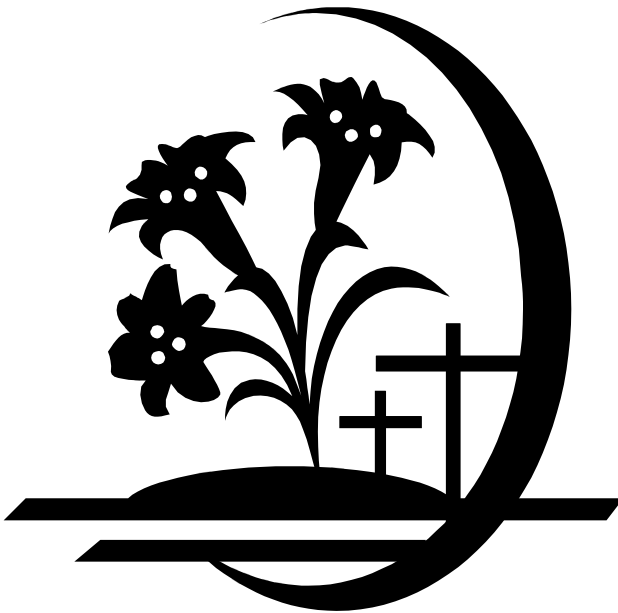


Triangle

The quarterly magazine of the
Methodist Churches of Springdale,
Wombourne and Gospel Ash



Spring 2012

Message from the Manse

Rev Robert Ely

Why is it that we go overboard preparing for Christmas, but do so little to get ready for Easter? In truth it is Easter which is the more important Christian Festival, for it celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. As St Paul wrote, without the resurrection, the Christian faith is empty and pointless. It is Lent that gives us the opportunity to get ready for Easter.

Lent gives us the opportunity for a check-up. We are constantly being encouraged to check up on our health, or our pension plans, or the security of our homes. There are annual reports and appraisals at work, and glossy brochures from charities. Get fit, take a break: the good advice pours in.

Perhaps sometimes people are trying to sell us something, but the advice is sound nevertheless. It's a good idea to make sure our health, our finances and our cars, too, are in good shape. But what about ourselves? Our real selves: not just body and mind, but spirit as well. Are we in good shape?

It would take a very self-confident person to say "yes" without hesitation. And that is where Lent comes in. It gives an opportunity for that spiritual check-up which can so easily be forgotten. Are we growing in our relationships with other people? Are we becoming more caring and concerned for others? Above all, are we growing in our relationship with God? Do we feel nearer to Him? These are the things that will matter most in the end. Prayer, reading the bible and other books, and talking with Christian friends will help us.

God doesn't want us just to drift through life, but to live it to the full. So let us prepare for Easter by using Lent for that spiritual check-up that will enable us to do just that.

With Christian greetings,

Robert

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Springdale Vestry News

Bernard Davis, Senior Steward



Advent commenced on Sunday 27th November. In the morning service we learned a new progressive hymn from the new hymn book for the lighting of the candle - 'Light a candle in a darkened place'. The concept of 'Hope' is mentioned in the first five verses which is most relevant in our troubled times: unrest and conflict in many Arab countries, the financial problems with regard to the Euro in countries such as Italy and Greece and the unrest over pension changes and austerity measures in our own country. Jesus warned us "You cannot worship God and money." We should all pray for these deep rooted problems - for enlightenment for members of parliament, trade union leaders, captains of industry and the dreaded bankers!

The Ecumenical Advent service was at Springdale this year. The Ecumenical Choir assembled in the atrium, lit their candles from the Advent Candle and progressed into the darkened church singing 'O Come, O Come Immanuel.' There was a wonderful mix of Advent carols and readings also the 'world premiere' of an advent anthem written by Sheila Barnfather (words) and Trevor Cattell (music). Everyone I spoke to after the service felt that it was a very good start to Advent.

On Saturday 3rd December there was a very successful Christmas Fair which raised £1,896. Many thanks to Jacqueline and all who helped to organise it. In the evening there was a very enjoyable concert which raised £555 for Compton Hospice. Many thanks to Ann and her helpers, also to the West Midland Concert Band for a wonderful musical evening.

On Sunday 4th December we held our Toy Service and Parade which was well attended. All the toys received were donated to the Haven Refuge and Robert read out a very moving letter from a ten year old boy explaining why he and his mother were staying there.

The Penn Christmas Tree Festival took place at the URC Church, Penn Road, over the weekend 16th to 18th December. More than forty Christmas trees were imaginatively decorated by local church organizations,

businesses and shops. The opening celebration was led by the Bishop of Wolverhampton with songs and dances performed by local schoolchildren. During the weekend the Springdale Poets, a folk group and a jazz group took part and on the Sunday evening a Candlelit Carol Service ended a very successful and seasonal event.

The fourth Sunday of Advent was the 18th December and at the morning service the Junior Church performed a very thought provoking Nativity Play. Yes! God was so distraught with human behaviour that he has to come himself to be 'The Way, the Truth and the Life' but how many really follow the path that Jesus showed us?

The Candlelight service on Christmas Eve was so well attended that many people had to be seated in the atrium! The Christmas morning service was also well attended as were the two Covenant Services.

The Covenant service for the Churches Together in Penn was held at Springdale on Sunday 22nd January at 3pm and was very relevant and moving.

We had baptisms on the mornings of January 15th and 29th. The church was packed at both services and we sang beautiful baptismal hymns from our new hymn book 'Singing the Faith'.

The morning service on Sunday February 19th was an Eco Service led by James, Sarah and the older members of Junior Church. We were encouraged to think about how we can look after planet earth here in Penn. There was time for discussion and time to express our views. Are we aware enough of what looking after the planet entails and are we doing enough to make a difference? Thank you James, Sarah and Junior Church for a thought provoking and enlightening act of worship.

The Ecumenical House Groups will have started by the time the spring Triangle is published. The course chosen this year is based on the award winning film 'The King's Speech' and I look forward to the five sessions with keen anticipation.

The Annual Church Meeting will be on April 22nd at 5pm. We may have to face up to the possibility that, in spite of our best endeavours, we have not had a presbyter willing to take on the responsibility of Gospel Ash, Wombourne and Springdale when Robert retires this summer. I urge you to pray about this situation that, whatever happens, we shall all pull together and support those who are willing to undertake extra duties until God sends us a replacement for Robert.

As I complete my final report as Senior Steward I look back on what has been a very busy and successful year at Springdale. I have had wonderful support from my fellow stewards and many other church members too numerous to name.

A special mention must go to Barbara Mead and Keith Watts who are stepping down after many years of service - thank you. Sheila Evans will be Senior Steward from May 2012 - we wish her well.

Yours in Christ.

Wombourne Vestry News

Charles Clowes, Senior Steward



Firstly I would like to thank all who helped in any way with our Christmas activities. To all those who decorated and cleaned the church, organized 'Posada' and the sending of numerous parcels to the Little Brothers of the 'Good Shepherd Ministry' from the 'Toy Service' and to those who prepared music or refreshments, we are deeply indebted to you. Special thanks to Janet Fenney and Helen Vintner for the wonderful tableau of Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus, which was placed in the entrance of the Church; your talent is amazing.

With the festive season comes an opportunity to reach out to people who only occasionally enter our Church building. The Carol Service, Midnight Communion (this year at the URC) and Christmas morning Worship are the times when people on the fringes of Church life attend Church. Many come expecting to hear of a fairy tale-like story of a baby born in a

stable and laid in a manger, but the reality is that God the Father entered our world and experienced what it is to be human at its worst and best, enduring pain, suffering and betrayal. Conquering with Love, He still walks beside us in all our joys, cares and woes.

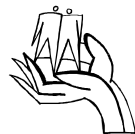
In the New Year, the Covenant Service was well attended and gave us the opportunity to recommit ourselves to God, and so was the Dedication of Youth Workers. We are indebted to all who spend many hours of commitment working with young people, in the Uniform Organizations, 'Kids Club' and 'Prayers and Bears'. They help these young people to grow in stature and faith.

As we look forward to Lent we are privileged to welcome to our Church the Circuit Choir on Friday 26th February to perform Roger Jones' Musical "Apostle". During Lent study groups are being held at The Kingsway Church twice on Thursdays both afternoon and evening, on the theme of the 'Billy Elliot' film. The traditional Easter services include on 'Good Friday' a Walk of Witness from the Parish Church around the 'Village Green' to the Paddock on Windmill Bank culminating with open air act of worship, on 'Easter Day' an early morning sunrise Communion on 'Lite Hill'.

As I draw to the end of my year as Senior Steward I would like to thank all who have supported me over the past 4 years, the Worship Assistants, the Leadership Team and other Stewards, all of whom work together to make our Church a place where we can come each week to meet in the presence of God and in Fellowship with each other to go out more equipped into the world renewed in mind and spirit.

Springdale Pastoral News

Jane Rawlings, Pastoral Secretary



Well, as I am writing this it is the end of a beautiful day of sunshine and even some heat! Hopefully the winter months are behind us and more sunshine will be ours to enjoy.

What a joyous number of baptisms we have had since the last Triangle. On the 15th January we welcomed Lily Isabella Fereday and Matthew Steven Michael Smith with their families and friends. On the 29th January Arthur Douglas Peterson had his special day of his baptism. May they all continue to grow in the knowledge that God is with them every step of the way.

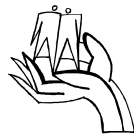
We remember all of our family at Springdale who are not well at present. Bob and Ruth Tong - Bob is recovering well at home but Ruth is having difficulty walking, which she is finding very hard. Rene Poulson is back home but is still finding things difficult. Geoff Martin is currently in respite care following a spate in hospital - he is doing a lot better and hoping to be back home soon. May God lay his healing hands upon all who need them and give strength to all who face difficult times ahead, whether in recovery or the care of a loved one. We continue to also think of Zherron Ferriday who is finding life a struggle - we pray for her and all her family as she continues to fight on.

Congratulations to anyone who has celebrated a birthday since the last Triangle - we have had some special ones with Lizzie Pilsbury's 21st and Fiona Jones's 18th. I hope anyone who has a birthday or who is celebrating a special occasion in the coming months has everything they wish and hope for.

God bless you all.

Wombourne Pastoral News

Pauline Hotchkiss, Pastoral Secretary



Last week David and I attended a funeral. The vicar preached from Ecclesiastes, chapter 3, concentrating on verses 1 - 8. This is a well-known passage, and I quote "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven" (verse 1). The pastoral news from the last few months is very much like this passage. As you read through I am sure you will understand what I mean.

“a time to be born”



This picture is hot off the press! Edna Fellows is holding her new grandson, Harry Jack, who was born on February 12th. You can just see John's hand supporting him. It has been 11 years since their last grandson was born. Congratulations to Edna, John and all the family!

Pat Stoker was thrilled a year ago when George, her grandson, was born, and now George has a little brother, Henry, born on February 19th. Congratulations to Lisa and Steven, the boys mom & dad, and to all the family.

“a time to die”

In the last Triangle we were extending our congratulations to Donald and Edith Baily who celebrated 66 years of marriage. It was with great sadness that we received news of Donald's death in December. A wonderful thanksgiving service for his life was held on 10th January. There were many former friends and colleagues from Dudley College at the service and the former Principal of the college spoke highly of him. There were tributes from both his grandchildren. Family and friends shared lunch in the church hall and shared memories of Donald over a cup of tea. Our prayers and love go out to Edith and her family as they come to terms with Donald's death.

During the same week on 13th January we said our farewell to Annie Rackstraw, who was an active member at the church for many, many years. If anyone ever forgot their church key it was Annie they went to. She used to give a little grunt and then fetch the spare key making sure she reminded the person to return it. She was loved by everyone at church.

We also heard that Carrie Waterfield had died just after Christmas. Carrie moved from Wombourne 4 years ago when she was 102 years old to be near her niece. She would have been 107 in February. We thought about her on 12th January, as she was laid to rest. Carrie was another long serving member of our church.

We extend our love and prayers and ask God's blessing on all those who are mourning a loved one at this time.

“a time to be concerned”

The Prayer Circle at church pray for all those listed on the Prayer List and those who have been written in the Prayer Book. The last quarter we have been praying particularly about Robyn Walker, Carole and Eric's granddaughter, who has had surgery on her hip; Elsie Martin, who came out of hospital and is now in a residential home; Emma Whitehouse, the granddaughter of Beryl Edwards - she fell down a staircase and received considerable injury to her face. June Dickens has not been well for several months - she suffered a heart attack recently and was admitted to hospital. She had surgery and was home within the week and is doing extremely well after what was quite a traumatic shock to her. We thank God that all are progressing well and ask for his continued care for them. We have also been praying for the following members who have not been well - Cynthia Hatton, Jean Knight, Barbara Tromans, Heather Jones, Joy Brandrick, Pam Smith and others who are known to us. Thankfully they are all on the mend and we ask God for his continued blessings on them. We continue to pray for all our people who are housebound or in residential care. Holy Spirit, bring comfort and peace to all who are no longer at home.

“a time to listen”

I always try to speak to Alex Blackmore when I come to church. He sits at the back, right by the door. I always learn something new from him and today he told me that Pauline, his wife, has settled very well into her residential home. The staff have told him that she is a 'model' resident. He knows that he will always be on his own at home and told me he has accepted this and feels much better. He visits Pauline two or three times a week and his daughters are in regular touch with him. I told him this is the sort of good news I needed for Triangle and asked if I could use it. He was delighted. I'm glad I listened!

“a time to laugh”

There have been lots of reasons to rejoice and celebrate during the last three months. Val Edwards reached her 80th birthday in November, as did John Pike in December. They received their Christmas visit and gift along with all those members who are over 80. Pat and Maurice Beddall

celebrated their Golden Wedding during December. Many congratulations to them. The next 'big' birthday was for Nell Piper who reached the age of 90 in January. Nell celebrated for a week and everyone at church helped her to celebrate, on more than one occasion, during the week. (see *Wombourne Wives*). We now have had two more Octogenarians in church, namely Beryl Edwards and Doreen Jenks. A wonderful reason to celebrate on 29th February, Betty Crossfield reached her "coming of age, 21 (84 in real terms) and we partied at the Craft and Chat Club with her. Congratulations to everyone who has reached another milestone in their life and we ask God to continue to bless you.

"a time to dance"

Pam and Phil Smith surely have something to dance about. Jack, their grandson, has been selected to carry the Olympic Flame. This is joyous news for everyone. Jack has fought back from a tragic accident and now takes part in many sports and activities. He is a member of Kids' Club and is a keen member of a Wheelchair football team. God bless you Jack and we look forward to supporting you when you carry the flame.

Val and John Philpott are also dancing with the news about their grandson Max, who has been selected to play for the Warwickshire Rugby Team.

"a time to love and a time to embrace"

The time is always right to love and embrace everyone into God's wonderful care. At our recent Pastoral Leaders meeting we looked at who was responsible for those of the worshipping community who had not been received into membership. After a meaningful discussion the pastoral leaders willingly offered to take on the responsibility of one or two from the Community Roll. God bless you all.

Now is ***"the time to be silent"***

That the Potter should die for His clay is a stupendous miracle.

Lynn Landrum

Celebration at Wombourne Wives Group

Pat Beddall, President

On January 26th the Wives Group at Wombourne were privileged to celebrate the birthday of our oldest member, Mrs Nell Piper, who has reached the grand age of 90.



The following week we again celebrated a birthday, this time that of our youngest member, Mrs Gail Cresswell, who reached her 50th.

Our love and congratulations go to both members and our best wishes for a long and happy, healthy future.

Come to the Manger

Tom Butler



It was a cold, clear night and people arrived from far and wide to witness the nativity in the natural surroundings of a Barn on a Farm. You could say that it had taken fifteen months in the preparation of this event, as last year, 2010, should have seen the first unveiling of this impromptu Nativity. However, the weather last year was less kind than this year, the roads being icy and the water pipes in the barn frozen solid so the event had to be cancelled. Everyone concerned, that is the “Churches Together in Bobbington” working group were determined, together with Mark and Yvonne Snelson the owners of the Old Barn, to stage the event.

The “Old Barn” is a 17th century barn which has recently undergone a complete refurbishment and is quite special and majestic. It still remains quite airy as it would have done all through its life, to prevent the crops

from going mouldy. It was for this reason that visitors were requested to dress in warm clothes.

On the night of December 20th the Barn had been prepared and decorated with holly and ivy, straw bales and some chairs for those who find it difficult to stand. The farm yard quickly filled with cars and people were ushered into the barn with help from Mark and Yvonne.

By 6.30pm it was standing room only as about eighty people waited expectantly for the impromptu play to begin. After a brief explanation concerning the procedure, the air was filled with the strains of our first carol, accompanied by the organ from Gospel Ash placed in the loft and played by Joyce Hughes. This nativity involved the participation of people from the group to assist in the nativity tableau wearing an item that depicted the person's identity in the scene. The narrator did the explanation and guided us through the story, with more detail coming from the carols sung by all present. Everyone was willing to play a part and Mr Snelson senior with his crook played an authentic shepherd.

The idea of the Barn was to try to give a flavour of what it must have been like for Mary and Joseph on the night when our Saviour was born. We enjoyed the smell of fresh straw and a clean barn with a concrete floor, but the barn or stable where Jesus was born would have smelled of the cattle and would have been a most unsanitary place with infection very high on the list of outcomes. Mary was just a young girl pregnant with her first child, she must have been terrified. What also comes to mind is who delivered the baby Jesus? Not a doctor or a trained midwife. Into this awful situation God placed his Son Jesus as a baby to endure the most degrading conditions that humans can withstand. He was adored by the shepherds who were considered at the time to be at the bottom of the social order and he was brought gifts by highly educated kings who were at the highest level in the social order. The story of Christ's birth shows us the depth of God's love for everyone, whoever we are and whatever position in society we may be.

Thanks must go to the Reverends Jeanette Hartwell and Robert Ely for the portrayal of the Nativity and all those who provide the refreshments and helped in any way.

Family Friendly Churches Trust

Lesley Cook



Do you remember the February Half-term holiday in 2006? That was the year Rev. Mike Bossingham of Family Friendly Churches Trust came and ran a holiday club, called Jerusalem TV, for our young people at Springdale. The Fellowship Room was transformed into a TV News studio, the church became an editing suite and teams of young reporters and witnesses could be seen writing and filming reports, telling the story of Jesus' arrest, trial, death and resurrection. At the end of each morning, parents were invited in to watch the finished news report. (I still have photos of the Club if you'd like to see them!)

Also that week, Mike spoke to a large gathering of church folk who were interested in making changes to our attitudes, worship and welcome so that Springdale could become a Family Friendly Church. Such was their enthusiasm that the Charter was signed and our church is still listed on the website as being part of the Family Friendly Churches Trust.

Since then, Springdale has welcomed quite a few new folk into its worshipping community who may not be aware of the charter that includes Springdale's Mission Statement. So I have added the Charter below. It's worth reading again and asking the question "How are we doing? Is there any more we could be doing?" Let me know your views.

Mission Statement

Springdale Methodist Church aims to be a community where all people are welcomed, regardless of age, gender, race, ability and background, to meet to worship God and to be encouraged to deepen their Christian discipleship.

The Charter

At Springdale we express the love of God for us and our love for each other by working towards becoming a place where:-

1 All people are welcomed to worship God with us regardless of

age, gender, race, ability and background.

We accept that not everyone whom we welcome will have the same understanding of worship as we do. We as a church will undertake to develop ways of broadening worship to satisfy the needs of a wider community. We understand that in such a community we cannot expect every element in every act of worship to be in a style that we as individuals would personally like it to be. We also understand that in this charter we are extending a welcome to those who may not always be able to meet our personal expectations of conduct. We will accept such situations with understanding and good grace.

2 We will encourage all those who are part of this community to grow in their Christian understanding and discipleship.

We accept that none of us has all the answers and so we will journey together to grow in our understanding of what it means to be Christian. We will give teaching and encouragement to all our community regardless of where they are in their journey. We will accept the insights of all members of our community as part of our communal understanding of who God is. We will help and support parents in the difficult task of bringing up children in the Christian faith. We will explore what discipleship means for us in our wider community and put this into practice.

3 We will provide facilities that will make our premises and practices accessible to all.

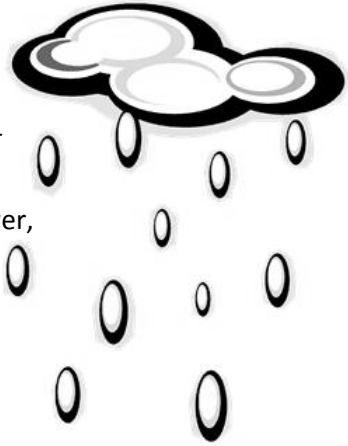
We will work to remove any barriers (physical, mental or spiritual) that prevent others from joining the full life of this community. This may mean changing some elements of our building or practices that we may treasure, but we will accept this with understanding and good grace. We will provide special facilities particularly to help children and those with disabilities.

4 We will do all in our power to ensure that all members of our community are kept safe from harm.

We understand that this means that we must take seriously the requirements placed on us by the law to protect children from those who would harm them. We must be careful not to exploit those who are physically, mentally or spiritually vulnerable. We must constantly be vigilant to keep our premises as safe a place as possible.

Two Raindrops

Joseph Morris



Two little raindrops were born in a shower,
And one was so pompously proud of his power,
He got in his head an extravagant notion
He'd hustle right off and swallow the ocean.
A blade of grass that grew by the brook
Called for a drink, but no notice he took
Of such trifling things – he must hurry to be
Not a mere raindrop, but the whole sea.
A stranded ship needed water to float,
But he could not bother to help a boat.
He leapt in the sea with a puff and a blare
And nobody even knew he was there!
But the other drop, as along it went
Found the work to do for which it was sent:
It refreshed the lily that drooped its head,
And bathed the grass that was almost dead.
It got under the ships and helped them along,
And all the while sang a cheerful song.
It worked every step of the way it went,
Bringing joy to others – to itself content.
At last it came to its journey's end,
And welcomed the sea as an old time friend.
"An ocean" it said "there could not be
Except for the million of drops like me."

Old Testament Quiz (answers on p 20)

- 1 Who was the brother of Moses and what did he become?
- 2 Where did Moses die?
- 3 Whose 30 sons rode on 30 donkeys?
- 4 Who was King David's great-grandmother?
- 5 Which two famous men were the sons of Amram?



J.N.

Applecart at the Arena Theatre

Liz Green



Many of you will be aware that Rev Phil Summers is now working with the Applecart Theatre Company in London. Starting in the upstairs room of a pub in the East End, they have been developing an innovative way of telling bible stories. Performances at festivals, universities and conferences around the country have been well received and they are now offering a preview of a show which will be part of the Pentecost Festival in London. Applecart has recently received funding from the Methodist Church in order to further develop this work and Phil will be working for them full time from September.

Applecart is performing "I am Mark" at the Arena theatre in Wolverhampton on Saturday 19th May at 3pm and 7pm. The whole of Mark's Gospel will be told in two parts, combining the use of drama, comedy, storytelling, music and film.

Tickets are available from the Arena Theatre box office at www.arena.wlv.ac.uk or phone 01902 321321 and cost £24 for the two parts (£20 concessions). If you cannot make both afternoon and evening, why not share a ticket with a friend? This is an opportunity not to be missed, so do try to support it and help to fill the theatre. More information is available from posters and flyers which will be in each church.

Notice for Wombourne People

Pauline Hotchkiss has agreed to liaise with anyone who has articles to submit for the Triangle. She will prepare the items for sending on to the Triangle through an e-mail.

Please watch out for the next deadline which you will find on the back of the Triangle. She would suggest that items be with her by the Sunday before.

Divert Your Course

This is the actual radio conversation of a US naval ship with Canadian authorities off the coast of Newfoundland in October 1995. Radio conversation released by chief of naval operations, 10-10-95.

Canadians: Please divert your course 15 degrees to the south to avoid a collision.

Americans: Recommend you divert your course 15 degrees to the north to avoid a collision.

Canadians: Negative. You will have to divert your course 15 degrees to the south to avoid a collision.

Americans: This is the captain of a US Navy ship. I say again, divert YOUR course.

Canadians: No, I say again, you divert YOUR course.

Americans: This is the Aircraft Carrier US LINCOLN, the second largest ship in the United States Atlantic Fleet. We are accompanied with three Destroyers, three Cruisers and numerous support vessels. I DEMAND that you change your course 15 degrees north. I say again, that's one-five degrees north, or counter-measures will be undertaken to ensure the safety of this ship.

Canadians: This is a lighthouse. Your call.

New Testament Quiz (answers on p 20)

- 6 In which garden did Jesus pray?
- 7 Which apostles healed a lame man?
- 8 Which 3 early Christians were tent makers?
- 9 How many parables are told of a father and two sons?
- 10 Who was bedridden for eight years before being cured?



J.N.

All I Really Need to Know about Life, I Learned from Noah's Ark:

Source Unknown

- 1 Don't miss the boat.
- 2 Don't forget we're all in the same boat.
- 3 Plan ahead - it wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
- 4 Stay fit - when you're 600 years old someone might ask you to do something really big.
- 5 Don't listen to critics, just get on with what has to be done.
- 6 For safety's sake travel in pairs.
- 7 Two heads are better than one.
- 8 Build your future on high ground.
- 9 Speed isn't always an advantage, after all, the snails were on the same ark with the cheetahs.
- 10 When you are stressed, float awhile.
- 11 Remember the ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic was built by professionals.
- 12 Remember that the woodpeckers inside are a larger threat than the storm outside.

Ark Anglers

Celia Warren

Noah let his sons go fishing
Only on the strictest terms,
Sit still, keep quiet and concentrate,
We've only got two worms!

Did YOU Take a Step for Fair Trade?

Teresa Ely (686807)

Take a step for Fair Trade – that is what we were asked to do in this year’s Fair Trade Fortnight. I wonder what your step was? All the publicity, all the slogans, all the offers do encourage us to make a change in the way we shop and the way we consume. For that fortnight, at least, Fair Trade is brought to mind. But when the fortnight has passed, when the offers are no more, when some other ‘fortnight’ is in the news, will our commitment continue? I do hope so, for I believe Fair Trade is good news.

- It is good news because it shows that justice can prevail.
- It is good news because it demonstrates that dreams can become reality.
- It is good news because it offers dignity where there was despair.
- It is good news because it enables producers round the world to feed, clothe and house their families through their own efforts.

Fair Trade for me is one of the Good News stories of recent years. But there is so much more to be done. If you can help with our Traidcraft Stalls, or in the shop in Darlington Street please tell Diana Beaumont or me. Please keep taking the steps and buying Fair Trade.

Quiz Answers

- 1 Aaron, a high priest. Exodus 4 v 14
- 2 Land of Moab. Deuteronomy 34 vv 1 & 5
- 3 Jair’s sons. Judges 10 vv 3 & 4
- 4 Ruth. Ruth 4 vv 13 & 17
- 5 Moses and Aaron. Exodus 6 v 20.
- 6 Gethsemane. Matthew 26 v 36
- 7 Peter and John. Acts 3 v 7 and Paul Acts 14 vv 8 - 10
- 8 Paul, Aquila and Priscilla. Acts 18 vv 2 - 3
- 9 Two - Vineyard - Matthew 21 vv 28 - 32 & Prodigal Son - Luke 15 vv 11 - 32
- 10 Aeneas. Acts 9 v 33.



Traidcraft Sale

Teresa Ely (686807)



**Friday May 4th 10am - 9pm and Saturday May 5th 10am - 5pm, 34
Bellencroft Gardens, Wolverhampton**

As you may know I have been selling Traidcraft for 28 years, and, as you do know, we are moving in August. The time has come to lighten the load and clear the cupboard. So I will be holding a Craft, Jewellery and Card Sale – and all my stock of craft, jewellery and card items will be half price. This is your chance to get a really good bargain and make my life easier! Please do come along and bring a friend. (N.B. This does not mean that Traidcraft or the producers get any less. All the goods have been paid for and any surplus I make will be given to Traidcraft or Traidcraft Exchange.) There will also be a small food stall with items at normal price, and refreshments will be served – profits will go to Christian Aid. We look forward to seeing you then.

New Stewards Needed!

Bernard Davis

New stewards are required at Springdale for May 2012. Do you want to serve Jesus and the church at Springdale in a special and vital way? Do you want to grow in your faith? Then come and join a team of dedicated Christians: the Church Stewards - we have a sense of humour and are very supportive. **God may be calling you!**

Please pray that some church members will seriously consider God's call and be willing to undertake a four year commitment as a Church Steward. I have literature which explains what being a church steward entails. You will NOT be left in the dark to muddle through. Any steward will be prepared to discuss the role and responsibilities of the commitment with you.

Yours in Christ.

Directions for Singing

John Wesley



That this part of Divine Worship may be the more acceptable to God, as well as the more profitable to yourself and others, be careful to observe the following directions.

I. Learn *these* Tunes before you learn any others; afterwards learn as many as you please.

II. Sing them exactly as they are printed here, without altering or mending them at all; and if you have learned to sing them otherwise, unlearn it as soon as you can.

III. Sing *All*. See that you join with the congregation as frequently as you can. Let not a slight degree of weakness or weariness hinder you. If it is a cross to you, take it up and you will find a blessing.

IV. Sing *lustily* and with good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half dead, or half asleep; but lift up your voice with strength. Be no more afraid of your voice now, nor more ashamed of its being heard, than when you sung the songs of *Satan*.

V. Sing *modestly*. Do not bawl, so as to be heard above or distinct from the rest of the congregation, that you may not destroy the harmony; but strive to unite your voices together, so as to make one clear melodious sound.

VI. Sing in *Time*: whatever time is sung, be sure to keep with it. Do not run before nor stay behind it; but attend closely to the leading voices, and move therewith as exactly as you can. And take care you sing not *too slow*. This drawling way naturally steals on all who are lazy; and it is high time to drive it out from among us, and sing all our tunes just as quick as we did at first.

VII. Above all sing *spiritually*. Have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing him more than yourself, or any other creature. In order to this attend strictly to the sense of what you sing, and see that your *Heart* is not carried away with the sound, but offered to God continually; so shall your singing be such as the *Lord* will approve of here, and reward when he cometh in the clouds of heaven.

Want to Beat Stress?

Jackie Neilson

Join a choir and sing! A recent Swedish study reported that singing releases feel-good hormones associated with reducing stress and lowering blood pressure. When we sing it reduces stress hormones, apparently.

Ecumenical Choir

Jackie Neilson

The Ecumenical Choir meets each Wednesday at Penn United Reformed Church, 7.30 to 9.00pm. If anyone is interested, please come and join us - you will be made very welcome and have great fun. We are presenting a concert Friday 18th May, 2012, a mixture of songs, some hymns and The Pirates of Penn.

Lent

Bernard Davis

“Mr Smith I need you!” This is what Sarah Jane says in ‘The Sarah Jane Adventures’ which I have sometimes watched with my grandson James. Sarah Jane and her teenage helpers are often in deep trouble and they turn to Mr Smith, a super-duper computer, for help. Who do you turn to when things go drastically wrong? I turn to Jesus and say, “Jesus, Lord I need you!” Like Jesus we are all tempted, and in Lent we try to focus on improving our relationship with God.

If I am tempted to be unkind to someone I say to myself, “How can you say you love God whom you cannot see, if you do not love the person whom you can see?” The person can be anybody of course - wife, son, daughter, church member, friend, stranger and so on.

Let us all strive to build up our relationships with true Christian love not only during Lent but always.

A Day Visit to Venice

Jackie Neilson



When we visited in October the weather was temperate, dry and sunny. We took the train from Verona, a journey of roughly one and half hours. The train was crowded but the four of us managed to find a seat, although we were all scattered in the carriage. I like people watching, and was fascinated looking and listening, even though I couldn't understand the language. I sat by three young girls. The two, obviously Italian and fashionably dressed, sat next to, and opposite me, smiling and chatting merrily; the one diagonal, of Chinese origin, was talking on her mobile phone, with no hint of a smile. She then took out of her bag a book with Chinese symbols and began to read. People passed frequently en-route to the next carriage and the time passed quickly with the coming and going of different people as the ever-changing scenery whizzed by.

Arriving at Venice over the causeway was a special moment. Rail and road traffic are side by side. Gliding along the track our train passed Mestre station. People on the train were taking pictures as Venice appeared in the distance. As we travelled closer Venice appeared to float in a great sea (actually The Great Lagoon) -I can see why it is so special and unique. Arriving at St. Lucia's Station, we stepped off the train and to the exit door. WOW! The Grand Canal was there, below,down about 20 steps. The sun was shining and people were strolling along the waters edge. We crossed the bridge to catch the water taxi to St. Mark's Square.

The boat was crowded but all of us managed to take some pictures of lovely buildings lining each side of the canal. Lots of them have been meticulously restored to their former glory, many need plenty of restoration, and some are being renovated. I've never seen traffic like it, well boat traffic. There must be a water highway code but boats whizz around at high speed from all directions, i.e. water taxis, gondolas, and speed boats.

Not forgetting, that the smaller craft appear from the little side canals too. One assumes that the wash from the boats must do damage to the buildings over a period of time. I know there have been boats using it

for a long time but the volume of FAST traffic must be more damaging.

Arriving at our destination we ate our lunch, pestered by cheeky pigeons after scraps of food. Strolling along the canal, over bridges. up and down steps, in and out of back streets and courtyards was fascinating. Tucked so close together one assumes communities “get on”. It was very clean walking along; however graffiti could be seen in various places. There were plenty of lovely shops and cafes. The Bridge of Sighs was being renovated so not the most photogenic place to see (and small too). Shops lined each side of The Rialto Bridge. Gondoliers relaxing in various locations awaiting tourists. People of all ages and nationalities walking around, but you could get around easily. I bet its’ more challenging high summer, and festival times. We noticed the crowds denser and realised a cruise boat had docked. Refreshments were enjoyed mid-afternoon - lemon tea and delicious cake - a great reviver.

We took another trip down to St. Mark’s in the late afternoon. It was still busy with people. The sunset was spectacular. Whilst enjoying this event the cruise ship was leaving The Lagoon. It was huge, being towed out by large ships which looked like toy models in comparison. The people just stopped to watch. I can see why painters and photographers enthuse at the changing light, obviously sharp at midday but afternoon and early evening subtle light and rich colours. The gold leaf scenes depicted on St. Mark’s has a special luminosity as the sun sets. At this time still plenty of folks wandering around. We enjoyed a meal at a restaurant off the Grand Canal. The proprietor spoke good English, (had spent time in London), and directed us to the railway station. It was of course dark so we had another view of Venice before we left bathed in lights, reflections in the canal, people eating alfresco, and us walking over the new bridge. Boarding the train for our return journey to Verona, it was lovely to relax after a busy, but memorable day.

Apostle

£230 in aid of Komera (and choir funds) was raised by the Circuit Choir when they performed Apostle by Roger Jones at Wombourne and Wednesfield.

West Midlands Safari Park

Jackie Neilson



I'd never been to the West Midlands Safari Park. However, last week I actually visited the place, on a cold, sunny day. Being "The Winter Safari" period I was surprised because the place was quite busy with families. I delighted in the four mile drive through the enclosures. The big cats are awesome, so close for you to see, readily posing for some lovely pictures. (Well you need to take your camera, don't you!) The white lions, a dozen of them, were scattered around the enclosure quietly relaxing, and belying their strength and ferocity. I was captivated watching some lionesses stroll in front of our stationery car. They're magical to watch with the sun shining on them. Not far away, distanced from his females, the male lion standing proud, mane displayed, surveying his surroundings. Further on, the cheetahs are impressive - lean creatures with their enormous shoulders and long legs. They have strikingly, beautiful markings on their fur and facial features. Five of them were marching up and down, with their eyes and ears constantly on alert.

The safari includes lots of deer - small, large, spotted, plain, antlered or not, and some even wearing "socks". Camel, cattle, elephants, wolves, wild dogs, rhinos, giraffes and zebras, Bengal tigers, and white tigers - they're all here. It's good to see them wandering in their large enclosures. The animals seemed relaxed in their environment, much better than a zoo.

Reptiles and some fish, and penguins can be seen in the African Village complex after the safari. Callum the sea-lion was on top form performing his tricks for his keeper. The new penguin enclosure with the Humboldt penguins was a big attraction. You can see them swimming and diving underwater in their glass-lined pool.

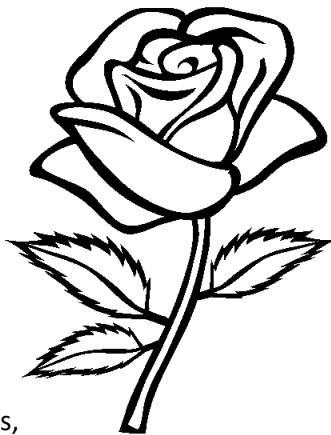
It's a wonderful place to visit for children and adults. I can't wait to go again. Oh, by the way, I must mention birds. There were scores of seagulls, crows and magpies all foraging around for seed and food scraps - very opportunistic!

I know these animals belong in other countries but the care, and breeding programmes in place will allow us and further generations to see these wonderful animals for many years to come. Some species are at risk or vulnerable in their native locations due to development and change in habitat, or at risk from bounty hunters. The white tiger is unlikely to breed in the wild but is being nurtured here. It is a thrill to see, immense and strong with its striking markings. I noticed the Bengal tigers here as well. They must be new arrivals as they are in a quarantine area. These wonderful creatures have black, brown and white markings. Truly magnificent, they are the ones you used to see on the Esso petrol advert racing through the snow!

Lent

Ann Lewin

Lent is a time to learn to travel
Light, to clear the clutter
From our crowded lives, and
Find a space, a desert.
Deserts are bleak; no creature
Comforts, only a vast expanse of
Stillness, sharpening awareness of
Ourselves and God.
Uncomfortable places, deserts.
Most of the time we're tempted to
Avoid them, finding good reasons to
Live lives of ease; cushioned by
Noise from self-discovery,
Clutching at world's success
To stave off fear.
But if we dare to trust the silence,
To strip away our false security,
God can begin to grow his wholeness in us,
Fill up our emptiness, destroy our fears,
Give us new vision, courage for the journey,
And make our desert bloom like a rose.



Prayer of St Richard

Bishop of Chichester, 1245 - 1253

Thanks be to Thee,
My Lord Jesus Christ,
For all the benefits which
Thou hast given me,
For all the pains and insults
Which Thou hast borne for me.

O most merciful Redeemer,
Friend and Brother,
May I know Thee more clearly,
Love Thee more dearly,
And follow Thee more nearly.

Amen

To all our friends at
Springdale, Wombourne
and Gospel Ash,

Phil and Jo Summers are
delighted to announce
the marriage of Eleanor
to Amit Childs. The
wedding will take place
at 2pm on Saturday 30th
June, 2012, at Bow Road
Methodist Church, London.
We ask for your prayers
of blessing as we celebrate
this happy occasion.

With love, Phil & Jo

Deadline for the next edition of Triangle is

Sunday 20 May, 2012

**Please would all stewards, pastoral secretaries, etc., etc.
make a note in their diaries so as not to miss this deadline.**

Thank you.

Remember! No photocopies! Please check copyright and gain permission
where necessary! Email if you can - it makes things so much easier!

Please hand in your articles directly, or via your stewards, to **Helen Cooper**
Alternatively, follow the link on the Springdale website in the "contacts"
section (www.springdalechurch.org.uk) or just email to
[triangle\[at\]springdalechurch.org.uk](mailto:triangle[at]springdalechurch.org.uk)