve tea, lead singing or prepare craft activities, as well as general help either on the day or beforehand.

If you are interested in volunteering for this exciting new ministry, come along to our first planning meeting on **Thursday, 5 August** at **2.30pm-4.00pm** at **Thatcham Methodist Church**. We look forward to seeing you.

Any questions, contact Karen Frost on 07444 851 606 or email:

[pastoraldevelopmentworker@outlook.com](mailto:pastoraldevelopmentworker@outlook.com)

## Wellbeing Sessions – Hungerford

Led by qualified instructors these chair-based sessions are perfect for gently rebuilding your strength, suppleness, stamina, and skill and, more importantly, provide an opportunity to reconnect and socialise with others.

Every Monday Morning - 11.45am to 12.15pm from 9th August 2021

Please see the separate leaflet for more information.