

Journey



LENT

The continuing story

of

The Church at Carrs Lane

February 2013

Minister's Letter

Dear friends,

At the invitation of the family, I spent some time this morning looking through the books belonging to a member of the church family who died last year... with the understanding that I was able to take away any books which I felt would be helpful for me in my work. Goodness me – you will understand that I made the visit with a mixture of excitement, anticipation, openness to surprise...and, candidly, the knowledge that I am supposed to be on something of a 'books moratorium' at the manse at the moment. No more acquisitions – at least, not in any numbers – until I have thinned out the books which occupy the hall, the landing, the study, the so-called reading room at the front of the house, and so on. I don't consider myself to be an acquisitive or materialistic person, but there is something about books... I am sure that somebody has conducted a vigorous psychological study as to why exactly books are possessions like no other; I would be interested to read the results! I can appreciate the qualities of a Kindle when it comes to travel and so on, but I have no wish – no intention – to tire of the qualities of the texture and the smell and endless possibilities of the written page.

Looking through many books this morning was a humbling and fascinating and edifying exercise: devotional books, books on church history, books on doctrinal controversies, biblical commentaries, books of world faiths, books of religious paintings...the list and the possibilities seemed endless. I was *very* restrained in the choices that I made; it was remarkable that somebody who died in old age had a number of significant and challenging books published very recently indeed. Not all of us are readers, of course – some 'think' through the visual, or music, or conversation or silence or many more things...

The experience did raise the question, however, of, 'How do we feed our faith?' How do we stay fresh and spiritually alert, how do we sustain the conviction that life is work in progress, a journey, the knowledge that, 'the Lord has yet more light and truth to bring forth from His Word'? It is no bad question to be asking as Lent beckons and as we commit ourselves to study and growth in the faith.

With much love in Christ,

Your friend and pastor,



Sunday Worship during February

Sunday 3 February

Morning worship at 10.30am led by Neil Johnson
Worship is followed by First Sunday Lunch – all welcome
Street Banquet – 4pm (with preparation from 2pm)

Sunday 10 February

Morning worship at 10.30am led by Neil Riches. Key passage: Luke 9.28 – 43
Worship is followed by the monthly church meeting – all welcome
Kidz Aloud – A Children's Church – 2.45pm for 3pm Theme: Transfiguration

Sunday 17 February First Sunday in Lent

Morning worship at 10.30am led by Neil Riches. Key passage: Luke 4.1 – 13

Sunday 24 February Second Sunday in Lent

Morning worship at 10.30am led by Chris Shannahan
Radical worship at 6pm will include a showing of the film 'Ordet' (12, with subtitles)

Lent course at Carrs Lane

This year we're planning to follow a study using some Bonhöffer material. There will be four sessions here on Thursday evenings from 28th February to 21st March. The evenings will start at 6.30 with a light buffet and will finish at 8.00pm. They are open to all. If you would be interested in attending at an alternative time during the day, please speak to Julie Grove...and if you would be prepared to help with the leadership of daytime sessions, we will be particularly pleased to have your offer!

An act of meditation/worship for Maundy Thursday, 28th March, will draw on material from the Thursday Lent Group. This will be held in the church at 7pm.



Forthcoming Events at Carrs Lane

Sun 3 February, 13:00-14:00 – Concert: Inn8 Voices (vocal octet)

Sun 3 March, 13:00-14:00 – Concert: Sandy Hay (flute)

Sun 17 March, 18:30 (tbc) – Stainer's *Crucifixion* @ Broadway URC, Walsall

Fri 29 March, 19:00 (tbc) – Stainer's *Crucifixion* @ Carrs Lane

Sun 7 April, 13:00-14:00 – Concert: Romanesca Tre (Recorder Trio)

Sun 5 May, 13:00-14:00 – Concert: Eleanor Comben & Shaun Evans ('cello & piano)

Sun 2 June, 13:00-14:00 – Concert: Camphill & S. Birmingham Schools Flute Choir

Sun 7 July, 13:00-14:00 – Concert: Laurence Caldecote (organ)

Notices

Resonance – an evening of melodies with local Christian musicians. Friday 8 February 'House Artists' and 22 March '3D'. 7.30 – 9.30pm, Urban Coffee Company, Church Street, Free entry.

Friday 15th February Birmingham City Mission Sponsored Sleepout at BCM HQ car park, 75 Watery Lane Middleway, Bordesley. Starts at 8pm and finishes the next morning at 6am. www.birminghamcitymission.co.uk

Fridays 15 February - 15 March Lent Organ Recitals 12.30pm at the URC, Rother Street, Stratford-upon-Avon. Recitals free, Organists include: Tim Campain, Stephen Dodsworth, Andrew Henderson, Charles Matthews, Peter Summers. Graham Spicer 01789 268423, g.j.spicer@btinternet.com)

Saturday 16 February Come and Sing - Birmingham Cathedral in association with the University of Birmingham Gilbert and Sullivan Society and the St Mary's Robed Choir and Singers presents *A Gilbert and Sullivan Extravaganza Concert* at 4.30pm. £6 to watch and £8 to sing. More details and the registration form from Jan Marsters comeandsing@birminghamcathedral.com

Sunday 17th February Central England Ensemble 'Winter Echoes' 7.30pm at Carrs Lane. Conductor: Tony Bridgewater, Soloists: Linda May, Tony May, Leader: Anna Downes. Beethoven: Overture to Coriolan, Bridgewater: Concerto for Flute and Clarinet (Premiere), Schubert: Symphony no 4, 'Tragic'. Tickets £10/£8 from ceemusic@hotmail.com or by calling 07734256268 or on the door.

Tuesday 26 February Birmingham Council of Christians and Jews - Revd Josephine Houghton to introduce discussion of *The Book of Job* 7.45pm at Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre. Call 0121 429 2176 for details.

Saturday 2 March – Come and sing on a CD! Roger Jones is re-launching his musical 'Apostle' about the conversion of St Paul. This re-launch includes a new edition of the vocal score and a new recording. Come and sing to form a congregation sound on some of the new tracks. Music reading is useful but not essential. At Christ Church, Burney Lane, Ward End. Cost: Free. Timings TBC – for further details contact events@cmm.org.uk or call Christian Music Ministries on 01527 576 440.

Saturday 2 March Take a stand and help tackle global hunger. Walk of witness through central Birmingham, 3 stops at churches for prayer. Contact John Cooper 0121 200 2283, birmingham@christian-aid.org

Friday 22 March, Resonance – an evening of melodies with local Christian musicians, 7.30 – 9.30pm at Urban Coffee Company, Church Street, Birmingham. Free entry.

St. Mary's Church, Moseley. 2nd March, 2 – 5 pm Songs, Psalms and Spirituals – afternoon workshop led by John Barnard £5 per person. **23rd March** Discover The Pipe Organ – a joint event between RSCM and the Birmingham Organists. Open to all. £5 adults, £2.50 children. For details and to book contact Mick Perrier on 07967 595 881 or email mick@mperrier.freeserve.co.uk.

Carrs Lane Players

A reminder that the next play will be 'Hobson's Choice', by Harold Brighouse (by arrangement with Samuel French Ltd). The performances will be on Thursday 21 and Friday 22 February 2013 at 7.30 pm, and on Saturday 23 February 2013 at 5.30 pm. Tickets priced at £7 each are on sale - please book early to avoid disappointment.



'Hobson's Choice' is a timeless story which reflects how life was changing in Lancashire in the late 19th century. It portrays a serious side accompanied with good humour.

Suppers will be available on Thursday 21 February and Friday 22 February at 6.00 pm, costing £5 and Afternoon Tea on Saturday 23 February at 4.00 pm is £4. Tickets for these meals should be purchased quickly because we are unable to exceed our limited capacity. Please contact members of Carrs Lane Players or the office at Carrs Lane Church Centre to obtain tickets.

We intend to make a donation from the proceeds from this play to the Methodist Church charity MHA which recently set up a scheme to help elderly people in Selly Oak, Bournville and Weoley wards in Birmingham. Carrs Lane Players received tremendous support from the audiences at last year's play and hope to entertain you again at their performances in February 2013. Please join us.

Alan Emson

West Midlands Synod at Carrs Lane Saturday 9 March

It is some time since we hosted a meeting of Synod at Carrs Lane – they wanted to come to us last October, but it was the weekend of the Walking Weekend, and we didn't feel that we would be able to accommodate all of their needs - but folk are coming in a few weeks' time, and this means quite a lot of work, both for staff at the Church Centre and for volunteers from the church! Hospitality is the key area where help is required...refreshments on arrival mid-morning, soup for a couple of hundred folk at lunch time and refreshments at the end of the day for a rather smaller number of people; many people make a very quick exit for home at the end of the day. Lists will be up shortly...and every offer of a couple of hours help will be appreciated greatly. If you are unable to offer your services in March, then fret not...the URC National Multicultural Day is coming to Carrs Lane again on 28th September, and this makes Synod look like a doddle! I have it on good authority that this is the last Multicultural Day that we will be asked to host for the foreseeable future...

Neil

Amnesty International Greetings Card Campaign 2012 Write for Rights

Thank you so much to everybody who contributed to the Amnesty Write for Rights Campaign by sending Greetings Cards to Prisoners of Conscience and their families, during worship in December last year. I would also like to thank everybody who donated money towards postage, cards and also gave stamps. As a result of everybody's effort we sent over 100 cards and I was also able to send Amnesty International £60 as a donation towards their work.

In early 2012, Neil suggested that we try a different format for the campaign and so we decided to write the cards during worship. Many people have spoken to me saying how meaningful they found this as it gave time and space to concentrate on the people we were being asked to contact.

We know your messages of support mean a huge amount, because the recipients have told Amnesty so: *'When we receive cards from Amnesty International activists...We read them with love, because we know they were made with love for us. And they mean recognition for our work. That is a big source of satisfaction for us as human rights defenders.'* - Kenia Oliva, COFADEH member.



Please do let me know if you do receive a reply from anybody. I will then forward the information to Amnesty in London. For further information you can look up the website www.amnesty.org.uk/gcc.

Thank you to everybody, Christine Rowntree

Notes from the Organ Bench

Our monthly Sunday Lunchtime concert series resume on 3rd February at 1pm, with Inn8 Voices presenting a programme of music on the theme of love, in preparation for Valentine's Day! Do invite your friends! Please also take a look at the other concerts scheduled in the coming months, elsewhere in Journey.

'Music at The Church at Carrs Lane' now has its own Facebook page – so if you are on Facebook, you are encouraged to have a look and to 'like' the page. Details and photos of events will be published there.

Get Involved. The Church Choir is again joining forces with the choir from Broadway URC, Walsall, to sing Stainer's *Crucifixion* in the run-up to Easter: on Sunday 17th March at Broadway, and on Good Friday (29th March) here at Carrs Lane. If any singers would like to join in with this, you would be most welcome – please come along to rehearsals at Carrs Lane each Friday (except 15th and 22nd Feb), 19:00-19:30. Speak to Tim for more information.

Wishing you a very musical month, and all the best for the New Year.

Tim Batty, Church Musician

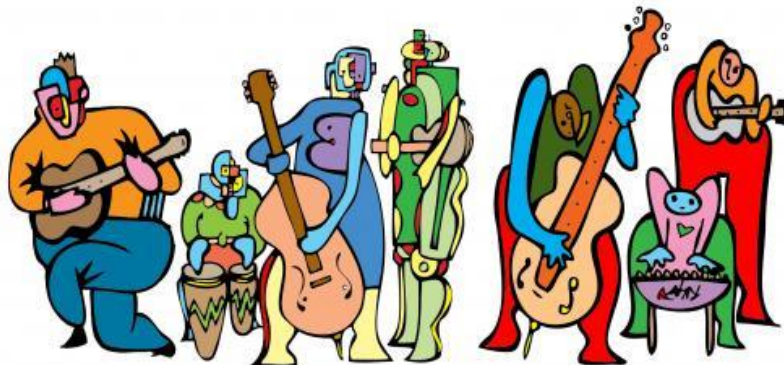
Inn8 Voices: Lunchtime concert on 9 December

Inn8 Voices is a vocal ensemble of 8 gifted and committed musicians supported by The Church at Carrs Lane. As they approached their first anniversary, they treated their audience to a beautiful and varied programme of Christmas and seasonal music one Sunday afternoon before Christmas. The group was founded in January last year by Tim Batty and Lindsey van Gemeren and is composed entirely of local university students who set themselves high technical standards while at the same time aiming to please, move and entertain.

The programme of eight pieces set the group a linguistic challenge as it included items in four languages: French (Noel Nouvelet), English (Good King Wenceslas) German (Stille Nacht) and, of course, American (Winter Wonderland). The first item, 'O Holy Night', was introduced by the lovely, pure sound of the two sopranos, Eleanor Comben and Lindsey van Gemeren. 'The Shepherds' Farewell', a 'humming' carol, was a finely balanced blend of all eight voices held together with the 'hum'. In 'Noel Nouvelet' we had a chance to hear each voice part in contrasting verses. 'Winter Wonderland' (a million miles from shop muzak) was jaunty and cheerful and 'Perfect Christmas Night' had feet tapping and heads swaying. The final item was initially puzzling until we realised we were listening to the Hallelujah Chorus being sung to the tune of Jingle Bells, and Jingle Bells alla Handel.

As we rose from our seats there was a feeling that we had been treated to something a bit special that would take some beating in the run up to Christmas.

Christine Tudor Jones



It was a pleasure once again to listen to Inn8 Voices on Sunday 9 December. This time they were presenting a programme of songs and carols with a Christmas theme. We were treated to a pleasing mixture of musical styles delightfully sung, especially the quiet harmonies in some of the items. For me, though, the 'show stealer' was the last item 'Jingle Bells Hallelujah'. Literally the words of Jingle Bells sung to Handel's Hallelujah Chorus, brilliantly sung and a tremendously joyous finale.

Thank you so much to all the singers, and especially to Tim for arranging, and producing, these lovely concerts.

Geoff Jones

Yield not to temptation...

There are rare occasions when the some of the many groups which use Carrs Lane find themselves in, er, what shall we say...potentially 'opposing camps'. So it was on 15 January, when Weight Watchers found that they were sharing Level



1 of the Church Centre with those taking part in another round of 'The Great British Bake Off'. Hm. What to do!? Should the two have tried to ignore each other? Should Weight Watchers have encouraged their clients to walk through the tempting smells and glorious sights in order to 'grow stronger'? Should Weight Watchers have encouraged full participation in the opportunities of the day, in order to sustain business!? The more I think about it, the more possibilities come to mind. Serious point, though – learning to work effectively alongside those who may not seem our most natural partners is a useful lesson for all people of faith.

Neil

The cakes left behind by the Great British Bake Off were used for refreshments with tea and coffee at the carol concert for Amnesty International and Victims of Torture in December. Approximately £50 was raised in donations through leaving out a 'begging bowl'. Ed

Visit to Corrymeela 18 – 22 February

You may recall reading some of my earlier comments on time spent in Northern Ireland last August. In a sense, I will be taking on a significant opportunity to build on and develop some aspects of this work, when I serve as one of the leaders from the West Midlands Synod, in taking a group of young adults aged between 16 and 25 years of age to spend time in February at Corrymeela. In a sense, this is both a sensitive and important time to be making such a visit; tensions in Belfast continue to run high, and little consistency characterises the explanations offered for on-going unrest by a range of commentators. Hopefully, things will be more settled we make the trip, but it will proceed anyway.

Corrymeela has a relatively long and successful history in building bridges between fractured communities, and we will worship with members of their Community whilst we are there, as well as making a number of visits – sometimes to volatile areas – under the guidance of staff from the centre. Overall, our time will be spent focussed on the related themes of prejudice, discrimination and stereotypes – and the Kingdom response to such things espoused by Jesus – and we would appreciate your prayers for us whilst we are away.

Neil

Gifts Galore on Twelfth Night

January 6th is the traditional date to remember the visit of the Three Kings to the young Christ Child with their special gifts. On Epiphany Sunday during the morning service members and friends of The Church at Carrs Lane celebrated by bringing their own gifts for the Salvation Army's centre in Nechells which helps families in particular need.

After lunch the minister, church musician and assistant organist (with his two great nieces), plus several members of the choir and congregation took part in Christian Aid's Sponsored Swim at Birmingham University's Munro Sports Centre.

Between them the 14 swimmers achieved over 200 lengths within their allotted time of 50 minutes. They will now be asking their sponsors for the money pledged for their efforts. Church members had already donated £150 to encourage the team. These gifts of money will go towards the many projects which Christian Aid supports around the globe. Trinity Hall Green URC also sponsored Neil and donated £77, which was half of their collection on Christmas morning.

Before Christmas, in lieu of sending each other cards readers of the church magazine gave £335 towards Restore, the Birmingham City Churches' charity which helps asylum seekers and refugees.

The organiser of the Sponsored Swim presented each swimmer with a medal at the end of their marathon, complimenting them on being the only team taking part whose members were solely from a city centre church.

Pat Davies

Congratulations to Carrs Lane Team on completing the Birmingham Sponsored Swim 2013

Thank-you to you and your team for being a part of the Christian Aid Sponsored Swim 2013 and for challenging poverty this winter. Over 60 people across Birmingham took the plunge to raise money to help fight global poverty and injustice this month. I hope you all had a fantastic time! Between all of the participants in the swim, you all swam over 24 miles, with your team completing 113 (Lane 5) and 94 (Lane 6) lengths of the pool between them.



By raising money for Christian Aid, your team will be supporting the work of our partners such as Water Action, an organisation in Ethiopia. They work to give people in towns and villages access to a clean water supply and improve sanitary

conditions. Since they began working, thousands of Ethiopians now have access to water and they have reached more than 50,000 Ethiopians in the Wulbareg Sankura districts alone.

Christian Aid is aiming to raise £5,000 from the Birmingham Sponsored Swim. So whatever you raise - whether it's £100 or £1,000, every pound really will make a difference to the lives of those living in poverty.

Thank you once again for taking the plunge to help end poverty this winter.

Best wishes, Vicki Simpson
Events Fundraising Officer – Christian Aid, Central England

Enough Food for Everyone – IF

Hunger is the world's most shocking problem and our toughest challenge. One in eight people on this planet are living with the pain of hunger, and yet our world produces enough food for everyone. It's unfair, unjust, and entirely preventable.

This year Christian Aid has joined with over 100 organisations to launch the 'Enough Food for Everyone – If' campaign.

With your support, we can be the generation to end hunger. But only IF we act together to tackle the structural causes of poverty and hunger; causes such as tax dodging by some unscrupulous multinational companies, which deprives developing countries of an estimated \$160bn a year.

Ghana's School Feeding Programme is an example of how the government of Ghana is helping to tackle childhood malnutrition – by giving vulnerable children like Sulemana (pictured) a free school meal.

But there are many children who are yet to be reached and this will only happen if Ghana's government can find additional money to fund this work.

Ghana currently loses more than \$36m annually through tax dodging in the mining sector alone. This would be enough to extend the school feeding programme to many more children.



IF we can help countries like Ghana tackle tax dodging, they will have a far better chance of ending hunger once and for all.

Thank you,

Alasdair Roxburgh,
Churches campaigns manager,
Christian Aid

Third Sunday Healing Service

Sunday 20 January should have been the last Sunday afternoon monthly healing service, but was cancelled due to the inclement weather. It would have been both sad as we marked the end of a special service but also a celebration of something that has been really worthwhile. (Neil hopes to use the liturgy he had prepared sometime in the future).

The healing service was started in the 1980s following the then prayer group's interest in the Christian healing ministry. We had attended healing services at Holly Lane URC where the Revd. Bert Jordan gave us insight and encouragement to begin healing services at Carrs Lane.

The services were always quiet and meditative with a short reflection on a suitable Bible reading and with an emphasis on prayer and the laying on of hands. We have been blessed with the ministry of our own ministers over the years as well ministers like Donald Eadie and Bob Ash, both of whom have significant involvement in the healing ministry.

The services have been helpful for those who have attended and some people have experienced significant changes in their lives. Because of this, the Wednesday communion services began, where we could pray each week for people on our prayer list, send cards to them on a regular basis and also give an opportunity for prayer requests from people using the premises.

The numbers attending the Sunday evening services have gradually reduced over the years and we have been wondering whether we should bring the healing ministry into the Sunday morning service. The possible lack of a Sunday afternoon caretaker has been the catalyst in our decision to finish. Our prayer now is that opportunities will arise to continue the Healing Ministry in a new way.

Jill and Andrew Veitch (members of our Prayer/Healing Group)



Amazon and Books

By now most people will have become aware of the avoidance of tax by some large companies, and Amazon is apparently one of them.

The following is based on an article in the Ethical Consumer Magazine of September and October 2012, which may be of interest.

It appears that Amazon's business model is based on paying little or no corporation tax in order to obtain a price advantage. Indeed, it also only collects sales tax in five of the fifty states of the USA.

The EC magazine quotes from the Guardian of April 2012 that on £7.5 billion from sales over the previous three years no corporation tax was paid in the UK. The EC also quotes from Business Week that in early 2008 only 4% corporation tax was paid in the USA.

The EC article offers the following alternatives which may be useful:

1. Support your local bookshop if possible. Phone first to order titles. In a reversal of Amazon's famously unpopular suggestion to browse books first in a high street bookshop and then buy them cheaper online, it is quite fun to browse for books first on Amazon and then buy them from somewhere more likeable later.
2. For online books, Guardian Books, a partnership with book distributor Bertrams, works just as well as Amazon and appears to stock all in-print titles. It is owned by Smiths News which paid a very honest £10.2 million in tax in 2012 on a relatively modest profit of £32 million. Newsfromnowhere.org, a not-for-profit workers co-operative and radical bookshop, also sells online. www.hive.co.uk is an initiative combining online shopping with supporting local book stores.
3. For second-hand books online, betterworldbooks.co.uk offers an interesting social enterprise model.
4. If all else fails, buying second-hand from Amazon's marketplace – particularly where the order is 'not fulfilled by Amazon' – will minimise the revenue Amazon receives.

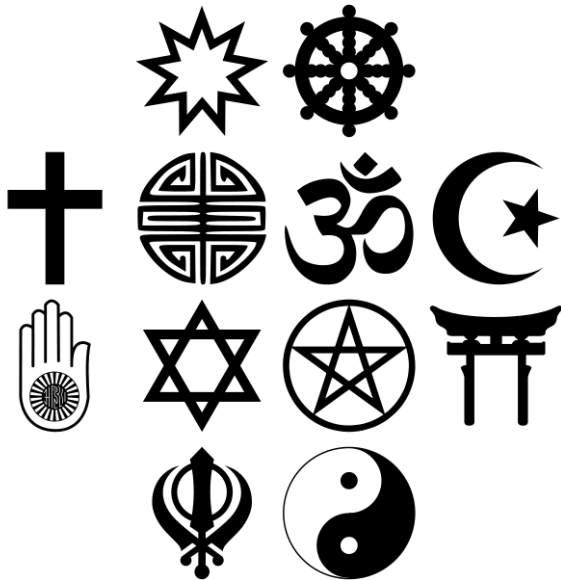
Finally, the Ethical Consumer has launched a 'Boycott Amazon' campaign. If you are interested, or wish to find out more, see www.ethicalconsumer.org/boycottamazon.



Geoff Jones

What kind of language?

People of faith have long understood the power of symbols – pictures and more have the power to communicate powerfully *provided that* they are suitably accessible or there is somebody around to make sense of the symbol and to explain it clearly and helpfully. Sometimes obscurity – the need to explain so much at so many different levels – can render a symbol less than helpful.



As I reflect on the Christmas period, a number of symbols – some unplanned – come to mind. As I cycled to worship in Hall Green on Christmas Eve, I cycled past a freshly-abandoned Christingle perched on top of a light-giving bollard close to a roundabout. Immediately, my mind went into overdrive regarding all the possibilities here: different kinds of light and more besides! I did wonder why the Christingle had been ditched, however; it was intact – sweets included...somebody had clearly shared in worship on Christmas Eve, had the symbolism of the Christingle explained to them, thought enough of it to take it with them from a place of worship, only to abandon it on the way home. Hm.

And then there was an unintentional symbol in worship at Trinity on Christmas Day...one which I couldn't resist within the service itself! For whatever reasons, the church cheque book was placed open, with an open cheque facing up, on the communion table before the start of worship, forgotten about, and left there for the duration. Again, possibilities for comment abounded: different kinds of gift, God's generosity without limits...again, my mind went into overdrive.

Not so with the main Christian advertising campaign during the Christmas of 2012, however; I have yet to meet anybody in the pastorate who had a good word to say about it – and at least one person felt that the billboards amounted to a slightly sinister advertising campaign for a film which they wouldn't want to see. I suspect that the campaign organisers felt that the whole thing was breathtakingly simple, powerful and obvious: blue background, large doll...and the text, 'Godbaby – He cries, he wees, he saves the world' (or something to that effect). Now, as a Christian, I do understand where all this was coming from – vulnerability, the power of the unexpected, God's complete engagement with humankind, all of these are significant strands within Christianity. To a person of no faith, however... well, I suspect that the whole thing was bewildering and somewhat off-putting. Of course, the symbolism could have been explained – and it may well be that useful conversations arose as a result of the campaign – but for me, these were symbols too far. Having said that, I am writing about the whole thing now...

Neil

CLFT News

Look out for the Traidcraft Spring Catalogue to be launched on 6th February. Our new decaff coffee has arrived and is now available to buy from Carrs Lane Fair Trade in a 100g jar or a 450g tub. Read the story behind it...

Why buying Traidcraft decaff matters - Traidcraft's new coffee has a smooth, intense taste, and is made from 100% high grown Arabica beans. The Mountain Water Process removes caffeine naturally, and unlike the chemical processes used in other decaff coffees, ours actually enhances the taste of the coffee.

Traidcraft coffee is different! We're committed to working with the most marginalised, smaller-scale producers. We literally had to climb a mountain just to trade with the farmers who grow our great-tasting coffee in a remote part of Guatemala! But that's nothing compared to what the mountain producers have to climb to scrape the most basic living from coffee and honey on the side of a volcano.

Traidcraft has been working with CIPAC, our coffee supplier in Guatemala, since 2007, helping them to develop their products and open up new markets. They're one of the poorest producer groups Traidcraft has ever worked with, living a hard life in an area with little infrastructure, and small earnings from their crops. Traidcraft staff regularly pay them visits, and we know our people by name. We've helped them to get Fairtrade certification and develop their product quality, and arranged for our coffee to be packed in-country to provide extra income for local communities.

It's the way Traidcraft has supported hundreds of thousands of farmers across the developing world for more than 30 years - we're there to catch our people if they fall. And we're in it for the long haul, to develop sustainable businesses that will last.

Remember it is More Than - just like Traidcraft More Than Just Chocolate bars launched last August.

www.traidcraft.co.uk/news and events

Join us during Fairtrade Fortnight 25th February - 10th March this year in supporting smallholder farmers to grow more and provide enough food for their families and communities. Watch out for details of events.

Almost one billion people in the world do not have enough food to eat.

Joan Davies



A Dales Highway

“One small step for man one large step for mankind” You could say that of many people doing something they have never done before or something nobody has ever done. In the past we drove and walked and for us ours was a serial walk lasting 8 days, covering 100 miles through the Yorkshire Dales into Cumbria.

In the past nearly everybody walked. On our latest visit to Alston in the northern Pennines we discovered Isaac Holden a Methodist travelling tea seller who walked thousands miles over fell and valley in all weathers, selling tea and raising funds for many good causes including a savings bank and Wesleyan chapels in 1830s.

St Paul having completed one of his journeys apparently just walked home to Tarsus merely 300 miles away, incidentally the distance my grandfather Tommy Veitch walked from Churnside in Berwick to Birmingham looking for work in beginning of the last century.

By comparison we had it soft. Our walk was guided, in the sense it was partly way marked and we had a guide book and the maps and someone carried our bags and we walked on our own, arriving in places like Ilkley, Skipton, Malham and Appleby to find our bags at the B & B or inn.

Choosing your company is very important to get the right service. Normally we camp or stay in small cottages. Brigantes organised our holiday very well, taking their name from a tribe who fought the Romans, around Ingleton.

2012 has been a momentous year for us, with two significant birthdays, and should have been the start of our retirement. So hearing about “A Dales Highway” on Ramblings with Clare Balding fascinated us about this new walk from Saltaire near Bradford to Appleby-in-Westmorland and using the Carlisle and Settle railway for the return journey.

It was to be a challenge of a lifetime; we had to be focussed - no unnecessary cups of tea in cafes. Mostly the walks covered 10 to 12 miles but on one day we walked 16 miles. We had to get to Sedbergh in time to eat early that evening at the Dalesman Inn. The walk over Whernside and through Dentdale was very good.

Although we knew many of the destinations very well we followed many ancient highways, from which the walk gets its name. Some of these were used by cattle drovers, shepherds and the like, since the large monasteries were built in the area nearly 1000 years ago.

In these internet days many folk enjoy the challenge of booking their accommodation and had we been less stressed at the time, moving the business from the garden centre to home we might have tried ourselves. However Brigantes made a better job of it than we probably would have done.

We trained by climbing Cross Fell at 2,900 feet the highest mountain in the Pennines

over mountain roads and parts of the Pennine Way. We enjoy walking with maps and were helped using strip maps of the walk and the appropriate lovely OS maps (Ordnance Survey). We are so lucky in the UK to have such quality maps, freely available.

So what was it like? Well there had been floods and the north had had a very bad summer, after a wet autumn and wet winter previously. They joked about our southern drought. The paths were mostly very clear and we had only a few problems. We got baked when the sun came out and found on one day we were putting on and taking off rain gear as we hit a showery day. We dodged a thunderstorm which hit Malham two hours later. We squelched through oozy mud and beat up hard ancient tracks. We saw beautiful clouds, double rainbows and some low mist.

It was a wonderful experience. Our hosts were wonderful. Folk were friendly but we walked mostly on our own, meeting most people in the larger villages and towns and on top of Ingleborough for 3 Peaks Challenge.

We quickly settled into a rhythm and kept up a steady pace 1.6 mph (including stops). We only found 3 cafes on route and did very little sight-seeing because we were on a walking holiday. On our penultimate day we were able to stop on the Howgills and enjoyed the view and sat for half an hour. A tight schedule prevented us having stop days on the way.



The flowers were very good and we passed through so much geology from Gritstone to Limestone, each with its own characteristic landscapes and flowers. Anne was slightly disappointed in the lack of many birds.

Was it worth it? Yes. The route was well researched and the instructions very good, better than many. Would we do another one? Yes we would like to. There are hundreds of walks just in the UK. It was an enjoyable experience and one very different from our normal holidays. We both took many pictures and would be happy to share them with Carrs Lane folk.

At a small hamlet called Feizor we stopped for a cuppa and met a more senior couple now too old to walk very far. They now have their memories of walking the hard way, carrying everything and camping each night. We were spoilt, a friendly porter with a van, duvets, Eggs Benedict and wild mushroom and leek suet pudding. Wonder what Paul had for tea when he got back to Tarsus?

Anne and Malcolm Veitch

Commitment for Life – Occupied Palestinian Territories

From the Commitment for Life link person newsletter January 2013

Greetings,

Food is so important in our lives that not having enough has an effect on everything else we do. Last year the FURY advisory board took part in 'Living below the Line' where people sponsor you to live off £1 a day for five days. Most people who took part say how it affects your concentration and ability to do your work properly as all you think about is food.

Many times in the Bible Jesus used either food in his stories or as illustrations to help people understand what he meant. He described himself as the 'bread of life', something we can't possibly live without. He also said that when we feed those who are hungry we are doing it to him. Let us pray that we do not take our food for granted. In this year of the launch of the Joint Food campaign let us remember those 1 in 8 people on the planet who are hungry today, yet there is enough food to feed everyone. It is lack of political will, not food, which means people go to bed hungry every night. This is the year to take action.

Prayer can move mountains but we must also back this up with time and money. In these hard economic times it is great that we have still been able to raise over £500,000 for Christian Aid and the World Development Movement. However this did include the final part of the legacy we first received in 2010. Next year it is crucial that we 'make that sacrifice' to consider what is 1% of our disposable income. We may be in hard times but for those who have almost nothing, this could be a year of despair.

Let us give thanks for what we have received and act accordingly.

Every blessing, *Linda Mead*

Olive Harvest (*from Moving Stories 156*)

Today three other Christian Peacemaking Teamers and I were asked to accompany some farmers harvesting their olives. I arrived early, along with a Canadian CPTer. We walked through the grove. Olive trees are beautifully ugly. They are hundreds of years old and have been weathered and warped, giving them a haunting, majestic look, like something from Middle Earth. We walked through, and as we got higher up the hill I started noticing razor wire.

The olive grove was within a stone's throw of an illegal Israeli settlement (the stone's throw part is important to remember), built on what is supposed to be Palestinian land. I call it illegal, not referring to international law (all Israeli settlements are illegal by that standard). This settlement, called Tel Rumeida, was built over an archaeological sight. The Israeli government continually ordered its citizens to stop building there, but when the Israelis did not stop, there were no repercussions. So it's officially not sanctioned, even by the Israeli government, although Israel provides soldiers to protect the settlement.

Once everyone got there (some other CPTers, as well as people from other peace organizations), we split up to be with different farmers, in case any settlers decided to

come down and cause trouble. We had been informed that settlers had come down almost every day since the harvest started. Actually the harvest was started prematurely, because some settlers came down and stole the olives off a Palestinian's tree. The farmers in the area decided it was better to harvest before the olives were ripe rather than have them all stolen.

So the other CPTer and I sat under a tree watching... waiting... which got boring after about a minute, so we offered to help. The farmer spoke little English, and we spoke no Arabic. I knew enough to ask "Where?" and he could point me to the right place. The work was self explanatory. It was all done by hand. I joined him up the tree and started dropping the olives onto a spread carpet on the ground. The other CPTer then picked them up, and sorted them into a bucket. In a few weeks I'll probably be buying them as olive oil from the market in town.

When the tree was almost completely picked, the farmer invited us to take a break and have some tea. It was nice sitting in the shade of the olive tree and sipping sweet hot tea which his son, who had been helping us, served. The farmer even told us a story. The only words I could understand were 'settlers' and 'rock'. Then he made a throwing motion, and rolled up his sleeve showing a large black and purple bruise on his arm, the impact of a large rock. No further translation was needed. Surprisingly no settlers came today. I was relieved, and happy for the farmers and their families, that they could do at least one day's work in peace. Settlers will come again, eventually, and I hope there is someone there to help protect the farmers. (Written by a CPT member)

Contributed by Wendy Firmin

On this day ...

From the Carrs Lane Journal [and L.M.S.] Missionary Chronicle February 1913

The Glow of our Thanksgiving

The churches supporting the L.M.S. set apart the week from February 9 to 16 (or in some cases another more convenient week) for giving thanks to Almighty God for His goodness to us and to all men, for prayer to Him for the coming of His increasing Kingdom, and for expressing gratitude not only with our lips but in our lives, and free-will offerings.

Flash from our eyes the glow of our thanksgiving,
Glad and regretful, confident and calm,
Then through all life and what is after living
Thrill to the tireless music of a psalm.

Yea, through life and death, through sorrow and through sinning
He shall suffice me, for He hath sufficed:
Christ is the end, for Christ was the beginning,
Christ the beginning, for the end is Christ.

Sunday

Let us give thanks That God sent the message of His love to our savage forefathers in

Britain, and for all the love and fullness of life that this means for us today.

Let us pray For hearts that cannot take these mercies without handing them on to others, for tireless zeal in passing on to others the Light that has come to us.

The love of Christ constraineth me.

Let us give. "Were the whole realm of nature mine ..."

Monday

Let us give thanks For the amazing opening of doors all over the world today, especially in Asia.

Let us pray For hearts large enough to respond to the will of God, for lives ready to be used, and for power in our missionaries from Him adequate to the task

Let us give Not beyond, but up to our conviction.

Tuesday

Let us give thanks For the lives of our heroic pioneers, Morrison, Moffat, Livingstone, Chalmers, Griffith John, and others who have laid foundations.

Let us pray For a double portion of their passion

Let us deny ourselves With the life of their Lord in our thought. "Victory can be won in no other way than as Thou, O Lord Christ, didst seek to win it, by love, and prayer, and self-sacrifice." (Raymond Lull)

Wednesday

Let us give thanks For the growth of the church in the mission field and for its measure of devotion; for the birth of Christ in the manger of the outcaste; His advent to the student in India and China.

Let us pray For the real presence of Christ in their lives and ours.

Let us give of our lives. For their sakes we sanctify ourselves.

Thursday

Let us give thanks For the sacrificial giving of men and women in the home churches.

Let us pray For so full a knowledge of the world opportunity, and such a compelling love for God and man, that all may feel the passion to give.

Friday

Let us give thanks For the work of men and women in all our fields to-day; for their patient continuance and enduring of hardness.

Let us pray For the response of men and women having the special qualities needed.

Let us give So that the response of such men and women may not be ineffective through our lack of power to send them out.

Saturday

Let us give thanks "For all the saints who from their labours rest."

Let us pray For revival of spiritual life in the field

Let us give The things that we cannot spare.

From the Carrs Lane Journal – February 1963

Christians in Local Politics, by Freda Matchett

Copyright item 1962

This article was an invitation to a congregation very different from that of today, but the current economic, social and even climatic (!) conditions remind us of the importance of our local councils.

Have you ever stood as a candidate for your local Council? If not, why not? Perhaps these strike you as silly questions. You know that you haven't the time, or the intelligence to be a local councillor. But suppose that you have both. Suppose into the bargain that you call yourself a Christian and mean something by it. As a Christian – as someone who believes that God cares enough about human life to have taken part in it himself – surely you can see the importance of what local councils do? Housing, roads, schools, the health service: these and so many other things that make all the difference to life are the direct or indirect concern of your local council. Ask yourself again. “Why have I never stood?”

A lot of Christians would answer something like this: “The more I think about our Council the less I want to be on it. People go into local politics for what they can get out of it.”

Exactly what do local councillors get out of it? There's no financial reward. What's more, a conscientious member of even the smallest council gets a generous helping of hard work and inconvenience. Apart from council and committee meetings, he's likely to be visited at any hour of the day by people who want to consult him. It may be an indignant ratepayer fresh from a row with the housing manager, a bewildered pensioner who needs the whole of the welfare state explained in words of one syllable, or someone with a personal problem who just seeks a sympathetic listener. But here comes our man-in-the-pew again to say, “I realise all that. When I say that local councillors get something out of it, I mean all the publicity and prestige. They're big-heads who always want to do a bit more than anybody else – provided everybody can know about it!”

This is a fair enough comment on *some* councillors. There will always be some people who would be ready to take the lead in anything because they desire to be in the limelight. Obviously, this is *not* true of them all. What is true – or ought to be – is that they are people who are not afraid of being in the limelight in order to get things done which the community needs doing. They are willing to get up in public – and risk the blame and criticism which comes to them just as often as the praise.

Too many of us seem to have developed a most un-Christ-like idea of what it means to be a Christian. We stay in the background, take no risks, accept no more responsibility than we're forced to do, and then imagine that we're showing something called “Christian humility.” And from this comfortable position we snipe at the people who are willing to do a bit more than anybody else.

Of course there are all sorts of snags in local politics. In some areas it's difficult to become a councillor unless you represent the dominant political party. In others it's hard to be accepted by either party if you look like supporting any policy more adventurous than “Keep the rates down”. But let's not make difficulties for ourselves by imagining that it's un-Christian to play any part in public life, or being afraid of what other people will say about our getting something out of it. Why shouldn't more of us “have a go?”

Contributed by Wendy Firmin

Also from February 1963 ... Where are they now? ... *or should it be Where were they then?* ... the Veitch brothers

The school, where I am a boarder, is different from most other secondary schools, for it is a farm as well as a school.

The Somerset Education Committee planned it as a school where young farmers could learn the theory and practice of farming. They acquired Brymore Manor, which is at the foot of the Quantock Hills, just outside the village of Cannington, near Bridgwater.

The Manor, built about 1000 A.D., was mentioned in Domesday Book in 1086. In the reign of Charles I, it was the residence of John Pym, the parliamentarian. It remained unspoilt, with the parklands and beautiful trees, until the beginning of the 2nd World War, when it became a U.S. tank base. By 1958 the Americans had left and much of the land was sold. Finally it was moved the builders to turn it into a secondary school.

In the farm are pigs, poultry, sheep and cattle. It is well equipped with tractors, trailers and other farm implements. The buildings consist of dairy, milking parlour, dutch barn, office and meal shed. Most of the farm produce is marketed.

What makes this school different is that the farm is run by us boys. All the stock have to be fed twice a day, before breakfast and after school, and we have a rota so that every boy will feed one department for one week each term. All this means getting up very early in the morning, but it is good experience.

There is also a horticultural side to the farm and this is the part that interests me most. The garden covers two acres across and last year I spent all my free time there. Last term I was put in charge with several others. I suppose it is only natural for me to be interested in gardening as my father has a nursery.

There are two greenhouses (one heated), and a large walled garden where vegetables are grown – with the help of a small powered hoe! One of the staff has made a five year rotation for this land so that it can be used to its fullest extent. In the summer it had to be irrigated to bring the vegetables forward. Last year was a very fruitful year and many vegetables were sold to a local wholesaler as well as supplied to the school kitchen. We also cultivate flowers, particularly chrysanthemums.

Sport is also a feature of Brymore School – Rugby and cross-country in the winter, swimming and athletics in the summer. It is not surprising we do well at sport, because the boys who come here all like to spend a lot of time in the open air.

On the academic side, the school is little different from any other school – the G.C.E. has to be taken but only at 'O' level. But boys do not come here till they are 13 and leave at 16 or 17. The school has many facilities – a new swimming pool, which we are building ourselves, a good library and a new gymnasium. In fact, it is a lovely school and I am very lucky to have been able to come here, for it is the type of school which suits me.

Malcolm Veitch

Since I left Brymore in 1961 I have been working on a wholesale tree and shrub

nursery in Leicestershire. The nursery, which covers about seventy acres, used to be situated in lovely undulating countryside with trees and fields on all sides. I say used to be because during the last ten years houses have been built on three sides and now the nursery borders the city of Leicester.

Twenty-five men are employed full time. We start at twenty to eight and after collecting our tools from the sheds we disperse in gangs of three to ten men to various parts of the nursery. The number per gang varies according to the magnitude of the work. Besides getting the job done more quickly time passes more rapidly when we are all talking and joking together.

We stop for lunch at ten o'clock and dinner at one o'clock and sit around log fires in the winter or lie on the grass in the summer. We finish at five o'clock in the evening. Our work is varied and interesting. I cannot describe all the different jobs as I would need to write a book, but, for example, there is planting and grafting in the Spring, followed by staking, budding and hoeing in the Summer. Our busiest season is Autumn when all trees and shrubs are lifted and sold. About a hundred thousand trees leave the nursery in two and a half months to retail nurseries all over the country. Winter brings out the tractor and plough and we start planting again! I shall leave the nursery in July and in September I am to start a year's course at the Pershore Institute of Horticulture.

Andrew Veitch

Stuart Veitch, the eldest of the three brothers, wrote in the July Journal of his life on a shrub nursery in Holland. He is now doing a year's course at the Oaklands Agricultural College at St. Albans.

Our thanks to Malcolm and Andrew for allowing us to share these recollections ... and now for Malcolm's update:

My, I don't remember school being as good as that!

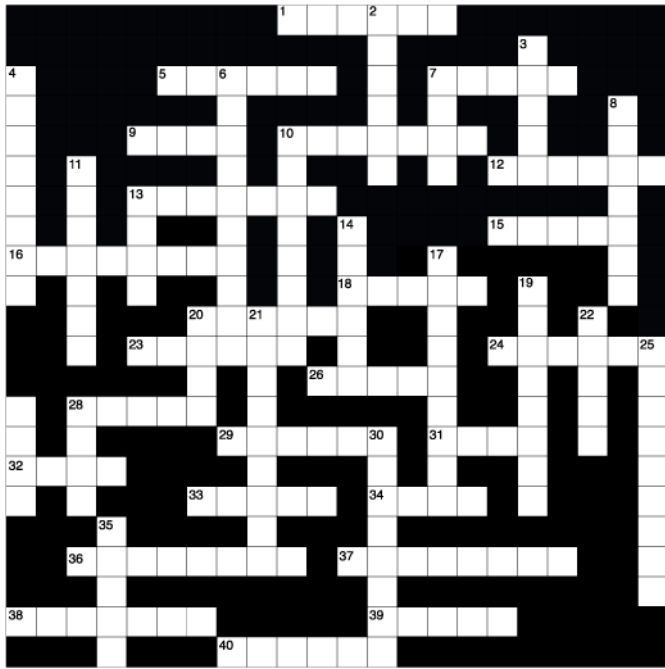
Growing up is not easy for many and my time at boarding school was one of my most turbulent times, and certainly I have enjoyed my life more since I left school. I was in my third year when this was written and possibly was beginning to enjoy boarding school then, but I don't have such a positive view of my time there as this article depicts. I wonder whether the article was heavily edited to make it read better for the august Journal of the early 60's.

Once we had all done our training, for 2 years the Veitch brothers worked at Notcutts as the family business had become. I remember we were working together and spent many a lunchtime in our mother's dining room talking shop and environmental issues. Stuart then moved to Nottcutts HQ at Woodbridge and later Andrew became area manager of the garden centres. Both brothers retired at 50 to take on other careers, and Malcolm started his own design business in 2008.

What are they doing now? See pages 12 and 16. Ed

Kids Page

Lenten CrossWord



ACROSS

- 1 Our _____, who art in Heaven.
- 5 Our acts of kindness help us grow _____ to Jesus.
- 7 Who did Jesus tell not to weep for him, but for all the sinners of the world?
- 9 What tore at the Temple in Jerusalem when Jesus died?
- 10 When we go without something for a time, we _____ from it.
- 12 Where was Simon from?
- 13 Jesus came to proclaim God's ---.
- 15 The soldiers put a _____ of thorns on Jesus' head.
- 16 What did Jesus' death open? A new _____ with God.
- 18 How many times does Jesus fall?
- 20 Who donated the tomb? _____ of Arimathea.
- 23 What did the devil tempt Jesus to turn into bread?
- 24 Who pulls off Jesus' clothes?
- 26 What Christ was crucified on.
- 28 Who helped Jesus carry the cross?
- 29 Jesus' body was wrapped in ---.
- 31 Jesus gave His _____ for us.
- 32 Ash Wednesday is the first day of?
- 33 What we are marked with on Ash Wednesday
- 34 What we give to the poor, especially during Lent
- 36 Who beat Jesus?

37 Veronica performed an act of _____ for Jesus.

38 When we don't eat for a time, it is called _____.

39 What fastened Jesus' hands and feet to the cross?

40 Who mocked Jesus, laughed at him, threw things as he was carrying His cross?

DOWN

2 Jesus' and Mary's _____ ached at each other's pain.

3 The cross was very _____.

4 Who wiped the face of Jesus?

6 Sundays are Holy Days of ---?

7 The soldiers _____ Jesus when he falls a second time.

8 Acts of _____ say we are sorry for our sins.

10 Some of the _____ helped take Jesus down from the cross.

11 What was the hill of the Crucifixion called?

13 Even bruised and bleeding, Jesus is our _____.

14 Mary is Jesus' _____.

17 In what city did Christ's passion take place?

19 How many Stations of the Cross are there?

20 Who baptised Jesus?

21 Jesus was laid in a tomb, also called a _____.

22 In the Our Father, we ask God to give us our daily _____.

25 Jesus is _____ for the sins of the world.

27 What did Jesus do at the Third Station?

28 What is Jesus suffering for? Our _____.

30 The fourteen stages of Christ's Passion, also called the Way of the Cross

35 How many days did Jesus wander in the desert? How many years did the Israelites wander in the desert?

Christmas quiz answers

Oliver Cromwell banned Christmas in England between 1647 and 1660.
The four ghosts in A Christmas Carol were Christmas Past, Christmas Present, Christmas Yet to Come, and Jacob Marley.
The English title of the carol Stille Nacht is Silent Night.
Presepe in Italy refers to the Nativity scene.
Baked sausages in rashers of bacon are commonly known as pigs in blankets.
Melchior was said to have brought the gift of gold for the baby Jesus.
The calendar change in 1752 caused England to have a White Christmas less frequently (the Gregorian calendar, replacing the Julian calendar).
Christmas 1813-14 saw the last Christmas Fair on a frozen River Thames in London.
364 gifts are given in total in the song The Twelve Days of Christmas.
The words "Myrrh is mine etc..." come from the carol We Three Kings of Orient Are.
John Callcott Horsley designed the first commercial Christmas card.
In Victorian England postmen were called robins because of their red uniforms.
The token vegetable often included in a Christmas pudding is carrot.

Mini festival of twelve lessons and carols: answers

1 I closed up the museum cupboard: It came upon the midnight clear
2 W I T T Y H D: What is this that you have done? [Genesis 3.13]
3 Gold coins make riches: Good Christian men rejoice
4 B Y H D T A H N W Y S Y O S I W I B Y: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you. [Genesis 22. 16 – 17]
5 He thought he always sang: Hark the herald angels sing
6 F A C H B B F U A S G T U: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us. [Isaiah 9. 6]
7 Overalls in Roger's dark closet: Once in royal David's city
8 F T E W B F O T K O T L A T W C T S: For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea [Isaiah 11. 9]
9 Aunty's false teeth remain over Grandad: Angels from the realms of glory
10 S I A S M M T P T W B M: See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me. [Malachi 3. 1]
11 Taunton via Manchester, has Andrew become barmy?: The Virgin Mary had a baby boy
12 D N B A M F Y H F F W G: Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. [Luke 1. 30]
13 Interesting theories by Mary: In the bleak midwinter
14 M S M T L: My soul magnifies the Lord. [Luke 1. 46]
15 Gold knickers with lace on: Good King Wenceslas looked out
15 B B T L G O I: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel [Luke 1. 68]
17 Come and see Taunton's home match: Christians, awake, salute the happy morn
18 S G B T H F S: She gave birth to her firstborn son [Luke 2. 7]
19 White swans with tails fly before noon: While shepherds watched their flocks by night
20 G T G I T H: Glory to God in the highest [Luke 2. 14]
21 Will Tim knock out old Andrew?: We three kings of Orient are
22 W M F T E C T J: Wise men from the East came to Jerusalem [Matthew 2. 1]
23 Only canoes and yachts float: O come all ye faithful
24 I T B W T W A T W W W G: In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God [John 1. 1]

A tale of three cities....

I know that I may have used this Dickensian allusion on a previous occasion, but bear with me: the reference is to three cities this time. In the middle of a very busy January, I found that I had cause to spend time in three cities other than Birmingham – Manchester, Coventry and London – within the space of six days. Travelling can be tiresome (and I don't work well on trains), but the overall legacy of the visits was one which enriched my ministry. The visit to Manchester concerned the supervision of those engaged in ministerial formation – and it is always a source of encouragement to note the number of people still called to train for ministry in the Christian Church. The work continues and develops. The visit to Coventry involved the leadership of a conference for the serving elders in the 10 URCs in Coventry – and it was great to share in forum with such a clear commitment to learning and growing and sharing together. The visit to London concerned the facilitation of the next Multicultural Day which takes place at Carrs Lane in September this year – and it was exciting to note that this, increasingly, is emerging as one of the creative mainstays of the denomination in between the now-biennial General Assemblies.

The underlying, connecting theme of these experiences was that of broadening horizons. In times of challenge, difficulty and occasional loss of confidence, it is all too easy to become inward-looking, taking comfort in the reassuringly familiar and squeezing out those things which threaten to rock the boat in times when energy is precious and when we sense that reserves need to be conserved. The gospel imperative runs counter to this: when things are tough, draw strength and encouragement as you look to what is happening elsewhere.

Neil

Thought for the month

Inclusivity is not an optional extra for Christians, it has nothing to do with being liberal. It's not a churchy version of political correctness. It's a Gospel imperative, fundamental to the nature of God and at the very heart of the mission and ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(Giles Fraser)



Please send your contribution for next month's Journey to the Editor,
Mrs. Pat Davies, Carrs Lane URC, Carrs Lane, Birmingham, B4 7SX
or by email to office@carrslane.co.uk.

Room Hire at Carrs Lane

Carrs Lane Church Centre is in Birmingham city centre and within a few minutes walk of New Street and Moor Street train Stations and the National Express Coach Station. Public car parking and bus stops are also nearby.

The Conference Rooms on offer at Carrs Lane are of several sizes and situated on three floors. We can support most types of events. Rooms can accommodate from 6 up to 350 delegates. You will find that our prices are very competitive. Our staff will be pleased to discuss ideas for your event with you and advise on the suitability of our facilities.

Hot and cold drinks can be supplied in the meeting rooms as often as required. Buffet meals can be pre-ordered. These range from a simple sandwich menu to a full buffet

Full details and prices are available on our website, www.carrslane.co.uk, or you may call the conference team on 0121 643 6151 if you have any questions or email booking@carrslane.co.uk.



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Carrs Lane Regular Activities

SUNDAYS

Morning Worship	Every Sunday at 10.30am with Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month
Children's Church	Second Sunday at 2.30pm
Radical Worship	Fourth Sunday at 6.00pm
First Sunday Lunch	First Sunday each month at 12.30pm
Church Meeting	Second Sunday at 12 noon
Singing Group	Third Sunday 9.45 – 10.15am

WEEK DAYS

Lunchtime Healing Service	Every Wednesday 1.15pm
Prayer Group	First Wednesday at 7.00 pm
Discussion Group	First Thursday at 10.15 am
Harborne House Group	Third Tuesdays 2.00pm (various locations)
Central House Group at Carrs Lane	Third Wednesdays at 6.00pm
Carrs Lane Choir Practice	Fridays at 7.00pm
Carrs Lane Players (drama group)	Fridays at 7.45 pm
Charity Knitting Circle	First Tuesday 10.00 am - 1.00 pm
Fair Trade Shop	First and Third Sunday after morning worship and Tuesday - Saturday 10.30 am - 2.30 pm
Counselling Centre	Monday - Friday 11.00 am - 1.30 pm and Monday to Wednesday evenings 7.00 - 9.00 pm

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