

LYNDON MAGAZINE



**JULY &
AUGUST 2023**



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The opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Ministerial team or the Editor

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends

As I write this letter I am preparing to go on holiday and I'm reminded of the importance of rest and rejuvenation. In a world that constantly seems to demand our attention, it's crucial that we find time and space for restoration.



Rest is a precious gift from God. It allows us to recharge and replenish our physical, emotional and spiritual well-being. God, in all goodness sets the best example for us by resting on the seventh day after creating the world.

So, resting isn't laziness or idleness but an act of trust in God's provision and recognition of our limitations as human beings. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

In Exodus 20: 8-11, God commands us to observe the Sabbath and keep it holy, emphasising the importance of rest and worship. It was a weekly reminder of God's provision and a time to cease from work and find spiritual rejuvenation.

In the New Testament, the concept of rest is associated with salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. It emphasises that believers find rest from their own efforts in order to rest in the saving grace of God (Hebrews 4: 9-10).

The Bible speaks of God's ability to restore and refresh our souls. In Psalm 23, David describes God as a shepherd who leads him beside still waters and restores his soul. This restoration involves healing, renewal, and finding inner peace in God's presence.

Rest and restoration also encompass the process of being renewed and transformed by the Holy Spirit. In Romans 12: 2, believers are encouraged to be transformed by the renewing of their minds, experiencing a spiritual restoration that leads to a changed life.

The concept of eternal rest refers to the promise of entering God's rest in heaven. Hebrews 4, speaks of a rest that brings everlasting peace in the very presence of God.

Overall, biblical rest and restoration takes in physical rest, spiritual rejuvenation, freedom from striving for salvation, inner healing, and the promise of eternal peace in God's presence. It is a multifaceted concept that speaks to the holistic well-being and ultimate hope of a relationship with God.

Here are some fun Bible-inspired rest ideas you might like to try over the Summer:

- 1) Scripture Meditation: Set aside a peaceful time to meditate on uplifting Bible verses. Reflect on their meaning and let the words bring you comfort, inspiration and spiritual rejuvenation.
- 2) Nature walks: Spend time in nature, appreciating God's creation. Take a leisurely walk in a park or a scenic trail, observing the beauty around you. Use this time to pray, reflect, and find solace in God's presence.

- 3) **Colouring Bible Pages:** Engage in Bible colouring pages or colouring books that feature biblical scenes or verses. This activity can be calming and therapeutic, allowing you to express creativity while focusing on the Word of God.
- 4) **Worship Music:** Create a playlist of worship songs or hymns that uplift your spirit. Find a quiet spot, close your eyes, and immerse yourself in the music. Sing along, pray, or simply let the music wash over you, fostering a sense of peace and connection with God.
- 5) **Journalling:** Set aside a time for journalling, where you can reflect on your faith, record prayers, and write down thoughts and experiences related to your spiritual journey. This practice can help you gain clarity, deepen your relationship with God, and provide a creative outlet for self-expression.
- 6) **Bible Storytelling:** Revisit your favourite Bible stories and retell them in a creative way, maybe with friends and family. This can be lots of fun and can also bring a deeper understanding of Scriptures.
- 7) **Scripture Art or Calligraphy:** Explore the art of hand-lettering or calligraphy using Bible verses as inspiration. Create beautiful pieces of art that incorporate the Word of God. Engaging in this expression can be both relaxing and spiritually uplifting.

Remember, these activities are meant to enhance your rest and relaxation while connecting with the teaching and messages of the Bible. You may have other ideas not listed here but whatever you decide, choose activities that resonate with you personally, and enjoy the process of finding rest in God's Word.

Go well and enjoy, Karen



© Steve

The Trinity

A week or two ago on 4th of June, a week after Pentecost, we celebrated the festival of Trinity Sunday. It is the last of the main church festivals of the Liturgical Year. The period from then until Advent Sunday used to be called Trinity but is now referred to as Ordinary Time.

Unlike the other major festival, Trinity does not celebrate an event but is a recognition of the unity of one Godhead in three persons. This conception developed out of the life and worship of the Christian Church as a result of the events of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, and of the coming of the Holy Spirit. The early church fathers recorded "That we worship one God in trinity and trinity in unity." This was to counter the early heresy of Arianism which had developed in the Christian Church. Arianism denied that Jesus was one with God the Father but was created by God as a holy man. Both Judaism and Christianity are monotheistic religions, believing that there is only one God.

The first Christians were Jews who found themselves praising and thanking God for what he had done through Jesus. They worshipped God in Christ, and through Christ, and they experienced the power of the Holy Spirit.

Christian doctrine is not just a set of man-made rules which must be followed to receive salvation but is born out of the experience of Christian life following the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It speaks of God who touches life at every point and is an attempt to put personal experience into words.

The earliest record of the setting aside of a special Sunday to celebrate the Trinity is in the 10th century when it was celebrated by the bishop of Liege. It was first celebrated in our country in 1162 by Thomas a Becket at Canterbury.

Many Christians are confused and find it difficult to comprehend the concept of Trinity. One of the reasons for this is the departmentalising of the three persons. The looking at the Trinity with single vision, rather than through 3D vision. This results in the thinking of God the Father as creator, Jesus the son who only existed when he became incarnate and was crucified as the ultimate sacrifice for our sins, and that the Holy Spirit did not exist before Pentecost. We shall see how this thinking is wrong, and that from the beginning they were one.



Baroque Trinity, Hendrick van Balen, 1620,
(Sint-Jacobskerk, Antwerp)

God the Father

The very first verse in Genesis states “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth”. Many non-believers dismiss the fact that God was the creator as he could not have been there before creation. Some follow the “Big Bang” theory, but that still does not answer how or what was there before. Our finite minds cannot understand that at sometime there was nothing. We see the power of God in creation as recorded in the first two chapters of Genesis. It is easy to overlook the fact that the reference to days is not a cycle of twenty-four hours but to vast periods of time.

The power of God is also seen when he appeared to Moses at the giving of the ten commandments. (Exodus 19 v10-25).

So far, the assumption is that these works were those of God the Father alone.

God the Son

The coming into the world of Jesus, the Son, was prophesied hundreds of years earlier by the prophets. Even the detail that he would be born in Bethlehem was given.

In the gospel of John, we read “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.” (Ch 1 v 1&2). The Word is another name of Jesus. Verse 14 of the same chapter tells us “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” Jesus, himself, said “I and the Father are one.” (John 10 v 30), and “I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to him.” (John 16 v28.)

John 1 verse 3 states “Through him (that is, The Word) all things were made; without him nothing was made that had been made.”

Here we have seen the unity of the Father and the Son and that the Son, Jesus, was involved with creation.

God the Holy Spirit

We are introduced to the Spirit of God in the second verse of chapter one of Genesis. Here we read “the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.”

Throughout the Old Testament we read of the work of the Spirit, but this was not freely available until Pentecost. An example of this is to be found in 1 Samuel 10 verse 10 after Samuel had anointed Saul to be the first king of Israel. It reads “The Spirit of God came powerfully upon Saul.”

Unfortunately, Saul did not live up to his high calling and later in his life we read a very sad statement: “Now the Spirit of God had departed from Saul.” (1 Samuel 16 v14)

On the evening of Easter Day, the disciples were together behind locked doors when Jesus appeared among them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit”. (John v22). This was a special filling of the Holy Spirit for the disciples, giving them a foretaste of what would happen at Pentecost.

Jesus told the disciples that it was necessary for him to depart in order for the Holy Spirit to come. “Unless I go away, the Advocate (Holy Spirit) will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. (John 16 v 28)

The gift of the Holy spirit which came with such drama at Pentecost is now freely available for all who decide to follow Jesus. For some, there is the experience of receiving the Holy Spirit in greater measure later on along their spiritual journey.

We have now seen the unity of the triune God and that the three parts were together from the beginning.

Problems of Understanding

We cannot explain the Trinity, but as someone once said, “We cannot explain it, but it seems to work”.

The examples mentioned below do not fully explain the Trinity, but they may help us a little along the way.

- With regards to music there is the original tune in the head of the composer, the written page on which the notes are written and there is the sound to the ear when the music is played.
- As an individual I am a son, a husband, and a father. The relationship I had with my parents was quite different from that which I have with my wife and that is different from the one I have with my daughter, but I am the same person in all three relationships and the three persons experience me in a different way.
- St. Augustine said “God is love. There is Love, one who is loved and one who loves.”
- Stephen Cottrell, the Archbishop of York, wrote a book “God Forsaken”, in which he tells of how after trying to explain the Trinity to some young children, he asked them if they could come up with a better idea. He was surprised when one girl had drawn a picture of three trees in a field. The first was an apple tree- a symbol of creation, the second was a vine - because Jesus had said “I am the true vine”, and the third was a tree in autumn with the leaves being blown off by the wind. Under the ground the roots of the three trees combined together. He was astounded by the image and at the profound theological imagination she had shown in the task.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!

All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,

God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity. (STF 11)

Barry Davis

Prayer For July and August

For the citizens of Ukraine and Russia and for their leaders and world leaders. Continue to pray for successful diplomacy that will bring an end to this human suffering and assault on democracy which has now lasted for over 12 months. Pray for the Ukrainian citizens wherever they may be and for those who continue to help them.

For other people in need in the world suffering the effects of ongoing conflicts or climate change and the charities and people that help to support them.

For the people in power in government, within trade unions, help them to work together and listen to each other in order to end the strikes which are still having such an impact on our country.



Also please pray for:

Pray for those we know who are unwell or with serious illness and for the families of the bereaved. May they feel God's healing touch.

Pray for those families who are struggling to put food on the table and keep themselves warm as the cost of living crisis deepens. Help them to know that God is with them and that help is out there.

Pray for our services in July and August. We pray that those who are away on holiday have a restful time and come back invigorated and ready to do your will and take our church forward into the future.

Pray for all those who access our building that they may feel a touch from you.

Turn our minds and hearts to visualising the church we want Lyndon to be in the future. Although we are not being joined by the Chinese Methodist Church, it's still a time for new opportunities – give us your wisdom and strength and open our hearts to being directed by you.

Don't forget to thank God each day for the blessings he has given you and ask him what he wants you to do - as we say in the Lord's Prayer, "Thy will be done".

Amen

Primitive Methodism and Tetney Primitive Methodist Church

On a walk when holidaying near Cleethorpes we came across an old Primitive Methodist Church. This got us thinking about things such as what is a Primitive Methodist Church, the history of this church, how many such churches are around and how much further was the pub we were heading to for lunch? (don't worry we only had soft drinks). The following is what we have since found out and thought we would share.

The Walk



Should anyone else ever be in the vicinity of Cleethorpes we heartily recommend the walk and the pub. We started from the RSPB Tetney Marshes car park and followed the path on the edge of the marshes into Tetney, past the lock and the church before arriving at the pub, the Crown and Anchor. It is approximately 3 miles each way but mostly flat on a good surface with saltwater

marshes one side and open farmland on the other. The dog on an extending lead did vastly more than the 6 miles we walked!

It was a good time to do the walk with glorious Spring weather and much of the flora and fauna in bloom. A few photos of the walk have been included.

As a side note, for keen naturalists, we found out Tetney Marshes is the place in the UK you can get the closest to birthing seals and their calves, literally separated by only a small fence. Just be warned do not try and touch a seal or its calf. A seal can take your arm off and if you touch a calf the mother will abandon it. For those interested, calving is normally between late October and January.

Tetney Primitive Methodist Church

As to the church there is very little of its history we could find. A previous Primitive Methodist chapel was built at Tetney in 1835 with the church we found replacing the previous one when it was built in 1864. Tetney Primitive Methodist Church appears to stop being used as a church in the 1960's. The latest date of any activity we could find was 1964, or at least that is when the parish records stop.



As you can see from the photo the church is quite small, a moderate house size, and there is another, much larger Methodist church in Tetney, St Johns Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, so we would assume after the Wesleyan's and Primitive Methodist's settled their differences all worship eventually drifted there.

What is quite fascinating though is the split in the Methodist Church leading to the creation of the Primitive Methodists. The following is the history of the split and subsequent reconciliation. Hopefully, you find it as interesting as we did.

Primitive Methodism

The Primitive Methodists were a major offshoot of the principal stream of Methodism - the Wesleyan Methodists - in 19th Century Britain.

In the early decades of the 19th century there was a growing body of opinion among the Wesleyans that their Connexion was moving in directions which were a distortion of, not to say a betrayal of, what John Wesley had brought to birth in the 18th century.

The leaders who originated Primitive Methodism were attempting to restore a spirit of revivalism which they felt was found in the ministry of John Wesley, with no intent of forming a new church. The leaders were Hugh Bourne (1772–1852) and William Clowes (1780–1851), preachers in the Wesleyan Methodist Church. Bourne had joined a Methodist society at Burslem, but when business took him at the close of 1800 to the colliery district of Harseahead and Kidsgrove, he was so impressed by the prevailing ignorance that he began a religious revival of the district, and Clowes joined him in 1805.

The two preachers heard from Lorenzo Dow of the results of American camp meetings and held a fourteen-hour camp meeting on May 31, 1807, at Mow Cop on the Staffordshire and Cheshire border, which resulted in many converts. But the Wesleyan Church refused to admit these converts to the church, and reprimanded Bourne and Clowes. Refusing to cease holding open-air meetings, they were dismissed from the church.

For a while they took separate paths, but after waiting two years for readmittance to the church, they founded the Primitive Methodists in the year of 1810. Clowes's personality drew a number of strong men after him, and a society meeting held in a kitchen and then in a warehouse became the nucleus of a circuit, a chapel being built at Tunstall in July 1811, and there in February 1812 they took the name The Society of the History United Kingdom Primitive Methodists. The name is meant to indicate they were conducting themselves in the way of Wesley and the "original" Methodists, particularly in reference to open-air meetings and allowing female ministry. The last of the women roving preachers died in 1890.

Primitive Methodist workers played an important role in the formative phase of the Trade Union movement in England. They were always the most working class of the main Methodist bodies in Great Britain. They also used women at an early date as ministers ("itinerants") and preachers, a notable development in women's emancipation.

The Primitive Methodist Church formed one of the three streams of Methodism

then extant in England. However, by the end of the 19th century the streams of Methodism realised they had more in common than they might have supposed. So, conversations began which led to a union. This final happened in 1932 when The Primitive Methodist Church merged with the Wesleyan Methodist Church and the United Methodists to form the Methodist Church of Great Britain. The story of Primitive Methodism is kept alive at Englesea Brook, the museum of Primitive Methodism.

In other parts of the world the Primitive Methodist Church still exists. In America the first missionaries arrived in Brooklyn, New York, in 1829. The societies founded in the United States were under the control of the British Primitive Methodist Conference until 1840, when the "American Primitive Methodist Church" was established on September 16. A combining of various organizational structures occurred in May 1975, and the current official name - The Primitive Methodist Church in the United States of America - was chosen. The denomination holds an annual conference. A president, elected every four years, is the chief leader of the denomination and their headquarters are located in his home. In 2000 the American body had 79 congregations with 4502 members.

Primitive Methodist congregations were also established in Australia. In 1902 the Primitive Methodist Church, Wesleyan Methodist Church, Bible Christians and the United Methodist Free Churches formed the Methodist Church of Australasia. In 1977 the Methodist Church of Australasia joined with the Congregational Union of Australia and Presbyterian Church of Australia to form the Uniting Church in Australia.

So, a chance find on a Spring walk has led to us finding out about a split and reconciliation in the Methodist church we knew nothing about. History and interest are all around so now we are in holiday season perhaps you will come across an old church or something else that makes you stop and think. If so, why not take a few snaps and send them with a little information for inclusion in future magazines. Let's see who can come up with the oldest, most interesting finds. Don't worry if you can't take pictures just let us know where and what you have found, and I am sure we can find suitable photographs. If not, I can't see why Lyndon Methodist Church wouldn't pay for an all-expenses paid trip for us to take the photos and research the article ;-)



Happiness is not fulfilling every pleasure or getting every outcome you desire. Happiness is being able to enjoy life with a peaceful mind that is not constantly craving more. It is the inner peace that comes with embracing change.

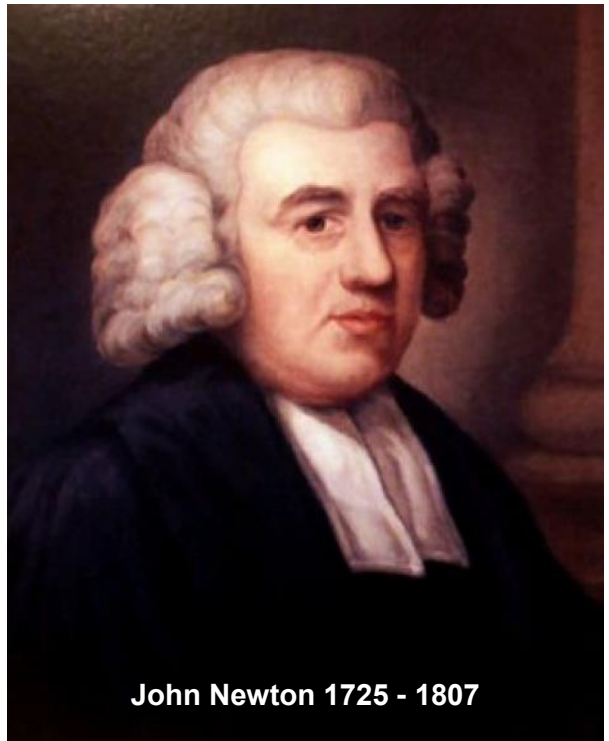
Amazing Grace – 250 years old – AMAZING!!

This year is the 250th Anniversary of the writing of the well-known hymn, Amazing Grace.

Written by John Newton in late 1772 in his study in the vicarage at Olney, in rural Buckinghamshire, the hymn has since become one of the most recorded songs and has been sung by a wide variety of people from Arethra Franklin, Diana Ross, Judy Collins, Elvis Presley, and Bono of U2. It even topped the UK charts in 1972 with a version performed by The Military Band of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guard.

It has a wider impact than any other song ever written, is sung at times of national mourning and became an anthem for civil liberty. Indeed, in 2015, President Obama famously sang it unaccompanied after delivering a eulogy for Rev Clementa Pinckney, who was shot dead along with eight members of the congregation, at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina.

John Newton was born in 1725 in Wapping. He didn't have an easy life; he lost his mother who died of tuberculosis at the age of six. His father, who was a shipping merchant, was away at sea so he was then brought up by his emotionally distant stepmother and was sent away to boarding school where he was mistreated. At the age of eleven he joined his father on a ship as an apprentice although his seagoing career would be marked by headstrong disobedience. He denounced his faith, relapsed into bad habits and was eventually pressed into service with the Royal Navy. Even then, he took advantage of opportunities to overstay his leave and deserted the navy to stay with the woman he had fallen in love with. The result of the desertion was that he was traded as crew to a slave ship and thus began his career in slave trading.



John Newton 1725 - 1807

His behaviour and insubordination to officers continued, openly mocking his captain and creating obscene poems and songs about him which delighted other members of the crew. His disagreements with his shipmates led to him almost being starved to death, imprisoned at sea, and being chained up like the slaves that were carried on the ship. At one stage he was enslaved in Sierra Leone and

forced to work on the plantation and was only allowed to leave when his father intervened.

In March 1748, he was on the ship “Greyhound” in the North Atlantic returning from Africa to England, still as disruptive as ever. The ship was caught in a violent storm that was so rough that a crew member was washed overboard from where Newton had been standing just moments earlier. For the first time in his life Newton prayed and after two weeks the battered ship and starving crew landed in Ireland.

This was the start of a long journey turning back to God and improving his moral standing.

Newton remained involved in the slave trade for a further six years, eventually becoming a captain sailing the coast of Africa procuring slaves being offered for sale in larger ports and transporting them to North America, with 511 Africans being transported by him in this way. During this period, he married his original love but found it harder and harder to leave her behind at home, and eventually, at the age of thirty, decided not to sail again.

As his faith grew his horror at his own behaviour also grew which led him to renounce the slave trade and become a vicar. This was another long journey for someone who never had any formal schooling – another 7 years by some accounts when he was finally accepted into ministry in the Church of England.

His first post was as curate at St Peter and St Paul Church in Olney, at that time a poor Buckinghamshire village consisting mainly of farm labourers and lace-makers. Newton’s preaching was unique at that time as, rather than preaching from a distance, he admitted to being tempted and committing sins. He was reputedly much loved by his parishioners, as he understood the trials and tribulations that they were going through.

Newton struck up a friendship with William Cowper, a gifted writer who had failed at his law career and had attempted suicide many times. Together their work amongst the congregation at Olney was very impressive and in 1768 they found it necessary to start a weekly prayer meeting to meet the needs of an increasing number of parishioners. They also began writing lessons for children.

During those times, learned ministers were expected to write verses and, with the encouragement of Cowper, Newton tried his hand at writing hymns, which were written in the language of his listeners making it easier for them to understand the message. Newton and Cowper would try to have a new poem or hymn written for each prayer meeting. They would have been familiar with hymns written by both John and Charles Wesley as well as Isaac Watt, whose hymns John would have grown up hearing.

Amazing Grace was written for a specific service which was an ecumenical event; every year there would be a service on New Year’s Day for the young people of the village and all the churches would take it in turn to host – Church of England, Methodists, Baptists etc. Newton’s turn was New Year’s Day 1773, and he wrote Amazing Grace to go with the Sermon he was going to preach that day based on 1 Chronicles 17:16-17. Newton’s sermon on that January day 1773 focused on the necessity to express one’s gratitude for God’s guidance, that God is involved in the

daily lives of Christians though they may not be aware of it, and that patience for deliverance from the daily trials of life is warranted when the glories of eternity await.

Little did he and his congregation know that his hymn would go on to be so internationally renowned.

The words speak powerfully of Newton's own personal experience of grace – how God had seen him through toils and dangers; how he had been spiritually lost yet God had, both physically and spiritually, rescued him and led him home.

In later years, having fully realised the horrors and atrocities that he had been involved in, Newton renounced the slave trade and became heavily involved in campaigning for the abolition of the slave trade. He worked closely with the MP William Wilberforce who was the nephew of a friend, who led the parliamentary campaign which would see slave trade made illegal in 1806.

John Newton died the following year aged 82.

Since that time, the hymn has developed a life of its own. We do not know the original tune that it was sung against and even in church today there are various tunes in use. The one that most of us know is called New Britain (STF 440) and emerged in the mid 1840's in America and was perhaps a well-known tune to which many songs were put.

In addition, the final verse of the hymn that we sing today was not even written by John Newton.

*“When we’ve been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise,
Than when we first begun”*

This verse first appeared in Harriet Beecher Stowe's immensely influential 1852 anti-slavery novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (Wordsworth Editions), and quickly became assimilated into the hymn.

The song still serves as a great source of comfort to many Christians today, particularly for those who are searching for faith or meaning or struggling at difficult points in their lives.

The last few words of this article come from the current rector of St Peter and St Paul church in Olney, Rev Andrew Pritchard-Keens who has this to say about the hymn. “The hymn speaks of God's love and forgiveness and reminds us that he is with us when life is not easy, that he protects his people and has prepared a place for all, with him, for eternity.”

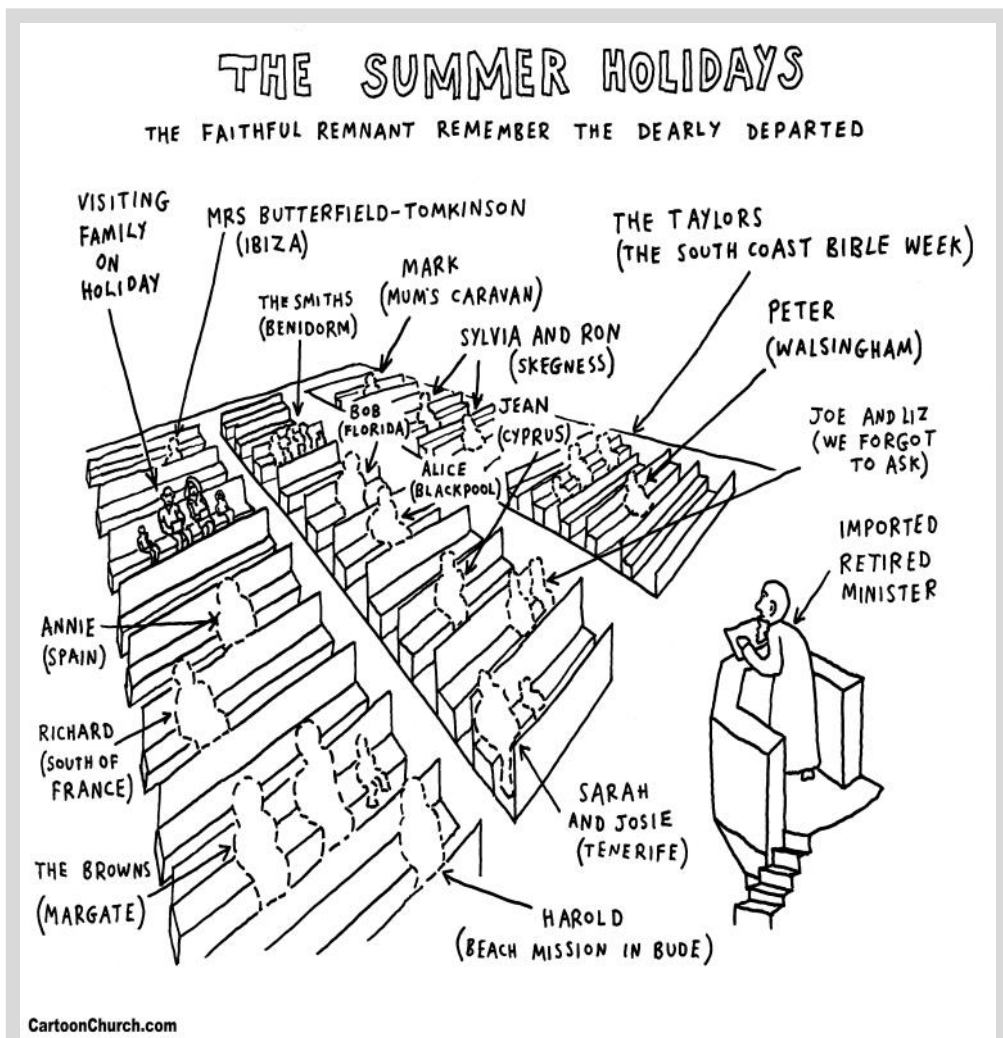
He continues, “Newton says that he was lost, but speaks of being found by God. He tells us how his eyes were opened to God's love. My prayer for 2023 is that all who know God will be ever increasingly released to praise him. And all who don't yet see how much God loves them, will come to know his 'Amazing grace'!”

Lynne Tyler with help from Jo Hancock and internet info from Olney Church, Wikipedia, BBC Songs of Praise

Footnote

There was an interesting Songs of Praise edition broadcast on 8 January from Olney church which is well worth watching. It is still available on I-Player, but only until 8 July. The link is shown below:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m001h07p/songs-of-praise-amazing-grace?page=1>





Heal Nepal appeal, 2019

*Thank you! Your generous support has helped cure
1,997 people of leprosy in Nepal!*

Do you remember supporting our Heal Nepal appeal in 2019? This was to help find and cure people affected by leprosy in remote communities in Nepal. Your generosity had a far greater impact than anyone could have ever imagined. It is even more remarkable that such huge strides were made during the Covid global pandemic.

Yet despite the major disruption caused by Covid, thousands of Nepali people are now living healthy lives. It is thanks to you and UK Aid Match funding that Heal Nepal was able to have such an incredible impact. Every pound you donated was matched by the UK government. Heal Nepal raised £4.15 million, including £2 million from the UK government, to find new leprosy cases hidden away in remote areas of Nepal. Because you cared enough to take action, 1,997 people were cured of leprosy.



The success of the Heal Nepal also equipped our team in Nepal for unprecedented times. Covid hit Nepal hard. The money raised enabled Anandaban Hospital to become a designated Covid vaccination centre. On the day the vaccine roll-out began in Nepal, the team vaccinated 169 frontline health workers. Over the coming months, a total of 2,500 people received their vaccines. This was either at Anandaban or via outreach work in the Kathmandu Valley.

Although the three-year Heal Nepal project has now ended, its legacy will continue for years.

A long-lasting legacy

Thanks to your generosity, huge strides have been made in the fight to end leprosy in Nepal. Great-grandmother Dhanmati - seen here at the far right with some of her family members - has been spared the devastating effects of leprosy. She had numb fingers and discoloured patches on her hands. These symptoms were spotted by a community volunteer, trained by the Heal Nepal team.



Dhanmati was referred to a satellite clinic of Anandaban Hospital. As she lives in a very remote and rural area, they arranged for her transport. At the clinic, she was diagnosed with leprosy and given the cure.

Dhanmati is just one of hundreds of people who have been spared disability as their leprosy was treated at an early stage. New leprosy patients needing further treatment were taken to Anandaban Hospital. There, many also underwent reconstructive surgery to restore movement to their hands and feet. This is all because of your kindness and determination to see an end to leprosy. Thank you!

Tackling leprosy on the front line

Hundreds of government health workers have now received training and are able to detect the early signs of leprosy. This input into the health system will have a lasting effect. Catching leprosy early enough eliminates the risk of permanent disability.

Hundreds of female volunteer health workers have also received leprosy training. As well as being able to recognise early signs of the disease, they are challenging prejudice. These women are at the very heart of community life. This makes them well placed to change people's attitudes.

A large-scale media campaign has reinforced this crucial work. Three million people heard, via the radio and text messages, that leprosy is curable and not a curse to be feared. The Heal Nepal teams carried out contact tracing. They found a staggering 74,822 close contacts of people diagnosed with leprosy. Each person was taught to recognise the early signs of leprosy. They were also prescribed post-exposure drugs, reducing their likelihood of contracting the disease.

We are so grateful to you for accelerating the fight against leprosy in Nepal.

You have changed Ram's life

Ram Kumar is just one of hundreds of people in Nepal whose lives you have transformed.

The father-of-four was in a terrible way because of leprosy. It was thanks to your incredible response to the Heal Nepal campaign that an outreach worker was able to spot his symptoms. He was diagnosed and cured of leprosy.

He was also taken to Anandaban Hospital where he underwent reconstructive surgery. The fingers on his left hand had curled into a claw as a result of nerve damage caused by leprosy.

Thanks to you, they have been straightened and he is back home. He is so grateful to you for enabling him to have the surgery. That surgery has meant he is able to work and support his family again, and he is so happy that he can do this.



Thank you so much. You have helped people like Ram and Dhanmati to begin a new and healthy chapter in their lives.

Heal Nepal appeal, 2019 -The Leprosy Mission

AI and Action for Children, Sea and Rural Mission Sundays

The summer is a quiet time for the church. In the Methodist Church Diary, there is listed only three activities Action for Children Sunday, Action for Sea Sunday and Rural Mission Sunday, all on 9 July. There is nothing at all for August.

My search for magazine content coincided with my experimentation with the new AI (artificial intelligence) tools which everyone is talking about all over the news, with some even claiming it will result in anything and everything up to the end of humanity.

There are already books that have been totally written by AI for sale on Amazon and selling well. Therefore, after some research I decided to put the AI built into the Edge browser to the test. The following is AI's take on the three subjects included in the Methodist Church Diary.

All of the content below is what Microsoft's AI chatbot came up with. I haven't independently verified everything, but the information does look correct. Whatever your thoughts on the ultimate impact of AI on the human race, Terminator anyone, I was somewhat surprised how quickly and simply AI could produce what appears to be an informative magazine article.

On a religious basis what is God's role in all of this? Is it man messing with things he should not or is the human race being guided because there is no doubt AI could be a game changer in all areas of improving human life as well as the potential end to our existence?

Action for Children Sunday

Action for Children Sunday is a special day to celebrate the work of Action for Children, a charity that supports vulnerable children and young people in the UK. It is held on the second Sunday of July, which is the anniversary of the opening of the first children's home by Methodist minister Revd Thomas Bowman Stephenson in 1869.

Action for Children provides practical and emotional care and support to children and families who are affected by poverty, disability, and abuse. It also campaigns to bring lasting improvements to their lives and ensure their voices are heard. Action for Children runs over 500 projects across the UK, reaching around 20,000 children and young people in need.

One of the children who benefitted from Action for Children's support is Angharad, who became depressed when she was 18, after experiencing tragedy early in life. She felt alone and hopeless, and struggled with self-harm and suicidal thoughts. She contacted Action for Children's Blues Programme, which provides group counselling sessions for young people with low mood. There, she met other young people who understood what she was going through and learned coping skills and strategies to manage her emotions. She also received one-to-one support from a



counsellor who helped her build her confidence and self-esteem. Angharad says: "Action for Children helped me turn my life around. They gave me hope for the future and made me realise that I'm not alone."

On Action for Children Sunday, churches and communities are invited to hold services and activities to raise awareness and funds for the charity. Action for Children provides resources such as worship outlines, stories, prayers, and hymns to help plan a special service. There is also an Action for Children Covenant that can be said together to affirm the commitment to uphold the work of the charity and the rights of the children and young people it serves.

Action for Children Sunday is a great opportunity to show solidarity and support for the children and young people who are facing challenges and hardships in their lives. It is also a chance to celebrate the achievements and successes of the charity and its partnership with the Methodist Church. By taking part in Action for Children Sunday, you can make a difference in the lives of thousands of children and young people across the UK.

Action for Sea Sunday

Sea Sunday is a day to celebrate and support the seafarers who work tirelessly to transport goods and people across the oceans. It is also a day to raise awareness of the challenges and dangers they face, such as piracy, isolation, exploitation and environmental hazards.

Sea Sunday is celebrated by many Christian churches around the world, including Methodist's. This is especially so for those with a maritime tradition, such as the Anglican, Catholic and Orthodox churches. The date of Sea Sunday varies from year to year, but it is usually held in July.

One of the main ways to participate in Sea Sunday is to support the work of the Mission to Seafarers, a global charity that provides pastoral care, practical assistance and advocacy for seafarers of all faiths and nationalities. The Mission operates in over 200 ports across 50 countries, offering services such as chaplaincy, ship visits, seafarers' centres, welfare support, emergency response and family liaison.

You can support the Mission by donating money, volunteering your time, praying for seafarers and their families, or raising awareness of their plight in your community. You can also join their online events and campaigns, such as the Sea Sunday service, the Flying Angel Appeal and the Woolly Hat Day.

By taking action for Sea Sunday, you can make a difference in the lives of millions of seafarers who are often forgotten and neglected by society. You can also show your gratitude for their vital contribution to the global economy and human well-being. Sea Sunday is an opportunity to honour and celebrate the seafarers who keep us connected and supplied.

Rural Mission Sunday

Rural Mission Sunday is an annual event that celebrates and supports the work of rural churches in the UK. It is organised by the Arthur Rank Centre, a charity that provides resources and training for rural ministry.

Rural Mission Sunday invites rural churches to reflect on their mission and to share their stories with others. It also encourages churches to raise funds for the Arthur Rank Centre, which helps them to develop their mission and ministry in their communities.

This year, Rural Mission Sunday will take place on 23 July 2023*. The theme is "Rooted in Love", inspired by Ephesians 3:17-19: The theme invites rural churches to explore how they are rooted in God's love and how they can express that love to their communities.

"Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God." (NLT)

Rural Mission Sunday invites us to explore how we can be rooted in God's love and express it in our rural contexts. How can we show God's love to our neighbours, our communities, and our environment? How can we nurture our spiritual roots and grow in faith and discipleship? How can we share the good news of God's love with those who do not know him?

If you are interested in taking part in Rural Mission Sunday, you can find more information and resources on the Arthur Rank Centre website: <https://arthurrankcentre.org.uk/rural-mission-sunday/> You can also join the online community of rural churches on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ruralmissionsunday/>

Rural Mission Sunday is a great opportunity to celebrate the vital role of rural churches in God's mission and to support them in their challenges and opportunities. Let us join together in prayer and action to be rooted in God's love and to share it with others.

* This is the one difference I noticed where the date is different to that on the Methodist calendar

The Potential Influence of AI Misused

A fake AI-generated image of an explosion near the Pentagon spread on social media causing a huge dip in US shares for a short time on 22 May this year.

The image may have been fake but the reaction, however brief, was real.



Next year's President and Vice-President

Last summer in Telford, the Methodist Conference elected the Revd Gill Newton to serve as President and Deacon Kerry Scarlett to serve as Vice-President.

They have had a while to get ready for their responsibilities; their year of office begins as the Methodist Conference opens in Birmingham on 22nd June this year.

The role of President of the Methodist Conference is reserved for presbyters and that of Vice-President for lay people or deacons.



The Revd Gill Newton is a lifelong Methodist, raised in Cornwall, with experience of circuit ministry and has served as the Sheffield District Chair since 2014.

Gill says: "I am both humbled and honoured to have been entrusted with this role by the members of the Methodist Conference. With God's help we look forward to the opportunities we will have to encourage, inspire and challenge the Methodist people."

Deacon Kerry Scarlett, from the Birmingham District, has a passion for justice and seeks to enable and amplify the voices of others. Kerry founded ADAVU, an anti-trafficking charity, and

participated in regional network and anti-trafficking campaigns.

Speaking following the election, Kerry said: "It is an honour and a privilege to have been elected Vice-President Designate. I am very much looking forward to working with Gill Newton and am very grateful for the opportunity to serve the Methodist Church in this way."

Kerry has served the church in many ways including theological education.

She was stationed in the Elmdon and Birmingham Circuits and was Pastor and Organiser to Inclusive Gathering in Birmingham, and a tutor at Queen's College.

And a local connection: she led the Remembrance Sunday service at Acocks Green on 8th November 2015!

Info from Methodist Website and Peter Harding



July & August Quiz

General Knowledge – All your answers begin with the letter ‘M’

| | | |
|----|---|--|
| 1 | What is the French word for Tuesday? | |
| 2 | In which film does the title character carry an umbrella with a handle in the shape of a parrot's head? | |
| 3 | Which planet is closest to the Sun? | |
| 4 | What is the only anagram of the word Dynamo? | |
| 5 | In which African country is Casablanca? | |
| 6 | In the Simpsons who is Homers' blue haired wife? | |
| 7 | Which road runs from London to South Wales? | |
| 8 | In the phonetic alphabet what is the codeword for M? | |
| 9 | Road from Buckingham Palace to Admiralty Arch is The... | |
| 10 | What is the surname of Marilyn Monroe's 3rd husband | |
| 11 | What was the first Mr Men book? | |
| 12 | Dodos were last seen in 1660's but where ?? | |
| 13 | What is the 39th book of the Old Testament? | |
| 14 | What was the name of Victor Meldrew's wife? | |
| 15 | Love it or hate it, which foodstuff takes its name for the French word for cooking pot? | |

**Answers please to Lynne Tyler or Church Email
by Thursday 15th August 2023**

Trinity - Anagram Puzzle

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| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |

All of the words can be found in Barry's article.

Summer Holidays Wordsearch

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| G | N | L | X | S | Y | A | D | I | L | O | H |
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| M | H | C | A | E | B | U | C | K | E | T | B |
| B | G | N | I | X | A | L | E | R | Y | O | J |
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BARBEQUE

BEACH

BUCKET

CARAVAN

FAMILY

HOLIDAYS

ICECREAM

JOURNEY

RELAXING

SANDCASTLE

SEASIDE

SEAWEED

SPADE

SUNSHINE

TRAVEL

May - June Quiz Answers - Rivers

1) AVON 2) DEE 3) PO 4) TYNE Daly 5) TWEED 6) Monty DON 7) WHY (Wye) 8) SEVERN 9) TEES 10) JORDAN 11) COLE Porter 12) CLYDE 13) YELLOW Submarine 14) RAY Allen

Congratulations for 100% correct answers to the Hunt family and commiserations to Tom and Kate Collen who got 1 wrong.

Lyndon Community Page

We really would like to make this page and the whole magazine relevant, therefore, please get in touch. Let us know what you like and don't like and send or give any important events, ideas, offers, stories, feedback or tips personally to Lynne Tyler or by e-mail to lyndonmethodist@btconnect.com.

As previously mentioned, to keep this section going, improve this magazine and to try and create a closer community we really need your interaction.

MONEY SAVING TIPS

To clean flasks or drinking bottles that can become stained and smelly, simply dilute orange squash, fill the bottle and leave overnight. It removes odours and tea stains very easily. Wash as normal.

Cut the cost of cleaning products by using table salt which you can pick up for as little as 65p. Salt supplier Pure Salt suggests that rather than forking out for sink unblocker, mix half a cup of salt in two litres of boiling water. Pour it slowly into the drain then leave it for 15 minutes before running the hot water tap.

Combat mildew by combining a cup of warm water, a quarter of a cup of lemon juice and a tablespoon of salt in a spray bottle. Spray the mildew, leave for two to three hours and then wipe off with a clean cloth.

GARDENING TIPS

When planting new seeds use toilet roll tubes filled with compost. When ready to plant out, put directly into the soil - they make great biodegradable plant pots.

It's easier than you think to grow your own constant supply of strawberries, and the best thing is that it won't cost you a single penny!

Simply cut off a thin slice of the outside of a strawberry and place it on top of a small pot filled with soil. Sprinkle a little amount of soil over the top to cover it lightly and water. Place a glass over the top to create a humid environment and before long you'll see that the seeds have sprouted. Separate them and place them in individual pots with soil until they are big enough to plant outside or in a greenhouse.



Notices & Events

Ladies Club - 2.00pm to 4.00pm

Wednesday 12th and 26th July

Wednesday 9th and 23rd August

Lunch Club - Fridays 12pm to 1pm

JULY

7th Corned Beef Hash

14th Sausage and Mash

No need to book - Just come along

Please Note: Lunch Club will stop for the summer holidays on the 14th July and recommence on 8th September 2023. Enjoy your summer!

Monthly Prayer and Bible Study - 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Wednesday 5th July

Wednesday 2nd August

Hobs Moat WI - 7pm to 9pm

Monday 17th July

Monday 21st August

Notices & Events

USED STAMPS

The British Heart Foundation will be pleased to receive used postage stamps, so stamps can continue to be placed in the Box currently placed on the "Reception Desk" in the Church Centre. I will be taking them to the shop either at Solihull or Acocks Green. I took the ones that had been placed in the box since March when The Leprosy Mission had stopped receiving them last week. You could take them direct to one of the British Heart foundation shops yourselves if you wish instead of bringing them to church. Thank you. *Brenda*

TIME OUT

Time Out will not be meeting during the summer holidays. Our last Sunday together will be 9th July and we will recommence on 3rd September.

However, there will be a baptism service on 16th July which will be an all age service so it will be great to see you there.

During the summer period we will be providing activity sheets for the children at the back of the church.

Hope you have a great summer and we look forward to meeting together as a group on 3rd September.

Services in July

Sunday 2nd July

10:30am Communion Service led by Rev Karen Webber

6.00pm Lyndon People

Sunday 9th July

10:30am Service led by Barry Davis

Sunday 16th July

10:30am Baptism and All Age Service led by Rev Karen Webber

Sunday 23rd July

10:30am Own arrangement service

Sunday 30th July

10.30am Service led by Sally O'Hare

Services in August

Sunday 6th August

10:30am Communion Service led by Rev Karen Webber

6.00pm Lyndon People

Sunday 13th August

10:30am Service led by Barry Davis

Sunday 20th August

10:30am Service led by Rev Karen Webber

Sunday 27th August

10.30am Own arrangement service

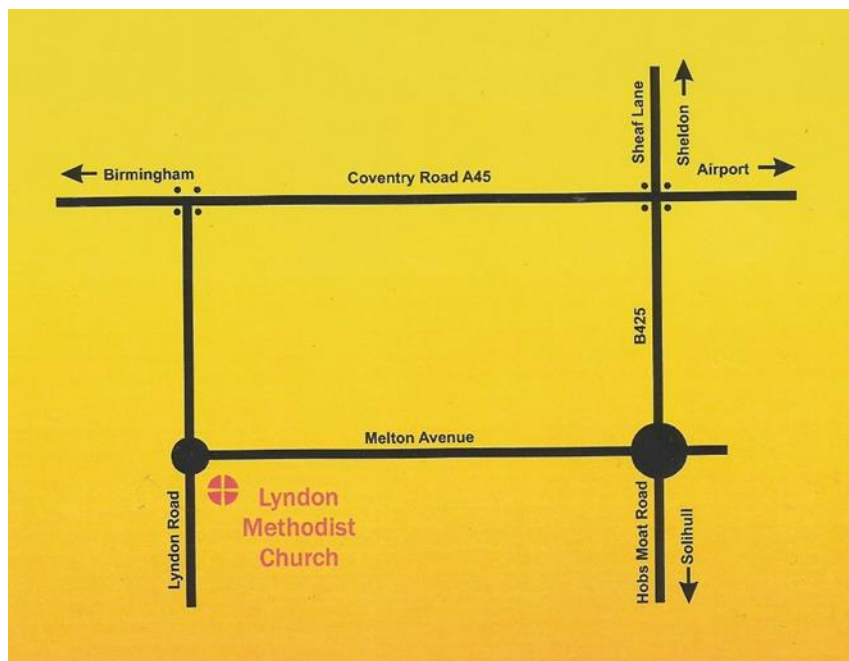
Our next issue will be September 2023

I am looking forward to receiving your contributions by

15th August 2023

by email to Lynne Tyler or to lyndonmethodist@btconnect.com

or by post to Church – address below



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