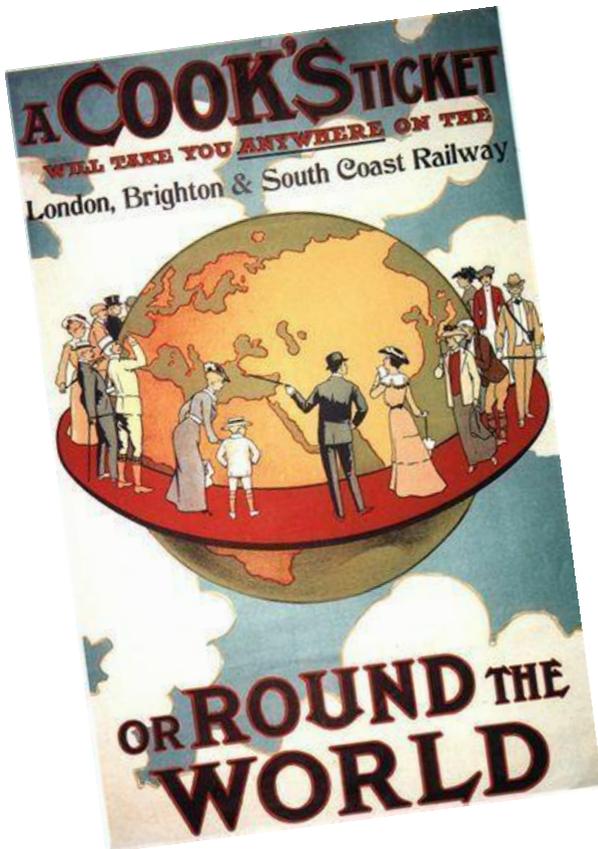


LBC *magazine*

July / August 2020



Loughborough Baptist Church

98 Days and Counting

It is fourteen weeks today that a few people met in the foyer just before the morning service – there was no time for a church meeting – and decided that, due to the COVID-19 epidemic, the church would close. What a lot has happened in those 98 days!

We may not have met physically with our friends at church, but we have enjoyed fellowship. What is fellowship? It is perhaps hard to define. In one dictionary fellowship is defined as 'sharing, companionship, friendliness' in another as 'a group of people that meet to pursue a shared interest or aim'

What is special about Christian fellowship then? One definition given is 'the bond of common purpose that binds Christians together and to Christ'.

What has been happening during these 98 days?

Initially we sent out an email asking how you would like to stay in contact with the church, we asked if people would volunteer to share a thought for the day or if they could come up with other ideas as to how we could occupy ourselves as well as stay connected.

It's possible we were all feeling a little lost and had no idea how the coming weeks would pan out, we were not prepared!

We are not all tech savvy and it soon became apparent we could not compete with Churches who had mastered live streaming of services; however, we found our own way and incredible things have been happening in our Church that have exceeded any expectations we may have had.

Through the WhatsApp groups people have been able to share in the joy of the ups and be prayerful in the downs of each other's lives as things were happening.....remember praying for Sam as he waited for his flight home? The happiness on Betty's face in her 90th birthday photo?

Forget Me Nots have sung their way through the last 3 months with Richard and Linda Grove sharing videos most mornings of them singing a different song sparking memories and discussions. We've laughed at John Evans hilarious videos and I deny anybody to have not shed a tear as Gill Morris shared a video of her and her mum Gwyneth Yeoman singing We'll Meet Again.

Yarn Angels, Superstars, Little Stars and Sunday Club have also kept in touch with each other through WhatsApp.

Zoom has also taken some getting used to, but it has allowed House groups and Sunday Club to continue, a Monday morning coffee morning has been established and meetings are over and done a lot quicker using this platform!

Through the daily emails and thoughts for the day we have been able to share our thoughts and parts of our lives, everybody having the opportunity to have a voice.

On receiving the Father's Day biscuits from the Sunday Club, we received a message in return which said ' what a joy it is to be part of LBC.'

Others have commented that they feel more connected to the church than ever before.

I recall somebody thanking David Butcher for the service on Mother's Day saying how meaningful and moving they had found worshipping in this new way.

Worship has been so very different to what we are used to but how wonderful that we have so many talented people in our Church who have been able to lead us each Sunday in their own varied ways.

Many of us are missing the church building:

Being welcomed at the door with a handshake and sometimes a hug.

Walking into the pew where we usually sit.

Saying hello and sharing news with the friends we pass on the way.

Settling down in our seat, listening to the music, spending time in quiet prayer.

And so we could go on, I'm sure we don't need reminding.

We can assure you that the church is being taken care of - people are checking daily, much work is being done on the building and the garden areas. When the time is right for us to return it will be ready to welcome us.

What can we do while we wait that will help us when we return.

We can build on what we have gained from the time we have spent together while apart

We can think about what kind of church we want when we return - there have been some questions sent out with the Church Meeting information to help us do this.

There have been some questions sent out with the Church Meeting Information to help think about the future . Please consider these questions, pray for our church fellowship, send in your thoughts and let us move forward with courage and faith.

Victoria and Margaret

Quiet Reflections

Wherever Jesus went lives were changed. Fishermen became leaders, tax collectors gave money away, lepers were healed, blind people were able to see and the lame walked. Wise men were shown to be ignorant and children were made the centre of attention.

Just cast your mind on Peter for a moment. Peter, the one who denied knowing Jesus three times and subsequently burst into tears. He ran as fast as he could to the tomb. He had to see for himself that Jesus, the Christ, the Son of the living God was alive. More than most, Peter craved a fresh start with Jesus. He wanted to see Jesus again, he needed to see Jesus again.

Jesus is new life, new hope, a fresh start, redemption, reconciliation. He is a new day.

Lockdown Lament

The blackbird sings, loud and strong,
a song of rain, to bring the worms,
and swell the fruit on trees and bushes.
Happy bird! whose song can lift our spirits.
Lockdown! What lockdown?
when you are as free as a well-fed bird,
grown plump on stolen cherries
in summers longest days.

David Beresford

July/August 2020

News of the Fellowship

Doris Jacobs is back at Marwood in Shepshed after a short stay in hospital.

Monday's Zoom coffee morning was very pleased to be joined briefly by David Green, now at home with Valerie, Paul and Rachel. Please continue to think and pray for the whole family as David slowly shows some improvement following his stroke.

Ken Cotterill celebrated his 102nd birthday on June 28th , Ken is quite frail and spending most time in bed.

Forget me nots were able to share packs of small gifts and visits from volunteers on Thursday June 18th . This gave a feeling of togetherness to a group who have not been able to meet since March and for those living with dementia this has been a very difficult time.

Please continue to think and pray for those living alone and those in care homes, although visiting may be easing it still continues to be very difficult for some to have social contacts and this continues to be a strain and worry for many.

Holiday @ Home

As we reported last month, Holiday @ Home in its traditional form has been cancelled.

Plans are now being made to have events in the week beginning July 13th.

Packs of activities and food will be taken out by a group of volunteers to participants in their homes on July 14th and 16th and services on July 19th will be focused on this. It is hoped that about 35 people will take part and that they will feel that they are taking part in something together and that we may engender a sense of fellowship and enjoyment.

During that week our Daily News Bulletin will focus on Holiday@ Home so that the wider LBC community may be informed and feel a part of this event.

Forget Me Nots

Thursday June 18th was Alzheimer's Cupcake Day, what a good excuse to get round and visit all our Forget Me Nots with a little something to brighten their day. It was most certainly a day that needed brightening, I had prayed that it would stop raining during the time we had set aside to do our drops off, but it continued from drizzle to torrential rain, it never stopped!



Along with Daphne, Lilian and Margot we delivered 26 bags with cupcakes, a beautiful flower posy (thanks to Pat) puzzles and quizzes, a bottle of bubbles to remind people of our signature song I'm forever blowing bubbles, a bag of Skittles to remind members of fun times spent at a pub playing skittles and eating food together, a match box to collect as many things in as possible, paper for a portrait competition and sunflower seeds to plant in their gardens.



We had a lovely time catching up with all of our members and volunteers and then our WhatsApp group was alive with messages and photos of the day,

Lilian summed it up beautifully

'It was really good to be a part of this and see the people that I visited. It really felt as though we were all together on a Thursday .. amazing isn't it, it just shows what a strong bond is established between us..'

Big thanks for everybody's help on this day and their continued efforts in keeping Forget Me Nots alive despite being unable to meet, incredibly we have even gained two new members during lockdown!

Monday Nighters

We open our new session on Monday September 7th when our speaker will be Rev. Howard Ketton.

This will be followed on Monday 21st September when we will once again be entertained by Loughborough Ladies Choir followed by supper.

We welcome everyone back after this very strange Spring and Summer and hope that our programme will go ahead as arranged.

If you haven't been to Monday Nighters before why not give it a try. Our meeting is open to anyone who would enjoy an evening of fellowship, and we always have a mixed and interesting programme of speakers, demonstrations, quiz nights and outings.

Assuming, of course, that all Church activities will have resumed by September!

Everyone Welcome
Our Aim is Friendship

Monday mornings before lockdown

At 10am every Monday, Elaine Grimley, David Green and myself would go to church for a meeting about the church finances. On the way in, I would usually exchange a few words with David Warren, who looked after the church office on Monday mornings. There would often be a comment on Welsh rugby or Notts cricket, depending on the season. We started by counting all the money that had been given during the week. There would always be the Sunday offerings and usually contributions from lunch break and superstars. There were often extra little amounts too, donations towards photocopying, flowers, etc. Elaine was meticulous in keeping records and we were all very relieved when her books balanced. The meeting continued with a discussion about general financial matters and we usually left at about 11.30am. The cash offerings received on Sundays amount to about 70% of the total offerings, the remaining 30% is donated through standing orders.

Then came the lockdown!

Suddenly our weekly cash offerings disappeared. But we needn't have worried. Our members and friends have responded either by setting up direct debits, by using bank transfers or by sending cheques direct to Elaine, and last month the donations reached 96% of the January total. As a team we are very grateful for this support, as the expenditure hasn't been as great as usual in lockdown! So we give sincere thanks to you all for keeping the church afloat.

With all the upkeep required for our large premises, we are indebted to Paul Grimley and John Thirlwell who have been working very hard on our behalf. They have organised various necessary inspections and maintenance to be carried out during the lockdown, so minimising disruption for when we eventually come back together once again.

Rhian Green

Lock down for LBC organ

A number of members have expressed concern for the LBC organ during the lockdown and was it being looked after. It has had breaks in usage before and has survived in particular in 1954 when its pitch was altered to modern concert pitch, in 1974-5 when the Church was undergoing its major re-ordering prior to the merger, in 1997-8 when it underwent a major restoration as the Church was redecorated. Because the weather has not been extreme for temperature and humidity I have not been too concerned but have nevertheless played it a few times to check its well-being.

It is substantially a mechanical or tracker action instrument typical of its original date of manufacture (1908) and while some electrical modifications to the action have been made mainly in 1998 no problem has arisen. The other concern relates to the pipes which are mainly of a lead-tin alloy or zinc for the metal pipes, or wood for the traditional bass sound (the metal show pipes were painted gold for decor reasons at the request of the deacons). The metal pipes will expand or contract with the temperature and thus go out of tune. The wood pipes are affected by humidity and these too will alter pitch and character but fortunately there have been no extremes of weather and the brickwork of the building is insulative. The other factor is the wind and blower which brings air from outside the building behind the organ loft which ends up in the building via the organist's legs at the console who is most affected in Winter when the air is cold. The electrics needed for the heater which the organist values have been carefully checked by Paul Grimley and found to be in good order although initially he missed the important light over the music rest which was quickly replaced.

Curiously the members concern has not extended to the organist himself who has become seriously short of practice, not uncertainty of knowing where the notes are or the position of the stops but placing the feet on the pedals! So when we start services again a suitably sympathetic preacher could choose easy hymns to play and the congregation may sing more heartily to cover up the mistakes and wrong notes and not complain too much about any slow tempi.

David Gabe

What will our church look like after lockdown?

THE LOCKDOWN AND OUR CHURCH

1. What have we missed the most about church?
2. Are there any things we've felt relieved to stop doing, things that we won't miss?
3. What kinds of support and activities are we offering in person and online, and why?
4. Have there been advantages to doing things in this way?

EXITING LOCKDOWN AND BEYOND

1. Are there things we were doing before lockdown that should NOT be restarted?
2. Are there things we have STARTED doing in lockdown that should continue?
3. Are there new things that God is calling us to start?
4. People are now familiar with connecting online —
How can we maximise this new way of meeting in all areas of church life?
5. How can we allocate our financial and people resources to achieve this?
6. What may be the enduring pastoral needs caused by lockdown — Economic, emotional, spiritual, medical — that we will need to respond to?
7. How can we share the gospel with people in this new context?

Church after the pandemic is over

Darren Blaney (minister of Herne Bay Baptist Church)
offers different scenarios to consider

There could be a host of things we could consider. For the moment, let us consider the two major factors: the virus itself and the competing forces within the church of those who want to go back to how things were and those who see this as a chance for a completely new start.

So, with the virus this means either, we get the outbreak under control, or we do not. For the competing forces within church, one outcome would be that we are able to go back to how things were before the outbreak. The other would be that a partial or complete break with the past is made, the church reinvents itself and new forms emerge.

Thus, four distinct scenarios emerge:

1. Virus Takes Over + Church Goes Back to Old Forms
2. Virus Contained + Church Goes Back to Old Forms
3. Virus Takes Over + Radical Break/New Forms of Church
4. Virus Contained + Radical Break/New Forms of Church

Scenario 1: *Abandonment.*

In this future scenario people decide that with no visible progress being made against the virus, they have had enough. The government realises that the economy cannot remain on pause any longer nor schools remain closed indefinitely. Society has to restart whatever the risks before it starts to unravel. The attitude of Christians becomes “If we’re going to catch this anyway, we might as well catch it worshipping God”.

Some churches meet with strict social distancing rules. This alters the experience of gathered worship and fellowship profoundly. Many cannot cope. Some abandon the restrictions and just ‘do church’.

If the virus is not contained, this outcome becomes a scary possibility.

Scenario 2: *The Old World.*

This is the case that many in our churches would like to see. The virus burns itself out or is brought under control; churches reopen; society returns to normal. This all becomes a nightmare few months that is consigned to history and we get to tell our grandchildren about it one day.

Scenario 3: *Crazy New World*

Here the virus runs rampant, but churches decide not to return to physically gathered Sunday services. Instead, internet meetings are the new norm. Other changes come with this. For example online worship is a very different experience from simply streaming our “standard” services. Churches adapt to this and online services develop their own style and liturgy. These make the most of the new technologies whilst minimising the downsides. What emerges is anything but “Sunday as usual”. Churches broadcasting on YouTube or Facebook Live, add an after-service Zoom-type component so that people can have some experience of connection and community.

Many house groups also move to meeting online. Churches work to develop virtual versions of pastoral care, children’s and youth work, even Messy Church. A lot of creativity and innovation is needed...and released. Fear and uncertainty is replaced by faith and excitement. Online outreach is also developed, and an online mentoring culture begins to emerge.

With little use for buildings, some churches wonder what to do with them.

Others, deprived of the money from community hire, struggle to meet their budgets. Some small churches abandon their properties altogether and discover a new lease of life as online and home-based communities. Others are unable to adapt and close.

However, in this new online world, the danger of people ‘consuming’ Christianity as another product emerges. Doing community and discipleship become priorities. Sadly, those with no internet access, which is especially true of some of the elderly, are now all but excluded from church life. Technical poverty becomes spiritual isolation.

Scenario 4: *Mixed Economy*

Churches are able to resume public meeting, but things do not go back completely to how they were before. Many aspects of church life continue online; many others are offered as both real-world and virtual-world experiences. Many of the problems around community and discipleship from scenario 3 are present here too. The additional challenge emerges of how to combine online and real-world congregations into one fellowship. Some manage this, others live with the tension, and some others diverge to the point of separation.

Whatever the Christian church may look like after lockdown is over, we can be sure that Christ will be in its midst, guiding and encouraging, as ever.

Does God Still Speak to People?

God has a plan for us individually and as a Church because he loves us and wants the best for us. He wants to reveal Himself to us as well as His will for us. It is left for us to hear from Him when He speaks.

A young man had been to Wednesday Night Bible Study. The Pastor had shared about listening to God and obeying the Lord's voice. The young man could not help but wonder, 'Does God still speak to people?' After service, he went out with some friends for coffee and pie and they discussed the message. Several different ones talked about how God had led them in different ways. It was about ten o'clock when the young man started driving home. Sitting in his car, he just began to pray, 'God...If you still speak to people, speak to me. I will listen. I will do my best to obey.'

As he drove down the main street of his town, he had the strangest thought to stop and buy a gallon of milk. He shook his head and said out loud, 'God is that you?' He did not get a reply and started on towards home. But again, the thought, buy a gallon of milk. The young man thought about Samuel and how he did not recognize the voice of God, and how little Samuel ran to Eli. 'Okay, God, in case that is you, I will buy the milk.' It did not seem like too hard a test of obedience. He could always use the milk. He stopped and purchased the gallon of milk and started off toward home.

As he passed Seventh Street, he again felt the urge, 'Turn Down that street.' This is crazy he thought and drove on past the intersection. Again, he felt that he should turn down Seventh Street. At the next intersection, he turned back and headed down Seventh. Half-jokingly, he said out loud, 'Okay, God, I will.' He drove several blocks, when suddenly, he felt like he should stop. He pulled over to the curb and looked around. He was in a semi-commercial area of town. It was not the best, but it was not the worst of neighbourhoods either. The businesses were closed and most of the houses looked dark like the people were already in bed.

Again, he sensed something, 'Go and give the milk to the people in the house across the street.' The young man looked at the house. It was dark and it looked like the people were either gone or they were already asleep. He started to open the door and then sat back in the car seat. 'Lord, this is

insane. Those people are asleep and if I wake them up, they are going to be mad and I will look stupid.' Again, he felt like he should go and give the milk.

Finally, he opened the door, 'Okay God, if this is you, I will go to the door and I will give them the milk. If you want me to look like a crazy person, okay. I want to be obedient. I guess that will count for something, but if they don't answer right away, I am out of here.' He walked across the street and rang the bell. He could hear some noise inside. A man's voice yelled out, 'Who is it? What do you want?' Then the door opened before the young man could get away.

The man was standing there in his jeans and T-shirt. He looked like he just got out of bed. He had a strange look on his face, and he did not seem happy to have some stranger standing on his doorstep. 'What is it?' The young man thrust out the gallon of milk, 'Here, I brought this to you.' The man took the milk and rushed down a hallway. Then from down the hall came a woman carrying the milk toward the kitchen. The man was following her holding a baby. The baby was crying. The man had tears streaming down his face.

The man began speaking and half crying, 'We were just praying. We had some big bills this month and we ran out of money. We did not have any milk for our baby. I was just praying and asking God to show me how to get some milk.' His wife in the kitchen yelled out, 'I ask him to send an Angel with some. Are you an Angel?' The young man reached into his wallet and pulled out all the money he had on him and put in the man's hand. He turned and walked back toward his car and the tears were streaming down his face. He knew that God still answers prayers.

This is so true. Sometimes it is the simplest things that God asks us to do that cause us, if we are obedient to what He's asking, to be able to hear His voice clearer than ever. Please listen and obey! It will bless you (and the world) Phil 4:13. Abraham's experience was different from Moses, and Joseph's experience was different to Samuel etc. So, yours would be different if you hear from God. Amen!

Victor Ojo

A Cook's Ticket 'Round the World'

Following the recent holiday and travel experiences we have shared during lockdown, our summer magazine cover features an early advertisement from the 'Father of Modern Tourism', Thomas Cook.

Cook's idea to offer excursions came to him while "walking from Market Harborough to Leicester to attend a meeting of the Temperance Society". With the opening of the extended Midland Counties Railway, he arranged to take a group of temperance campaigners from Leicester Campbell Street railway station to a teetotal rally in Loughborough, eleven miles away. On 5 July 1841, Thomas Cook escorted around 500 people, who paid one shilling each for the return train journey, on his first excursion.



On 4 August 1845 he arranged for a party to travel from Leicester to Liverpool. In 1846, he took 350 people from Leicester on a tour of Scotland. In 1851 he arranged for 150,000 people to travel to the Great Exhibition in London. Four years later, he planned his first excursion abroad, when he took two groups on a 'grand circular tour' of Belgium, Germany and France, ending in Paris for the Exhibition.

The Thomas Cook statue outside Leicester Railway Station, London Road, Leicester was unveiled on 14 January 1994 by his great-great-grandson Thomas Cook.

Dear God,

Thank you for keeping us safe on our travels and protect us on our future journeys, wherever they may take us.

Support us with Your strength and grace when we are weary.

Help us to be mindful of Your presence and love in times of stress and guide us to make our time together meaningful and memorable.

Amen.

Remembering the Seashore in Lockdown

Seaside Treasure

Have you ever walked along the beach and found some 'seaglass' amongst the wet stones? It's made from glass that we have thrown from a boat or left on the sand after a picnic. The waves and tide tumble the broken pieces, wave after wave, year after year, until they become smoothed and rounded. Then we find them on the beach amid seashells and seaweed. The most common colours are brown, green and white from beer and wine bottles. Sometimes, if you're lucky, you may find some deep blue from milk of magnesia bottles. Antique black sea glass is the rarest. Because of new packaging these collectables are vanishing now, but can still be found in Scotland because of strong tidal currents and big storms. Look for seaside treasures.



SKEGNESS IS SO BRACING
IT'S QUICKER BY RAIL

FREE ILLUSTRATED GUIDE FROM ANY L.N.E.R. OFFICE OR AGENCY, OR DEPT. E. TOWN HALL, SKEGNESS

Sea Story from Nature Notes

Some years ago there was a story in the San Francisco Chronicle about a female humpback whale which had become entangled in crab traps and lines.

A fisherman spotted her struggling to stay afloat and called an environmental group for help. When the rescue team arrived they decided the only way to save her was to dive in and untangle her. It was a dangerous venture – just one slap from her tail could kill a rescuer. The team worked for hours and eventually freed her. When she was free, the divers said she swam in joyous circles. And then she came back to each diver, one at a time, and nudged them gently as if thanking them. They said it was the most incredibly beautiful experience of their lives.

“If the only prayer you said in your whole life
was ‘Thank you’ that would suffice”
Meister Eckhart

The Shell

See what a lovely shell,
Small and pure as a pearl,
Lying close to my foot,
Frail, but a work divine.
Made so fairly well
With a delicate spire and whorl,
How exquisitely minute
A miracle of design
Lord Tennyson

My time in Nigeria

Independence from being a colony of Britain took place on October 1st 1960. I had been appointed to join the staff of the North Region's Ministry of Agriculture School of Agriculture at Samaru near the town of Zaria and started there in August 1959. The appointment outlined the remit to join the staff of the School to give lectures, build up an academic library specialising in tropical agriculture and work on illustrating the range of farm practices in the region in a room designated as the "Museum". It was through this last requirement that I was asked to work on the stand for the School at the Independence Day celebrations being held at Kaduna, the capital of the North Region. The stand was one of hundreds of displays created by government departments and commercial organisations in a large covered area which was a hive of activity as the displays came together.

The football stadium was taken over for a grand celebration of the birth of the independent Nigeria with singers, colourful dancers and trumpeters from towns and village communities of the North Region who filed past the central podium reserved for local politicians and visiting dignitaries all welcoming the new status.

To take up the appointment I had travelled to Nigeria overnight in the comfort of a BOAC Dreamliner passing smoothly over the deserts below and arriving early the following morning in the international airport of Kano in the sweaty heat of the Nigerian wet season. The next stage of the journey was to take a small plane further south to Kaduna. While on the plane I was introduced to a Yorkshire couple who were returning from leave in the UK and had served several years in the School of Agriculture. They were Christian folk and able to tell me about the School and about life in the tropics.

At Samaru accommodation was provided in the large campus area of bungalows and houses of different sizes and quality for the School and Ministry staff. As a new member of staff and a bachelor it was basic – but the offer improved over the years. Individuals paid for their own domestic staff typically a cook/steward and a gardener both of whom were necessary

for overseas staff not used to the heat and humidity of the tropics. In addition this gave much needed employment for the local people.

Of religious faiths the students at the School were in about equal numbers between Moslems, who worshipped at mosques nearby. For the Christians there was a lively Anglican Church in the outskirts of Samaru and several Anglican churches in the large town of Zaria six miles away. I went to one of the smaller churches. To the south of the town near the village of Wusasa was an Anglican Mission compound and School – a little bit of England!

To understand the religious balance in Nigeria it is helpful to know that for the 312 seats for the Federal House of Representatives the appointments were allocated as 174 for the Northern Region (mainly Moslem) 73 for the Eastern Region (mainly Christian), 62 for the Western Region (mainly Christian and 3 for the capital, Lagos (mainly Christian).

All senior Ministry employees were offered a loan to buy a car which for expatriates was essential for getting about and with this finance I bought a grey Volkswagen “Beetle”. This car served me very well in the five years that I was in the country and over some rough roads particularly for the final 500 miles journey south to Lagos. From there with the car on board the big Elder Dempster boat which called at the port cities of Acre in Ghana (where I bought two fine Elephant Stools), then to Monrovia in Liberia, then Maderia before the final stretch over choppy waters to Liverpool. There Hilary and I met up again. Hilary had not been able to join me in Nigeria because of her mother’s poor health but we had kept in touch with times of UK leave and by letters. We married in August 1964 at St.Bartholomews Church, Stoke on Trent.

N.B. In October of this year the 200 million people of Nigeria will be celebrating 60 years of successful independence and, like all countries, having to cope with the ravages of the Corona virus and other challenges of this huge multi ethnic country. Our prayers and wishes are with them for truly blessed years ahead.

Stan Cramer

Forgotten hymns (8)

For the last 20 years we have shared a holiday each summer with friends from Church, always among lakes and mountains in Europe. Each evening we have gathered in a hotel room for evening prayers, which always included singing a hymn or two. So I prepared a “Hymns for Holidays” leaflet of 15 hymns we would enjoy singing in such beautiful locations, including this one, sadly no longer found in our hymn books, last seen in Baptist Hymn Book 1962, and sung every year at LBC from 1980-2002.

*Angels holy, high and lowly
Sing the praises of the Lord!
Earth and sky, all living nature,
Man the stamp of Thy Creator,
Praise ye, praise ye, God the Lord!*

It's such a well-written hymn; note the internal rhyme in the first line of each verse. And it's unusual in having 5 lines to each verse, allowing the tune to build to a crescendo at the end of the 4th line.

*Sun and moon bright, night and noon-light,
Starry temples, azure-floored,
Cloud and rain, and wild winds' madness,
Sons of God that shout for gladness,
Praise ye, praise ye, God the Lord!*

After the climax at the end of line 4, the tune subsides for the final line of the verse, like waves on the shore retreating

*Ocean hoary, tell His story,
Cliffs, where tumbling seas have roared,
Pulse of waters, blithely beating,
Wave advancing, wave retreating
Praise ye, praise ye, God the Lord.*

The rhyming is unusual, line 2 rhyming with line 5 and lines 3 and 4 rhyming together, adding to the intensity of the climax at the end of line 4.

*Rock and high land, wood and island,
Crag, where eagle's pride hath soared;
Mighty mountains, purple-breasted,
Peaks cloud-cleaving, snowy-crested,
Praise ye, praise ye, God the Lord!*

The tune is called Windermere and was written for this hymn to which it is perfectly matched, so the organist can really make the tune roll for verse 5 –

*Rolling river, praise Him ever,
From the mountain's deep vein poured;
Silver fountains, clearly gushing,
Troubled torrent, madly rushing,
Praise ye, praise ye, God the Lord.*

It's an energetic sing, but you're well into it by the time we reach the final verse,

*Praise Him ever, bounteous giver!
Praise Him, Father, friend and Lord!
Each glad soul its free course winging,
Each glad voice its free song singing,
Praise the great and mighty Lord!*

Surely we ought to keep singing it, at least once a year!

*(Our thanks to John Stuart Blackie,
Scottish Professor of Latin and Greek who wrote it, 1809-95).*

DRB

Baptists on postage stamps

When friends discover that you are a philatelist (ie. a serious stamp collector) all sorts of responses occur such as ‘can’t you find anything better to do?’ or ‘any old stamps or special types?’ or ‘when did you start?’ Like many others I started as a boy collecting any stamp that came my way, then specialising on the Commonwealth or favourite countries for holidays or where relatives lived. Later on, I specialised on Music stamps and Science on stamps. The trouble with religious themes is that such stamps are dominated by Popes and Saints who tend not to be Baptists. But two stamps in particular gave me hope.

Stamps in most countries are dominated by the monarch’s face which is used for the definitive or regular stamps, and commemorative stamps feature objects of discovery or invention and rarely people because a widely accepted rule is that with exception of Royal Families only living persons can be featured. And then a recently deceased Baptist appeared on a stamp of the USA – Martin Luther King in 1968 and then a British Baptist appeared on a stamp of India – William Carey in 1993 at the bicentenary of his missionary work. Of course, other historic religious leaders have appeared but they were not Baptists. The list includes David Livingstone, Albert Schweitzer, whose claims to fame embrace medical, missionary, education, exploration work. Political leadership has been usually regarded as too ephemeral although exceptions exist notably Winston Churchill and in the United States former Presidents this last category being a challenge for us in the UK. The former President who comes to our mind is of course Jimmy Carter who only served one term partly because of his religious principles (recognised by award of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002) but he is still alive and active at 96 years of age and has been a regular visitor to Baptist Assemblies in Britain. The other recent Baptist President is Bill Clinton, but his religious affiliations are often considered to be a little questionable.

There are two other earlier Presidents : Warren Harding (1921-3) and Harry S Truman (1845- 1953). Warren Harding died in office of myocardial infarction and was popular although there is little to show for his service and he left a trail of lady friends. Rumours existed for some years that he

was poisoned by his wife to relieve him of terminal illness. Harry Truman was in a different class. He was elected in 1945 as a vice president to Franklin D Roosevelt who would remain in the shadows; In fact he succeeded as President after only 3 months on the sudden death of the President in April 1945 who was planning the end of World War II and was left to complete plans he knew nothing about notably the use of an atomic bomb! He attended the final peace conference with Germany and then concentrated on a peace with Japan. He turned out to be one of the most decisive Presidents since Lincoln, was elected in his own right for one term before retiring in favour of Eisenhower who was elected for two terms.



That only four Presidents can be listed is due to the early presidents being Anglican or Presbyterian and the fact that Southern Baptists are not very active politically but are much more concerned with civil and social rights and religious freedom. They tend to be Democrats as a class tradition.



Warren Harding William Carey
 Harry S Truman Martin Luther King

In Britain Prime Ministers have tended to be Anglican but not actively so. In recent years the most committed prime ministers have been Tony Blair as a converted Catholic and Theresa May as a strongly committed Anglican. Two with Baptist connections were David Lloyd George who was a member and Deacon at Castle Street Welsh Baptist Church in London but whose private life in later years was questionable. James Callaghan was brought up as a Baptist in Portsmouth but was probably best described as a lapsed Baptist and having been Prime Minister for only a few years was never likely to be featured and Lloyd George spent his last 20 years as an opposition liberal. No one else in sight!

Andrew Carnegie

In the June Magazine Anna Pratt reminded us that Andrew Carnegie was an important philanthropist in Leicestershire helping to fund libraries in Loughborough, Melton Mowbray and Market Harborough. He was born on 25 November 1835 in Dunfermline just over the Forth Bridge from Edinburgh where there is a museum in his honour. His father was a weaver but struggled for business and in 1848 the family emigrated to the USA settling in Pittsburgh where Andrew found a job as a pioneer of new-build railways becoming Superintendent of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. He invested in steel and founded the Carnegie Corporation which by 1901 became a founding part of the US Steel Corpn and he became a multimillionaire. He married Louise Whitfield in 1887 but they had no children.

His wealth was considerable and his Presbyterian background encouraged thoughts of philanthropy especially in support of Churches, education and Libraries, child welfare and theatres not only in the USA but also in Scotland. He was especially fond of Pipe Organs and he funded over 200 church organs in Illinois alone with a grand total by his death of well over 1000 worldwide. This passion became known at the time in Britain generally and in 1906 Baxter Gate Baptist Church were planning to instal a new pipe organ and the deacons were encouraged to apply to the Carnegie Foundation for some funding. There was a substantial exchange of letters before a grant was made of about £600 on the understanding that it represented only a fraction of the cost the balance being raised by members and it would be used to support worship music. The organ was completed in 1908 at a cost of about £1200. At present there is a research project in progress to establish how many organs were part funded by Carnegie at that time in Britain: the outcome is not yet clear but seems to be limited to non-conformist churches primarily in Scotland and England.

Carnegie died in 1919 having retired to Lenox in Massachusetts leaving a total of \$392 billion, making him one of the wealthiest persons in the world, with his largest bequest to found a Technical University in Pittsburgh, which is now the Carnegie-Mellon University., It is probably his best-known foundation today but his huge bequests represent his wishes to support education and religious activities but always with joint financing as a partnership.

David Gabe

Do you remember the Rang - Tan?

There's a Rang Tan in My Bedroom is a beautifully produced little film, originally made by Greenpeace. The frozen food company, Iceland, then struck a deal to use it for its 2018 Christmas publicity, in order to bring attention to the plight of Orangutans living in the rain forest and tell customers what they were doing about it.

It was briefly shown on TV but then banned as too political. However, this became brilliant publicity and it has now been viewed 90 million times online!

If you've never seen it, or need a reminder, here is the link:-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TQQXstNh45g>

And if you're wondering about Iceland's action – they had made a decision not to use **any** Palm Oil in **any** of their own products because of the destructive effect of the harvesting of Palm Oil on the Orangutan habitat.

That was 2018 – and although there has been a lot of campaigning and improvement since then, there is still illegal and unthoughtful harvesting of the palms.

Iceland resolved the problem in their own way but there are many reasons for using palm oil IF it is from sustainable sources.



If I thought you would all be able to click on this link to the World Wildlife Fund, I would finish here, because it tells you so much about the problems and what is currently happening.

<https://www.wwf.org.uk/updates/8-things-know-about-palm-oil>

However, I know that's unlikely, so I will give you some highlights....

Indonesia and Malaysia provide over 85% of global supplies of Palm Oil and they are the **only places in the world where you will find Orangutans.**

IT'S EVERYWHERE

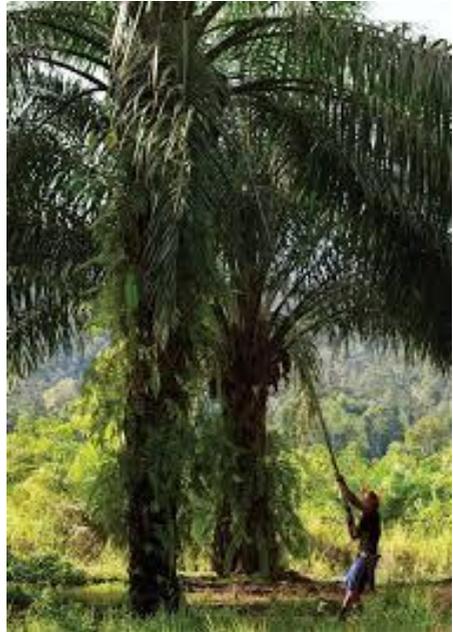
Palm oil is in so many products! It's in nearly 50% of the packaged products we find in supermarkets, everything from pizza, doughnuts and (many) chocolates, to deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste and lipstick. It's also used in animal feed.

WHY IT'S EVERYWHERE

Palm oil is extremely versatile. It has many different properties and functions which makes it so useful and so widely used. It is semi-solid at room temperature so can keep spreads spreadable; it is resistant to oxidation and so can give products a longer shelf-life; it's also odourless and colourless so doesn't alter the look or smell of food products.

THE PROBLEM

Palm oil has been and continues to be a major driver of deforestation of some of the world's most biodiverse forests, destroying the habitat of already endangered species like the Orangutan, pygmy elephant and Sumatran rhino. This forest loss coupled with conversion of carbon rich peat soils are throwing out millions of tonnes of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere and contributing to climate change. There also remains some exploitation of workers and child labour. These are serious issues that the whole palm oil sector needs to step up to address because **it doesn't have to be this way.**



GETTING TO A SOLUTION

Palm oil can be produced more sustainably, and things can change. The **Roundtable of Sustainable Palm Oil** or RSPO was formed in 2004 in response to increasing concerns about the impacts palm oil was having on the environment and on society. The RSPO has a production standard setting best practices producing and sourcing palm oil.

Companies are encouraged to commit to these standards and to be transparent in their use and sourcing of palm oil and support for smallholder programmes. There is a lot more detail on the website.

WHY NOT USE OTHER OILS?

Palm oil is an incredibly efficient crop, producing more oil per land area than any other equivalent vegetable oil crop. Globally, palm oil supplies 35% of the world's vegetable oil demand on just 10% of the land. Palm oil is also an important crop for the GDP of emerging economies and there are millions of smallholder farmers who depend on producing palm oil for their livelihood. Boycotting palm oil is not always the answer, but demanding more action to tackle the issues and go further and faster, is.

In 2012 the **UK Government** recognised that we were part of the palm oil problem and could also be part of the solution. They set a commitment for 100% of the palm oil used in the UK to be from sustainable sources. In 2016 75% of the total palm oil imports to the UK were sustainable. This is great progress but there is more to be done to get to 100%.

On the WWF website, there is a list of how well various companies are scoring. Of course, not all are there but it shows that from the UK, M&S and the Co-op are near the top, along with a few other supermarkets a little lower down.

It also suggests asking, via social media, where your favourite places to shop source the palm oil in their own brand products. The link below will take you to a page where you can add your voice to act against irresponsible expansion of Palm plantations.

It really is worth doing!

“See what we can do together”
(remember Aesop's fable about the straw that broke the camel's back?)

<https://palmoilscorecard.panda.org/voice>

Gill Butcher

Recycling

When you stay in a hotel that scrap of soap you leave behind in the washbasin will, most likely, be thrown away. Derreck Kayongo decided to do something about this wasteful practice. His father was a soap maker in Uganda and when Derreck learnt how much soap was thrown away by the hoteliers in the United States, and that 2 million children die each year worldwide due to lack of sanitation, he established **Global Soap Project**. The soap was collected by volunteers across United States and shipped to a warehouse in Atlanta. There the soap is cleaned, reprocessed and packaged, then shipped and given at no cost to those who need it. More than 100,000 bars have been distributed to many communities in nine countries.

Services during July

We shall continue the pattern of sending out a service each Sunday morning by email and on the website. We hope that those of you without internet are managing to get copies of the services. Please contact Vicky, Margaret or Lilian if you have problems with this. This is an opportunity to worship in fellowship with the congregation at LBC.

July 5th Jillian Beresford

July 12th Victor Ojo

July 19th Michael Tebbatt

July 26th Margaret Thirlwell

Items for the September magazine should be emailed to LBCMag11@gmail.com by NOON on Sunday 23rd August 2020

IMPORTANT:

Please note the new email address for all magazine correspondence

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY	10.45	Family Worship (Crèche, Sundiclub & Young People's Group)
WORSHIP	4.00	Sunday@Four (Third Sunday of the month)
	6.00	Evening Worship
TUESDAY TO FRIDAY	12.00 - 2.00	Lunch Break
MONDAYS	1.00	*Little Stars* (for babies, toddlers and their Carers)
	5.15	Rainbows (girls aged 5-6)
	6.15	Brownies (girls aged 7-11)
	6.45	Guides (girls aged 11+)
	7.00	Rangers and Young Leaders (girls aged 14+)
	6.30	Contact Club (snooker for all)
	7.30	Monday Nighters, first & third in the month (friendship for all)
TUESDAYS	10.00	Yarn Angels (knitting and crocheting for charities)
	12.45	Lunchtime Concert (Third Tuesday in the month)
	2.30	Baptist Women's Fellowship (devotional meeting)
	6.30	Film Club, 1 st & 3 rd Tues (young people 10 to 16)
	7.30	Creations (hand crafts, first and third Tuesday in month)
WEDNESDAYS	1.45	Badminton Club
	3.30	Messy Church – for families, first Wednesday every month
	7.30	Ladies Choir
THURSDAYS	11.00	"Forget Me Not" – Fortnightly (for those living with dementia)
	7.30	Church Meeting – Third Thursday most months
FRIDAYS	12.45	Luncheon Club (Senior Friends, alternate weeks)
	5.00	*Superstars* and SSEExtra (boys and girls aged 5 - 11)
	6.30	Music Group (preparation for worship)
	7.15	Church Choir practice (as required)
SATURDAYS	10.00	- 12 noon : Coffee Morning
	6.30	Link-Up (First Saturday of the month)
WEEKDAY EVENINGS		House Groups, Bible Study, Christian Meditation Group, Discussion and Prayer Groups (Enquire at the office for days and times)



Loughborough Baptist Church

Church Office: Tel: 01509 215642
e-mail: office@lbcweb.org.uk
Pastoral Worker: Victoria Edwards Tel: 07557 023383
General Secretary: Margaret Thirlwell Tel: 01509 232840
Family Worker: Bethany Lock Tel: 07756 200382

- SUNDAY** 10.45 am with Crèche, Sundiclub & Young People's Group.
WORSHIP Communion on 3rd Sunday of the month.
4.00 pm Sunday@Four
(3rd Sun in the month instead of 6pm)
6.00 pm with Communion on the 1st Sunday of the month.
- MID-WEEK** Bible Study, House Groups and Discipleship and Christian Meditation courses are run, offering opportunities for Christian learning and fellowship.
- There are 2 women's organisations and a "Contact Club" for snooker.
- "Link-Up", a social evening for people with learning difficulties, is held on the 1st Saturday of every month.
- CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE** See previous page for details
- LUNCH BREAK** Open Tuesday to Friday: you may bring your own food to eat, or buy food and drink for a quiet lunch time.
Senior Friends connected with the church may belong to the fortnightly Lunch Club.
- TRANSPORT** to services and meetings is available on request.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS please contact the Church Office
Open daily 9 am - 12 noon or look on our web site
www.lbcweb.org.uk