The Methodist Link

Linking the Methodist Churches at Elburton, Oreston, Pomphlett and Cattedown to the Community

## **JULY 2018**

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Minister: Rev'd Simon Leigh Tel:335773 Secretary: Mrs Ann James Tel: 404971 Treasurer: Mrs Val Hopkin Tel:403425 Senior Steward: Mrs Dorothy Turpitt Tel: 484038 Link rep: Mr Roger Dodd Tel: 406850

#### **POMPHLETT METHODIST CHURCH Pomphlett Gardens, Plymouth PL9 7BL www.pomphlettchurch.org.uk. WORSHIP AT 9.30am** Minister: Rev'd Andrew Day, Tel: 342519

Secretary: Bert Symons, Tel: 210820 Treasurer: Mrs M Williams Tel: 493251 Senior Steward: Mrs Mary Symons Tel: 210802 Link rep: Mr Bert Symons Tel: 210820 or email: www.pomphlettchurch.org

#### ELBURTON METHODIST COMMUNITY CHURCH Springfield Rd, Elburton PL9 8PR WORSHIP AT 10.30am AND 6.30pm

Minister: Rev'd Simon Leigh Tel: 335773 Secretary: Mrs Tricia Stringer Tel: 482532 Treasurer: Mr Robert Faulkner Tel: 491779 Senior Steward: Mrs Pauline Raine Tel:405483 Lettings Secretary: Mrs Helen Carhart Tel: 480319 Link rep: Tony Raine Tel: 405483

#### GATEWAY PROJECT, CATTEDOWN 3 Tresillian St, Cattedown WORSHIP AT 11.00am every 2nd Sunday of each month Minister: Rev'd David Youngs Tel (880286) Senior Steward: Mr Roger Dodd Tel 406850

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#### **ABOUT YOUR LINK**

Editor: Tony Raine. Advertising Manager: Tony Raine email: tonyraine@icloud.com

Tel: 01752 405483 mobile: 07505 286682 NB The Editor may need to amend or omit articles submitted though he will do neither without discussing it with you. THE AUGUST/SEPTEMBER ISSUE DEADLINE IS SUNDAY JULY 15th The Link is available in printed format or online in colour, at

www.elburtonmethodist.org.uk/thelink

or your church web site.

Contact Tony Raine on 405483 for details. mobile: 07505 286682

	THE LECTIONARY	
July 1st 2 Samuel 1:1,17-27 Psalm 130 2 Corinthians 8:7-15 Mark 5:21-43	<b>July 15th</b> 2 Samuel 6:1-5,12-19 Psalm 24 Ephesians 1:3-14 Mark 6:14-29""	<b>July 22nd</b> 2 Samuel 7 1-14 Psalm 89:20-37 Ephesians 2:11-22 Mark 6:30-34,53-56
<b>July 8th</b> 2 Samuel 5:1-5,9-10 Psalm 48 2 Corinthians 12:2-10 Mark 6:1-13		July 29th 2 Samuel 11:1-15 Psalm 14 Ephesians 3:14-21 John 6:1-21

FRONT COVER: Godrevey Lighthouse "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

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# Letter for Elburton and Oreston



Dear One and All,

It may come as a surprise to you but all Methodist ministers, that's both deacons and presbyters, have to submit to supervision. Some of you may have had this in your own occupations, particularly if you were a health professional, counsellor or teacher. Today I find myself in Northampton on the second part of my training to become a supervisor; you may say a prayer for those I have to supervise.

The first part of the course was very helpful and felt something like counselling. The aim of supervision is to support the minister concerned and to enter into a process, whereby, all may feel confident about the practise and the level of accountability of the minister concerned. Likewise the minister may have confidence in a system which is designed to support, challenge and assist the minister in her or his ministry. I have to say I was a bit sceptical at first, but now I am so pleased the Methodist Church has offered this tool for ministry.

You may be asking 'why do we need this?' In recent years the Methodist Church has engaged in something called The Past Cases Review. This project looked at abuse in the life of the Methodist Church dating back to the 1950's. Thus far almost 2000 cases of serious abuse have been uncovered and some of them have led to police action. One feature of the review was the apparent lack of supervision experienced by ministers, which may have contributed to some being able to abuse people through a lack of accountability. It's very sad, but any person is capable of doing something bad, even ministers of the Church. Supervision is a good in and of itself and is not just a protection measure. The effects of good supervision may help to prevent or detect poor or risky behaviour, but it is not a silver bullet. Supervision is a creative and sustaining place and not a discipline measure. I am thankful the Methodist Church has grasped the nettle and introduced supervision, as ministry can at times be lonely and isolating. A minister knows, experiences and is told so many things which are confidential and profoundly personal. It is part of the privilege of ministry but also a cost. The supervision session may be a useful, confidential space to theologically reflect on issues and situations the minister has experienced and to make sense out of things which at times make no sense. This has got to be a good thing.

Every blessing,

## Simon

God made. Adam bit. Noah arked. Abraham split. Jacob fooled. Joseph ruled. Bush talked. Moses balked. Pharaoh plagued. People walked. Sea divided. Tablets guided. Promise landed. Saul freaked. David peeked. Prophets warned. Jesus born. God walked.

THE BIBLE IN FIFTY WORDS Love talked. Anger crucified. Hope died. Love rose.

Spirit flamed. Word spread. God remained.





## SUNDAY

SERVICES	Morning	Evening
	10.30 am	6.30 pm
July 1st	Rev'd David Youngs	Rev Simon Leigh SACRAMENT
July 8th A for C	Mrs Di Smart/Team PARADE/FAMILY	Rev'd Simon Leigh + Home Group
July 15th	Rev'd Simon Leigh SACRAMENT	Rev'd Andrew Day
July 22nd	Mrs Di Smart	Miss Sue Bolt
July 29th	Rev'd Colin Roberts	Rev'd Simon Leigh

Please note that as we approach the holiday season, care is necessary with the following list of activities. Many stop for August, some cease in July. If you have any doubts, please phone the group leader whose name and number are given.

<b>JaM (JESUS AND ME)</b> - 10.30 a.m.	JaM is the name for our children's and youth ministry. We meet in the Moore Hall for 10.30 am.
SOUNDS ALIVE SINGERS	When we have a presentation to work towards we meet for rehearsals at 11.45 am after church on Sundays to share our love of music.
MONDAY DANCE FITNESS - 10.30 a.m.	Contact Sarah Danning, 01752 881447 or email: info@physicallyfabulous.co.uk www.physicallyfabulous.co.uk
LUNCHEON CLUB - 11 a.m.	On Mondays lunches are provided for those less able to cook for themselves. Contact June Dinner (407418) for 3rd Mondays, Barbara Jeffery (311100) for the other Mondays.
BEAVERS - 5 p.m 6.30 p.m. CUB SCOUTS - 6.00 - 7-30 p.m. SCOUTS - 7.30 p.m 9.00 p.m.	There are a few vacancies for boys and girls and also helpers. Contact Roger Galloway 268803 for more information.

#### TUESDAY

METHODIST WOMEN IN BRITAIN - 2.30 p.m July 3rd afternoon at Otter Nurseries Moore Hall of Elburton Methodist July 10th Mrs Brenda Youngs July 17th AGM

RAINBOWS BROWNIES - 6.00 p.m.

We do not meet in August.

The Women's Network Fellowship, now called MWiB, meets in the Church. For more information contact Carol Batchelor 491962

Contact Julie Hoskin on 481605. There is no Guides group at present.

PLYMSTOCK & RIDGEWAY MEN'S GROUP 7.30 pm No more meetings until September.	Contact Andrew Gow (341037) for more details. Half the meetings are held at Ridgeway, the others are in the Rank Hall, Elburton Methodist Community Church.
WIVES CLUB - 7.45 pm July 3rd Claire Puckey Dementia Awareness July 10th Janice Cawthorn Naval Slanguage July 17th Garden Party with	L adies are invited to join us on Tuesday evenings at 7.45 pm in the Elburton Moore Hall. For more information contact Sylvia Harris (514818) or Carol Pike (311150).
Rob Gidley to entertain us. NO AUGUST MEETINGS HOME GROUP 1 - 7.30 p.m.	The Tuesday home-group is co- ordinated by Di Smart and is held at homes of the group. For more information contact Di (405435) or Pam Kingsland (519452)
WEDNESDAY EXERCISE CLASS 2 p.m 3 p.m.	
<b>HOME GROUP 2</b> 7.30 pm	Contact Denise Avent (402818)
	Held at the home of Trisha Stringer and led by Maureen Richardson (407137)
HOME GROUP 4 8 p.m.	A group meets at a different home each week (helpful for the young families who attend). Contact Jon Carhart (480319).
<b>THURSDAY</b> <b>WORKING PARTY</b> from 9,30 am FIRST Thursdays of the month .	Come and help us keep our church in a good state of repair. Contact Tony Sleep (403247) for details.

<b>MEET AND EAT</b> THIRD Thursdays from 10 a.m.	A good meal, tea/coffee, and good company for everyone, led by Rosemary Lee, Barbara Jeffery (311100) and Jennifer Tomlinson (403896).
TABLE TENNIS 3.15 - 5.15 p.m.	Contact David Finemore (406372)
HOME GROUP 3 7.30 p.m.	David and Brenda Youngs (880286) lead this group on Thursday evenings at 7.30 pm at Ruth Sweetland's home.
<b>FRIDAY</b> <b>LUNCHEON CLUB</b> 11 a.m. (in term time)	A lovely lunch provided for those less able to provide for themselves. Good food, good company. Contact Trisha Stringer (482532).

#### SATURDAY

#### **COFFEE MORNING**

Last Saturday of the month 10 a.m. - noon

#### **MESSY CHURCH**

First Saturday of month 10.30 a.m.

Held in the Moore Hall, Arranged by Margaret Passmore (404929), run by various groups. Funds go to church projects, term time only.

An informal kind of worship tailored to the needs of the whole family with lots of fun, food, activities and a Christian message.



## MESSY CHURCH SATURDAY 7th JULY



The theme this month is:

Love your neighbour; whilst the story is the Good Samaritan.

## THE FUN DAY

What a marvellous day at Church on 31st May the "Fun Day". I didn't count but understand that about 100 people came. Every available part of the Church premises was used to entertain the children, even the corridor and crush hall. This included bouncy castle, table tennis, a maze combined with a quiz, area for toddlers, X-box, face painting, craft and there was always a queue for Jon's balloon models. They were all kept going with home made cakes, biscuits, sweets and drinks.

Huge congratulations to Jon and his team for all their hard work and dedication associated with organising this event. They are certainly doing their very best to reach the local community. DLF



#### ELBURTON METHODIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

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A reader recommends Tracy this month.



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## MWIB (NETWORK) CIRCUIT LUNCH/FELLOWSHIP DAY THURSDAY 19th JULY



Our MWiB Circuit Lunch/Fellowship Day will be held on Thursday 19th July at St Budeaux Methodist Church at 12 noon for 12:30 pm. Our Speaker will be Revd Deborah Kirk, who is our District MWiB Forum Representative. The cost is £5, and all profits will go to Amigos, our District Project. Please give names to Carol Batchelor, or contact Carol if you would like further details.



## JULY MEET AND EAT

Please note that because of the MWiB Circuit Lunch, this month's Meet and Eat will take place on Thursday 12th July. We hope to see as many of you as possible.

Many thanks, Carol

One day, a little girl was sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly noticed that her mother had several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast on her brunette head. She looked at her mother and inquisitively asked, "Why are some of your hairs white, Mum?" Her mother replied, "Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white." The little girl thought about this revelation for a while and then said, "Mum, how come ALL of grandma's hairs are white?"

#### From the desk of Bishops Silas and Nicola Tayebwa...

from HUMBLE BEGINNINGS To Kingdom Explosion



hank you for being part of King of Kings 10th Anniversary and Thanksgiving Celebrations. We are so grateful to God for **ALL HE HAS DONE** in these few short years. When we look back it is amazing to see the mighty hand of God at work and the 1000's of lives that have been blessed through this ministry that exists totally for Him to use and be glorified.

Long before we first met each other, we had both dedicated our lives to wholly serving God and seeing His kingdom established in our generation. So it was no surprise that after our marriage God began to give us a dream of beginning a ministry. It started as a simple seed in our hearts and quickly grew into a powerful vision.... We began to seek the Lord, asking what the ministry should be called then one day as we were praying God dropped the name "King of Kings" in our hearts and we instantly knew this was the name.

In December 2007 we began holding prayer meetings two or three times a week in the only

available venue we could find at the time.

It certainly was a "humble beginning" as you can see from the photo. When it rained a river ran through the structure and you had to wear boots to get to it because of the mud. The wind blew through it and there were many times we thought the walls were coming down.....

But we are here to testify, along with the first members of Kings of Kings, despite these humble beginnings, God would manifest His awesome presence in incredible ways.

Day after day people experienced an outpouring of Holy Spirit upon their lives, people were saved, healed and delivered as we met together to pray and seek the Lord.



Our small but growing group of members began to request that we start Sunday services and so the beginnings of the church were birthed. Every week the number grew until we had outgrown the "Humble Structure".

It was with much excitement and joy that early in 2008 we moved to the site in Kamukuzi where we have remained until this day .... In those days our services were held in a hall that we now use for the Junior Church. But from the first day the hall was too small, people were getting saved and new members were joining the church daily.



God had given us a big vision and it was burning strongly in our hearts. We knew we had to build a structure that could accommodate what God had called us to do. Plans were drawn and building commenced to build a structure that could seat 700 people. To accommodate the ever increasing congregation the church has been enlarged several times since then and now seats over 1200 people.

We asked God to give us a slogan for this new and fast growing ministry and He showed us Matt 22:36-40 Master, which is the great commandment in the law?

Jesus said to him. "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it. "You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets. Out of this scripture came our slogan "Loving God, Loving You!" and through the last ten years we having been trying to

everything we do.

At its heart. King of Kings Ministries is a family, no one is a stranger and everyone is someone. We go

through life together, often laughing, some times crying; celebrating joyful occasions as a family and standing shoulder to shoulder in times of pain but all the time celebrating the greatness and faithfulness of the Lord of Lord and the King of Kings.

Right from the early days the vision of King of Kings Ministries was to bring kingdom change and transformation into the nation.



The strategy was to see a strong and vibrant mother church and branch churches planted in every community where there was no "life giving" church.



It was as though God breathed His life into this vision and King of Kings Branch Churches began to spring up in great number throughout Western Uganda and latterly around the nation.

Village after village, town after town nothing has stopped us preaching the Gospel. Strongholds have been broken, communities transformed and 1000's of souls have entered the Kingdom. Signs, wonders and miracles have manifested everywhere the Gospel has been preached. To date there are over 250 King of Kings Branch Churches, spreading the Kingdom of God, being led by a team of dedicated Pastors, who are committed to seeing Uganda rise up to her destiny.

We will always be grateful to the team that stood with us over the ten years. We want to thank our dear team of faithful pastors, leaders and the King of Kings Church family, our Apostolic oversight Board of Directors and our dear friends from Elburton who have stood with us through every step of our journey. Thank you.

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Silas, Nicola & family



## JULY MEET AND EAT

Please note that because of the MWiB Circuit Lunch, this month's Meet and Eat will take place on Thursday 12th July.

## DIAMOND WEDDING ANNVERSARY

June and Clive Dinner were married at Elburton on the l2th July 1958. June was a Sunday School teacher and Assistant Secretary to Miss Frances Moore. June met Clive when he came to live in Elburton and joined the Church in 1950 when he also became a Sunday School teacher until having to do his National Service. June's parents, Annie and Cecil Rhodes were life-long members and June, together with her sister Jennifer Weymouth, have been part of Elburton Methodist for 80 vears.



## Prayer Page

#### PRAYERS

3<sup>ed</sup> July *The Apostle Thomas*: Lord and master, who chose twelve, that they might be with you, and that you might send them forth to preach. We give you thanks for the glorious company of the apostles, and especially at this time for your servant Saint James' humbly asking you that we, like him, may witness a good confession and fight the good fight of the faith; for your honour and glory, now and evermore.

#### Frank Colquhoun

8<sup>th</sup> July *Action for Children Sunday*: We pray for those who Action for Children work with, such as children in care, young carers, disabled children, parents feeling alone, and many others; We ask that, in times of sadness and pain, where all hope seems lost, you would give your grace for the work of today, and trust in your strength for tomorrow. We pray for strength to live as we should. To us, your people, as we try to follow you, give your grace for the work of today, and trust in your strength for tomorrow.

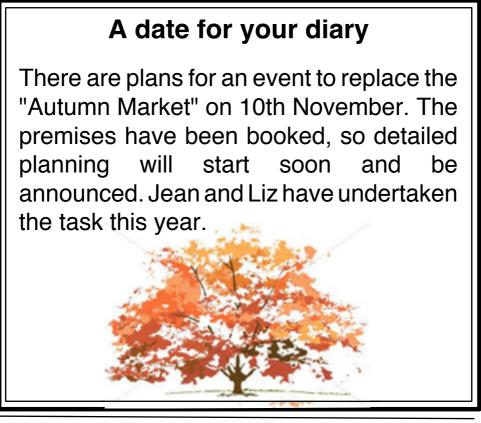
#### Action for Children

22<sup>nd</sup> July St. Mary Magdalene: Most merciful Father, whose compassion was revealed to Mary of Magdala in transforming power: cast out from our hearts all that us evil and make us new in Christ; and grant us such gratitude for your love that we, like her, may minister to the needs of your people and be witnesses to our risen Lord, In his name we ask it.

Llewellyn Cumings

25<sup>th</sup> July St James: All praise to you, O God our Father, for James the apostle of Jesus, who drank his Lord's cup of suffering and won the martyr's crown. Make us, like him, ready to bear the reproach of Christ and to tread the way of the cross, and keep us faithful unto death; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Frank Colquhoun



## **MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING**

Every month except in the holiday periods, on the last Saturday there is a coffee morning held in the Moore Hall in aid of church funds. It is a happy social event with many regular attendees.



## **Oreston Methodist Church**



Services held on the first and third Sundays of the month at 10.30am July 1st Mr Brian Gerry/Rev'd Simon Leigh SACRAMENT NOTE ALSO (not yet in the plan): July 15th Mrs Di Smart

## BETTY STANTON 1922-2018

Betty was born in Hessle, a village a few miles from Hull. Her father was a Marine and though she spoke with a good Yorkshire accent she said that her father didn't allow her to use the "dialect". However she could "do" the right accent when reciting a poem such as "Albert and the Lion"! Following the death of her father, and as her brother was killed in the war, her mother decided to "come home" to Plymouth – and Betty came too.

In 1956 she married Horace Stanton and became Mum to his son, Tom. They came to live in Dean Park Road, Plymstock, and joined our Church.

Betty was Sunday School Superintendent for many years, also Church Steward, Missionary Secretary and Member of both Friendly Circle and Sisterhood – taking part in our Concerts, etc. Having a good alto voice, she sang in the choir and later was a member of the Plymstock Choral Society.

For some years she organised Meals on Wheels and took part in fundraising for Guide Dogs. After her husband, Horace, had a stroke she nursed him for several years until he died in the late 70's.

In 2000 she moved to Pudsey (near Leeds) to a small bungalow belonging to the Methodist Church, where she lived independently and was near to Tom, Ann and family. Having always been artistic, she was able to join a water colour painting group there. She was also able to continue her love of singing by joining a choir and she remained active until the last year or so.

Betty was a devoted, active Member of Oreston Church for over 40 years and we all have very happy memories of her strong personality and her love of life.



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## ORESTON EVENTS...

# Oreston Parents and Toddlers

The Group meets every Friday in term time, in the Church Hall



#### Oreston Stitch, Knit & Natter

The group meets every Monday from 2.00 – 4.00 pm in the Church Hall. Craft activities of many types take place and all are welcome to attend.





2 pm to 4 pm each Tuesday (excluding School Holidays) Used to Play? Want to Learn? or just want to have some fun & exercise at the same time? Drop in any Tuesday and expect A WARM WELCOME!

#### THE INTERCHURCH BIBLE STUDY GROUP

the interchurch Bible Study Group now meets only once a month at Pomphlett on the 4th Friday of each month at 10am and it is led by the Rev'd Andy Day - all are welcome.



## Church meeting to be held at Oreston on Tuesday 31 July at 10 am.

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## POMPHLETT METHODIST CHURCH





SACRAMENT

PREACHERS AT POMPHLETT ON SUNDAYS AT 9.30 AM

July 1st	Rev'd Colin Roberts
----------	---------------------

- July 8th Miss Teresa White
- July 15th Mr Nigel Norris
- July 22nd Rev'd Andrew Day
- July 29th Mr Keith Angilley

You say: I can't forgive myself God says: I forgive you (1 John 1:9) You say: I can't manage God says: I will supply all your needs (Phil. 4:19) You say: I'm afraid God says: I have not given you a spirit of fear (2 Tim 1:7) You say: I'm always worried and frustrated God says: Cast all your care on me (1 Pet. 5:7)



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Pearl Gilby's Story of her Sponsored Sky Dive



I decided to do a skydive because I wanted to make a difference. I'm

inspired by the work of St Luke's Hospice Plymouth and the



support they gave to my late husband Chris and myself in 2016. I wanted to support them by raising money and taking part in St Luke's Skydive. The Skydive was originally due to take place on 17th March, an

important date for me because it would have been our

34th wedding anniversary. Unfortunately, we had to postpone due to snow. We finally jumped on 2nd June. It was a glorious sunny day.





What a fantastic experience for me. Thanks to everyone who supported and sponsored me. Together we raised £700 for St Luke's Hospice.







KEUP FIT at POMPHLETT CHURCH HALL Plymstock THURSDAYS 11-12 Enjoy a cup of tea after in this friendly fun class!

For more information please call Sarah on: 07588640241

Dance Fr

Gateway

The Church in a House



My Dear Friends at Gateway,

This past month has seen the birthdays of two of our friends, Helen and Marian and a gentleman of note, namely Prince Philip (97yrs)!! This coming month a certain Tony Raine celebrates his birthday; I don't think he is going to receive a card from the Queen! Although many of us would like to turn the clocks back, (I'm sure we would be in for a surprise if we did?), it is the present we live in and the future we look forward to. When we consider the achievements that have been made in the last fifty years in the spectrum of human life including, medicine, technology, science, the arts, and in the world, we can be filled with gratitude. For example, can you remember the first mobile telephone? It was huge in comparison to what we have today. I was about to call on a friend in Mount Gould the other day when my mobile rang as I approached his door, to be told that another friend had only fourteen days to live because cancer had completely taken over the body. Yet three weeks ago, that person outwardly appeared to be in good health and smiling!!

This month we celebrate Action for Children Sunday when we remember the work that began as the National Children Homes founded by Thomas Bowman Stephenson who was born on the 22n December 1893 into a Methodist family. He originally thought of becoming a barrister but one standing in for a preacher was ill, he decided to become a preacher. He received a call to the ministry and after training at Richmond College he was eventually ordained as a Methodist Minister. He served in Norwich, Manchester and Bolton before be called to Lambeth, one of the poorest areas in London. It was there seeing the plight of numerous abandoned and orphaned children who were ragged, had no shoes, were filthy and hungry that Thomas felt had had to do something about their situation and eventually a small house was rented at 8 Church Street, Lambeth. So the work began.

Today the work of Action for Children is supported by the Methodist Church and as I write this letter there is a fundraising event taking part locally this coming Saturday. I look forward to telling you about it when I see you next. The Methodist Conference meets on the first five days of this month in Nottingham when Ministers and Deacons will be ordained and the business of the Methodist Church discussed and verified.

Your brother in Christ,

## David

*Our Sunday celebration service is on 8 July at 11 am and will be led by Roger and Julie Dodd.* 

We send love and best wishes to Tony Raine who will be celebrating his birthday in July.





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#### SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

## LEPROSY

Leprosy is a cruel disease that slowly, sometimes over 20 years, begins to affect muscles and nerves. It is caused by a bacterium and the effects if it is left can be devastating. A nervedamaged hand or foot for example, can be burnt or cut without the person being aware of it and so disability can easily be the result. It can also damage the face destroying nerves and muscle there with the result that the patient cannot blink or close his or her eyes to sleep.

In Biblical times the word Leprosy was used loosely to describe many skin diseases but the treatment was the same throwing the patient out to fend for themselves, giving them a bell that they must ring to warn of their approach, and making them live with other so called lepers and stay away from healthy people.

Ten lepers had collected outside a village Jesus was visiting. We are told that he cured them all but only one returned to thank him - a Samaritan.

What can we learn from this story?

Obviously attacking prejudice, in this case against Samaritans, was one of Jesus' frequent targets (as in The Good Samaritan). Using any name to categorise a group of people tends to be the beginning of prejudice for an outsider of the group. Think how 'Imigrant', 'Working Class' or even 'Christian' can each be used in a negative way. Each defines a type of person and the term can soon becomes pejorative in the mouths of those who consider themselves other, and consequently superior in some way. All such negative prejudice is wrong, partly because it inaccurately and unfairly describes all members of the set being maligned. Even Paul seems to have got it wrong sometimes (eg Titus 1:12 Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons...).

The question of gratitude is another issue. Was the cure

short-lived for those who did not return to say thank you? How important is 'thank you' to Jesus/God? If it matters, why is it not included anywhere in the Lord's Prayer? If gratitude does not rise unbidden from a grateful heart, does it mean anything?

A third possibility is that unclean skin might be an allegory for an unclean heart. Only the Samaritan realised what Jesus was offering. The other nine would probably not change their old life and the 'cure' Jesus gave would not be taken in the longer term.

Look up Luke 17:11-19 and see what you can read into this fascinating story.

AR

"This is our time on the history line of God. This is it. What will we do with the one deep exhale of God on this earth? For we are but a vapor and we have to make it count. We're on. Direct us, Lord, and get us on our feet." —**Beth Moore** 

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