



*The Westgate
Chronicle*

Issue 454: May 2016

Pentecost

Westgate Church, Peterborough

United Reformed/Methodist

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Our Mission Statement

We at Westgate are called by God to highlight Jesus Christ's love
for the people of Peterborough.

We pass on this good news by worship, fellowship, mission,
education, personal life and social service.

I'm writing this as I prepare to go into hospital. This is my first admission for surgery under general anaesthetic. I am OK so far but no doubt will find the adrenaline levels too high to allow good sleep the night before. When I practised medicine this particular operation involved admission on the day prior to surgery, nothing to eat for at least 48 hours and a hospital stay of about ten days. People had at least six weeks off work. It was all very slow and gentle. The reason it's so much quicker these days is that keyhole surgery means much less interference with tissues around the operation site. Lighter anaesthetics mean much quicker recovery of consciousness. The demise of in house 'home' cooking, that was the norm in small hospitals, means that post-operative nutrition can be much better at home. So although it's counter-intuitive to say that shorter hospital stays are better I find myself grateful for the invention of the laparoscope (the instrument which makes all this possible) and the skills of contemporary surgeons. I am delighted to impose upon Roger and rely on his



culinary skills even more than usual.

Facing things we find challenging is not something we choose to do but each of us is faced with situations in life which we would not choose to experience, but face them we must. I hope that I am blessed with the same level of courage in facing my surgery as Westgate members have exhibited in making a decision to move from our present sanctuary to Centre68, which we will need to make into a suitable place for worship of the God who gives us courage and confidence to take difficult steps. It will be a different

place, but it will be a place that we can make into a holy place. We will need to consider the lighting, wall coverings and layout and more besides. In years gone by we would not consider ornaments of any kind in the United Reformed Church, though I think Methodists may have been less strict on this point, but we may choose to install a cross, plaques and other suitable items. We will, no doubt, choose new chairs, a beautiful colour scheme and numerous other things. All of these things will turn a space with little sense of holiness into one in which God can be felt in the very air that we breathe. We will be able to commemorate our predecessors and loved ones in some of the objects we select. We will be able to do many things and the prospect holds equal measure of excitement and anxiety. At this stage it is important that

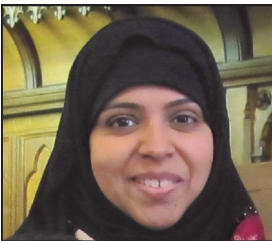
we are all honest about our excitements and anxieties so that we make the best possible church building we can to house God's people in Westgate. We have no idea how long we may be there.

None of us is happy to move from an historic building into a new one. We worry that our precious memories will be left behind, that we won't feel the same in the new space, that it just won't be right. It is only human to worry but the mark of Christian living is faith that we have a God who is trustworthy and will walk alongside us to ensure that we overcome all the challenges and emerge to worship with renewed vigour with our energies less stretched and our memories intact.

Yours in Christ,

Lesley

CHRISTIAN AND MUSLIM WOMEN



On Saturday 9th April a dozen or so women got together at Chai, a newish tea shop on Eastfield Road. That in itself isn't particularly remarkable but this meeting was very special. The idea grew from Mumtaz Rajabali's visit to Westgate during One World Week. Our group consisted of equal numbers of Muslim and Christian women all intent on building friendships and enjoying a good cup of coffee or tea. The conversation ranged from domestic to deep

theology and we all had a great time. We shall meet again on a roughly monthly basis sometimes at Chai, sometimes at the mosque and sometimes at Westgate.

Just a small beginning, but we are hoping that our enjoyment may contribute to deepening understanding between our two communities.

Lesley

The picture of Mumtaz was taken last year when she visited Westgate.

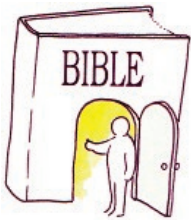
TESTIMONY SERVICE

Revd Gareth Baron's Testimony Service will be on Sunday 22nd May at 4pm at Dogsthorpe. Gareth is currently a probationer Methodist minister in our circuit and this service leads towards his ordination this summer.

This is an important Circuit service where we will be able to hear Gareth give an account of his sense of call and how God has been at work in his life.



All are welcome.



STORIES WITHIN THE STORY: MASSAH AND MERIBAH

The prophet faced us and declared: This place is Massah and Meribah, for once again you have quarrelled with all the LORD has done for you, complained and tested God. You are undeserving of the LORD's favour! The occasion was a reasonable demand for water made by a people close to dying of thirst, but Moses had a point. It was not the first time, or the second – since we had left Egypt months before it had been one complaint after another.

First it was when we were hemmed in by the Egyptians on the shores of the Dead Sea, no way forward except into the sea. Why had Moses led us away from the relative safety, albeit great hardship, of Egypt just to die in the desert? As everyone now knows, Moses' staff stretched out over the water made a way for us to cross the sea, then brought the waters back so they overwhelmed the Egyptian army.

Later, in the wilderness of Shur, we could not drink the bitter water; we complained, and again the LORD, through Moses, provided a remedy – wood which took the bitterness out of the water, so we could drink it. Then Moses led us on to Elim, with its plentiful sweet water.

In the wilderness of Sin it was empty stomachs, and we feared starvation. The LORD must have heard our complaining, for that's when God began to provide us with food aid – manna, a sort of flaky bread-like substance, in the morning, and a flight of quails each evening. We still find the manna each morning.

Only a few days later we arrived at Rephidim. Once again, there was no drinkable water. So, after all we had seen,

did we wait quietly and trust the LORD to provide for our need? – did we heck. It was the same old complaint, why did Moses lead us up from Egypt, only to die of thirst? Massah and Meribah! Moses exclaimed in rage – meaning Testing and Quarrelling, quarrelling with and tempting the LORD. But a patient God came to our help; Moses' staff struck the rock at Horeb, and water gushed forth for us.



Moses never forgot that time. Whenever he wanted to impress us with the LORD's commands, he referred to it – don't put God the LORD to the test, as you did at Massahⁱ; at Taberah and at Massah ... you provoked the LORD to wrathⁱⁱ.

Yet even this was not the end of our testing of God – worse followed, when at Sinai in the temporary absence of Moses we actually thought the LORD had abandoned us. To our shame we created a golden calf to worship instead of the LORD. When Moses came back he had it ground to powder and made us drink it! There followed a night of long knives, when thousands died by the hand of friends or family, and a plague which took yet more away from us. But in the end, when Moses went in to plead with the LORD at the Tent of Meeting set up outside the camp, we were able to

journey on. The LORD kept faith with us; only we were no longer so close to God as we had been at first; there was constraint between us and God, and our wilderness time was extended beyond expectation.

Now we are approaching the River Jordan and nearing the Promised Land. I shall not live to see the New Land; the time in the wilderness has been too long and I am too tired. I look back on the quarrelling, complaining and testing God – Massah and Meribah – and know we are not worthy. But the LORD has kept faith; God is good to us and will be good to our descendants.

Author's Note: *Massah and Meribah was remembered as a decisive moment in the wilderness experience of Israel, even though it was not traumatic like as the events at Sinai. It is reflected in a psalm of worship and obedience – Psalm 95ⁱⁱⁱ – which has been much used in Christian as well as Jewish worship.*

The events described in this story are remote from our experience, but the essential warning, that we complain and test and try the LORD at our peril, is a message for all of us. God will keep faith, but we will know the sadness that comes from losing close touch with our Saviour-God.

An appeal for help: decisive moments in the history of Westgate Church.

For the Israelites, Horeb where there was gushing water after the bitterness of thirst and complaining, and Moses' words of "Massah and Meribah", came to be seen as a decisive moment in their history. We are planning an occasional series of articles about the history of our church, and it seems to me a good place to start would be with the decisive moments that determined the futures of the Wentworth Street and Westgate societies, and the combined church. I'm sure the recent decision to sell the church building will come to be seen as having been such a decisive moment, but there must have been very many such moments over the life of our church and its predecessors, not all of which all of us will recall.

May I invite members to tell me what they personally remember as the decisive moments in our church's history, so these can be worked in to the first article in the series. Send to (iancornall@sky.com, or speak to me at church or write c/o the Chronicle editor). Ian

ⁱDeuteronomy 6: 6

ⁱⁱDeuteronomy 9: 22, see also

Deuteronomy 33: 8

ⁱⁱⁱPsalm 95: 7b – 11

REV'S KITCHEN

Cheat's lasagne

Ingredients:

Cheese sauce

Tomato sauce

Packet of Tortellini or

similar (stuffed with

whatever the shop is offering/you fancy)

You all know how to make a cheese sauce

– but be a bit courageous and add a tangier cheese than the mildest cheddar!

Prepare and set to one side.

Either prepare tomato sauce or use a nice



handy jar from a supermarket. Set aside.

Take suitable ovenproof dish; butter the inside. Add a layer of tomato sauce. Cover with a layer of tortellini and then a layer of cheese sauce. Repeat.

Cover the top with a layer of grated cheese/parmesan to taste.

Pop this into a medium oven for about 25 minutes. If your family is large or includes teenagers, then more than one packet of Tortellini may be a good idea!

Doug (S)

CHRISTIAN AID 2016



Better health for girls and women in Ethiopia

As years past we are committing ourselves to raising money for Christian Aid. This comes in two parts. Please help us.

Christian Aid week this year is from 15th till 21st May. As ever we need volunteers to put out envelopes and then later in the same week hopefully collect the donations from every door in our designated Streets/Roads/Avenues. In our area this is more likely to be less than 50%, but do not despair, some gifts are well worth it. For instance last year the collection raised a total of £903.15.

The second part is that of the Christian Aid Lunches on the Fridays from 20th May till September. Vi has lined up volunteers from fifteen Churches in Peterborough. The last dates in September are work in progress, but we have commitments until then. St Mark's is the first one followed by All Souls on 27th May and also 3rd June then our turn for our first on 10th of that month. This will be followed by St John's on 17th and Churches in the Ortons on 24th June.

Last Year we raised over £5,000.00, to which the EU added £25,000, making a magnificent total of £30,000.00. This was for a specific project to help farmers to be self sustaining in Burkino Faso, with agricultural equipment, better seed and soil treatment. The year before they

had put in place better water management for that country on the edge of the Sahara desert. The £260 over and above the EU target was added to the Christmas appeal for East African famine relief.

This year we have joined with the Peterborough Churches to Raise £5000.00 for healthier women and girls of Ethiopian zones of Gamogofa, Wolayta and Segen. Here there are chronic problems relating to pregnancy, health care, education and transport in an area suffering from more than just lack of funds. Mortality rates are appalling, for instance 10,000 maternal deaths occur from unsafe abortions. 44% of the population is under fifteen years old. The EU have identified this area as the worst case needing help at this time.

The guiding Bible reading chosen for meditation this year is the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10 vs.25 -37); realize that Jesus asked the young expert in the Law, "Which of these three was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hand of robbers?"

The expert in the Law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise." Here we have a command from Jesus to help people in need. This includes the stranger, the outcast and people on a journey, such as refugees.

Des



Many women are helped to set up small businesses (as in picture) to help provide for their families. Self-help groups discuss household and community development and health-related issues. Weekly meetings include sessions on personal hygiene and tackling gender-based violence.

PENTECOST – WHAT?

Pentecost falls on May 15th this year – but what is Pentecost? One answer is that these days it is one of the least understood of Christian Festivals. So let us have a look at what it really is.

The word 'Pentecost' comes from the Greek and means fiftieth day, because Pentecost is celebrated exactly seven weeks after Easter, that is fifty days if you count the Sundays at both ends. It has traditionally been regarded as the second most important festival of the Christian year, after only Easter – and yes, that does make it more important than Christmas!

Pentecost is often described as 'the coming of the Holy Spirit' as though it (he/she?) was a new invention of God's on that particular day, fifty days after the Resurrection of Jesus. In fact, if you read the Old Testament carefully, you can find several references to the Holy Spirit and many more to God's Spirit or the Spirit, which is surely the same thing/person. You will find the same references in the accounts of Jesus' life in the Gospels at various times in his ministry, so this was clearly not something completely new, but something that had been with God and part of God from the beginning.

What I think did happen on that day, when they were all celebrating a Jewish harvest festival called Shavuot, was that a number of Jesus' closest friends had



a particularly vivid group experience of the Holy Spirit, which they described in terms of a rushing wind and tongues of fire. This marked a turning point in their lives. From this time on they began to speak in foreign languages, spread the story of Jesus, recruit new followers for him, and work miracles. This is why Pentecost is sometimes known as 'The Birthday of the Church'.

The old English name of Whit Sunday, rarely heard these days, comes from 'White Sunday' as it was often used as the Sunday for confirmations, and people being confirmed would dress in white. The idea of receiving new members into full communion on the anniversary of the event that began the formation of the Church does make sense.

The symbols of Pentecost are those of the Holy Spirit and include flames, wind, the breath of God and a dove.

So let us celebrate!

Linda

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 15TH—21ST MAY

If you are able to volunteer as a collector, or would like to know what is involved, please see Des Kellard.S



CHRISTIAN AID LUNCHES

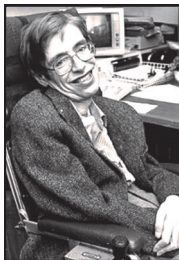
Fridays, 20th May
to end September
from 12 noon, Westgate Hall

Salad: £3.00
Sweet: £2.00
Tea or Coffee: 50p



WESTGATE LENT STUDY GROUP

Week 3's study looks at the complexities of relationships. We watched as Jane joined the Church choir and met Jonathan. Stephen and Jane have been married for twelve years; they have two children, Stephen's career and fame are taking off, yet his disability is getting worse. With all this Jane has more demands put upon her, so much that she feels she is drowning under the strain. She is also starved of affection. She joins the church choir; she also thinks about committing suicide, but asks God to help her and the family survive. Was God's answer for her to meet Jonathan? This relationship develops, perhaps breaking normal marriage rules!



Stephen recovers; he does not believe in miracles, yet lives for over 50 years from his initial diagnosis. He is unable to speak except through a synthesiser.

In the meditation Lesley read Matthew ch6 vs25-34, followed by a period of silence for us to think about our own difficulties. We closed with a prayer.

Week 4 looks at the pain of failure. The clip we watched is just after Stephen has been given the synthesiser. Elaine Mason is employed to nurse Stephen and help him communicate. The film clearly shows that Jane thinks she has failed Stephen even though she has loved him and done her best.

With more marriages failing, the Church has to talk to more couples about their situation. Does the Church offer the right advice to these people?

How does the Church deal with this situation? In the past it would have been frowned on, but times have moved on: the Church is not sure how to react but generally accepts it. How do we feel as a church in Westgate? Do we comment or just accept it as the norm? We discussed relationships we have known that have failed and how we dealt with it.

We watched Stephen go back to an old theme of time, asking, 'Can we go back in time; Will it ever end?' If we could go back in time would there be anything that we would change or do differently? We discussed this and felt that we may well have done some things differently if we went back knowing what we knew now, but not if we only knew what we knew then. We talked about people found guilty and put in prison, family traditions and hurt to others. Does God judge us and does he forgive us? Perhaps not in the way we would like, but are we wanting a different response from that which he gives us?

In the next clip we saw, Jane and Stephen have been married for twenty years, have three children and Jonathan has been part of the family for seven years. While Stephen is at a conference in Switzerland he is taken seriously ill. Jane and Jonathan, travelling to meet him, motor through the night to reach the hospital to find Stephen has pneumonia and is on a life support machine with very small expectancy of surviving, but Jane will not agree to turn off the life support. Jane follows her marriage vows – for better or worse – she will not break them although things are far worse than she ever imagined. A miracle happens and

In the meditation we acknowledged that we as humans are fallible. Lesley read Psalm 103 vs8-22 and closed the meeting with a prayer.

Trevor

RETIREMENT – PART-TIME!

After working during the week from Monday to Friday through your working age, one always looks forward to the retirement age of 65; however in my case I only have three days in the week when I can say I am retired, as on Mondays and Fridays I continue to do paid and unpaid work. The paid work is a freelance work in litigation for practising solicitors in London or Peterborough. The unpaid work includes giving first point advice and signposting at the Local Advice Service, and also church duties, i.e. Foodbank deliveries on Fridays. The days I can say are my retirement days are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, which when diarised look like this:

Tuesday: This is my budget day, the day I get my state pension. (My private pension and any other fee I have earned is paid monthly on the first Tuesday of each month.) I get up about 8am and freshen up. By 9am I feed the three goldfish and have my breakfast. I check the post and email by 10am, and if something is of importance reply by post or email. By 11am I go to town to check I have enough funds to service my weekly budget and also do the weekly shopping. By 2pm I normally go to the central library to browse through the daily newspapers. I do not buy newspapers during the week, I only buy a Sunday paper. By 3pm I pop into the Millennium Centre to see friends and note anything going on, however nothing much goes on there during weekdays, only occasionally at weekends. By 5pm I am back home at my residential community centre for tea



and cake if I am lucky. By 6pm I am back at my flat and since I live on my own I cook on Tuesdays for my Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday hot meals. By 8pm I relax, either listening to the radio or watching television. By 11pm I go to bed.

Wednesday: today is my housework day. Now this is something I always struggle with, but if you are home alone you have to do it – I do the weekly cleaning and laundry in the morning and in the afternoon go to the parks or go for long walks especially along the river Nene footpaths. I sometimes jump on a bus to Stamford or Cambridge and go sightseeing. I am back home by 6pm and follow my evening and night routine until bed time at 11pm.

Thursday: this is my favourite day as it is my golf day. I am a member of a golf club. Senior members of the club normally meet on Thursdays (depending on the weather) at 8am to play golf at our club or another club as society members. We are usually split into four groups to play socially or in competitions. I always try to avoid being grouped with the low handicappers as I am not that good, my handicap is 22. I spend about seven hours at the club on the day, playing, practising and socialising. I am back home by 5pm and after having a hot shower to relieve the aches and pains of playing golf at my age, I follow my usual evening and night routine and go to bed by 11pm.

It is still good to retire fully but in my case I have three days in the week I can say I am retired and I try to make good use of them.

Manny

“I’m sick and tired of (only) reading about church history; let’s make some by the grace of God!” – Leonard Ravenhill, evangelist and author.



TAKING STOCK:



BRIAN DAVIES LOOKS BOTH WAYS

It is now almost two years since my dear wife Maureen, who many of you may remember, passed on (a better statement than passed away, I feel). Although it is in the nature of things, and allows us – and the world in general – to regenerate, it is sometimes hard to accept, and to keep going. However, that is what I am doing, and even at my age there are many things to do, and places to visit, ahead.

My children (Bethan and Jonathan) help keep things in focus. Jon is editor of a second magazine (the first has been taken over by an American team) and he seems to enjoy life in the Welsh valleys. Bethan and family have just moved house, and now live on the edge of Swansea, more accessible to the coast (including the Gower) and with the many advantages of living in or near a big city, rather than a smaller community at the heads of the valleys. They only moved on Maundy Thursday and much has to be done to the house, empty for over fourteen months – no heating, no shower (unit dismantled), and no place for a washing machine. Not ideal for a family with three growing girls and seven cats!!! And the garden – well, a jungle really! However, things are gradually being put right, with only a more important aspect of life to be tackled – schooling. Though there is a school across the road, it is a WELSH school: everything is taught in Welsh. So the girls have to travel further afield – where still to be determined.

As for me, I am still the organist at my Methodist chapel in Leintwardine, where we retired some twenty years ago. Sadly, numbers have dwindled from a generous ten when I arrived, to just three of four, with services only twice a month,

except when we combine with the CofE church. In between I am attached to the Methodist Chapel in Knighton, who do their best to poach me as reserve organist – maybe in a year or so, if I am still here.

I have recently joined the local branch of the Befrienders, which does for lonely people what it says on the tin, where I am now a volunteer. I also still travel, most recently with Jonathan to North Cornwall for a week in a lovely area outside Bude. In May I shall travel by coach down the west coast of Italy, and in August will drive to Scotland for a family week near Loch Rannoch. September may, unless my brother has made a sale, see me in the South of France yet again, although probably not this time driving. as travel by train sounds more attractive for a relatively short visit. Last year I visited Turkey twice, but I am currently avoiding the country: the political situation is such that being blown up holds little appeal.

One additional visit is in the pipeline – to Peterborough, although I shall stay nearer to Uppingham. Hopefully I will visit Keren Edwards there, and join **Westgate** for the Sunday morning service*. If I do make it, I look forward to seeing old friends. Meanwhile, life is for living, and while I can I shall stay in this part of Wales, where I have many friends. Moving is always traumatic, and making new friends can be difficult. Only when it is hard to remain here shall I look for a smaller place, probably near Bethan, who has “threatened” to look after me when that time comes.

So, until then, keep calm, and keep on going!

** Brian was in fact able to visit us on April 24th and see old friends and new.*

LENT AT WESTGATE (2)

Our service on the fourth Sunday of Lent was conducted by an old friend of Westgate, Lorna Valentine, who is about to become a Methodist Minister. Lorna spoke to us of a God who challenges us; we need to reassess our understanding of value, which is quite different from cost. Judas the betrayer was concerned with cost, in contrast to Mary, who broke all the rules to pour expensive perfume, all that she had, on the feet of Jesus. Lorna reminded us that life with Christ will always be costly.

The next Sunday was Palm/Passion Sunday, with a return visit of Revd Ray Garfoot. In the first part of the service we celebrated with the crowds who cheered Jesus into Jerusalem, waving our palm crosses as they waved palm branches. In the second part, Ray propounded the rather controversial theory that Jesus actually sent Judas to set up a meeting with the High Priest and that the crucifixion was too cruel to have been part of God's plan. Some of us found this rather hard to reconcile with what we read in the Gospels.

In the evening there was a special Methodist Circuit Healing Service at Southside with Revd Michael Moore from St, Mary's as the guest preacher. There was opportunity for all those who wished to have quiet prayers said for themselves or another.

On Maundy Thursday we had a very special service in the Centre 68 hall, which was led by our own minister, Lesley. This was a Christianised version of the Jewish Seder meal, with which they celebrate the Passover and included Holy Communion. The various foods we tasted represented parts of the story of the Jews' last night in Egypt before their escape. This was quite solemn and thought-provoking.

The pictures on this page were taken immediately after the service ended, which explains the thoughtful and prayerful expressions on several faces.



GOOD FRIDAY

On Good Friday some of us joined a March of Witness through the city centre, led by a wooden cross. This event was organised by Churches Together in Central Peterborough, but attended by Christians from many of the Peterborough Churches. Each year we seem to attract more marchers. Young and old, from all denominations, races and nationalities, we all paraded along Long Causeway, down Bridge Street and then back to Cathedral Square, for a service led by Revd Michael Moore from St. Mary's.

The preacher was Revd David Whitlock (of Bretton Baptists), who retold the story of the Crucifixion from the point of view of Barabbas, the criminal released in place of Jesus. He imagined that Barabbas had felt compelled to watch Jesus on the cross and that Jesus looked straight at him, causing him to change his life for the better.

In the last prayer, red balloons were released to represent our prayers.

While all this was going on, others of us were busy preparing hot cross buns and hot drinks, as we were one of the three churches offering refreshments after the service.

A good number of people from various churches enjoyed our hospitality. *You can see more pictures of the Good Friday events on p 20.*



MORE GOOD FRIDAY PICTURES



The article about the Good Friday events with more pictures is on previous page

EASTER AT WESTGATE

Easter at Westgate began with a breakfast communion. Your intrepid reporter was not intrepid enough to get to an early service, so we apologise for not bringing you a report.

Our main service at was an Easter All Age worship with Holy Communion. The children present turned teardrops into flowers and tried to recognise people by their voices, as Mary recognised Jesus, in an item called 'Hearing God's Voice', led by Megan. There were cheerfully sung Alleluias in plenty to make it a real celebration and Lesley spoke to us about Sharing the Good News. During a prayer we quietly transformed the bare cross with the flowers we had brought. This was subsequently hung outside the Church for all to see.

A very special element of this service was the reception of Autumn, Herbie and Sarah into full membership of our church,

with membership of both Methodist and United Reformed Churches.

Both services were led by our own minister, Lesley.



EASTER AWAY



My middle son, Cliff, lives in Shefford. He organizes events for Shipping Lines, ie. The Three Queens, also provides stage pyrotechnics for cruise ships, which means he sometimes comes up to Le Maitre and calls in. He had to go to a meeting in Liverpool so he took me to my youngest son and daughter-in-law at Bury for Easter

We went to the Maundy service at the church where they were married; it was a full Communion with hymns, then at the end the Vicar carefully cleared everything from the altar, set a small wooden cross and a tea light on it which he lit, also an arch of tea lights on a frame used for prayer requests, then put out the electric lights so that we left the Church virtually in darkness. It was a very moving experience.

On Easter Sunday we went to their Church, which we had attended for many Christmases. It is a modern dual purpose building. After the service, tea, coffee and cakes are served from the kitchen at the back of the Church. An Easter garden had been made in a corner in a large trough; it had real grass, a hill at the back with three small crosses on it and pots of violas edged with white stones with names of the departed on them. There were spare stones and pens nearby so I wrote Ernie on one and added it to the rest.

Rita

All photographs are of the church Rita attended on Easter Day.



JOHN BELL, SONGSMITH

There are quite a few John Bell hymns in the *Singing the Faith* book*, which I regard as a great gift. He writes lyrics with sensitivity to modern dilemmas and situations, and reveals a caring committed soul who is looking out for his fellow souls on their somewhat erratic way to Heaven, or at least on the next step in their pilgrimage.

He never makes me feel too wretched; he makes me feel like I need to get up and get going on the Christian way (again!!).

If you have been to Greenbelt or have listened to Radio 4's "Thought for the Day" in the mornings, you will almost certainly have heard him speak. He has a good Scots brogue and a great story teller's gift. Again his sermons, stories, and exhortations speak particularly clearly to the situations of modern life. This doesn't mean he does not have an orthodox faith; he is an ordained Church of Scotland Minister, a member of the Iona Community and a leading member in his church (and wider) for the renewal of



Christian worship in local communities.

He has published numerous songs and hymns and has often collaborated, especially with Graham Maule, and picked up traditional music and given it a new life for today. Look up the index of *Sing the Faith* (Composers, arrangers).

I suppose if I have a favourite hymn of his – always a difficult choice – I would have to say 655 in *Singing the Faith*, "We cannot measure how you heal". Look out for his works, try a new one – enjoy!

Doug (S)

If you wonder why Doug didn't list them, Bell has 43 hymns listed in the 'Authors' index and 51 in the 'Tunes' index! Editor

IT'S TIME TO CLOSE THE GAP BETWEEN RICH AND POOR

This prayer was written for Church Action on Poverty Sunday 2016

by Marie Pattison,
director of Katherine
House in Salford.

Creator God,
you made this good earth
and gave us enough
that all could delight in

BREAD FOR ALL


bread and wine,
milk and honey,
story and song.
As Jesus sat
by lakeside and table
and shared bread,
and said that his body was
broken for all,
he showed us a glimpse of
your Kingdom.

Inspire us with a vision
of a society beyond the
scandal of poverty
where bread is the

birthright of all your
children.
Give us hearts
that yearn for it,
voices to call for it,
strong hands
to build it together

From CAP's Magazine
SPARKLE, to be found at
<http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/sparkle/201603/sparkle201603pdf>

Inspirational Colouring Verse



Do not be afraid
for the Lord your God
is with you
wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9

Megan Bedford

Inspirational Colouring Verse

As you colour the Joshua verse take time to think about the words. If any of the words stand out to you, meditate on them. Allow God to speak to you through them. Colour the drawing and cut it out: you may like to stick it on your fridge or give it to Megan to display in Church. Enjoy.

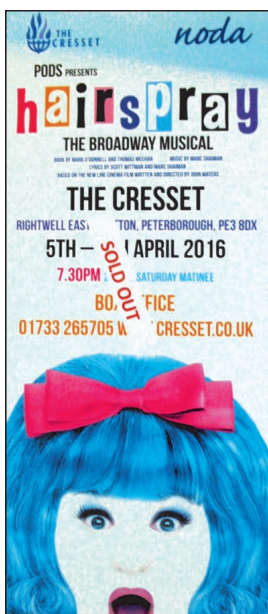
Megan

HAIRSPRAY

In April we went to the Cresset to see the latest production by Peterborough Operatic and Dramatic Society, *Hairspray*. We had seen it in London in 2007/8 when Michael Ball played Edna Turnblad and to do this he had to put on a lot of weight.

While we were waiting for the theatre doors to open, we were talking to a programme seller, who told us that the whole show had sold out several weeks before the first night; that is six performances with over 700 at each one. The report in the Peterborough Telegraph said that we were in for a spectacular evening.

The musical is set in the 1960s in the USA, when blacks and whites were not allowed to perform on stage together, much to the annoyance of Tracy Turnblad, the star of the show, so she and her friends try to reverse the situation. The show hinges around a performance at The Corny Collins Show and how the singers try to stop others performing so



that they have a better chance of winning. Running within the plot the younger players have their romantic attraction to each other.

The musical ends with black and white singers performing on set together, so they have effectively reversed the situation of the 1960s.

Everyone from PODS should be proud of the performance presented to us, the audience. This was shown by the standing ovation they received at the end. The moving of scenery, the costumes, the lighting, the singing, the dancing etc. etc. were all top notch; it was difficult to realise that it was not a professional group. Our own Doug Pattie played Corny Collins and very well too.

We certainly would mirror the statement in the Telegraph. Well done! We look forward to the next performance in early September, 'The Rise and Fall of Little Voice' and then in 2017 the musical '9 to 5'.

Trevor and June

URC SYNOD

On March 19th I attended the URC East Midlands Synod in Leicester. As Lesley was unable to attend because she was teaching that week-end, I was the sole representative of Westgate.

I was especially pleased to be there as **Westgate** figured in the property report because of our decision to sell our church building. The way this was presented could have seemed to suggest that we were just giving up, so I got permission to explain that this was intended to be a positive move, enabling us to spend more time and energy on mission. Peter Meek, the Moderator, immediately added, 'I do endorse everything that Linda has said,' which was very pleasing.

Earlier in the day, the Moderator of General Assembly spoke to us about 'Celebrating our Ministers'. He suggested that ministers, including those who were retired, could easily be undervalued or overlooked.

He spoke in some detail about the **challenges of deploying a decreasing number of ministers**. He does not think that giving each of these ministers a larger number of churches is the best use of their time and talents. He advocated continuing with project ministers (local and consultant) to research into where the Holy Spirit is leading. Rather than having a group of churches in an area sharing a single minister, he suggested



assessing the churches, not according to whether the church could pay, but to see where a minister would be best placed, taking into account whether the URC was the only local church, whether it was thriving, what impact it had locally and whether it was united with other Christians. Some churches would be left without a minister and this could be handled by empowering laypeople and possibly joining with other local churches.

These ideas are obviously quite challenging, but with ministers being in such short supply, they should, in my own view, be carefully and prayerfully considered.

As usual, this was an interesting day, travelling with (Revd) Sarah and Norman from Christchurch (thanks for the lift, Sarah), chatting with interesting people over lunch, the good humour that always seems to pervade the proceedings and the high quality of the worship at the beginning and end of the meeting. *Linda*

SCAMWATCH

Beware of emails appearing to be from an organisation you trust. Fake email addresses encourage people to open attachments or links. **If you are in any doubt as to the origin of an email, do not open it or click on any link.** Instead, look up somewhere else the

phone number or email address of the organisation concerned and ask if they sent the email. If they didn't, delete it.

If you have been caught, contact the organisation (who will normally help you) and change **all** your passwords, including for bank accounts. Report the fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk.

WESTGATE PUZZLE PAGES

During May the Church continues to study texts from St John's gospel that remind us of the promises Jesus made before he died.

Puzzle 1: John 14: 23-29

Before Jesus returned to be with his Father, he said that he was going to heaven to prepare a place for us. He promised that he would come again and take us to our new home in heaven. When Jesus went to heaven, he didn't leave us alone. He asked his Father to send the Holy Spirit to watch over us, teach us, and remind us of all that he has told us in the Bible.

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words from the passage.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

1. 2-1-3-11 _____
2. 6-1-20-8-5-18 _____
3. 20-15-12-4 _____
4. 7-15-9-14-7 _____
5. 12-15-22-5-4 _____
6. 3-15-13-9-14-7 _____
7. 1-23-1-25 _____
8. 2-5-12-9-5-22-5 _____
9. 8-5-1-18-4 _____
10. 7-12-1-4 _____

JUST FOR FUN



What do you call:

- A woman civil engineer – *Bridget*
- A man with half a duck on his head – *Arthur Mallard*
- A man wearing a raincoat – *Mac*

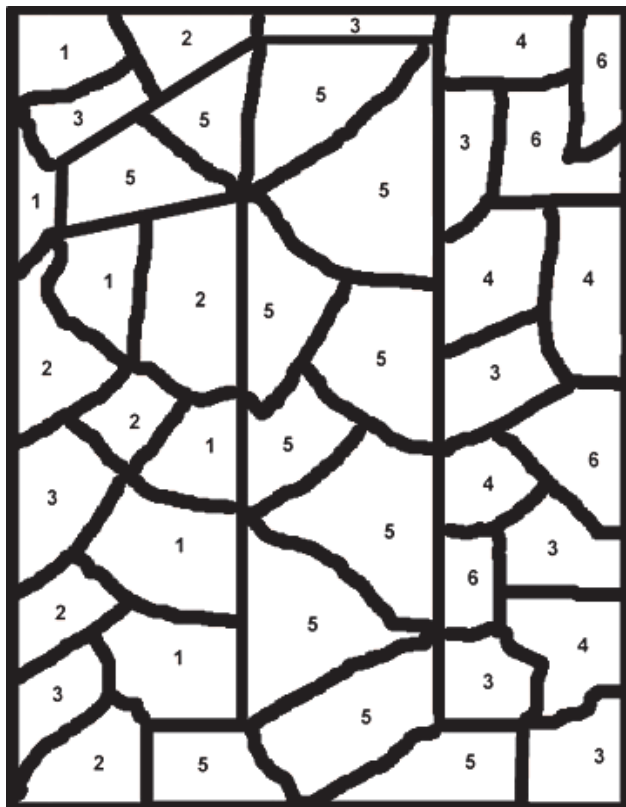
- A man wearing two raincoats – *Max*
- A woman with one leg longer than the other – *Eileen*

If you add 2-forget and 2-forget, what do you get? *4-gotten*

What kind of fish go to heaven when they die? *Angel fish* *Sent in by Sue*

Puzzle 2: John 17: 20-26

John 17 recalls the time Jesus spends in prayer. One of the prayers that Jesus prayed was for his followers. On the night he was betrayed, Jesus prayed "for all of those who would put their trust in him." In his prayer, Jesus said, "Father, I pray that they all may be one as you and I are one. Just as you are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us." Jesus wanted all his followers to be one. We may be different in the way we look and we may speak different languages. We may have different customs and traditions, but if we have put our trust in Jesus, he wants us to be one in him, just as he is one with the



Father. We must put aside our differences and be united in him so that the world may know his love.

Colour by Numbers: Use the following colours to reveal the subject.

1: blue 2: yellow 3: green 4: orange 5: red 6: purple

PENTECOST WEEK-END, ST. ANDREW'S



**Pentecost Festival 2016,
Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 May
St Andrew's United Reformed Church
Ledbury Road, Peterborough, PE3 9RF
FREE community event
hosted by St Andrew's URC.**

Saturday: Art Exhibition and Competition, Labyrinth, U3A Singing Group, Dance Performance by TDA, Craft Activities, Free refreshments.
Sunday: 11am: Morning Service, followed by lunch, 3-5pm Messy Church. Further information from pentecost@standrewsurcpeterborough.org.uk

ORTHODOX EASTER SUNDAY

1ST MAY 2016

A typical family Easter, by Lily, Brenda's friend and work colleague

We are all looking for ways to have a better life. That is my reason for leaving Romania and coming to UK. Although it is a better life for me here, I miss the traditions and the family left behind.

One of the most important celebrations for the Orthodox people is Easter. And it is not about enjoying food, it is the time to get together with family and friends. Usually the first day of Easter is spent with the family, the second one is to visit friends and godparents.

During the forty days fasting before Easter, people are trying also to be better, more forgiving and prepare themselves for the joy of celebrating the meaning of Easter. Romanians know how to celebrate. The night before Easter people go to church to 'get light', they all light candles and go home with them, to bring along the light and joy of Jesus' Resurrection.

On Easter morning, the children washing their face with water containing a silver coin and a red dyed egg, said to bring prosperity and to have 'red cheeks'



– a sign of good health. The last child to washes face will get the silver coin.

Easter lunch is rich, there are so many different dishes that is impossible to write about them all. However, the traditional meat to be eaten is lamb, we also have boiled eggs dyed red (that symbolises Jesus's blood when he was crucified), all different sorts of sweet cakes like 'cozonac' (rather like Italian Panettone) and 'Pasca' (a Romanian cheese cake twist). The children also get all sorts of Easter chocolate bunnies and eggs.

Like Christmas, Easter is the time to get together as family. We are living in a mad, fast paced world, so sometimes it is good to have time to slow down and just take what is best from life.

National Day of Prayer

(5th May 2016) This Day of Prayer is held on the first Thursday in May every year. It is a day that has been designated by the United States Congress. Although there have been other days of prayer in America they have not been agreed through Congress. This day was approved in 1952, with a view to encouraging Americans to pray and meditate on this date. Why don't we join our 'cousins' over the pond in prayer and meditation?



National Love a Tree Day

(16th May 2016). Think how important trees are? They give shelter and food to animals and birds and fuel for humans. They absorb carbon-dioxide and release oxygen into the air. They take odours and pollutants into leaves and bark. They help protect against flooding and soil erosion. They are good for mental health – what better than a walk in the woods? These are just a few positive points of trees – so go on, plant a tree, or if you can't, go and hug one.



1st–8th May

Churches: Westgate (Methodist and URC), Peterborough Quakers

Countries: Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan

Events: National Day of Prayer (5th)*

People: Orthodox Christians who are celebrating Easter (1st)*, new people you meet this week

Organisations: The group of Christian and Muslim Women*, all organisations bringing people of different faiths together



9th–15th May

Churches: Whittlesey (Methodist and URC), St. Andrew's (URC) holding special Pentecost weekend events*

Countries: Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania

Events: Christian Aid Week collection (15th-21st)*

People: All Ministers and Preachers, people who live or work in the area surrounding our church

Organisations: All Churches who are celebrating Pentecost (15th)*



MAY

PRAYER PROMPTS



16th–22nd May

Churches: Yarwell (Methodist and CofE), Castle Square, Wisbech (URC)

Countries: Malawi, Zambia

Events: Christian Aid Lunches (starting 20th)*

People: Revd Gareth Baron for his testimony service (22nd)*, all ministers preparing for ordination

Organisations: Church Action on Poverty (use the prayer on p17)*, Christian Aid's work in Ethiopia

23rd–31st May

Churches: Yaxley (Methodist), All Saints (CofE)

Countries: Botswana, Zimbabwe

People: Members of our Church Council and other office Holders and the whole congregation as we prepare for change

Organisations: Peterborough Association for the Blind, CROPS, Christian Bookshop and all users of our premises



The Churches mentioned are taken from the Methodist Circuit and from a list of Churches in CTiCP and other churches with whom we have a close association. The countries are from the Ecumenical Prayer Calendar.

* Further information elsewhere in the magazine ** See Diary on next page

M *Tuesdays, 10.30 in the Prayer Place in Church: Pause for Prayer*
A *Tuesdays, 2.30 at Park Road Baptist Church: Women's Fellowship*
Y *Wednesdays, 10.30 in the Church Vestibule: Circuit Intercessions Service*
Wednesdays 1.00 pm at the Cathedral: Wednesday at One (W@1)
Fridays 12.00 in Westgate Hall: Christian Aid Lunch (May 20 onwards)
Saturdays, 10.00-12.00 in the Church Vestibule: Morning coffee
Saturdays, 12.30-2.30 in the Church Vestibule: Food bank open

* * *

D Sun. 1 10:30 Morning worship, led by Mr Nigel Lightfoot
 6:30 Service of Holy Communion has been **cancelled**

I Wed. 4 1:00 W@1: Are You Being Called? Speaker: Revd Canon Steve Benoy,
 Diocesan Director of Ordinands, The Diocese of Peterborough

A Sat. 7 8:00 Churches Together Prayer Breakfast at St John's

R Sun. 8 10.30 Morning worship, led by Revd John Beebe
 3.00 Joint URCS service at Westgate, followed by Bring and Share Tea

Y Wed. 11 1:00 W@1: The Kingdom of God Has Come Near to You.
 Healing service.

Sat. 14 St Andrews Netherton (URC) Pentecost Festival (see p21)
 [continues Sunday]

Sun. 15 PENTECOST; CHRISTIAN AID WEEK STARTS
 10:30 Morning worship and service of Holy Communion, led by Revd Dr
 Peter Jupp.

6.30 Methodist Circuit Healing Service, Southside

Wed. 18 1:00 W@1: Who is my Neighbour. Speaker: Dr Sean Oliver-Dee,
 Former Inter-Religious Affairs Adviser, The Diocese of
 Peterborough

Fri. 20 12.00 First Christian Aid Lunch

Sun. 22 10:30 Morning worship, led by Mr Des Kellard
 4.00 Rev Gareth Baron's Testimony Service, Dogsthorpe Methodist
 Church see p4

6.00 Methodist Circuit Youth Service, Southside

Wed. 25 1:00 W@1: He Began to Teach Them. Speaker: Revd Doug Spenceley,
 Bishop's Vicar for Church Schools, The Diocese of Peterborough
 7.30 Theological Society at Quaker Meeting House: Archbishop Kevin
 McDonald, Office for Relations with Other Religions. Catholic
 Bishops' Conference: Vatican II Declaration on Relation of the
 Church to non-Christian Religions, fifty years on

Sat. 28 Peterborough Green Festival has been deferred until August.

June Wed. 1 1:00 W@1: Bring Good News to the Poor. Speaker: Revd Roger Wood,
 Urban Support Officer, The Diocese of Peterborough

Sun. 29 10:30 All-age Worship, led by Mrs Janet Rich

Sun. 5 10:30 Morning worship
 6:30 In the Church Vestibule: Service of Holy Communion

"Pentecost offers a chance to confess our failure to live by the Spirit and to ask the Lord to fill us afresh with His power."

Revd Dr Mark D Roberts