



Dear Friends

Hello everyone! Another year has gone by and again I have been unable to rise to publishing more than one "Dial". The work in the circuit has been pressing and this year I have spent a great deal of time with manses but I think that is on its way to being resolved. I relinquish the office of Circuit Steward at the end of August and it will be a great relief. It is an extremely demanding job in every way. I may have more time available to give to some of the things which have had to take a back seat for a while.

Things go on in much the same way at Mount Zion and we still keep a regular Sunday afternoon Service of Worship. Our attendance is between eight and fifteen but we have a good time of worship and the atmosphere is good. This year we have had the dreaded "OA" on the plan – own arrangements – so we have had to exercise our joint skills to put on a suitable act of worship. We have succeeded quite well and had the opportunity of collective input into worship. It is a challenge for a Church congregation which is small but gives us chance to put into action "fresh expressions" of worship.

The property is in good condition although I have been trying to get the builder to come and start on the graveyard wall in the track beside the graveyard and he came last week. Unfortunately we had "roof strippers" giving us a visit on Friday, 26th May. They have stripped about three quarters of the roof on the outbuildings at the Chapel side. The robbers were seen loading up the tiles and the number of the vehicle obtained but

as usual they were false plates. We will have to replace this roof as it is over the outbuilding and toilet block.

We are looking forward to the new summer season and as usual we will be joining in the national Heritage Open Days in September. This is usually a good weekend as different people come and they are usually people with a special interest. If you want to know about this and you are on internet you can see what there is about Mount Zion by going to www.heritageopendays.org.

We would like to see you at Mount Zion if you can spare time to come. There is always something new there.

With God's blessing,
Irene Cunliffe



PAST EVENTS

THURSDAY, 7TH APRIL, 2005

Ladies Fellowship meeting at the home of Mavis Wilkinson when plans were made for the year ahead.

THURSDAY, 5TH MAY, 2005.

Ladies Fellowship meeting at the home of Una Gill when the Order of Service was planned for the Aldersgate Day Service

on Sunday, 22nd May, 2005. This was one of our “OA” services.

SUNDAY, 8TH MAY, 2005.

The Annual General Church Meeting was held after the service.

SUNDAY, 15th MAY, 2005.

Gift Day and Songs of Praise led by Rev. Lisa Quarmby with Stephen Illingworth at the organ. Gifts and donations received amounted to £355 for which we are most grateful. Collections were £70.

SUNDAY, 22ND MAY, 2005.

Our own arrangements service for Aldersgate Day, which was led by Irene Cunliffe, who spoke about the Wesleys. Stephen chose Wesley hymns and played the organ. Readings were by Leslie Hollingworth, Mary Dixon and Mavis Wilkinson. Prayers were said by Pat Varney and Ros Greenwood and Una Gill read parts of two of John Wesley’s sermons. Collections amounted to £85.

THURSDAY, 2ND JUNE, 2005.

Ladies Fellowship meeting at the home of Ros Greenwood. Anthony showed us some very interesting “Then and Now” photographs on the computer.

SATURDAY, 18TH JUNE, 2005.

Our first Open Day of the season when visitors included two people from Newcastle.

SUNDAY, 19TH JUNE, 2005.

West Gallery Singers visited Mount Zion. Report with Heritage matters.

SATURDAY, 2ND JULY, 2005.

A fine day but with a chilly wind for a wedding. Due to over-booking of taxis the bride was forty minutes late – her privilege!!

SUNDAY, 3RD JULY, 2005.

The Anniversary and Reunion – a lively service led by Rev. Cyril Blount. He surprised us all by playing a tape of bird song before and during the service and his sermon was called “Sing a new song”. One of the hymns was “Come we that love the Lord” and Cyril expressly asked for the tune “Mount Zion”. Stephen played the organ. Donations and collections amounted to £329.40p. Many thanks to all who gave so generously. NB One of the members of the congregation (as did many of us) started looking round to see where the birds were and thought “Oh dear, have they got birds in Chapel now as well as mice”. Everything welcome at Mount Zion.

THURSDAY, 7TH JULY, 2005.

Ladies Fellowship meeting at the home of Elsie Patrick. Our usual enjoyment at being together was overshadowed by the London bombings.

SATURDAY, 16th JULY, 2005.

Open day with only four visitors on this occasion.

SUNDAY, 24TH JULY, 2005.

This was the debut of the new Loop System. Report elsewhere

THURSDAY, 4TH AUGUST, 2005.

Ladies Fellowship at the home of Irene Cunliffe when we were entertained by a video of Yorkshire taken from a helicopter. We also looked at books of old Calderdale which evoked memories.

SATURDAY, 20TH AUGUST, 2005.

Open day with seven visitors.

THURSDAY, 1ST SEPTEMBER, 2005.

Ladies Fellowship meeting at the home of Mary Dixon. Her neighbour's children thought Mary was having a birthday party!! She brought out funny poems about old age and speed bumps and cameras. Jill MacArthur showed photographs of her and Stuart's balloon trip. Irene Cunliffe was presented with flowers and a card to commemorate her 40 years as a Local Preacher.

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

Saturday, 10th September, 2005 – a wet and windy day but more than a dozen visitors came and showed great interest. Meanwhile the Ladies prepared a good show for the Harvest Festival.

Sunday, 11th September, 2005 – Open from 10.30 to 12.30 although late visitors wishing to arrange for American visitors kept Irene there until 1.20 p.m.

The **Harvest Festival** service in the afternoon was led by Rev. Lisa Quarmby and Stephen played the organ. Collections amounted to £109.90p., fruit and flowers were taken out to the sick and elderly and tinned goods, toiletries, etc. given by the congregation were sent to the Huddersfield Methodist Mission.

SATURDAY, 17TH SEPTEMBER, 2005.

This was the last of the open days for the season. It has been a quiet season but again we have not had too good a summer.

SUNDAY, 2ND OCTOBER, 2005.

This was the Chapel Anniversary. The service was led by Rev. Lisa Quarmby and Stephen played the organ. Collections amounted to £83.

TUESDAY, 4TH OCTOBER, 2005.

The Church Council met in the cottage when financial, Heritage and property reports were given and approved and plans were made for special services.

THURSDAY, 6TH OCTOBER, 2005.

The Ladies Fellowship met at the home of Pat Varney.

SATURDAY, 8TH OCTOBER, 2005.

There was another wedding at Mount Zion. We are quite popular so far as weddings are concerned – it is a good setting and the Victorian interior is considered excellent.

THURSDAY, 3RD NOVEMBER, 2005.

The Ladies Fellowship met at the home of Jill MacArthur. This was the last meeting of the present season. Thanks to all who provided hospitality and to everyone for the company and fellowship. It is always a friendly, happy meeting with lots of laughter and good food – and always late finishing!!!

SATURDAY, 5TH NOVEMBER, 2005.

There was another wedding.

SUNDAY, 18TH DECEMBER, 2005.

Carol Service led by Rev. Lisa Quarmby. Stephen played the organ. Collections amounted to £130 and a retiring collection raised £65 for NCH.

SUNDAY, 1ST JANUARY, 2006.

Covenant Service led by Rev. Lisa Quarmby when we were joined by members and friends from Illingworth Moor. Stephen played the organ. Collections amounted to £160 to be shared between the two Churches.

SUNDAY, 12TH FEBRUARY, 2006.

This was another own arrangements service when no preachers were available. Irene led the service and Stephen chose the hymns and played the organ. Lessons were read by Mary Dixon and Mavis Wilkinson, using the standing microphone for the first time. All went well and it is a very good sound system and all are benefiting from having it.

MONDAY, 13TH FEBRUARY, 2006.

Church Council Meeting when reports were given for the past six months and arrangements made for the rest of the year.

SUNDAY, 5TH MARCH, 2006.

We awoke to snow and it was doubtful whether the Chapel yard would be negotiable. However Mount Zioners are a hardy lot and after several telephone conversations it was agreed to go ahead. The Chapel yard was no problem. Irene led the service and had asked Stephen to choose a hymn which was fortuitous as it was his late mother, Bessie's birthday and he chose her favourite hymn. Jack, Charlotte and her family attended and brought flowers. It was a lovely service and we were all pleased we had braved the elements.

SUNDAY, 12TH MARCH, 2006.

Service cancelled due to snow which started to fall at 8.15 a.m. and continued until 1.45 p.m. leaving a good depth and making travelling difficult – we know when we are beaten!!!

SUNDAY, 23RD MARCH, 2006.

Mothering Sunday when the service was led by Mrs. Kathleen Melling with Stephen on the organ. Collections amounted to £65 and the sale of Marie Curie silk daffodils raised £50.

THURSDAY, 30TH MARCH, 2006.

The first Ladies Fellowship meeting of the year held at the home of Mavis Wilkinson when forthcoming activities were planned.

WEDNESDAY, 5TH APRIL, 2006.

Two ladies from America accompanied by four local relatives visited to see Mount Zion and examine the grave records of ancestors buried there. It was one of Irene's very busy weeks (what's new!!!) and Mary and Mavis stood in for her.

SUNDAY, 16TH APRIL, 2006.

Easter Day when the service was led by Rev. Lisa Quarmby with Stephen on the organ and it included the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. There was a good attendance and collections amounted to £74 plus a special Easter Offering of £66.

SUNDAY, 14TH MAY, 2006.

The Gift Day and Songs of Praise was held. Mavis received gifts in the vestry prior to the service and Irene had been planned to take the service. We sang lots of hymns chosen by members and friends and generally had a good time. The gifts received for the day came to £600. This was a very happy occasion.

WEDNESDAY, 24TH MAY, 2006 – ALDERSGATE DAY

The Rev. Laurence Turner came to take the Aldersgate Day Service at 7.30 p.m. Details in Heritage matters. The collection amounted to £77.75p.



Heritage Matters . . .

We had the usual Open Days but most of them were held on very wet days so the number of visitors was small this year but there was a good response on the Heritage Open Days. This year we were only able to open on the Saturday afternoon. It always falls on the same Saturday as the West Yorkshire Methodist Synod and as Circuit Steward I have to put in an appearance at Synod so can only manage the afternoon.

Some of the people who were unable to come to the Archives and History Meeting in February, 2005 made a visit to Mount Zion in the summer. We were glad to welcome Rev. Terry Hurst from Brunswick, Newcastle-upon-Tyne and his Circuit Steward. They were delighted with the whole “scene” at Mount Zion and were very envious of some of the pieces we have in the collection.

A further group of four came with Ken Rothery, one of which was the newly appointed minister of Epworth. They were all avid collectors of Wesleyana and buy from e-bay. They could tell me how much certain items similar to those at Mount Zion were fetching and how much they had paid, also how much goes to the United States. They, like the other visitors, would have given a great deal to have some items that we have. One of the items which particularly took their eye was the lovefeast cup which Mrs. Aline Pendlebury donated in memory of her husband Rev. Arnold Pendlebury. It was still there after they had left – but they warned me to count everything when they had gone!!!

We opened to the public on four Saturdays and the weekend of the Heritage Open Days. There were not many visitors on the four usual open days but quite a number on the Heritage Open Days. One lady who is a tour guide wanted to make arrangements for some people from the US to visit later in the year.

On Sunday 19th June, 2005, the West Gallery Singers came. This was part of a workshop weekend. They had the workshop at Heptonstall Methodist Church on the Saturday and then on Sunday they did a tour of Mount Zion, Rishworth Congregational Church, Wainsgate Baptist Church and Blackshawhead Methodist Church. They sang the music of Accepted Widdop who has featured in “The

Dial” on previous occasions and the instruments they used were 18th century ones. It was unusual for Mount Zion to have a morning service but it was very good and very much out of the general run of music we use. On Sunday afternoon I went to Wainsgate Baptist Church where it was being handed over to the Historic Chapels Trust. Alan Beith received the key from the Trustees of the Church. It was a very moving service and again the West Gallery Singers contributed. Wainsgate is no longer used for public worship but it is a fine Church and I was especially impressed with the pulpit which is made up of various kinds of marble. There needs to be a great deal of work done on the building but it is of importance so needs to remain and be cared for.

Some of the people from the West Gallery Singers came again later in the year as they wanted to have a closer look at what there was at Mount Zion and spend more time there than they had been able to on the visit previously.

On the 1st November, 2005, the Beechwood Local History Group came to visit. They wanted a talk about Mount Zion and then spent time looking round.

Some of the Hird Collection was taken to Tunstall for repair. The Archives and History Committee had some money and they decided that it could be used to repair some of the Collection. There was a bust, three plaques, a teapot and a jug. The jug was Sunderland (Lustre) ware and it did not have a handle. I collected the pieces in May and we now have a wonderful jug complete with new handle so I will display it this year along with the other Sunderland ware.

We are always grateful to receive relevant items but we have a policy of collecting because we could become a depository for all

sorts of things and we cannot display nor store too much. The policy is that we will accede anything with Mount Zion connections or anything relating to the Methodist New Connexion. Some other items of special interest of rarity will also be accepted.

Mrs. Jane Nicholl gave us a teabowl which is rather pretty. It came through her family and is reputed to have been used by Wesley and John Nelson. We now have it displayed in the Mount Zion cabinet. We also received medals from Sunday School Sings which have Southowram bars on, a beaker from Christ Church also commemorating the Piece Hall Sings and a lady from Pocklington gave us some other medals. King Cross Methodist Church is closing in January, 2007 and they are disposing of the contents over the period leading up to the closure. I have requested that the Parian bust of John Wesley come to Mount Zion. It is a very nice piece and quite big. I am sure we will find a place of prominence for it.

Property matters move along at snail pace still!! I have been promised that the graveyard wall will be done this week. It is fingers crossed. He has started so he should complete in about ten days time. We have been given permission not to go ahead with the work we had suggested on the outside toilet so that it would be suitable for disabled people. The cost escalated to about £15,000 because of all the requirements, etc. and it was considered inappropriate to continue. Mr. Norman Lane, architect, came to look at the toilet block and he pointed out certain things like re-roofing, putting hot water in, etc. We are most grateful to Norman for his advice. It can still be accessed by people who cannot go upstairs but not by wheelchair users. We have also dealt with the wobbly crosses on the graves. The Circuit has promised us £750 from the Circuit Advance Fund towards the cost of the repair of the graveyard wall and crosses. That is 10% of the cost.

Last weekend we had some unwanted visitors – roof slate nappers. They have stripped about three quarters of the outside toilet roof at the Chapel side and taken some ridge tiles. They were seen loading up a blue transit van and the number was obtained but proved to be false (what’s new!!) and although they were followed got away. We now have to replace the roof.

We have a new PA system in the Chapel which has a standing microphone and a radio mike and it is a loop system. It is very good and has been much appreciated. It took a little while for some to get used to it but is now totally accepted and always used. It can be used from outside so that helps with funerals and weddings in that the minister can speak from outside so that all are ready within. Sunday 24th July, 2005 was the debut and later it was used by readers in a service of “own arrangements”. We are moving into the 21st century – slowly, of course.

Thanks are expressed to all who help with Open Days, Visits, etc. and to Anthony Greenwood for his sterling work with the graveyard and the property. We would be in a quandary if we didn’t have his enormous input. He is helped by his wife Ros and Elsie and Julian Patrick.



PEOPLE

JACK ILLINGWORTH

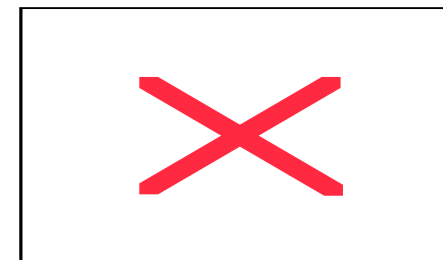
We are glad to see Jack from time to time when the weather is clement. He has done remarkably well but unfortunately his mobility is somewhat restricted and it is a long graveyard path. We hope to see him again soon.

MARY AYRTON

Our greetings and good wishes go to Mary who is finding life somewhat difficult but is at the present time spending three days a week at a centre at Luddendenfoot.

HERBERT WILKINSON

We send our good wishes and love to Herbert who has been unable to come to Mount Zion for some time. He spent a little time in hospital and improved considerably but recently had a setback with a chest infection. We hope he may be able to come to the Anniversary and Reunion in July.



Remembering

RALPH MOORE

We were all very sorry to hear that Ralph was ill with cancer last autumn and although he remained very positive and went through treatment until January, 2006, he died in May. His funeral was at Park Wood Crematorium on Tuesday, 23rd May, 2006, and then a service at Illingworth Moor to give thanks for the life of Ralph. Ralph was a wonderful friend to Mount Zion and we are very grateful for the many favours he did for us. He was very much the Illingworth person having been born in Mixenden, then lived in Illingworth, moved to Boothtown but remained at Illingworth Moor and then spent most of his married life in Illingworth. He and Dorothy had been married for over 50 years and whilst they had their separate interests they did a great deal together and supported each other in their various pursuits. Ralph was a miracle worker with anything electrical/electronic and a great inventor. In his life as a teacher with severely handicapped children he made all sorts of gadgets for them in an effort to give them some independence and be able to achieve something. There will be many children and parents who have great love for Ralph. We were told at his Thanksgiving Service that he made his own TV for the Coronation – lesser bodies like us had to go to friends or relations to watch the Coronation. Ralph was a great

family man too. He was much loved by all the members of the family and this was most apparent at the service when there were some sixty present. He was not only a great dad but a special grandad as well. All the family will miss him sorely but we send to them our love and prayers. He was gentle, caring, and placid. I am sure he never had a cross word with anyone – that was not Ralph's way.

BARBARA MILLS (nee Booth)

We were very sorry to hear last week of the death of Barbara after a long time of increasing ill health, although she continued to preach. She was still on the plan and there are two services still to be taken for which she was planned.

Barbara was originally from Trinity Methodist Church and it was from there that she offered herself for Local Preaching. She was only 18 years old when she began her preaching in the then Halifax West Circuit, of which Mount Zion was part. She preached for 51 years. She received her 50 years Certificate at a Circuit Service from the Rev. Bill Davies, a past president of the Methodist Conference. It was a highlight of Circuit life.

Barbara was one of those people who was committed completely to her Christian Service and she always contributed well to Circuit life having been a Circuit Steward some years ago and continuing as leader of the Circuit Choir until her death. Barbara was a great lover of hymns and had wonderful knowledge about where they were and what number they were. She knew well the

numbers in the Methodist Hymn Book but also learnt many in Hymns and Psalms. Although she was very ill she managed to get to the Circuit Choir's performance of Crucifixion at King Cross on the 12th April, 2006. She was a member of the Circuit Leadership Team and always contributed words of wisdom and good sense. She was a good sense person, down to earth and rooted well in her life of Christ. She very quietly helped lots of people and it will be evident that she helped so many more than we knew as time passes.

She died in Calderdale Royal Hospital very peacefully and her sisters Sylvia and Valerie and her step-daughters Barbara and Kathryn were with her. Her funeral was at Highgate Methodist Church (formerly Pellon) and at Park Wood Crematorium on Wednesday, 7th June, 2006, and was very well attended. There were people there from every Church in the Circuit which shows how much Barbara was thought of and the respect and esteem she engendered.

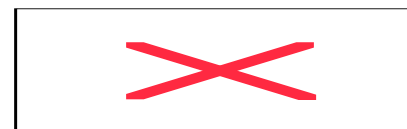
MARGARET TRICKETT (nee Eastwood)

Margaret died after a short illness. Margaret came on to the plan from Bethel Methodist Church, Ovenden, in the then Halifax West Circuit. She preached on the plan regularly and was a committed Christian worker in the area until her marriage to Kenneth. They went to live in Sheffield after their marriage and stayed there for a considerable time until moving to Malton where they lived when Margaret died. The funeral was at Malton and a number of the old Bethelites went to share in that thanksgiving. We send our condolences to Kenneth.

Margaret was a great person to be with. She was well known for her Christmas parties, for the suppers she provided. She was ever cheerful and fun loving and she will be greatly missed by Kenneth, her family and her friends.

EDNA BRADLEY

Edna and John Bradley had Mount Zion connections over many years. John's father and grandfather were organists at Mount Zion. John died a few years ago but Edna continued to come to some of the special services from time to time and gave a generous donation in memory of John which has been used on the repair of the organ. Edna was a member at Northowram and her funeral service is to be held there next week. Edna was Mayoress to John when he was Mayor of Calderdale. She was very involved in civic life, the life of Northowram and Shelf, and at her Church. She died on the last day of her holiday in the West Country. We send our condolences to her son David.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

THE FELLOWSHIP MEETS THE LAST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH UNTIL NOVEMBER 7.30 P.M. AT THE HOMES OF MEMBERS

SUNDAY 2ND JULY, 2006 – ANNIVERSARY REUNION. SERVICE AT 2.45 P.M. WHEN THE PREACHER WILL BE REV. STAN BROWN. WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO STAN COMING BACK TO TAKE A SERVICE FOR US. WE HOPE THAT AS MANY AS POSSIBLE WILL COME TO JOIN US. MANY OF YOU WILL REMEMBER STAN AND HIS FAMILY. STAN WAS A VERY GOOD MINISTER FOR A HERITAGE CENTRE – HE BECAME VERY INTERESTED IN WHAT WE WERE DOING AND WAS A GREAT INSPIRATION. STAN IS AT PRESENT CHAPLAIN AT KINGSTON UNIVERSITY, KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES.

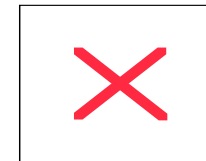
SUNDAY, 23RD JULY, 2006, AT 6 P.M.,. AT BOOTH TOWN METHODIST CHURCH THERE WILL BE A FAREWELL SERVICE FOR REV. DAVID B. JONES WHO LEAVES THIS CIRCUIT AS SUPERINTENDENT TO GO TO ANGLESEY.

THURSDAY, 31ST AUGUST, 2006 6 P.M. AT BOOTH TOWN METHODIST CHURCH THERE WILL BE A WELCOME SERVICE FOR REV. ALBERT GAYLE THE NEWLY APPOINTED CIRCUIT SUPERINTENDENT. REV. PETER WHITTAKER, CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT, WILL BE THE PREACHER.

SUNDAY, 3RD SEPTEMBER – HALIFAX CIRCUIT SERVICE WILL BE HELD AT CHRIST CHURCH LIGHTCLIFFE SITE AND THE PREACHER WILL BE REV. STEVE WILD. IF YOU WANT A SERVICE TO REMEMBER GO ALONG TO LIGHTCLIFFE AND HEAR STEVE. HE IS A WONDERFUL PREACHER. HE HAS A FRIEND CALLED CLARENCE (A FROG) WHO OFTEN COMES ALONG TOO. STEVE IS BASED AT CLIFF COLLEGE, IS A MEMBER OF THE CONNEXIONAL TEAM AND RESPONSIBLE FOR EVANGELISM.

SUNDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER – HARVEST FESTIVAL THIS YEAR OUR HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE WILL BE TAKEN BY MISS BETTY JAGGER, WIGTON CIRCUIT. I THINK YOU WILL ALL KNOW BETTY WHO WE CLAIM AS ONE OF OUR OWN.

OPEN DAYS: 17TH JUNE, 15TH JULY, 19TH AUGUST AND 16TH SEPTEMBER, 2005 FROM 2 P.M. TO 4 P.M. HERITAGE OPEN DAYS SATURDAY, 9TH 2 P.M. TO 4 P.M. AND SUNDAY, 10TH SEPTEMBER, 10.30 P.M. TO 12.30 P.M.



A FEW OTHER PEOPLE

Irene Cunliffe completed 40 years as a Local Preacher, all in the Halifax Circuit. Irene came on to the plan from Rhodes Methodist Church which was in the then Halifax West Circuit. A service was held at St. Andrew's Methodist Church when Rev. Brian Hoare, past President of the Methodist Conference presented the Certificate and preached. The service was well attended and was a wonderful event. Irene thanks all those who attended, sent cards and gifts.

Marjorie Spaven was somewhat concerned when her son and his family announced that they were going to live in Australia – well it is a long way away isn't it!!! Nevertheless she began to see the advantages of it and recently ventured into the Antipodes to visit and

was very thrilled with the whole experience so she is going again!!
Think about it Marjorie – it has opened another world for you.

Marjorie visited St. Andrew’s by the Sea Uniting Church in Glenelg, South Australia and was very impressed. She brought us back a picture of a banner dedicated to the Uniting Church in Australia. This came about in 1977 when Methodist, Congregational and Presbyterian Churches came together. On the banner depicting the Methodist “circle” is John Wesley on horseback. The Church has a long history but perhaps not in Mount Zion terms. A leaflet tells us that St. Leonard’s Chapel in the Church is a place of welcome - a place to find some peace and quiet – a place to “restore your soul” in a busy and noisy world. St. Leonard’s chapel was formed out of the refurbishment of St. Andrew’s by the Sea Uniting Church in 1992. The former St. Leonard’s Methodist/Uniting Church was situated in Glenelg North and its final service was held on Easter Day, 1989. Two of its stained glass windows are featured in the present chapel. St. Leonard of Limousin, according to legend, was of a noble Frankish family in the 11th century. His veneration as a saint is associated with stories linking him to the deliverance of those bowed down by the stresses and pains of life so it is fitting that “A Quiet Place” is linked to him.

One of the hymns they sang was called “A spendthrift lover...” and I thought the words were very appropriate:

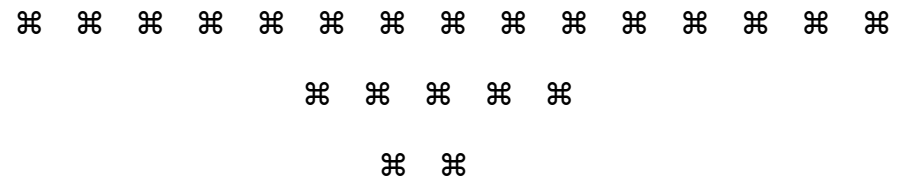
A spendthrift lover is the Lord
Who never counts the cost
Or asks if heaven can afford
To woo a world that’s lost.
Our lover tosses coins of gold
across the midnight skies

And strokes the sun against the cold
To warm us when we rise.

Still more is spent in blood and tears
To win the human heart,
To overcome the violent fears
That drive the world apart.
Behold the bruised and thorn-crowned face
Of one who bears our scars,
And empties out the wealth of grace
That’s hinted by the stars.

How shall we love this heart-strong God
Who gives us everything,
Whose ways to us are strange and odd:
What can we give or bring?
Acceptance of the matchless gift
Is gift enough to give;
The very act will shake and shift
The way we love and live.

Thank you Marjorie for sharing this with us – we look forward to part two when you go again.



A VISIT TO YORK MINSTER

Irene is a Trustee of the Yorkshire Historic Churches Trust. This is an organization which helps historic churches and chapels to keep their buildings in good shape by awarding grants for various things to be done. It meets twice each year in York, always has a grand tour day when it is its AGM in June and organizes other visits of interest through the year. The special visit this last year was to York Minster. Another Trustee Mr. Richard Carr-Archer is Architect to York Minster and he arranged the tour and talked to us about the Minster.

You will all know that York Minster is a World Heritage Building and one of the finest in this country (As a Yorkshire woman I think there is nothing to beat it!!). There is always work to be done on a building of such age and at present restoration work is being done on the East end of the Minster. It is fully scaffolded and the work is going to take about ten years. We think we have problems at Mount Zion but not on their scale.

We were first told what was going to be done in the restoration and then we were taken into the Chapter House and in the corner there is a small door through which we went, something like Alice when she was in Wonderland, although we didn't get smaller. We went up a spiral staircase for ever and eventually came to the Masons' loft. It has a scissor beamed roof dating to the 14th century. There were hundreds of templates, some wood, some zinc, hanging from rails. These were of the architectural features in the Minster. All were carefully marked to indicate which bit they belonged to. We then went through into a space which had a small gallery running alongside what seemed like a concrete floor but on closer inspection it was revealed to be covered with outlines of the windows and parts of the building. This grey, dusty floor was a vast drawing board. It is gesso a kind of lime plaster and into it they etched the features. One is of the retro Choir known to have been

put up in 1356. This is almost unique – there is one other at Wells Cathedral. The templates are still used on occasion and they remain because they cannot be put on to a computer or brought up to date in any way. It was fascinating. After that we went up in a cage to almost 100 ft. on to the scaffolding on the east wall. It was somewhat scary because it moved slightly but it was well worth the going to such a height because you could see the panorama of the roofs of York, mostly red tiled. It was possible to see the White Horse at Kilburn and Ferrybridge Power Station, but more exciting was that you could see and touch the great East window where work was being done. It said much about the builders of the 14th/15th century and to-day's builders. The work done at the earlier time was a little weather worn but not badly so but that which had been done in the 1970's was almost worn away. They did not know how to protect the fabric from the weather and when it was explained it was so simple. Our last port of call was the masons' yard across the road. There were huge blocks of stone being prepared to be put into those windows far above us. We saw carvings some of which had been done as part of an apprentices "exams" to become a fully qualified mason. We were told that it was not difficult to get apprentices, both boys and girls, and that when they had finished their apprenticeship they went all over the world with their craft. One of the "tools" they use to lift large pieces of stone was designed in Roman times. It was very simple indeed but did the job like nothing else could BUT the Health and Safety faceless bureaucrats were on the job - it isn't safe to use they say – but there is no recorded accident with it!!! Might they take a leaf from the book of the masons – 15th century is still there 20th century already needs replacing!!! A wonderful experience all round.

2007 – another year of celebration

The year 2007 is the anniversary of the birth of Charles Wesley and we will be celebrating at Mount Zion but there will also be some celebrations around the Connexion and hopefully in the District.

Charles Wesley was born some four and a half weeks premature and for a week was wrapped in cotton wool. There were many sisters to care for him and

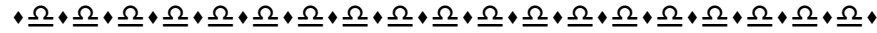
surround this frail new baby. There was a family of about seventeen at the time of his birth.

Charles had a temperament like his father, Samuel, impulsive, short tempered, volatile often given to depression and had the temperament of an artist. He was equally unpractical, his desk untidy. John Wesley in contrast was equable, even tempered, controlled, rarely thrown off course, had the temperament of a scholar and always well organized (his legacy to the present day Methodist Church). Throughout his life Charles suffered bad health. He was especially good looking. He was more critical than his brother, more worldly, a poet whose flight of mysticism is to be found in his many hymns.

Charles had his heart warming experience on the 21st May, 1738, three days before John. He expressed his “conversion” in hymns and that continued through his life.

Charles married Sarah Gwynne when she was only 20 years of age. Unlike John he had a loving, happy marriage, three of their eight children survived.

He died in 1788 and was buried in consecrated ground at Marylebone Parish Church. His remains have been moved recently. His wife Sarah outlived him and survived into her nineties.



And an end note or two:

We include all faiths and races in our publication!!

A SANSKRIT PROVERB

Look to this day, for yesterday is but a dream and tomorrow is only a vision, but today, well lived, makes every yesterday a dream of happiness and every tomorrow a vision of hope. Look well, therefore, to this day.

AN AMERICAN INDIAN PRAYER

May the warm winds of happiness blow softly upon you, and may the Great Spirit bring sunshine into your heart.

Thanks for these to Mary Dixon who has a wealth of end notes to offer as well as many other skills.

