

CONTACT



The magazine of 'Connect'

Home of Burbage Methodist Church

July/August 2018

Pastoral Letter July—August 2018

Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3.13-14 NIV

Dear friends,

By the time you read this, England's football World Cup hopes with either be over, or (hopefully!) still very much alive. Even for those of us who aren't interested in football (I'll pray for you...) can't fail to be affected by the mood of national hysteria on those very rare occasions when England get anywhere near a sniff of a trophy. At times it is seemingly impossible in such an atmosphere to keep a sense of proportion: When in 2016 the team crashed out of the European Championships having lost to lowly Iceland the press coverage was akin to that given to Chicken Licken's prediction that the sky was falling in! Now at this World Cup a thumping win over equally lowly Panama has many of us dreaming of glory once again.

The English are not alone in this of course: The Scots amongst us will remember the hype surrounding their team at 1978 World Cup which, like so many of England's campaigns, ended in spectacular failure. But with the English football team, there is something in our past which haunts us. On a sunny day in July 1966 at Wembley, England actually won the World Cup. Those of us who can remember it long to see it again, and those of us who don't (I missed out by three months!) just want to know what it must have felt like.



It has been suggested by some commentators that the triumph of 1966 has cast a long shadow over subsequent England teams and that the weight of history has born heavy on their shoulders, preventing them from reaching their full potential.

I sometimes wonder if this can happen with the church too: we are all too aware that the Sunday School outings, packed anniversary services and influence both locally and nationally are things of the past, glories to which there seems no way of returning to. If only we could... Nostalgia is a wonderful thing, but it can be paralysing if we become fixated with what we have lost at the expense of what we now have. This isn't to say that we shouldn't treasure the past: I never tire of watching Bobby Moore's fourth goal and hearing Kenneth Wolstenholme's iconic commentary 'Some people are on the pitch..!' Rather, what has gone before us should act as an inspiration not a straightjacket as we have to make brave decisions in changing times on when it is 'a time to tear down and a time to build' (Ecclesiastes 3.3).

It was this courage that drove our forebears to build not one but two Methodist churches on Windsor Street, to rebuild on our present sight when it was clear more room was needed and to relinquish the Primitive Methodist cause opposite the Red Lion at the end of the 19th century when it became clear it was no longer sustainable. The same courage inspired Burbage Methodists in the 21st century to embark on the building project which has resulted in Connect and it will continue to inspire us as we seek we 'serve the present age, our calling to fulfil' in reaching out into our community with the Gospel.



Paul's words remind us to look forward not backward, that God has yet more in store for us, and that the goal of eternity in His presence is before us not behind us. Like the England team this summer straining toward what is ahead, we press on toward the goal. Our greater aim though is not to win the prize alone but to invite others to join the team of those that God calls heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Have a great summer

Your minister

Tim

TOO BUSY?

St. Anselm was a philosopher, politician and an extremely busy person, who lived about 1000 years ago.

He wrote "Come now, step back from your activities for a while, escape from the noise of your thoughts. Lay aside your heavy responsibilities and postpone taking up the burden of your work. Give yourself over to God for a little while and rest for a moment in God. Enter into the inner room of your mind, shut out everything except God and whatever helps you to seek Him. Speak now my heart and say to God I seek your face, it is your face I seek Lord"

A modern composer expressed it this way. "Keep your eyes upon Jesus, Look full on his wonderful face and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace."

"Wednesday at 2"

On June 6th we enjoyed a fascinating talk by Greg Drozdz. It was so interesting that we hung on his every word. He told us the story of Hinckley's Hansom Cab. This was designed by James Hansom and patented in 1834. James Hansom was an architect by profession and in 1828 had won a prodigious prize for designing a new town hall in Birmingham. - it is now the Symphony Hall. Sadly escalating costs led him to bankruptcy. Having a family to support he was in dire straits and was fortunately rescued by a friend who commissioned him to build a bank in Hinckley. Thus it was to our town he came and was living here as he designed the Hansom Cab. It proved to be more stable than other cabs and achieved great success world wide. Hansom Cabs are now collectors items and Hinckley is proud to own one. It was given to the town on June 15th 1935. You may remember it being on display for a time when the Hinckley Island hotel opened some years ago. Recently it has been restored and is now ready for a permanent home and will be driven on special occasions, The Atkins building may house it for a while and when sufficient funds have been raised it will have its own special home adjacent to the existing museum. 1838 saw Hansom commissioned to build a new work house on a site on the London road. Some of you reading this will remember it. It was demolished in 1947 but part of the building was still used by the technical college until the latter was demolished in more recent years.

Hilary Fenby

Prayers for Summer, 2018.



In prayer we kneel before God that we may stand erect before the world.!

1. Praise God for the wonderful gift of creativity.
2. United Nations tell of 135 million currently in desperate need. Pray that these needs be satisfied.
3. Praise God for the new things He is calling us to at "Connect"
4. Older people need hope, purpose and friends. Pray that you may be able to help in some way.
5. On the 70th anniversary of the N.H.S. give thanks for the excellence and commitment of those who have worked within it; and reflect on how you have benefitted.
6. Praise God for the strength, innovation and resources of all those championing the rights of children.
7. Millions of people are blind because they cannot afford simple surgery. Pray for the work of "C.B.M. (Christian Mission for the Blind) which helps to alleviate this problem.
8. Pray for those you know in care or hospital. May they know comfort and healing.
9. Young people have been undertaking examinations. Pray for their success.
10. Let your light shine in your sphere of influence so that people see Jesus!
11. Pray for those who carry Bibles over mountains and through valleys as they aim to reach every home for Christ.
12. Thank God that through his Holy Spirit we need not be timid but have power, love and self discipline.
13. Thank God for times of leisure and the entertainments we enjoy.
14. Pray that God will give refugees hope and a future in safety.
15. WORLD YOUTH SKILLS DAY. Pray for ways in which young people who live in dire poverty and have very limited opportunities, to learn and develop their skills so that they will be able to find fulfilling employment.


16. Pray that God will lead you into the future with spiritual insight and wisdom.
17. Pray that God will guard your heart and words today, so that you will be a blessing to others.
18. Pray for peace in the Middle East.
19. Give thanks for Billy Graham and others like him for have ushered millions into the Kingdom of God.
20. Give thanks for the many opportunities Christian Organisations provide for children in the UK to enjoy holiday activities, where they have fun and get to know Jesus.
21. Pray for successful job searches for young people completing their education..
22. Pray that many will accept the life changing power of our heavenly Father and receive the precious gift of eternal life.
23. Thank God for giving us rest; the assurance of His constant presence; and the victory Jesus won over death..
24. Pray for our government that all involved will work for justice and the well being of our nation.
25. Pray to be enabled to share Jesus love with someone today.
26. Pray for Roger Barrie and his team in the Punjab in "Morning Star ministries"
27. Pray that young people will believe the Bible whole heartedly, grow in faith and inspire their friends.
28. Knife crime is prevalent ! Pray for protection, healing for victims and a change of heart for the perpetrators.
29. Thank God for C.A.P. (Christians against poverty). the organisation which does wonders in helping people recover from serious debt
30. Jesus is the true track we want people to follow. May folk have the desire to find God while he may be found
31. Pray for our church family and that our fellowship will grow.

BETTER THAN SHOPPING

What have you got to be grateful for? Perhaps it is a question we don't allow to intrude too often into our busy lives. But, busy or not, it may be worthwhile taking a little time out - and more than just occasionally - to "count our blessings".

Sir Jonathan Sacks, Chief Rabbi of Great Britain and the Commonwealth, certainly thinks so. "Once a day take quiet time to feel gratitude for what you have," he recommends. "This alone will bring you half-way to happiness... We tend to take things for granted and focus on our unmet needs, unfulfilled desires. Giving thanks is better than shopping - and cheaper too!"

Cultivating "an attitude of gratitude" can be life-transforming. "God has two dwelling places," said the seventeenth century English writer Izaak Walton. "One is in heaven and the other is in a thankful heart." The blessings we list will be as different as we are, but I'm sure they will also have much in common - life and wife, children and grandchildren, health and home, food and friends, God's care and protection - or something special He may have given as a gift. In some countries there are attempts (often, it must be said, closely allied to commercial gain) to focus our gratitude. We celebrate Mothers' Day - and now Fathers' Day as well - when we are encouraged to show gratitude for our parents. The Pilgrim Fathers bequeathed Americans a whole day of Thanksgiving.

On the other side of the coin, it is striking how united we all are in our condemnation of perceived ingratitude. "Blow, blow thou winter wind," wrote Shakespeare, "Thou art not so unkind as man's ingratitude." Indignation at ingratitude comes easily. How quick I am to notice when someone fails to thank me for something I have done for them. "Don't mention it," we say when someone thanks us - but we do expect them to mention it and are very put out when they don't. In her book *Watching the English: the hidden rules of English behaviour*, Kate Fox instances the act of holding open a door for someone to pass through. It is done as a courtesy and not especially to solicit thanks - but if that beneficiary sweeps past without indicating some acknowledgement or appreciation, there is guaranteed to be a strong reaction of the "who do they think they are? I suppose they think I am just the door-holder" variety. 

In the Gospels there is a story of ten lepers being cured, but only one, a Samaritan, returns to give thanks to Jesus. He wants to know why. "Were not ten lepers cleansed?" he asks. "Where are the other nine? Was no-one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?"

It is all too easy to take things - and people - for granted. I remember one Christmas when a whole group of us were served a wonderful seasonal lunch. It had been painstakingly prepared with all the trimmings and decorations. I was absorbed in conversation, suddenly realised I had a train to catch and left without expressing any thanks or appreciation. Half-way to the station and all the way on the train home, I felt increasingly bad about this. On arrival I immediately wrote out and posted a card of thanks. I hope it went some way to right the neglect, but it was only second best.

Listing things to be grateful for and seeking ways to express gratitude bring depth, peace and grace to our lives. If you are feeling in need of a lift, why not try making that list? As the Rabbi says, it's better than shopping!

*Mighty God of wind and flame,
as we offer our gifts this day,
May your Holy Spirit stir us
the gifts you have richly poured down upon us:
voices to proclaim your gracious love,
compassion to soothe the hurting and unloved,
vision to dream of the kingdom you might build on
earth if we make ourselves available to you.
We pray this in your holy name, above us,
with us, and within us.
Amen.*

From the 'Contact' Archives

GODS GIFT

Thank you to those of you who have told me how much they enjoyed the piece I wrote for your magazine last month.

Its so nice when people actually like something you have written, sometimes it takes me an hour to write a piece and then I read through it and do it all over again!

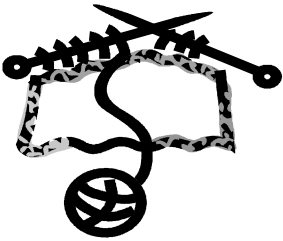
When I was doing a creative writing class our tutor would give us homework every week this gets you into the habit of writing frequently, since I stopped going I seem to have lost the incentive I had for these three years. However I write once a month for my own Church, also do an item for the "Vine" newsletter and do occasional talks for the ladies meeting at the U.R.C. for those I just make notes so I will know where I've got to!

I suppose it all began at school, my greatest moment came when I could read a book on my own. I couldn't wait to start on another the only subject I loved, looked forward to and got praise from a teacher for was English language and directive. I still love books and read a lot especially when sleep is elusive.

As I was hopeless at most things at school it was so good to be able to do just one thing well. When I wrote my first stories they were always about rich people who lived in big grand houses with beautiful gardens, in fact totally different to my own life. When I write I can be who I like, an athlete, mountaineer, run a marathon, I could be a film star, a dancer. That's the joy of writing, you can make people laugh or cry or if you are really good at it and can write thrillers and horror stories, you can make them scared to!



My favourite ones to write are based on my own experiences, mostly humorous, and tell of a time when I think the world was a much nicer, kinder place in spite of the hardships. As I'm hopeless at



sewing, knitting and the like, and I'm never going to be a Nigella Lawson in the kitchen perhaps my love of writing (reading) is the only gift I was given. I think God gives us all a gift or a talent to do something well, indeed there are those who are multi talented. Well

I'm thankful for one and hope I will be able to carry on doing it for as long as inspiration allows me.

Have a lovely Summer I'm sure its on the way! Keep well take care if you are driving and I look forward to reading what you have been doing in Septembers Contact.

Bye now, God bless you,

Yours in Christian Love

Eileen Bright

OPEN DOOR

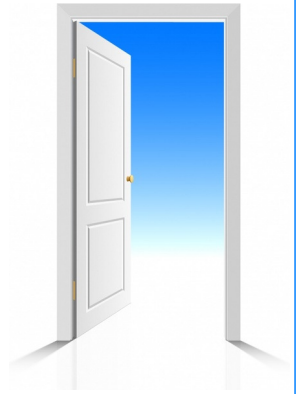
The story is told of one of the greatest escape artists of all time, the famous Houdini. He did the seemingly impossible.

He was invited by the authorities to visit a jail in a small British town. It was a new jail and was announced as escape-proof. Houdini boasted that he could get out in sixty minutes.

He was placed in a cell in the prison. He did not get out in sixty minutes though. In fact after two hours he was still trying to open the cell!

He paused, with perspiration pouring off him - and leaned against the door. Immediately, to his surprise, it opened. The prison governor had not locked it! He had been tricked; he had tried to open a door that was open all the time.

"...see, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it..." (Revelation 3:8)





The gardener's hymn!

*All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small
All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.
But what he never mentioned, though gardeners know its true*

Is when he made the goodies, he made the baddies too.

All things spray and swatable, disasters great and small,

All things paraquatable, the Lord God made them all.

The greenfly on the roses, the maggots in the peas,

Manure that fills our noses, he also gave us these.

*The drought that kills the fuchsias, the frost that nips the buds,
The rain that drowns the seedlings, the blight that hits the spuds.*

The midges and mosquitoes, the nettles and the weeds,

The pigeons in the green stuff, the sparrows on the weeds.

The fly that gets the carrots, the wasp that eats the plums

How black the gardener's outlook, though green may be his thumbs.

But still we gardeners labour, midst vegetables and flowers.

And pray what hits our neighbour's, will somehow bypass ours.

[Wakeley Ebenezer Methodist Church Magazine]



JULY PREACHING ENGAGEMENTS

1st July

10.30 a.m. Mrs. Sheila Grice

5.00 p.m. Rev. Dave Haseldine

Holy Communion

8th July

10.30 a.m. Mr. John Marfleet

4.00 p.m. 'Refresh'

Local Arrangement

15th July

10.30 a.m. Mr. Malcolm Lapper

5.00 p.m. Rev. Tim Woolley

22nd July

10.30 a.m. Mr. Mike Pawson

29th July

10.30.a.m. Rev. Tim Woolley

Holy Communion

July Coffee Rota

| | |
|-----------|-------------------------|
| 1st July | Philip and Eileen Moore |
| 8th July | Judy Armstrong |
| 15th July | David and Claire Ward |
| 22nd July | Madeline MacCurrie |
| 29th July | Sue Spencer |

AUGUST PREACHING ENGAGEMENTS

5th August

10.30 a.m. Mrs. Pat Starbuck

5.00 p.m. Rev. Michael Haighton
Holy Communion

12th August

10.30 a.m. Mr. Charles Davis

4.00 p.m. 'Refresh'
Local Arrangement

19th August

10.30 a.m. Mrs. Anne Haddon

5.00 p.m. Mrs. Judith Cooke

26th August

10.30.a.m. Rev. Tim Woolley
Holy Communion

August Coffee Rota

| | |
|-------------|-----------------------------|
| 5th August | Moira Forrest & Monica Kirk |
| 12th August | OFFERS PLEASE |
| 19th August | Judy Armstrong |
| 26th August | Philip and Eileen Moore |

BURBAGE METHODIST CHURCH

SUNDAY SERVICES

10.30 a.m. Morning Service

5.00 p.m. Evening Service on the first and third
Sunday of the month

4.00 p.m. 'Refresh' on the second Sunday of the month.

JAM CLUB (JESUS & ME) Sunday 10.30 a.m.

CHURCH COUNCIL SECRETARY:

Anne Bailey

CHURCH TREASURER:

Christine Armstrong

CHURCH STEWARDS:

Andrew Fisher

Pat Fisher

Brian Bradburn

David Black

Carol Black

LAY PASTORAL ASSISTANT:

Anne Haddon

CONTACT

Articles for the September - October edition of 'Contact'
should be passed to
the editor, Andrew Fisher by

28th August

The magazine will be available at Church on Sunday 2nd September.