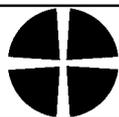


# The Message

September 2006

The quarterly magazine of the Bolton Methodist Mission

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THE VICTORIA HALL  
BOLTON METHODIST MISSION

*Seeking to serve ... God, people, the community, the town in partnership with others*

*Member of Christians Together in Bolton Town Centre*

## Superintendent's prologue

### Faithful Cities, A Call for Celebration, Vision & Justice

It was twenty years since a report from the Church of England, 'Faith in the City', started a political debate on urban life in 1980s Britain. Much has changed within our cities and large towns since that report. Physically there has been dramatic change, as well as change in the make up of people who live within cities.

Between 2004 and 2006, the Church began a new inquiry into urban life chaired by the Rev'd Baroness Richardson, a former President of the Methodist Conference. The report of this inquiry makes both exciting and challenging reading for any Church like ourselves engaged in work within a large town or city.

The report recognises the importance of the Church being at the heart of the city and contributing to its life in significant ways. 'We call upon the Church to make a fierce commitment to staying in the urban communities of our nation and to contribute in every way possible to the flourishing of our cities. We want people of faith to contribute their distinctive values in nurturing a physical and spiritual environment which makes a good city and which promotes the deep wellbeing of its citizens.'



The report highlights what it calls the offer of 'faithful capital' which suggests that people are enriched not only by what they have or can do but also by their web of relationships and participation in civic life. The Christian faith offers this sense of well being, nurturing a moral sense in people. At the heart of our faith we

recognise the need for personal and collective transformation, the love for our neighbour, the care for the stranger, and the importance of human dignity and social justice. If we practice what we preach then we have a great deal to offer to our towns and cities throughout the fabric of all its life.

The report looks in detail at the importance of the churches' involvement within the wider community, in offering programmes to be alongside the most vulnerable, and to offering a prophetic



voice in regeneration programmes. It highlights the needs of asylum seekers and refugees and what the Church can and should offer to those who

are desperate in these circumstances, as well as highlighting how leaders of the Church should be involved in the agendas of local government and the development of social policy.

One of the significant questions that it asks is why is it that young people in Britain, the fourth largest economy in the world are among the most depressed in Europe? Why is it that despite year after year of economic growth, as a society we are no happier?

The answers, the report suggests, may be found in the growing recognition that factors beyond material wealth are essential for human happiness. The report highlights that we need: fulfilled and secure relations in personal life; relations to create good community life; good health, especially mental health; and a philosophy of life that has a faith which includes a commitment to something beyond serving our own individual needs.

I find the report is encouraging us as a Church here in the centre of Bolton to continue in the direction that we are travelling. I take great encouragement from the fact that many of the ways that the report challenges the church as highlighted above, are challenges that we are trying to take on board through the work of our projects and chaplaincies, through involvement at local government level and in the redevelopment programme of the town centre.

I am deeply encouraged that such a study sets out to reflect upon the challenge God is making to the Church and the nation to come up with a vision for urban life in which the Church plays a vital and central role. That is the continuing challenge to our work here at Victoria Hall as we continue to seek out God's purpose and play our part the renewal of our town.



*God Bless you. Phil Mason, Superintendent Minister*

The wagon train, comprising thirty-five people, wended its way to Crossens Methodist Church in Southport during the Summer. A



*Southport, home of the flower show and destination for the Wagon Train*

lovely tea was provided by the members at Southport and there was a talk about those who had influenced people most. There was a time to remember the many who regularly took part in the Wagon Train who were not there.



## Dictionary corner

Expand your vocabulary of less common words used in theology and hymnody:

**Scriptural holiness** For John Wesley, the leader of the first Methodists, 'Scriptural Holiness' is a search, a process or, to use a common word from contemporary spirituality, a journey. It is a journey from new birth to spiritual maturity, from sinfulness to perfection, from 'original sin' through 'justification by faith' to 'entire sanctification. (Rev Dr Stephen B Dawes, The Spirituality of 'Scriptural Holiness', A paper for The European Methodist Theological Commission.

**Anathema** *noun* 1. something that one vehemently dislikes 2. a formal curse of the church, excommunicating a person or denouncing a doctrine.

**Liturgy** *noun* a form according to which public religious worship is conducted.

### Methodist Conference Round-up

- Commended a resource considering the ethics of modern warfare: *Peacemaking: A Christian Vocation* aims to help Christians reflect on Jesus' call to be peacemakers, love our enemies and pray for our persecutors.
- Voted for the Church to draw up guidelines on how to engage with corporations or activities that support illegal Israeli activity in the West Bank or Gaza strip companies, with disinvestments as the ultimate sanction.
- Allowed Ministers to offer informal, private prayers to same sex couples.
- Asked to consider supporting a lowering of the number of weeks before which an abortion can be carried out and agreed to keep abreast of any proposals to change the legislation.
- Noted that the past concept of deterrence is no longer relevant in the current international context. There are clearly questions as to whether nuclear weapons will offer the best option for future security.

## BRASS Open Day

Saturday 16th September from 10.00 until 4.00

showcasing asylum seeker support work, entertainment including clowns, music, drumming, food from around the world  
and  
Bolton Hoover Brass Band Concert

Thank you to Fiona Key for hosting the Family Barbeque in July 2006. A few people followed the treasure hunt, but then all were royally entertained by Jack Key, dressed as the host waiter. There was a singing competition and some went swimming in the Key's pool. The weather was fantastic and the views across the valley were brilliant.

## Sayings of Jesus of Nazareth No. 10

My words shall never pass away; they are Spirit and they are life.  
Mark 13 v31 and John 6 v63.

Science and Religion are both about uncertainty – it's when they become certain that they become dangerous. Professor Robert Winston, presenter of the BBC Series, The Story of God.



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**Whatever...! Church launches consultation on what young people want.**

The Methodist Church has launched a major consultation into what young people and children want from the Church and how it can improve its work in this area. The 'Future Present' consultation will run from the Summer until November, and children, young people, parents, youth workers and even older people are invited to contribute! Copies of the consultation document are available from [www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=news.content&cmid=1263](http://www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=news.content&cmid=1263), or by email from [futurepresent@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:futurepresent@methodistchurch.org.uk).

**Methodist Relief and Development (MRDF) celebrated 21 years as a registered charity.**

New President of the Methodist Conference the Revd. Graham Carter marked the event at the Methodist Conference in June by blowing out the candles on a 'virtual' birthday cake. Conference representatives then tucked into a giant chocolate cake, made with Fairtrade ingredients, ensuring farmers in poor countries are paid a fair and reliable price for their crops.

**New virtual worshipping community.** Just two years after the virtual doors swung shut on the world's first online church, a new worshipping community, St Pixels, officially re-opened on Tuesday 13 June 2006- with plans to go 3D this Autumn. Created by UK Christian webzine [www.shipoffools.com](http://www.shipoffools.com), St Pixels will be sponsored by the Methodist Church of Great Britain.

**Aid targets bill.** The Methodist Church has thrown its support behind a Bill that commits the UK to its international aid targets. The International Development Bill, introduced by Tom Clark MP, would require the Government to spend 0.7% of gross national income on overseas aid and to report to Parliament annually on its aid record.

Llanishen Methodist Church in Cardiff has designed and created a Quiet Garden along the lines laid down by the Quiet Garden Trust. It is a place of stillness and rest, located in the grounds of the church and took three years to develop, working through Churches Together. People can use the garden every day during daylight hours.



## **Call to discipleship**

*Extracts from the address of Rev'd Graham Carter, President of Conference 2006, to the Methodist Conference in Edinburgh.*

I want to challenge all of us in the Methodist Church to take seriously what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. I want to challenge congregations to take seriously their responsibility to support one another in their discipleship.

Often in challenging people, we have implied that the best way to be committed is to take up some church office, or teach in the Junior Church, or, if you're really committed, become a presbyter or deacon. This is nonsense! Christ calls all his people to serve him with the whole of their lives. Discipleship is about how you live at work, in your family, in your community; it's about your politics, your shopping habits and your use of resources; it's about your understanding of human relationships in a personal, community and global setting.

For God's rule (what we call the kingdom) is not about the Church, but the whole of life in this world. The Gospels tell us that Jesus proclaimed that the kingdom was here, and Luke records how, in his sermon in the synagogue in Nazareth, Jesus used the text from Isaiah, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me." This is not a narrowly "religious" manifesto; it is a social and political manifesto. It's about the whole of life, not just one section of it. And we don't do enough to help each other live out that manifesto. How much support do you get from your congregation to help you in your day to day decisions and challenges at work and in the community? What support do you get in making those day to day compromises that we all have to make, living and working in non-Christian situations? Pious platitudes from the pulpit are not enough. Generalisations in house group discussions are not enough. We need practical support for living in a complex world.

John Wesley said, "There is no holiness but social holiness." Holi-

ness is about our relationships one with another, both within the Christian community and beyond it. Christian Holiness is not about personal piety. Personal piety may well be a route to holiness that some of us take, but in the end holiness is about living the kingdom in the practicalities of our lives; seeking to express in what we do the way that God wants us to live. It is about involving ourselves in



*Rev'd Graham Carter, President of the Methodist Conference*

action, seeking to develop an expression of the kingdom in our community, nation and world. It is about being committed to God's righteousness and justice in the world in which we live.

In order to achieve the discipleship we are called to, we need each other. And we need each other in a special way. John Wesley knew the importance of accountability. The meetings of his classes, as well as to raise money, were to check on the progress of people's discipleship.

We have to stop making people feel guilty about what they can or cannot believe because unless we do, people are not going to grow in their faith. We all have to start from where we are and not where we're told we should be. Only starting honestly from where we are, with all our doubts and uncertainties and journeying with each other, will faith grow. The Christian pilgrimage is not so much about what you believe, it's a matter of who you journey with.

I call upon Methodists everywhere to devote themselves to committed and responsible discipleship, become a subversive Christian community once again and live the Kingdom.

 *Pray that Graham's call to discipleship will resonate throughout Methodism.*

*Graham Carter*  
9

## **The three W's**

*Extracts from the address of Mr Dudley Coates, Vice-President of Conference 2006, to the Methodist Conference in Edinburgh.*

My first 'w' is the world. John's gospel does not say that God so loved me, or that God so loved Christians, or even that God so loved humankind that he gave his Son. 'God so loved the world'. And the word 'world' or 'cosmos' means the whole created order. It is profoundly important, but easily forgotten, that God came in the person of Jesus to the whole created order not just to me or to you. The implications of this central Christian belief are stupendous. But I want to make just one central point about this world to which Jesus came and within which he lived and died. The creation may, as Paul says in Romans, be groaning. It is certainly complex and messy; and it is in important ways fundamentally uncertain. And it was into that complexity and mess and uncertainty that Jesus came.

If the gospel is to be incarnated in this generation then it must speak to people in a messy and complex and uncertain world.

My second 'w' is worship. Worship is the heart of what it is to be church. We are called to worship in spirit and in truth. Above all worship is for God. This is a profoundly important, but easily forgotten, point. Let me repeat it: worship is for God, not for us. Calvin used illustrations from the theatre and said that in worship we are all on the stage and God is the audience. I have never forgotten that essential point. I believe that all of us need to remember much more often that worship is not ours, indeed it is not even for us. It is for God. I am convinced that the church would be enriched if those who share the awesome responsibility of leading worship were to remember that central point Sunday by Sunday.

Above all, through our worship and in our worship we need to teach about the living God and the excitement which comes from follow-

ing the One who was born into a messy, complex and uncertain world.

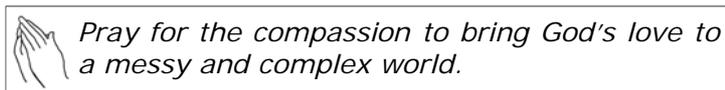
We need to become much more visible, literally and metaphorically. We need to take risks. We need to make our churches into places where we are visibly about things spiritual rather than places where people turn faith into a package of propositions and rules.



*Dudley Coates, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference*

We need to start where we are, with our doubts and uncertainties, for complexity and mess and uncertainty are at the heart of what it is to be human. We need to make places where people can talk freely about the spiritual dimension of their everyday lives and about the issues which arise from current events and issues. We need to make places where people have the confidence to express a tentative faith; where people of other faiths and of none can explore what it means to talk spiritually and to think theologically. We need to make space for the missing generations, many of whom have real spiritual

and theological questions but whose stories we too often don't want to hear. We need to make places where everybody's stories are valued and where people share stories, even quite private ones, with one another. We need to make places where people understand that what we are about is living out God's mission to the world not just making more people like us. We need to find again in this generation ways of being a truly pilgrim church, not keeping the message in but taking it out. Above all we need to build places where all are really welcome.



*Dudley Coates*

## The trip to Pinetown Methodist Church

Having arrived in South Africa a day before the main party, we went to Durban Airport to meet the others with Rob Coombe, a South African youth worker from Pinetown Methodist Church, only to find they had missed their flight! We waited around trying to get them on another flight and eventually a lot of hard work got eleven to Durban Airport just three hours later. The other four came a lot later on!

On the first day we went to Ushaka marine world. Here we saw lots of different fish and other sea creatures. We even saw a diver feed some squid to turtles– this was really cool. Then we went to see a dolphin show (Naomi Kane got soaked as she volunteered to be splashed by the dolphins!) and seal pantomime. That afternoon we went to 'Wet'n'Wild' (the water park in Ushaka). We all went on loads of rides and had a great time. It was then back home to meet our hosts – some of us for the first time. Later that night we met up again and went to the evening youth service – which was different (jumping on pews and in the aisle!)



*The nineteen people who went to Pinetown*

On Monday all the group, bar us Wrights, went on a safari. As we were staying on (and would be going to Kruger Safari Park), we went to the John Wesley School instead. Here we were assigned to different jobs – Hannah went in



*On Safari in Hluhluwe Safari Park*

a special needs class and I went into pre-school. Ruth and Susan spent the day backing books in the library – not what they had expected I think. We were all apparently a great help and when we arrived the next day they were again happy to see us. This time Susan asked if Ruth could go and help me in pre-school so she was the only one left with the boring job! We all had a two great days and bonded well with the children.



*Our girls leading worship through dance*



*Pinetown Methodist Church*

On Wednesday, we visited Bergtheil Museum which was all about old South Africa. It was quite interesting, but small, so it only took us about one hour to look round! Later on that night we met back up with the rest of the group and went to Duke Box Hero's. While we were waiting for the mini bus, everyone was telling us how amazing the safari was and how they were charged at by an elephant! Duke Box Hero's was fab. We could put in requests for the group to sing songs and it was really fun. Courtney Hargreaves and I put in a request that got chosen and so did Barry Massey.

On Thursday we visited Phakamisa. To start the day we went to devotions. This was very emotional as people were telling us how they had lost members of their family or close friends and other problems and news they had. This was very hard and showed us how much these people have to cope with every day.

Then we were split into groups and each group went to a different township. Once in the townships we played with the children, watched a little of the lesson, and visited some houses. This was an experience: to be welcomed into someone's home and told how they look after ten children in a house with one room and two beds



*The Sizanani sewing training project*

We also went to Steve's kitchen, an inter-denominational project which feeds the homeless every morning. Here we were shown the work they do and told all about the projects. We then all went to the John Wesley School for lunch and were later entertained by a class performance of Zulu dancing. We also had a tour around the school and it was great for us (the Wrights) to see the children again. A group of us also got the chance to visit the Hillcrest AIDS

and how they cannot afford electricity and how the corrugated iron roof leaks. Unfortunately, other group members could not go and see the houses because they stayed and played with the children, some of whom can be very inspiring. We went for lunch to a retirement home supported by Pinetown Methodist Church which was very relaxing and we talked of our experiences. It was then back home to spend the afternoon with our hosts.

On Friday, we went to the Sizanani Sewing Skills Project, where both men and women learn skills to start a sewing business and to make clothes for themselves and their families.

centre to find out all about the amazing work they do and to see the beautiful crafts they make to support themselves. There are also vegetable gardens for the HIV/AIDS sufferers, so they can eat healthily and become more self-sufficient. Members of Canon Slade School then went to buy some toys from a shopping centre with some of the money we had raised at school. We then all went into either a confirmation class (youth) or bible study class (adults). It was then into church for youth group.



*Joe Parkin handing over a Canon Slade cheque to Rob Coombe*

We spent all of Saturday on the beach. We went swimming, body boarding, played football (England 2, South Africa, 1. *Even Jimmy Parkin played, Ed.*) and volleyball and chilled trying to get a tan! That evening we went to a 'braai' (the South African word for BBQ) at Adrian's host family's house. This

was great and we all ate lots and chatted even more!

Sunday was welcomed by a drop of rain and lots of church services. We went to three in the morning – one of which was an inspirational Zulu service. The afternoon was spent with our hosts until we had to meet up at church again for another youth service – it was at this service that we gave Glenda Howieson and Rob Coombe the toys and money raised from Bolton.

On Monday it was time to leave (well not for us). But before we left we got the chance to visit the townships again and give the children the toys bought by Canon Slade. This was amazing as you felt you could give them something to smile about and you then knew that all your hard work had paid off.

Thanks for all your help – the trip was a life changing experience.

*Rachel and Ruth Wright*

## Victoria Hall Pinetown Trip 14th—25th July 2006

### Thanks

A small word but it means so much to us.

### Why?

Well we wouldn't have succeeded in this venture without all the help we received.

### How?

The help came in various ways which we will explain without mentioning anyone by name for fear of embarrassing anyone.

### It was like this

Prayers were said and this put us at ease initially.

Support and advice was offered.

We organised our own events and you came and supported these.

You organised events and raised money for us.

You came up to us and gave us cash and cheques towards the event.

You supported us in our schools where we raised money.

You gave us things to take.

You came to see us off.

You kept us in your prayers.

You welcomed us back.

### What do we all do now?

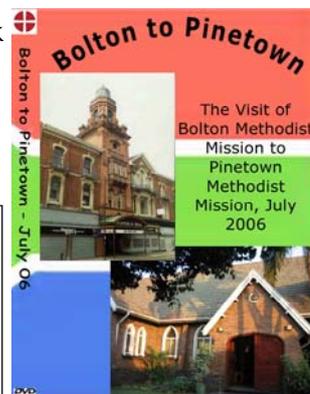
Don't forget what it was all about and the problems are still there.

### Thanks

I know we've said it once but we can't thank you enough.

*The Pinetown Nineteen*

A DVD with video and stills footage of the trip has been compiled. If you would like to borrow a copy, please ask either Jimmy or Joe Parkin



## Methodist youth call for revival

Asylum, revival and inter-faith relations are just some of the issues covered in the annual report of the Methodist Youth Conference (MYC) to the Methodist Conference.

Speaking out against racist violence, the report urges the Church to explore with young people the wider cultural, social and economic



factors that contribute to it. It also encourages Christians to consider the issue of asylum in a spirit of love and openness, sharing with one another their own experiences from both within and outside the Church. Youth Conference raises particular concerns about hostile and inaccurate interpretations of other faiths that can lead to them being portrayed in an extremist light. They suggest that the Church takes part in a month of prayer for improved relations between people of different faiths in February 2007.

The report was enthusiastically received by the Methodist Conference, which resolved to hold a month of prayer for improved relations between people of different faiths as recommended by the report. Resources will be produced to help local churches and young people to engage with people of other faiths and reflect on these issues.

Methodist Youth Conference brings together young Methodists from across the UK celebrate, debate and discuss issues that matter to them about the Church and the wider world. One representative said: "I learnt my opinion counts and can make a difference within the Methodist Church". The report gives them the opportunity to make their voices heard in the Methodist Conference, influencing the decisions taken there.

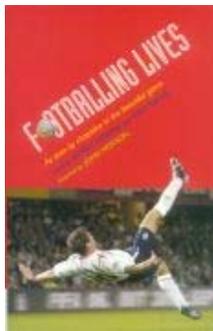
Methodist Conference has resolved to include prayers for revival in services throughout the year and a special prayer by Youth Conference will feature in this year's Prayer Handbook.

## **Footballing Lives**

**As seen by chaplains in the beautiful game**

**Edited by Jeffrey Heskins and Matt Baker**

Footballing lives is a new book that looks at the work of football chaplains in various clubs up and down the country, with contributions from twelve chaplains including Revd Phil Mason, the chaplain to Bolton Wanderers Football Club.



The forward is written by the football commentator, John Motson, whose father was a Methodist Minister and became Superintendent Minister of the Deptford Mission.

He writes in the forward to the book, "I welcome Footballing Lives. It is different from other books about the world of football. We have a glimpse of some of the issues that never make the back pages".

What has religion got to do with football? In this fascinating book, some of the hundreds of chaplains to football clubs – including Manchester United, Liverpool, Bolton Wanderers and Charlton Athletic – give us an amazing behind-the-scenes look at the players, the fans, the managers and life lived in the full glare of the media.

In the chapter entitled "By Far The Greatest Team" Phil Mason describes his role at Bolton Wanderers and looks at the philosophy that drives the Club and, in particular, the way in which Sam Allardyce has built up an amazing back room staff to support and develop the players. He looks at the way in which each player is encouraged to develop a rounded approach to life with a balance between the physical, emotional and spiritual.

The book is published by Canterbury Press. £9.99 ISBN 1-85311-725-0. It is available in Wesley Owen and Waterstones in Bolton and will soon be available in the BWFC Supporters Store.

## Christian Aid Week 2006

Despite appalling weather (for the first time in our memory we abandoned a collecting evening), the House-to-House collection was a success. Especial thanks go to those collectors who braved the succession of 'damp' evenings to raise £1,357 for Christian Aid. We also received a number of generous donations making the total for the week £2,057. A tremendous response for which we are very grateful.

Our local treasurer expects the final total for Bolton to exceed £25,000. As you can see, our contribution is a significant part of the total and that is made possible by the generosity of everyone who contributes, not only by their gifts of money, but also by their gift of time.

We are especially delighted by the efforts of our youngsters who have been collecting 'goat money' through the year. To explain —



last year Christian Aid focussed part of its campaign on what could be achieved by the gift of a goat. A cardboard cut-out money box was one way of making a gift. Our children have 'fed' a number of goats during the year making a very welcome addition to our total which,

including the advent calendars, takes our total for the past year to £2,250. Many thanks for your continuing support of the work done by Christian Aid.

*Gill and Peter Gardner.*

## Deacon's epilogue

### Methodist Conference 2006 – Edinburgh

All roads led to Edinburgh at the end of June for the annual time of Methodists conferring together, as a church. It was a great privilege to go there both as a District Representative and a member of the Methodist Diaconal Order. Eight of us went there from the Bolton & Rochdale District – four lay and four ordained representatives, if you are interested in that sort of information (also, four men & four women). The agendas and reports of work commissioned by the 2005 Conference had been received sometime in advance and read with interest to ensure some level of knowledge during the business debates held.

I was struck by the real sense of continuity and work-in-progress in the things discussed at the Conference. Some matters referred back to the previous year due to additional work having been carried out by Methodist Council or by members of the Connexional Team (this



*Edinburgh, host city to the 2006 Methodist Conference*

means our knowledgeable team at Headquarters, London, to you and me). As usually happens, some items of Conference business from this current year were held over to next year so that additional information could be subsequently presented and more informed decisions taken, thus adding to the sense of flow mentioned above.

It was very helpful to meet and get to know the different members of the HQ team as they stepped forward to answer questions from the floor, to be able to put faces to names at the end of reports written on our behalf, and to find out something of how this work fits into the wider mission of sharing the Good News of our faith community. I was also struck by the respectful and prayerful man-

ner in which the debates were conducted. I was proud of my fellow Christians, as a diverse range of views was discussed, and a sense of dignity was prevalent throughout the Conference Sessions. If you would like to know anything more of my first full experience of Conference, I would be delighted to talk further so please do not hesitate to ask me.



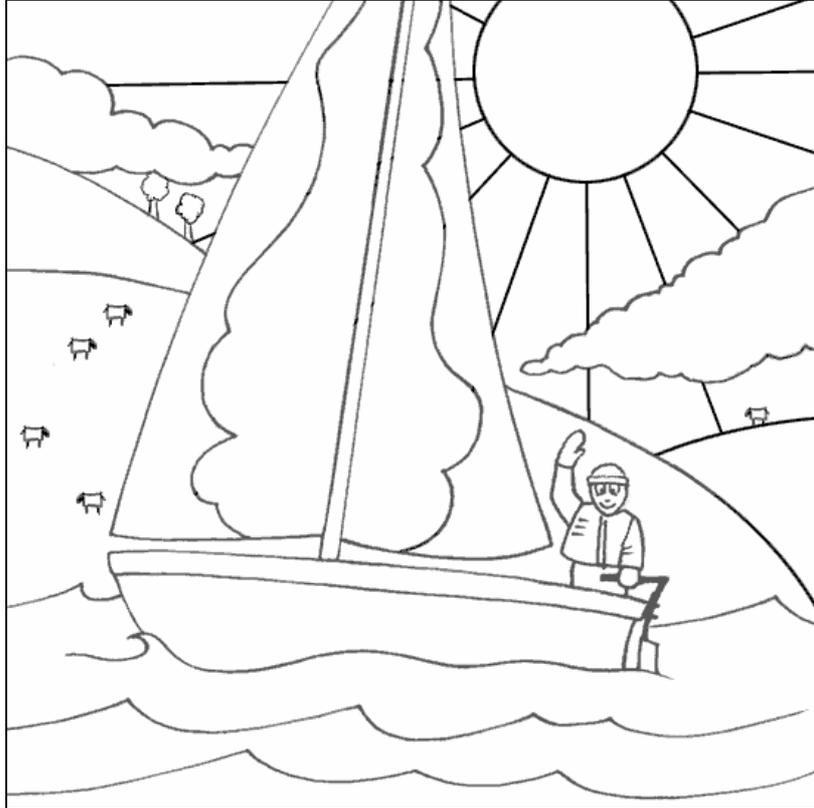
For me, perhaps the highlight of the week was attending the Ordination Service for the new members of the Methodist Diaconal Order on Sunday afternoon, and to see the line-up on the stage of all the new Presbyters and Deacons at the Reception into Full Connexion in the morning. It was wonderful to really take note of the words of the Ordination Service, in which past Presidents of Conference Will Morrey and Ian White respectively presided and preached. It brought back many memories of last year's service during which I was ordained by prayer and the laying on of hands to the ministry of witness and service. Of course, those being ordained are tangibly supported by their families and members of the Diaconal Order, however, it is also a time of elation tempered by the solemnity of the occasion that includes the sense of finally submitting to God's will for one's life. A very happy day held in glorious Scottish sunshine amongst good friends and fellow travellers of The Way.

The day finally concluded with a 'Big Sing' conducted by John Bell of Iona Community fame and we learnt a lot of new songs, as well as hearing some old favourites. I was particularly struck by the joyous short song celebrating the comfort of being aware in some mysterious way that people are praying for you. It's called 'Somebody prayed for me' and I've been busy teaching it to anyone who will listen, so if I have not caught you yet, it is only a matter of time. You will love it!



*Deacon Janet Smith*

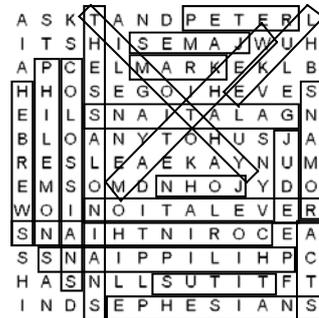
## Puzzle Page



As the Summer draws to a close, a reminder of the sun in this picture for you to colour in.

Answer to the June 2006

Peace is not merely the absence of tension but the presence of justice. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968), Baptist minister, civil rights leader, awarded the Nobel Peace Prize





## Family news

We celebrate with Catherine and Craig Bryan on the birth of their first son, Liam Stuart, on Saturday 3rd June 2006.

We note with sadness the funeral of Robert Ormesher on 16th June 2006. Robert was our oldest member and was most gracious in all he did and said. We also note with sadness the funerals of Bessie Burton on 26th June 2006, and Eric Butler 3rd July 2006, both longstanding and faithful members at Victoria Hall. The church family continues to support Phil Mason after the loss of his mother, Alice, following so soon after his father's death earlier this year. We also remember Elaine Cambray after the loss of her mother Vera Murphy and Shirley and Trevor Hughes and daughter and son in law Yvonne and Justin on the loss at birth of baby Phoebe.



*Pray for all those who have lost loved ones, that they may find comfort.*

We celebrate with Jacqui Ashton and David Barlow on their marriage on Friday 4th August 2006, with Rachel King and Simon Westlake on 18th August and with Steve Nisbet and Karen Cambray on their marriage on Saturday 26th August 2006.



*Jacqui and David*



*Rachel and Simon*



*Karen and Steve*

Congratulations also to all our young people who have passed public examinations this Summer and especially to Kate Eastham, who is going to the University of York to read Design Practice, and to Hannah Wright, who is going to the University of Cambridge to read French and Arabic.

## Diary Dates and Events

- Fri 8th Sep Auction  
Sat 16th Sep BRASS open day and Hoover Band Concert  
Wed 11th Oct Secret Kingdom Walk 7.30pm  
Sun 15th Oct Church Anniversary  
Sun 15th Oct Fresh Expressions Vision Day  
Thu 19th Oct First planning meeting for CTBTC Musical  
Sat 11th Nov Christmas Meal and Talent Auction  
Thu 30th Nov Advent reflection at Parish Church (see pages 2-4)

The mind is like an umbrella – it only works when it is open.  
Sir James Jeans (1877-1946), astronomer, physicist, mathematician

### Ministry team

Superintendent:	Rev'd. Philip R. Mason	01204 493 271
Deacon:	Janet Smith	01204 841 619
Minister:	Rev'd. Dr. Brian Tomkins	01204 667 296
Supernumerary:	Rev'd. Bryan Ashberry	01204 520 376
Lay worker:	Mrs Dilys Tomkins	01204 667 296
Director of music:	Mr Jeremy Plummer	01204 602 743
Congolese Minister:	Pastor Hubert N Kayonda	01204 465 790
Youth worker:	Tracey Kane	01204 363 429
Local Preachers & Worship Leaders: Geoff & Brenda Cooper, Nikki Bradley, John Cambray, Sylvia Fairhurst, Phil Glanvill, Tricia Harper		
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