

The magazine of the Barnsley Group Pastorate



SUMMER 2014





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Dear friends

*"Praise the LORD, who is my rock. He trains my hands for war and gives my fingers skill for battle. He is my loving ally and my fortress, my tower of safety, my rescuer. He is my shield, and I take refuge in him. He makes the nations submit to me."
(Psalm 144:1-2)*

Worldwide we are realising what we were relying on isn't as secure as we thought it was. That perhaps our jobs, homes



and bank balances aren't as safe and as stable as we would have hoped. Since discovering that some people in authority, in trusted positions, are not as reliable as we may have believed, what can we believe in today?

James Hudson Taylor (1832-1905 - pictured left) who was an English missionary to China; where he founded the China Inland Mission, one of the largest and Christian movements in

the world once said, 'We have 25p and all the promises of

God.' I want to live like that! God's promises to us aren't empty; He doesn't back down on us, He's a rock. He is the one who prepares us for what is before us. He doesn't just send us in ill-prepared. He knows what is ahead and knows what we are capable of, through Him.

He is also dependable, 'a loving ally and fortress' to retreat to when perhaps we think we can go no longer or can't possibly endure any more disappointment. Find comfort in the following words, perhaps say them aloud: "*MY tower is safe; He never fails to rescue ME. He is MY shield. All I need to do is take up His offer of refuge*"; sometimes that's the hard part, admitting we can't do it on our own. We should Praise God for His past and future care, whether in times of prosperity or adversity. When it feels like we are sinking and all other help fails, God can still help His people.

James Hudson Taylor was born in Barnsley and there is now a Hudson Taylor Trail around the town. For more information please visit: www.jameshudsontaylor.org.uk

Items for the Autumn 2014 LINK need to be with me by Sunday 10 August). Thanks.

Your friend and minister

Nick

(Cover photo: Stavanger, Norway)

WEST MELTON'S GREEN TIPS CORNER

By Helen Owen

Numbers 18 & 19 - Saving Water & Smelly Bins!

Saving Water

To save water wash vegetables in a bowl rather than under the tap. Then you can water the garden or your houseplants with the discarded water.



unpleasant smells from your bins. Sprinkle



This is a really effective way to remove unpleasant smells from your bins. Sprinkle a spoonful of bicarbonate of soda in the bottom of the bin, add hot water and swish around. Empty and then rinse out with fresh water. Alternatively



you can leave the bicarb in overnight and add the hot water followed by rinsing the next morning.

Group Pastorate Services 2014

We meet together for worship, fellowship and food three times a year. The next two services are:

WEST MELTON - 1st JUNE

CLAYTON WEST - 12th OCTOBER

These services will start at 11.00am.

YOU ARE ALL WELCOME.



YORKSHIRE ASSEMBLY – Wednesday 14th May by Rev Nick



This was our first visit to the Yorkshire Assembly which is held every year at Scarborough's Spa complex. Our worship

throughout the day was led by Rev Michael Mewis. During the opening worship the assembly was entertained, encouraged and challenged by our Synod Moderator, Rev Kevin Watson (a very happy football supporter because his beloved Sunderland

avoided relegation having been bottom of the table at Christmas!)

After lunch, which Lorraine and I enjoyed at the Clock Café, the assembly was welcomed to Scarborough by the Mayor, Councillor G Andrew Backhouse. We were also entertained by Scarborough's, 'The Singing Vicars' who are an Ecumenical group of



clergy who sing for fun & charity. Their rewrites of well known songs were very funny. They only usually perform for

charity so the assembly held a collection for Christian Aid which raised over four hundred pounds.

The afternoon speaker was Peter Slack, a Derbyshire Hill Farmer whose theme was: *"I'm not lost. I'm just not sure where I am"* He told tales of ramblers in the Peak



District National Park. Our programme said that Peter 'is one of the best after-dinner speakers you could ever book'. This is true because he certainly had us all in stitches.

Getting to know you – Betty James

Working with Children - Betty writes:

When I was young I joined the Girls' Life Brigade at Kexborough Methodist Church. When I was fifteen I began helping the cadets with their badge work. At the same time my friend's brother married a girl from High Hoyland. We



went to High Hoyland on a Sunday afternoon as



there was no afternoon service in Kexborough. The Methodist Church in High Hoyland had a Sunday School, led by a lovely lady called Martha Hill. I began to help. Every year there was a Carnival Day at High Hoyland Methodist Church.



When I was twenty one I married Bill and went to live in Clayton West. I had three daughters when we lived there. Two went to Sunday School at the, then, Congregational Church. The Sunday School was led by Mr and Mrs. Cecil Auckland.



In 1969 we moved to High Hoyland. When I had four children, Rev. Lionel Anderson (our minister at that time) called to ask if I would help with the Sunday School. He said that if you want a job doing you should ask a busy person!

The photograph below is from the Clayton West Holiday Club in 2000. I have helped at the holiday club from the very beginning, thirty two years ago, and have loved every minute of it.



Summer chicken & basil stew

One-pot suppers aren't just for the colder months. This light, fresh stew just needs crusty bread to mop up the juices.



Ingredients

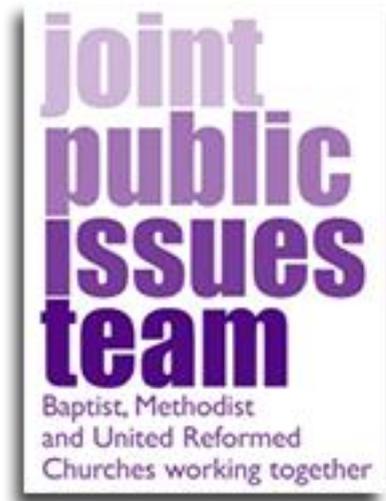
1 tbsp olive oil, 8 chicken thighs, 1 tbsp plain flour, seasoned, 2 red peppers, diced, 12 new potatoes, halved, 150ml white wine, 200ml chicken stock, 20g pack basil, leaves only, crusty bread, to serve.

Method

Heat the oil in a large, flameproof casserole. Dust the chicken thighs with the seasoned flour and add to the casserole. Cook over a high heat, turning once, until golden all over. Add the peppers and potatoes to the casserole and cook for 3 mins. Pour in the white wine and chicken stock and season with salt and pepper. Cover the casserole and simmer for 20-25 mins or until the chicken is cooked through. Stir in the basil and cook for another 5 mins. Serve with some crusty bread.

Churches call for disarmament

Leaders of the United Reformed Church, the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the Methodist Church urged the government to make progress on nuclear disarmament during the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT) preparatory committee meeting in New York, 28 April - 09 May 2014. The churches criticized the UK government for failing to take action to progress towards a world free of nuclear weapons.



The UK churches wrote to William Hague, the secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs in March, outlining a series of missed opportunities for progress on promises made at the nuclear non-proliferation treaty in 2010.

The Revd Michael Jagessar, moderator of the General Assembly of the URC, said: “The possession of chemical and biological weapons is banned by international treaties and the same should apply to nuclear weapons. While states continue to invest billions in nuclear weapons there remains the risk of a nuclear disaster either by accident or design. Our churches have long maintained that security policies based on the terror of a catastrophic nuclear explosion are both unreliable and unethical; that nuclear weapons offer more insecurity, fear, and a threat to life; that true peace will not be found in a climate of fear; and that the only ultimate protection against nuclear weapons is their total elimination.

Bible Characters

From Aaron to Zechariah, they're all in here somewhere!



AARON

ABEL

ABRAHAM

ABSALOM

ADAM

ALPHEUS

ANDREW

AQUILA

BARABBAS

BARNABAS

BARTHOLOMEW

BATHSHEBA

BELSHAZZAR

CAIAPHAS

CEPHAS

CORNELIUS

DAVID

ELIZABETH

EZEKIEL

HAM

ISAAC

JOB

NEBUCHADNEZZAR

NICODEMUS

PRISCILLA

QUEEN OF SHEBA

SENNACHERIB

THADDAEUS

ZACCHAEUS

ZECHARIAH

Mary Reynard writes: When I worked as an assistant in Charter school library, Barnsley, I was asked by a history teacher for everyday details of life on the home front during the first world war and afterwards when it was all over. As we didn't have the resources in the library my mother said she would write down things she could remember. We passed this on to the teacher for his class. As it is 100 years since World War 1 began I thought it might make interesting reading.

MEMORIES OF A YORKSHIRE 'GIRL', aged 82. MAY 1985.

When the First World War was declared in August 1914, I was 11 years old, and lived in Batley, a textile town in the heavy woollen district of Yorkshire. My father had been a soldier in the Boer War, so he volunteered for service on the first day. There was mother and I and my brother, six years younger than I was. Times were very hard as everything was very scarce. We did not have proper rationing of food, and my mother had to queue for a small amount of margarine at a local Sunday School.

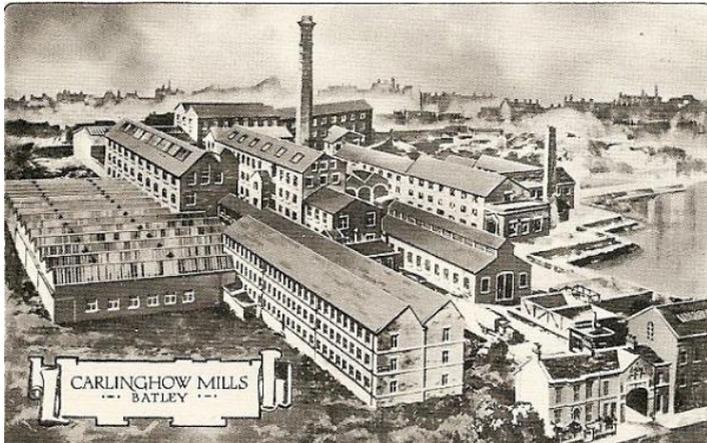


We had very plain food, no fruit or luxuries. Sometimes we heard that some jam had reached one of the shops, and if you got there early you could have some. As the war progressed things got worse. Bread was really awful, it was very

coarse and dark in colour; we used to call it black bread. We also sometimes got biscuits, flat and square and as hard as iron. I think the troops got them too. They were called 'iron rations' and tasted dry and awful. Clothing was also very scarce and we had to make do and mend. At school, girls had to knit socks for the soldiers, on four needles, very fine. I was so slow at knitting then, I don't remember ever finishing a pair.

When I left school I was 13 years old and went to work in a

textile mill. I was trained to be a weaver; we were weaving army blankets



and khaki cloth for soldiers' uniforms. It was hard work and the hours were long. We started work at six o'clock in the morning until 5.30 p.m. and on Saturdays until 12.30 p.m. Some of the older girls had to go away to work on munitions making shells for the war effort and others worked in the nursing services. Others joined the W.A.A.C.S, that was part of the women's army. They had different jobs such as work in canteens or driving army vehicles. Quite a lot of women went abroad to France to drive ambulances for the wounded armed forces there.



We did try to cheer the lads up who were stationed in Batley. We had street parties and concerts to entertain them, with songs, dances and sketches. We invited them to tea, everyone helping with gifts of food, whatever they could spare from their nearly-empty larders. We all joined in and had a happy time together to try and forget the war and the difficulties we lived under.

When peace was declared on November 11th. 1918, most people were very happy, singing and enjoying themselves. We weavers, along with most people, were allowed to stop work for the day. We trimmed our looms with flags and paper trimmings, and everyone was out in the streets, some in fancy dress, cheering, laughing, dancing and singing. I dressed up in a fancy sailor's suit just for fun.

There were some very sad people too, who had lost fathers, sons and brothers. I lost my father, who died with malaria fever in 1917, after serving in France and Salonika, southern Europe, and a cousin who was killed in France, aged 21 years. My father came home in a hospital ship from Alexandria in Egypt and died at home, aged only 38 years. Then, we thought there would never be another war, but we had to live through another — the Second World War in 1939.

Mrs.D.M.Humphrey



News from India - Pastor David writes:

Thank you for your prayers and support.

By the grace of God, our ministry among Poor & Street Kids continues to be a blessing to many kids.

In our recent visit, we had wonderful time with them in singing songs and reciting Bible Memory Verses.

It is very hot summer in India now, we gave them Ice Creams, they all are excited and enjoyed it.

Please continue to pray for the completion of our building so that these kids can come into our home not only to have food and education but to grow in the Grace and Knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

You are in our prayers. In Christ, David, India
www.kidsforchristjesus.com

The construction of the school is continuing. Below are recent photographs of the building works. Photos of the children mentioned above are on the next page.





Did you watch BBC2's 'Rev'?



(Below is a snapshot of information from a **Christian Research** survey into attitudes towards the programme)

Research conducted in April 2014 with our Resonate panel (surveying 1,943 practising Christians across the UK) shows that most Christians see Rev as having a positive perception in the world at large..

63% of all viewers would attend a church led by Rev. Smallbone and 48% would do so without any reservations. Interestingly this figure was much higher amongst women where 55% would attend without reservation. Only one in five said they would definitely not attend. The survey interviewed 1,943 Christians throughout the UK and found that 65% had watched some of the third (current) series and only 6% had never heard of it. Ordained ministers were nearly 30% more likely to have watched than lay Christians.

The Archbishop of Canterbury had recently said that Rev was "great viewing, it doesn't depress me quite as much as you might think" and 80% of respondents agreed with him.

Inevitably a few found the programme to be sacrilegious or even blasphemous but we asked a variety of questions about how realistic or acceptable they found the programme and discovered that:

- Three quarters of respondents found Rev Adam Smallbone to be a believable character
- 55% were not offended at all by the language
- 62% felt Adam would have a positive effect on the perception of Christian ministers amongst non-churchgoers



One respondent said "*The character Adam demonstrates priesthood with integrity but also humanity.*" another said "*It shows the realities of the job, that it's not an easy ride. Also the heart and concern that vicars have for their community but the lack of resources or support to carry it out.*"

But many would prefer him to be stronger as 71% said ministers should be prepared to communicate words from God without concern for how they would be perceived by the congregation.

See more at:

<http://www.christian-research.org/resonate/bbc-s-rev-survey-of-viewers-attitudes/>

Let's 'ave a larf!

The following was contributed by Rona Woodcock, so don't blame Rev. Nick!!



A minister decided that a visual demonstration would add emphasis to his Sunday sermon. Four worms were placed into four separate jars. The first worm was put into a container of alcohol. The second worm was put into a container of cigarette smoke. The third worm was put into a container of chocolate syrup. The fourth worm was put into a container of good clean soil. At the conclusion of the sermon, the minister reported the following results:

The first worm in alcohol.....Dead.
The second worm in cigarette smoke.....Dead.
The third worm in chocolate syrup.....Dead.
The fourth worm in good clean soil.....Alive!

So the minister asked the congregation, "What did you learn from this demonstration?" Maxine was sitting in the back, she quickly raised her hand and said...

"As long as you drink, smoke and eat chocolate, you won't have worms!"

That pretty much ended the service!

REGULAR ACTIVITIES IN OUR CHURCHES

Clayton West

Sunday	Worship every week at 3.00 pm. Communion is included in the service on the 1 st first Sunday of each month
Friday	Baby and Toddler Group 1.00pm - 3.00pm (<i>in term time</i>)
Saturday	Coffee Morning on the 4 th Saturday each month 10.00am

Trinity (Barnsley)

Sunday	Worship every week at 10.30 am. Communion is included in the service on the 3 rd third Sunday of each month
Tuesday	Bible Study at 7.30 pm
Wednesday	Age-Well (<i>over 50s club</i>) every week 10.30am-1.00pm Trinity Players every week at 7.30pm

West Melton

Sunday	Worship on the 1 st (<i>inc. WHIZZ KIDS</i>) and 4 th Sundays at 10.30am and on the 2 nd & 3 rd Sundays at 3.00pm. Communion is included in the service on the 3 rd Sunday of each month
Wednesday	Little Stars 9.30am every week (<i>in term time</i>) Fellowship evening (<i>varied programme</i>) 7.30pm on the 4 th Tuesday of each month
Saturday	Men's Breakfast at 8.00am on the 3rd Saturday each month



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