

Life & Work

Number 91 Spring 2007

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Local Preachers

1980 Deacon Ruth Hinch
1984 Mr R K Lolley
1986 Mrs P Goacher
1991 Mrs E Waller
1994 Ms J Aitchison

Local Preacher on Note

Miss Hannah Goacher

The International Students' Club



ISC is club that is organised and run by Christians from different churches in Leeds and by the Chaplains at the two Universities in Leeds. It meets at the Emmanuel Centre near the main entrance to the University of Leeds campus.

ISC was set up 20 years ago by St George's Church and is a place where students of all nationalities and faiths can make friends, practise their English and optionally have the opportunity to study the bible and find out more about Christianity.

We meet every Wednesday throughout the year (except around Christmas) starting at 6 o'clock with refreshments and with a social/cultural programme starting at 6.45. The optional bible studies take place at 8.00 and last about an hour There is an 'Explorers' bible study and an 'Intermediate' one.

Our Vision and Aim is to share God's love through friendship and hospitality, and by offering the Word of God.

It is exciting to see so many people from such a range of backgrounds, nationalities and faiths come to the club. People who come from countries where the gospel is not readily available, or cannot be preached, have the opportunity to find out more about Christ and are especially open and ask challenging questions about our faith.

Oxford Place Anniversary 2007

Sunday, 6th May

10.30am Morning Worship

Preacher

The Rt Revd John Packer
Bishop of Ripon and Leeds
The service will be followed by a
Church Family lunch at 12.30

It is especially satisfying to see students who become Christians get to know Jesus personally and grow in their faith. Several students have given their lives to Jesus and have been such a blessing, particularly as they in turn pass on the message of the gospel to their friends and families. Some students have gone on to serve and help out at the club, either by helping set-up or serve refreshments and clearing up, but some have gone on to facilitate

(Continued on page 4)

Let's talk



The Methodist Conference is inviting all members of the church to engage in a conversation with it. The topic of this conversation concerns the special decisions made in 1993 when the Methodist Conference, at its meeting in Derby, considered how the church was to respond to the question of human sexuality. Those decisions have become known as *The Derby Resolutions* and there are six of them.

The *Soundings Paper*, which contains a copy of these resolutions and the invitation for us to think about them, is included as a separate paper inserted in this edition of *Life and Work*. It really is important that we understand what it is that we are being asked to do. The invitation is addressed to us all, as individuals and as a group. The first thing that we are being asked to do is to read the *Resolutions*. Having read them, we are being invited to talk to each other about them. The topic of our conversation is whether, in the light of significant changes that have taken place in law and society since 1993, these *Resolutions* adequately express what we, as the Methodist Church in Britain, wish to say.

The Methodist Conference is asking us to decide whether the *Derby Resolutions* need to be revised, or left unchanged. We are being invited to give reasons for whatever answer we give. If we conclude that the *Resolutions* do need revising, then we are being invited not only to indicate why, but also how.

It is important to recognise in reading the *Resolutions*, and engaging in a conversation about them, that they are about the whole spectrum of human sexuality. They are not simply about homosexuality although, of course, that was the issue which prompted the original discussion and which continues to be the focus of diverse opinions.

In considering the *Resolutions* and talking about whether they need to be changed, or not, we need to keep in mind the effect that they have upon the life of the church and the lives of men and women within the church. Read in a certain light, without further information, one can conclude that the *Resolutions* are adequate and acceptable as an expression of what the Methodist Church wants to say. Indeed, it could be argued that it is these *Resolutions* that has prevented the Methodist Church in Britain having the divisive rows that have taken place in other Churches. It could also be argued that the *Resolutions* have simply meant that we have not dealt with the issues. A further issue that needs to be considered is the effect that the *Derby Resolutions* have upon the mission of the Church. Do these *Resolutions* enable God's mission in the world or do they create places and situations where we may not go and to which we cannot respond?

I extend to you all an invitation to come together and talk about these things. I am aware that some people prefer to meet together during the day and others, who are busy during the day, can only meet in the evening.

Consequently, I am offering two opportunities to meet, both on the same day. Please come and take part in this important conversation!

Blessings abound!

Apnan

Two opportunities to take part in a conversation about the

Derby Resolutions

Thursday

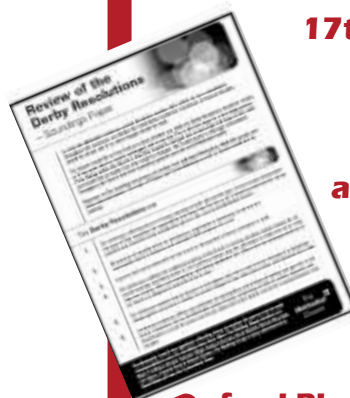
17th May 2007

at

10.30am

and also at

7.30pm



Oxford Place Methodist Church

This quarters inserts:

- The Derby Resolutions Soundings Paper
- The Quarterly Prayer Diary

If either of these are missing, please ask for a copy at the Church Office

The Editor welcomes contributions from anyone with an interest in or concern for any aspect of the life and work of Oxford Place Centre and Leeds Methodist Mission.

Submissions should reach the Editor (see back page) at least two weeks before the last Sunday of the month preceding publication or in the case of the Winter issue at least two weeks before the Sunday which precedes Christmas Eve.

Summer deadline: 10th June 2007

Our Church Family and Friends

We celebrate

- the 63rd Wedding Anniversary of Laurie and Marjorie Kirk

We congratulate

- Ken and Gwen Pridmore on the arrival of their granddaughter Emma, a second daughter for David and Alison
- Tom and Pauline Delamere (née Whewell) on the arrival of their granddaughter, Lily, daughter of Christopher and Carolyn
- Evelyn Britton on the arrival of her great granddaughter, Alice, daughter of Jenny and Lyle.
- Rob and Val Lolley on the arrival of their grandson, Daniel, son of Emma and Phil

We remember

- Evelyn Harrison who died on 6th March 2007
- Ronald Goacher who died on 9th March 2007



Adrian (second from left) in a discussion group at the Methodist City Centre Network Conference (Story on page 4)

Visiting Preachers

This quarter on Sunday 15th April our preacher will be John Witt. John is a local preacher in the Leeds North East Circuit and is the National Advocate for the *Leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust* (LWPT) for the year 2006-7. LWPT is the successor organisation to LPMA (*Local Preachers' Mutual Aid*). John is well known throughout the Leeds District for his energetic and dedicated support of LPMA over many years.



For our Anniversary Service at 10.30am on Sunday, 7th May we welcome the Bishop of Ripon and Leeds, the Right Reverend John Packer, who will preach the sermon.

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The International Students' Club

(Continued from page 1)

bible studies as well. There are also people in club who have been serving a long time, even since the start of the club 20 years ago, and are faithfully serving and befriending students and encouraging the younger helpers too.

Quite a few students will visit a church for the first time in their lives through contacts made at the club. Some, who have come over the years, have yet to accept

Culture Shock

At the beginning of each academic year the club puts a short dramatic play called **Culture Shock** which highlights in a light-hearted but serious way some of the differences encountered by the newcomer to Britain.

Christ, but they feel at home at the club and come for friendship, a place to relax and be themselves.

Clara Ong
ISC Team Leader



A Personal Story

Some time ago an international student arrived at the Chaplaincy just when I was about to leave. She told me that her name was Sandra and that originally she came from Brazil although she now lived in Australia with her American husband who was visiting Leeds University for a month.

I welcomed her and invited her to the International Students Club which was meeting the following day. The program for the Club evening was to make international flags to decorate the upstairs meeting space in the Chaplaincy at Emmanuel Centre. Sandra was one of the most keen students to start planning and painting her Brazilian flag with fabric colours. We got about ten flags on the way before the evening finished.

The following weeks Sandra continued to come to the Club and enjoyed the varied programs. Later, she also finished painting her Brazilian flag and it was one of the first ones to be put on display.

When Sandra came to the Club for the last time she wanted to thank everybody and said that when she came to Leeds she felt lonely and in the International Students Club she found her home.

Seija Frears
Lutheran Chaplain and
Chaplain to International Students



Mavis Freeman, who can be seen in the picture on the front page (enlarged here), has been a helper at the International Students' Club for many years.

Editor

ISC web site: www.isc.leeds.ac.uk

Methodist City Centre Network Conference.

Leeds Methodist Mission is a recognised city centre church and project. This makes it a member of the Methodist City Centre Network (MCCN). Adrian Burdon and Ken Tait attended the MCCN Conference held at the Hayes Conference Centre at Swanwick in March. The theme of the conference was *Stones, Bones and Mobile Phones*. The main speaker was the Revd Chris Baker, Director of the William Temple Foundation. Chris facilitated discussion about the changing patterns of populations in city centres and how the church might best respond to them

The conference also discussed the report produced by the Anglican Church, *Faithful Cities* and an unplanned question-and-answer session with the Revd Jonathan

Kerry which helped the Network understand where it linked in with the new structures being set up by the Connexion. (Jonathan, who is a Connexional Coordinating Secretary, was present at the Diaconal Convocation that happened to be running alongside the conference at the same venue.)

Although the discussion at the conference was wide-ranging and shared experiences from many town and city centres, it was almost reassuring that no one was offering quick-fix answers to the challenges that result from maintaining a Christian presence in the centres of our towns and cities.

[Photograph on Page 3]

MCCN web site: methodistcitycentrenetwork.org.uk

Emmaus Leeds – our charity of the year

Emmaus Leeds is a charitable business which helps homeless people to help themselves, by providing a home and a supportive working environment.

Over the last six months, through their activities Emmaus Leeds have saved more than 46 tonnes of household used resources, and allowed them to be recycled, instead of going to landfill sites.

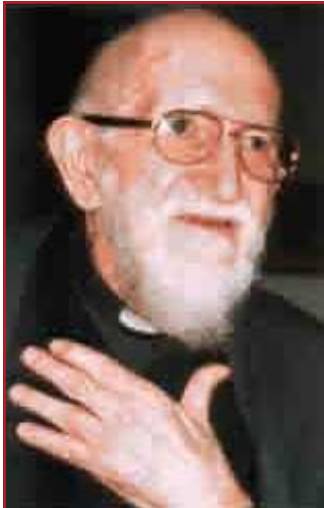
One family who donated a cabinet to Emmaus were so impressed with its restoration that they bought it back on their next visit. A recent venture is making new items from reclaimed materials, and incorporating "new" wood in to damaged or worn furniture. In their role of work in the business, companions have a level of responsibility and trust in the same way as if they were doing a regular job. They are encouraged to think about, and participate in all areas of the business as able, and share new ideas for the company future and success.

During the last few months we have had a large colour poster display about the work at Emmaus Leeds which we are raising funds for. This was not just for our benefit, but also for all those hundreds of other people who enter our premises during the week using the lounge cafe and sharing in the different activities that go on in our buildings. If you missed it, don't worry it will return during the summer.

We hosted the Homelessness Sunday ecumenical service in January when we thought about the theme 'No Home, No Justice'. Our service was led by Father Dan Harrison, with an address from the Rt Revd John Packer, Bishop of Ripon and Leeds, and included a celebration of the work of the Simon Community in Leeds. Around 50 people joined the event.

We have now raised over £600, our first cheque went to Emmaus in January. It seems there has been much serious activity by those with talents for making marmalade, lavender bags, and cakes. There is also evidence for much enjoyment of books, Smarties, and meals! We extend our thanks to the Harwood Singers for their support which raised £100, and all who contributed to our collections at Christmas (£100). The average monthly income is holding to last years level, and there is still more time for ideas and activities. Keep at it!

Paul Berry, Fund-raising Link Person, 2006-2007



The founder of the Emmaus movement, the French priest Abbé Pierre died in January, aged 94. His vision has led to more than 400 communities being established in 39 countries around the world since 1949.

The Emmaus premises are open Monday to Saturday from 9.30am - 5.00pm.

The contact person at Emmaus Leeds is Beth Frankland
Tel: 0113-248 4288

E-mail: emmausleeds@btconnect.com

The registered charity number is 1077790. The Emmaus website is:

<http://www.emmaus.org.uk>

You can select Emmaus Leeds from the list under **Find my nearest Emmaus**, a new website is soon to be launched.

Treasures Revealed

Saturday 5 May to Sunday 13 May 2007



As part of the year-long **Celebrate Leeds 2007** festival, places of worship in and around Leeds are throwing open their doors and inviting you to celebrate the city's rich spiritual heritage. Whether you are interested in art and architecture, history and heritage or concerts and culture you'll find something to interest you during this week of events

and activities.

Oxford Place

Oxford Place will be taking part in this event and we hope to have an exhibition entitled *Living Stones* looking back at the church's history and development.

If you would like to be part of this we shall be needing volunteers to help, especially on Monday, 7 May, and Saturday, 14 May.

There will be more information and publicity coming out nearer the time but if you want to know more you can visit:

www.treasuresrevealed.com

February 2007 was designated, throughout the Methodist Church, as a special month of prayer and action for improved relationships between different religions. *Face to Faith* was instigated



Face to Faith: Praying and acting for good relations between people of different faiths (February 2007)

by the young people of Methodism. Hannah and Pat Goacher led our February Café worship and gave us much to think about on this theme.

But the month is now past. So where do we go from here? As a long-time member of *Concord* may I recommend the group to all who wish to meet with the people of the nine religions involved.

Dr Peter Bell, a Methodist local preacher in Leeds (1910-1999) was the founder of *Concord*.

Most meetings are held in the Beech Room at

Thomas Danby College on Roundhay Road. At the next three meetings the group will be looking at the scriptures of the three Abrahamic faiths and considering their importance for today's faith communities.

- Wednesday 28th March - Judaism
- Wednesday 25th April - Christianity
- Wednesday 30th May - Islam

All the meetings start at 7.00pm and finish by 9.00pm.

On Saturday 5th May there will be a multi-faith 'Walk of Friendship' in Leeds.

Last year's walk in the Hyde Park area visited the Shree Hindu Mandir, All Hallows Church, and finished at the Grand Mosque in Woodsley Road.

Look out for details of this year's walk and other events on our weekly notice sheet.

Concord is closely associated with *Leeds Faiths Forum* which is holding its first conference 'Uniting Women of Faith' on 24 April (10am-4pm : £5). I hope to be there, please join me.

Kath Harwood

Concord

LEEDS INTERFAITH GROUP

Membership costs £7.00
(Concessions £4.00)

An excellent newsletter is sent to members three times a year.

The Annual General Meeting is in June, and the Annual Peace Service in October.

More information is available from the Concord website:

www.concord-leeds.org.uk



Concord Annual Peace Service October 2006

A decade of NMAs

In 2006 the *Nationals in Mission Appointments* programme (NMA), which is funded by the Methodist Fund for World Mission, celebrated its first ten years. The 2006 Annual Report of the Methodist Missionary Society made NMA its focus and printed a number of stories from around the world.

Charlet Soundarajan, Director, Arulagam Hospice (Church of South India) writes:

I was very much inspired by a 14 year old boy ... [who] told me that he did not commit any sin. 'I am suffering from this virus because of my parents...' ... other boys called him a 'bad boy'. ... I held his hand and said '...you are a very good boy.' He immediately gave me a big smile. ... Later he accepted Christ and was baptised. Within a few weeks he became very sick... He died peacefully saying 'he was a very good boy.'

(Continued on page 7)

Our District (Deputy) Chair writes...

During the months of March, April and May, Michael is taking a sabbatical. During this period the Revd John Sadler, the deputy chair of the Leeds District has agreed to write the monthly 'pastoral letter'.

Michael writes...

As you know, sabbaticals are intended to allow ministers and deacons to take a period of time away from their usual responsibilities in order to engage with other things which will enrich their ministries and, ultimately, the life of the Methodist Church. I intend to use this sabbatical in two ways: (i) to undertake some written reflections on the ministry of a District Chair as I have exercised it over the last thirteen years and (ii) to write a basic and introductory book on preaching which has been requested by a publisher.

John writes...

I write this letter in my final year of active ministry and at this time Betty and I are in the process of 'house hunting' in preparation for retirement. Downsizing is a vibrant topic in our conversation, and I sense that I am losing the argument of what I regard essential and must keep. The process of downsizing is common within the church family for which I have pastoral charge, and there is indeed a sensitive pastoral ministry to be exercised in facilitating decisions of what must be kept and what can easily be let go.

One of the objectives of my last sabbatical was to sort out my study, and by that I mean shredding minutes and notes taken at Church Meetings, and also downsizing on the number of books in my library. What does one do with the Minutes of the Methodist Conference kept intact since 1967? What about the rather battered copies of Mr Wesley's Journal referred to occasionally, and sadly gathering dust!

In debating what books I should keep, there is no argument about biblical theology and biblical commentaries. There is no argument about books dealing with spirituality and worship, and books on modern theology perceiving the reality of God in Christ within the context of our complex world. Downsizing is reminding me of how easy it is for ministry to be overwhelmed by the superficial and trivial. Could it be that a living Lord is in the pressures we all feel, urging a refreshing focus on what lies at the heart of vocation

within the church we love.

Jesus travelled light. Disciples were charged 'carry no purse, no bag, no sandals.'

Paul reminds us to 'lay aside every weight ... all that clings let go.' Perhaps the experience of downsizing is a creative challenge to be grasped in the dimension of the sufficiency of grace.

Later, in Lent, John writes...

We would all assent to the view that discipleship heightens our sense of responsibility in both the personal and corporate sense. Following in the steps of Jesus means that we are responsible for each others well being, and also means that we are responsible for the planet on which we live, and for the life it sustains. Our faith journey both moulds and fashions life style. Our life of devotion affirms the sacredness of relationships, and our spirituality helps us decide priorities and values in both life and ministry.

The Gospels make it clear that Jesus was exemplary in bearing the responsibilities of what it means to love, and fulfilling them to the end. There is never a hint of evasion or of forsaking, the latter is left to his disciples. The season of Lent sees us focusing on the core realities of discipleship and the way in which a life of compassion and care was so cruelly hounded to Calvary.

Who indeed was responsible? Certainly Scribe and Pharisee bear some responsibility. Certainly Herod and Pilate bear some responsibility, as does the wider community for failing to probe and question what 'hidden agendas' lay behind the charges brought against Jesus.

On reflection, a good deal of responsibility seems to me to fall on the disciples too. What agenda or motivation lies behind their request to sit 'on the right or left hand of their master'? Was the initial following without reserve coloured by a desire for power rather than for service? Was Passiontide a last ditch attempt to secure status and prestige for themselves?

Responsibility for the ills of our society, where alas the innocent still suffer and the compassionate go unrecognised, rests upon us all. In this season of Lent, we stand, or should it be kneel, before the Cross, acknowledging our evasion of responsibilities in a blaze of forgiving love.

(Continued from page 6)

Katarina Nikolic, Missionary for Community Development in Srobobran, Serbia writes:

The major challenge in this particular work is to break down the barriers between gypsies and other communities, helping them to realise that God is one and is for all people and all nations.

Melchizedek Ouma, Connexional Disability Programme Coordinator (Methodist Church, Kenya) writes:

The majority of mentally disabled persons cannot follow instructions on their own. [One project] has tried to overcome this challenge by bringing together parents of the mentally handicapped, some mentally handicapped persons and volunteers. They collect water-hyacinth, boil it, mash it, sieve it and [produce] a kind of raw paper which they cut to make greeting cards. Then they draw and paint beautiful pictures....

There are other stories from Zimbabwe, Brazil, Macedonia, Colombia, ...

Sundays

April

- 1 **Palm Sunday**
10.30 *Holy Communion*
The Revd Adrian Burdon
Mrs Liz Waller
- 8 **Easter Day**
8.30 *Holy Communion*
10.30 *Holy Communion*
The Revd Adrian Burdon
Miss Hannah Goacher
Mr Rob Lolley
- 6.30 *Taizé for Easter*
- 15 **Easter 2**
10.30 Mr Rob Lolley
Mr John Witt
4.00 *Café Worship*
Deacon Ruth Hinch
- 22 **Easter 3**
10.30 The Revd Nick Baker
Mrs Pat Goacher
- 29 **Easter 4**
10.30 Miss Hannah Goacher
Mr Rob Lolley

May

- 6 **Anniversary Sunday**
10.30 *Holy Communion*
The Revd Adrian Burdon
The Rt Revd John Packer,
Bishop of Ripon and Leeds
- 13 **Easter 6**
10.30 *Holy Communion*
The Revd Adrian Burdon
Deacon Ruth Hinch
- 6.30 *Taizé-style Service*
The Revd Pat Creamer
- 20 **Aldersgate Sunday**
10.30 The Revd Philip Bee
Miss Hannah Goacher
Mr Rob Lolley
4.00 *Café Worship*
The Revd Adrian Burdon
- 27 **Pentecost**
10.30 The Revd Adrian Burdon
Deacon Ruth Hinch

June

- 3 **Trinity Sunday**
10.30 Mrs Pat Goacher
- 10 **Ordinary 10**
10.30 *Holy Communion*
Mr Rob Lolley
Mrs Liz Waller
6.30 *Taizé-style Service*
The Revd Adrian Burdon
- 17 **Ordinary 11**
10.30 The Revd Philip Bee
The Revd Pat Creamer
4.00 *Café Worship*
The Revd Adrian Burdon
- 26 **Ordinary 12**
10.30 Mrs Pat Goacher
Mr Rob Lolley

The 10.30 Sunday Service is for all ages. On most Sundays the Junior Church go to their own session for part of the time. Tea and Coffee are served after the service.

Weekdays

April

- 4 10.45am Person to Person Meeting
- 5 2.00pm Lounge Café closes until 10.00am 16 April
7.30pm Maundy Thursday Communion Service
- 6 2.15pm Good Friday Meditation
- 16 10.00am Lounge Café re-opens
- 30 7.30pm Pastoral Committee

May

- 6 10.30am Anniversary Weekend
- 7 Treasures Revealed Exhibition
- 12
- 10 7.30pm Oxford Place Management Committee
- 12 Synod - Morley Circuit
- 25 2.00pm Lounge Café closes until 10.00am 30 May
- 30 10.00am Lounge Café re-opens

June

- 6 10.45am Person to Person Meeting
- 7 7.30pm Street Pastors' Information Meeting
- 22 2.00pm Harwood Summer Concert
- 25 7.30pm Team Meeting

Weekday Worship at Oxford Place

Wednesday 12.30pm
Service of Holy Communion

All meetings at Oxford Place unless otherwise stated

Church General Meeting

Sunday, 10th June 2007

More details will be available nearer the time.

Looking forward...

July

- 1 10.30am World Church Sunday - Deacon Seija Frears & The Revd Adrian Burdon
- 10 10.30am Women's World Day of Prayer
- 20 7.30pm Farewell Service for the Revd Michael Townsend at St Anne's Cathedral
- 31 2.00pm Lounge Café closes until 10.00am 3 Sept

August

- 28 7.30pm Welcome Service for the Revd Liz Smith (New Leeds District Chair) at Batley Central

September

- 3 10.00am Lounge Café re-opens
- 8 Synod - Ashville College (Harrogate)
- 12 9.30am Staff Awayday at Hinsley Hall
- 18 10.00am District Superintendents' Meeting at Oxford Place
- 23 10.30am Harvest Festival
The Revd Rachel Parkinson & Mrs Liz Waller
- 30 10.30am Reflections on Urban Life - Nigel Greenwood

The Thursday Group meets on alternate Thursdays in members' homes. Further details are available from Marjorie Cossey or Peter Gambles in the Church Office.