

Minister's Letter

Last year, for the first time ever I celebrated Candlemas on February 2nd. A small group of us from Churches Together in Hykeham and Swallowbeck gathered at the bandstand on Hykeham Green for a short service together by candlelight. It was a breezy evening and so keeping the candles lit was tricky! I wonder if any of you have acknowledged the celebration of Candlemas in a similar way?

Candlemas formally brings to an end the season of Epiphany begun on the 12th night of Christmas, the 6th January. Its Biblical origins are taken from the story in Luke 2 of Jesus' presentation in the Temple at 8 days old where Simeon and Anna are faithfully waiting to welcome Jesus' appearance. The candles of Candlemas came later when the opportunity was taken by churches to gather all the church candles together to be used in the coming year and to dedicate and bless them to the glory of God.

Light, in itself, is central to the Christian story. Jesus came to be light of the world, a light that shines in the darkness and the darkness will not overcome it. At this time of year we experience more darkness in the dark hours of the night than we do in the lighter hours of the day – this can be difficult to cope with especially if we live alone or feel vulnerable during the long evenings and cold, dark mornings. Our world experiences much metaphorical darkness as it contains much conflict and violence, much pain and disease and turmoil. And yet, as God's people, we remember that Christ is the light for us, illuminating the dark way, shining into our hearts and from our hearts. The gift at Christmas is with us to stay and provides great hope for us and for the world. Simeon himself recognised that specialness in the baby in his arms for he is 'a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel'. May we carry with us the light of Christ as we continue to journey through the start of this year – and remember the lighter nights and warmer weather are on their way too!

Claire

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Candlemas

Thought you might find the following interesting (*The editor*)

Weather

If Candlemas Day be fair and bright
Winter will have another fight
If Candlemas Day brings cloud and rain
Winter won't come again

If Candlemas Day be dry and fair
The half o` winter's to come and mair
If Candlemas Day be wet and foul
The half o` winter's gane at Yule

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Street Pastors

As you may have read by now in the "Echo", Street Pastors were successful in being given a share of the money given to local organisations. We were awarded just over £235, according to the number of coupons collected. was due in no small part to the efforts of Lincoln URC, judging by the number of coupons I handed over to Joy Liddle our Co-ordinator. We came 18th out of 200 organisations.

On behalf of Joy and all the other street pastors may I say a big "Thank You".

Sandra

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St Columba's

Saturday Lunch - 4th February

Join us for Saturday lunch on 4th February at 12.30pm. Cost is £5 per person.
Book with Sue on 01522.851170

Fairtrade Breakfast - 10th March

If you don't fancy coming for your lunch, why not come for your breakfast instead!
Saturday morning, 10th March from 8.30am till 10.30am. Cost £3.50 per person

GREENLANDS LADIES CLUB

Meet 2.00pm-4.00pm at St Columba's on the 2nd Tuesday of the month.
All Ladies welcome. Meetings open to members and visitors.
Members £5.00 per year
Tea/coffee & biscuits 25p
Visitors 70p per meeting

14th February Florida Experience - Peter Skelson

Trinity

Winnifred (Win) Rhodes Preston 19/3/1911 - 17/12/2011

Daily we say a little prayer. God keep you forever in His care.

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50th Anniversary Meeting

A meeting is being held on Wednesday, 1st February to start preparing for the celebration of our 50th Anniversary on 6th July 2013.

All are welcome and the meeting is being held in the coffee bar lounge

Commitment for Life

Some years ago, we at Trinity, agreed to become involved with "Commitment for Life" and our partner country was Bangladesh, Neil and Frances Caldwell were our representative for 7 years and at the church meeting AGM in January 2011 they stood down.

Currently we don't have a representative. Would you be our representative? Ask Neil or Frances what is involved.

During 2012 Commitment for Life celebrates being 20 years old. 1992 saw the United Reformed Church take a bold step in showing faith and justice in action. This year we want you to celebrate this considerable achievement by holding a special 'Celebrate 2012' service. Throughout that time churches in the programme have raised millions of pounds and taken campaign actions for Christian Aid and the World Development Movement to help them in the fight against poverty and injustice.

Why celebrate?

Commitment for Life has been a success story of the United Reformed Church. Justice is something we feel is very much part of God's plan for his church. The people who started Commitment for Life had a vision for the future but we still have a long way to go to see a justice filled world.

How to celebrate.

We would love you to hold a '20 year Celebration Day' for Commitment for Life. Book a Sunday in your church's diary for a Commitment for Life Celebration Service. Plan to have a meal, either as part of the service or following it. Serve the Celebration cake either during the service or after the meal.

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Lands End to John O'Groats with a Bus Pass and a Dog

Many of you will be aware that I have written a book on my experiences whilst travelling by service bus between Lands End and John O'Goats with my dog Archie and using my "oldies" bus pass. One newspaper referred to those senior citizens using their bus pass as "free loading wrinklies", a term that may have some truth. We took the equivalent of 13 days to complete the 1,230 mile journey, the English and Scottish sections being undertaken within two separate periods between knee surgery.

In writing my book, I have tried not to make it read as just a travelogue but to introduce some humour with occasional "rants", a preserve of grumpy old men! At the places where I stopped to change buses, I took time to explore and have written a brief history and listed places of interest. In reading my book, you will hopefully become a little more knowledgeable about this historic and beautiful island of ours. It is certainly true that "travel does broaden the mind".

Writing my book has been an enjoyable challenge and has involved much research, part of the reason why it has taken so long to complete. The book has now been published and can be purchased either direct from myself (£10) or on-line. It is a soft-back book with 350 plus pages and includes some black and white photos. All profits are to be donated to Water Aid.

Eric Newton

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and finally a Candlemas superstition

Any Christmas decorations not taken down by Twelfth Night (January 5th) should be left up until Candlemas Day and then taken down.

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WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

On Friday 2nd March over 3 million people worldwide will be praying and worshipping together during an annual day of prayer using a form of service prepared by Christian Women in Malaysia. Over a period of some 35 hours more than 170 countries will have taken part and in the UK alone over 6000 services will be held.

Malaysia is a multi-ethnic and multi-religious country. Throughout its history it has attracted migrants from other parts of Asia and beyond and it is one of the wealthiest and most developed countries in South East Asia. Women have made important contributions to its social and economic development but, nevertheless, they still face discrimination and violence at all levels of society. Even today a girl child is seen as less valuable than a boy.

Malaysia is now the most popular destination country in Asia for migrant workers and human trafficking has become a sophisticated and organised operation.

Although Malaysia's multi-ethnicity has added to the rich heritage of its land and people, it has also given rise to many problems. In the service those issues of concern are named and the women voice their hope for the future. Justice for all is their hope, and their prayer is **"Let Justice Prevail"**.

To join this day of prayer and worship come to : St Faith's Church, Charles Street West. On Friday the 2nd March 2012 at 2p.m.

Or alternatively see notice board for a list of other churches taking part. HMG.

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MEETING POINT

This fellowship & discussion group will meet on Tuesday 14 February at 7.45 pm. We will be looking at the 2nd session in the Lent course 'Handing on the Torch' at the home of Sheila & Alan Gilby 9 Staffordshire Crescent Doddington Park and would welcome anyone wishing to join us.

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TWINNING

Hello Everyone,

Just to let you know that at Christmas we received a card from Ludger Mandelbaum in Neustadt which sent greetings for Christmas etc, but also said that they had decided that the preferred date for Trinity to visit Neustadt is Thursday 30 August 2012, presumably returning on Monday 3 September.

For those who are interested in making the twinning trip please put the date in your diaries now and we will need to shortly be thinking of booking flights etc.

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HERE and THERE

In this a leap year, we are treated to an extra day this month. From what I hear, a member of Trinity URC has a birthday on the 29th, and can claim to be only a quarter of the years that this person really is. There is a downside, of course, in losing out on quite a few birthday presents.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could all turn the clock back like this and in a moment reduce our ages, though I fear the aches and pains acquired over the years might not go away as easily as that.

All I can suggest is that we all make the best of this extra bonus day this year, and perhaps do something special.

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We all mastered the three R's to some degree during our time in primary school (if you can remember that far back), but we still hear complaints from time to time as to the number of children moving on to higher education still not entirely competent in this field.

I did hear the other day, however, of an alternative meaning to the three R's which might be more appropriate to all ages.

These are:- Regard for Other.

Respect for oneself.

Responsibility for all your actions.

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Happiness is an elusive thing, but I do remember these words that come from somewhere way back.

“Happiness is something that comes into our lives through doors we don’t even remember leaving open.”

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A life making mistakes is not only honourable, but more useful than a life spent doing nothing. *George Bernard Shaw*

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I love the long established hardware / DIY shop that is filled to the rafters with just about everything you need, and marvel at the shopkeeper who can identify the location of any item.

And when you enter seeking some vital component, you are not expected to ask “Have you got...?” but rather “Where is it?”

It reminds me of the story of the woman who goes into a shop and finds God behind the counter. Asking what He’s selling, she gets the reply, “Whatever you want, you can get it here.”

Of course she expected great things, and couldn’t help feel a little disappointed when God handed her a small packet. “I forgot to say”, he explained, “We don’t sell the fruit, only the seeds.”

In other words the whole world can have peace, love and happiness, but first we - you and I - have to sow the seeds.

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Don’t children bring us delights in so many ways, not least when they first make contact with God: _

Dear God, Do you draw the lines around the countries? If not, who does? *Norman*

Dear God, You don’t have to worry about me. I always look both ways before I cross the street. *Dean*

Dear God, In school we learned that Thomas Edison made light but in Sunday School they said you did if first. Did he steal your idea? *Donna*

Dear God, I didn’t think orange went with purple until I saw the sunset you made on Tuesday night. That was really cool. *Carol*

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Service Details

29th January

Trinity - 10.30am Mrs H. Grierson
Ermine - 10.00am Revd H. Temple
St Columba's - 11.00am Mr C. Baker

5th February

Trinity - 10.30am Revd H. Temple (Dedication Service)
- 6.30pm Revd H. Temple (HC)
Ermine - 10.00am Mr G. Gilmour
St Columba's - 11.00am Ministry Team

12th February

Trinity - 10.30am Mr B. Stonehouse
Ermine - 10.00am Revd H. Temple (HC)
St Columba's - 11.00am Revd C. Simpson

19th February

Trinity - 10.30am Revd A. Vaughan
Ermine - 10.00am Mr A. Gilby
St Columba's - 11.00am Revd H. Temple

26th February

Trinity - 10.30am Revd H. Temple
- 1.00pm Church Meeting AGM
Ermine - 10.30am at Trinity
St Columba's - 11.00am Revd J. Mackinder

4th March

Trinity - 10.30am Revd H. Temple (HC)
Bailgate Methodist - 6.00pm
Ermine - 10.00am Mrs H. Grierson
St Columba's - 11.00am tba

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