



Methodist Post

Boston Spa • Clifford • Bramham

June 2017



Ideas and contributions for future issues of the Methodist Post always welcome. We will not be publishing in August, but instead will produce a combined July/August issue to be available at the beginning of July. For this issue, please send copy to: jovernon1@gmail.com by 10th June. Thank you.

Cover photo: AWF

Whitsuntide or Pentecost? – the Birth of the Church

When many of us were young we looked forward to the 'Whit' holiday perhaps not understanding its true meaning. Originally the term came into use in Anglo-Saxon times when the word 'wit' meaning 'understanding and wisdom' were associated with the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples. Alternatively, it might be a corruption of 'White Sunday' being the most appropriate day upon which to dress a child in white for its baptism into the Christian community.

Pentecost, meaning 50, is the day of the Jewish 'Festival of weeks', being 50 days after the 'Feast of Unleavened Bread' and that is when the disciples met together to celebrate the festival and the Spirit came upon them. Filled with the Holy Spirit, they then dispersed and spread the 'Good News' and thereby the Christian 'Church' was born.

The Dove is associated with the coming of the Holy Spirit since when Jesus was baptised in the river Jordan, the Holy Spirit descended upon him in the form of a Dove, a symbol of peace and harmlessness.

Our 'Collared Dove' is a smaller and far less aggressive bird than its cousins, the Pigeons, and since it is abundant in Israel, it may well be the bird that was seen at Christ's baptism.

Arthur Faulkner



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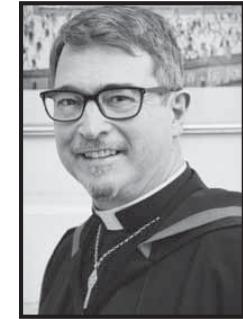
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Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

11th June is 'Holy Trinity' Sunday. Week by week and day by day in Church worship we use expressions associated with the Holy Trinity. We invoke the Trinity, we baptise in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, we bless using a Trinitarian formula. Our worship is saturated with the language of the Trinity. So what's that all about? And, even more important, does it make any sense?



For traditional Christianity, underlying the language of the Trinity is the belief that there are three persons in one God. This belief is not found in the Bible, it arose gradually over a number of centuries. Vigorous debate led to the emergence of the doctrine of the Trinity. Two fundamental principles directed this debate and in many senses determined its outcome. First, it was felt that the divine names, Father, Son and Holy Spirit could not just be alternative names for the same reality. Their roles in the stories of Christ's life, death and resurrection, and in the continuing story of the Church's life and worship, required that they must somehow be separate realities. But, second, it was equally insisted that there could not be more than one God or differing degrees of Godhead. So it was felt that the only explanation was the doctrine of the Trinity; three persons in one God.

For centuries since the doctrine was developed it was believed in a literal way, though most Christians have accepted that in literal reality a full understanding of this idea is beyond our grasp. In recent centuries, however, it has been subjected to the scrutiny of modern thought.

So what value has this talk of the Trinity today? The first thing that I would say is that religious language belongs to the category of metaphor, of symbol, even, one could say, of poetry. The Trinity belongs to this realm, as do other religious ideas. Having said that I do believe that the symbolic language of Father, Son and Holy Spirit does offer invaluable guidelines to Christian thought about the nature and purposes of God.

For Christians the expressions Father, Son and Holy Spirit describe three ways in which God is most directly accessible to us. We encounter God, first, in the sheer mystery of existence, second, in the transforming power of the historical figure of Jesus and third, in the inwardness of profound human experience. To put it another way we encounter God as creator, redeemer and sanctifier. But none of these ways operates in independence of any of the others. All are connected. This Christian experience of encounter with God is given its doctrinal expression in the concept of the Trinity.

Traditional Christian theology has wanted to go still further. It has asserted that this experience of threefoldness reflects a truth about the very being of God himself. It gives us knowledge about the interior life of God himself. But I question whether we really can go that far. Aren't we then pushing out beyond symbol and metaphor and pretending that we can enter into the very mystery of divinity itself? I wonder whether

it is possible for us to attain that kind of knowledge? This does not mean, however, that we should give up using the language of the Trinity. In fact this language, as well as expressing something powerfully true of our experience of God, underlines and emphasises the divine mystery. For when most of us think of the idea of the Holy Trinity our most immediate reaction is that of wonder, amazement, even bafflement. And that is how it should be. For God is a mystery and we should never presume that we can come to know His inner reality. The idea of the Trinity whose festival we celebrate this month is one means by which we can acknowledge our humility before the mystery which is God.

Steve

Circuit publicity: If you are holding an event or have something you would like to convey to the Circuit, could you please let Judith Grimditch (844904) have a notice about it and she will pass it on through the Circuit publicity network. Thank you.



The Grand Opening

The new chapel was built by Bulmer of Boston Spa and was completed in ten months. It was opened and dedicated for divine worship on Friday 1st October 1847, by the Rev John Ryan whose mother Ann

Ryan was a close personal friend of John Wesley. An address, given to the Wesley Guild on March 10th 1948 by Mr Blackford whose wife had read Mathematics and was the first woman to graduate in the subject at Leeds University, describes the opening ceremony in the following terms:-

'Local ministers and preachers in sober black reverless coats and white high soft cravats joined the folk of Boston and the towns and villages of the district. Men dressed in black broadcloth with velvet collars and tall "chimney" hats or rough home spun coats and heavy broad brimmed beaver hats. Women were to be seen in small bonnets, hair neatly braided about their heads. Wide spreading skirts amply filled with pads and petticoats over dresses of many flounces pointed the way to the wide crinoline frame of a few years later. The young ladies of the company, charming in their ringlets, then the new fashion, look coyly at the young men sporting small side whiskers and dressed in the tightest of tight trousers, strapped under the instep.'

*From 'The History of Boston Spa Methodist Church'
Author: Arthur Faulkner, used with permission*

Lunchtime Concert

The Lunchtime Concert will take place on Friday, June 9th at 1 pm. Light lunches will be served from noon. Concert admission is £5.



James Gaughan, baritone, will sing accompanied on the piano by Koki Imada. Both James and Koki work at York University. Koki is a Fusion Physicist. James has won numerous singing awards and he has performed as soloist in many venues around Yorkshire.



Our lunchtime concert next month will be held on Friday 14th July, when we welcome Emma James with a programme of much-loved music.



EVENING CONCERT

There will be a very special concert on Friday, June 23rd at 7.30pm. Admission is £10 to include light refreshments at the interval.

We are to have a Showtunes Singalong hosted by Tim and Barbara from Sing Yourself Happy (otherwise known as 2 Shades of Grey).

We shall sing together some of the most popular songs from famous musicals all with lyrics on the Big Screen.

Audience participation is what it is all about. Tim and Barbara, in full evening dress, will lead/support the singing but it is down to the audience to sing lustily. So come on all you Methodists and friends. Let's raise the roof with our singing and raise much-needed money for our Church Funds. Please practise singing Jerusalem with gusto !

This will be wonderful evening with song and laughter.

Dress as a character from your favourite musical, come in evening dress or just in your every day wear, but COME !!

Tickets are available from Judith England – 01937 844376

Check our website for further details of all of our concerts:
www.bostonspamethodistchurch.org.uk



Boston Spa Methodist Church

...where Church and Community meet

June Diary Dates

Friday 2nd	7.00pm	Prayer Walk (see p. 14)
Saturday 3rd		Spring Fair Fundraising Day at Wetherby Town Hall
Sunday 4th (Pentecost)	11.00am	Churches Together Praise Service at St Mary's
	6.00pm	Evening Communion Service – Revd Uell Kennedy
Friday 9th	12 noon	Light lunches to be served prior to...
	1.00pm	Lunchtime Concert (see p.5)
Sunday 11th	10.30am	Communion Service led by Revd Steve Jakeman with Heather Grant as Worship Leader
Wednesday 14th	7.15pm	Men's Group (see p. 10)
Friday 16th	10.00am	MWiB (see p. 10)
Sunday 18th	10.30am	Mr Edward Blakey
	6.00pm	Reflections Service led by Revd Steve Jakeman
Tuesday 20th	10.30am	Evergreens Luncheon Club
Friday 23rd	7.30pm	Evening Concert (see p.5)
Sunday 25th	11.00am	Joint Service at St Mary's to celebrate the ministry of Revd Peter Bristow on his retirement
Wednesday 28th	3.30pm	Messy Church



Regular Groups

Wesley Room unless otherwise stated (*Events in italics are outside bookings*)

Monday	3.15pm	Ping Pong Club
	5.00pm	Senior Table Tennis
Tuesday	<i>4.45pm</i>	<i>Rainbows; 6pm Brownies; 7.30pm Senior Section</i>
	<i>7.30pm</i>	<i>Yoga Group</i>
Wednesday	9.30-11.00	Busy Bees for pre-school children and their carers
	<i>1.00pm</i>	<i>Upholstery Group</i>
Thursday	<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Pilates</i>
	<i>11.00am</i>	<i>Yoga Beginners</i>
	<i>1.00pm</i>	<i>Upholstery Group</i>
Friday	<i>1.30pm</i>	<i>'Crafternoon' (1st and 3rd Fridays of the month)</i>
Saturday	10am-Noon	'Drop In' for Tea or Coffee

Boston Spa Church Rotas

June

	Door Stewards	Flowers	Church Stewards
4th	<i>Churches Together Service at St Mary's</i>		
11th	Roger & Chris Tunnicliffe	David Bull	Pauline O'Melia Sheila Humphreys
18th	Bob & Wendy Wade	Mavis Nettleton	Jean Walne Barbara Hudson
25th	<i>Joint Service at St Mary's</i>		

Saturday Coffee

3rd	Mike & Jean Walne
10th	Angela Coleman Barbara Hudson
17th	Heather Grant
24th	Brian & Jackie Marsden
1 Jul	Mike & Jean Walne

Sunday Coffee

4th	<i>at St Mary's</i>
11th	Graham & Kathleen McGuire
18th	Dennis & Carmen Ashton
25th	<i>at St Mary's</i>
2 Jul	Men's Group

Busy Bees

7th	Wendy Wade
14th	Christine Mitchell
21st	Jean Walne
28th	Carmen Ashton

Cleaning

29 May-4 Jun	Jackie & Brian Marsden
5-18 June	Julie Thompson Val Woodhams
19 Jun-2 Jul	Les Kellett Sheila Anderson



Birthday Greetings

Women's Friendship Group – 23rd: Angela Coleman
Children – 19th: Arran Ingle

Thank you: Joan and all the Hill family would like to thank all his many friends and colleagues who attended the Thanksgiving Service for Frank and donated so very generously to the collection in aid of Martin House Hospice. Many thanks for all the support, flowers, cards and messages received which were very much appreciated.



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June Services

- | | | |
|------|---------|---|
| 4th | 10.30am | Revd Ken Marshall |
| 11th | 10.30am | Service of Holy Communion, led by Revd Uell Kennedy |
| 18th | 10.30am | Chapel Anniversary, led by Revd Susan Greenhart |
| 25th | 10.30am | Revd Steve Jakeman |

	Door Stewards	Flowers	Vestry
4th	Hazel Greenwood, Julie Norman	Hazel Greenwood	Carol Smith
11th	Sheila & Katy Biercamp	Ros McCall	David Barrow
18th	Carol Smith, Margaret Suggate	Alison Smith	Jason Turner
25th	Catherine Catton, Alison Smith	Joyce Forth	David Mountain
Schoolroom cleaning – Catherine Catton			

Happy Birthday

Sheila Humphries, Margaret Freeman
Samuel Smith, Bethany Hayes, Dominic Ainstey



Chapel Anniversary – Sunday 18 June at 10.30am

Our preacher will be Rev Susan Greenhart.

Strawberry Tea – Sunday 2 July 2-4pm

Tickets are £5 and are available from any Steward or ring Carol on 842404.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

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**Methodist Women in Britain,
Tadcaster Circuit**
Summer Event
at Filey Methodist Church
Friday 16th June – Buffet from 5pm
Speakers: Revs Graham
& Emma Morgan
Tickets £5



Boston Spa Methodist Church Men's Group
Wednesday 14th June, 7.30pm:
Speaker: Alan Pugh – "Salts of Saltaire"

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Boston Spa Festival (including Open Gardens) Friday 14th – Sunday 16th July

This year the 2nd Boston Spa Festival will take place on the above dates, building on last year's success.

The scarecrow trail, which was a great hit last year, will appear again and the theme this year is 'Characters in Children's Stories'. It would be great to have a scarecrow in the competition this year, and therefore if you are interested in creating a scarecrow please see me by 12th June as entries must be in by the 23rd June. Scarecrows will go on display on 7th July.

For us, the Festival proper starts on the Friday with the Methodist Church Lunchtime Concert, featuring Emma James, taking place at the usual time of 1pm. Prior to that, of course, our famous lunches will be served from mid-day in the Wesley Room. Tickets for the concert £5 on the door.

This year's theme for our church, is 'Talented Boston'; this event will open at 2pm, as the concert ends, so please pop in and have a look, enjoy a cuppa and a piece of cake. We shall also have a cake stall, and perhaps some plants will be available on the Friday and the Saturday. If you can't make it Friday, we will be open Saturday all day. We are looking for individuals to display their talents, artwork, knitting, wood carving, dressmaking, homemade marmalade and chutneys etc. So, if you are interested please speak to me and we can discuss where and how you can put up a display, and sell items if you wish.



(A Game of Consequences). Tickets will be limited so please book early.

On Sunday, we will be celebrating with a special Songs of Praise at 10:30am, and in the afternoon, we will be holding our very first Pet Service, at 3pm. All creatures, great and small, are welcome!

There are lots going on over the three days of the Festival; something to suit everyone from Open Gardens on the Sunday to a conducted Heritage Walk, and classic cars. A variety of music is being performed throughout the weekend and there will be a wide variety of food on offer.

Look out for the programme, and come and sample the delights on offer; looking forward to seeing you there.

Sue Jakeman



Chapel Anniversary

Sunday 30 April 2017 was a big event in the life of our church in Boston Spa – one hundred and seventy years of worship in our building.

To celebrate, our usual Sunday morning worship was transformed into a circuit-wide Communion Service, graced with the presence of Revd Roger Walton, current president of the

Methodist Conference, as our preacher and joint leader (with our own Revd Steve) for the communion part of the service. How wonderful it was to see the lower level full and an overflow of worshippers in the gallery.

We also had the pleasure of the Wetherby Church music group and choir, who certainly added a new dimension to our worship. We actually started our service with hymn 25 from our Singing the Faith hymn book with Nick Farnell playing the organ:

*God is here! As we his people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.*

What an appropriate start to our celebration!

Revd Roger has a pleasantly informal approach as a preacher and, in his message, he referred to the fact that, as President of the Conference he has been invited to many church anniversary celebrations. It has led him to ask the question “what is a church?”

He suggested three main avenues of thought on that subject. Firstly, of course, there is the aspect of **PLACE**. Church buildings are certainly a special place – they are a tangible way of pointing to God. But we live in rapidly changing times and we have to find other ways to bear witness to Christ and pronounce the gospel. An example has been the introduction of a roving Church-in-a-bus in the Halifax/Wakefield area – very controversial when it started, but so successful that a second bus is now in use.

But, Roger says, we also need a **PURPOSE** as well as a place. Every seat had a flexible bracelet for us to wear and the wording on the bracelet is a reminder of our purpose the practical ways in which we can live out our Christian witness – “Do Justice, love Kindness, walk Humbly.”

Here in the UK, we are faced with falling congregations, a shortage of clergy and an increasingly secular world around us, so it is understandable that many lose their Christian inspiration. Roger put our situation in perspective when he pointed out that there are 85 million Methodists in the world and that numbers are growing at the rate of one million a year – other areas of the globe are expanding their Methodism.



Finally, our faith is about generating **POWER**. When we have the **PLACE** and the **PURPOSE**, we need active participation. The analogy he used was perfect – ‘we won’t light up unless we are plugged in.’ A positive way to end a very thoughtful sermon.

The ‘rolling communion’ in a packed church was a challenge, but it worked. Of course, it took quite a while, and I felt sorry for Nick who had a rather long stint on the keyboard with background music. Well done Nick.

Did we leave the service encouraged and enthused? Yes, I think so – and there was the lunch to look forward to, as well...

Iain Vernon

... Following the service, everyone went down to the Wesley Room for coffee, followed by a magnificent Faith lunch. Both the Savoury table and the Sweets table were filled with a wonderful selection of dishes. Quiches, sandwiches, salads, ham, salmon to name just a few – what a wonderful choice! Delightful sweets included a cheeseboard, trifle, banoffee pie, pavlova, cheesecakes – so much to choose from!

This was a time of fellowship, meeting with friends, having time to chat, whilst thoroughly enjoying our wonderful lunch.

Thank you to everyone who helped in so many ways – to those who provided the superb lunch; to those who set up and then cleared away the tables and chairs; to those who worked tirelessly in the kitchen – washing, drying, putting dishes away. Thank you! Many compliments were received for Boston Spa’s hospitality.

Jackie Marsden

Long Service Certificate

It has been my privilege to present Gerald Payling with his Long Service Certificate. The certificate marks the many years of loyal service since he was accredited as a Local Preacher in 1976.

During that time, Gerald has not only led worship and preached in services, and on numerous other occasions, but he has also served as Local Preacher Tutor for the Circuit; mentoring and encouraging many others in their call to preach. More recently, he has been fulfilling the role of Chaplain to Local Preachers and Worship Leaders within the Circuit.

Lately, Gerald has not been experiencing the best of health; our love and prayers are with him.

Steve Jakeman



'Say One For Me' 20th May – 4th June 2017

Local churches in Boston Spa, Clifford, Bramham, Thorp Arch and Walton will be praying, with focussed vigour, for the needs of local people and communities.

PENTECOST Sunday 4th June, 11am-12pm

The fortnight will end with a shared, family friendly, celebration service at St Mary's Church, Boston Spa, followed by refreshments. Everyone welcome.

Prayer-Walks 2017

All walks will start at 7pm and finish at 8pm.
Everyone is welcome. No prior experience required! Prayer-walking is as simple as it sounds – praying as you walk around the local area. When we prayer-walk we are bringing God's blessing to people and places, in Jesus' Name.

Monday 29th May – Boston Spa

Meeting place*: Fox and Hounds Inn

Leader – Revd Jane Brown

Wednesday 31st May – Walton

Meeting place*: Walton Village Hall

Leader – Revd Jane Brown

Friday 2nd June – Thorp Arch

Meeting place*: The Green (finishing at The Pax) Leader – Revd Jane Brown

* Please note we will meet outside each of these places.

For further details please contact Revd Steve 01937 842156.



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Where next?

So much is happening just now, on the national and international stages, that it is difficult to choose a theme. By the time this comes into print, we shall have had a General Election in the UK with all that that will entail. In France, Emmanuel Macron has been elected President, standing as a solo candidate with only the then fledgling "En Marche" political party to back him; he needs the support of the Legislative Assembly to achieve his aims. But there is also a General Election for that Assembly in France on 11 and 18 June. (The 2 stages represent the electoral law there that if no single candidate gains 50% of the votes plus 1 in the first stage, the two candidates with the largest number of votes go on to a further stage from which all the other candidates are excluded.)

Both of these events – here and in France – can, and no doubt will, affect our future in the UK. We can and should pray that all those involved will be given the wisdom and understanding they need to do what is best for the world. Where next indeed?

But let's also look nearer home. As our church notices recently reminded us, the fact that our building work at Boston Spa is finished and that we have more space, more flexibility and better facilities – that's a new beginning rather than a completion. Where do we go from here? Our church has come a long way and seen much change in its 170-year story; what should we be doing as we embark on the future? What should our church, both the building and the people, be providing and doing? And how do we go about it in a rapidly-changing society?

We need to go on showing in our worship, our preaching, our fellowship and our living just what Jesus has done and is doing for us. We need to go on trying with his help to create a caring and praying community through which others can experience

by knowing us what it means to know Jesus. But all this needs to be done outside the church as well as inside. How can we best use what we have and are to reach out as well as to draw in? How do church and community best meet? Where next indeed?

There's something to pray about!

Dennis



Father, I place into your hands my friends and family.
Father, I place into your hands the things that trouble me.
Father, I place into your hands the person I would be,
for I know I always can trust you.

*Singing the Faith, 519
Jenny Hewer (b.1945)*

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Holiness and justice

Holiness and justice is the theme Roger Walton and Rachel Lampard have taken as the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference in 2016/2017.

The Revd Dr Roger Walton is the Chair of the West Yorkshire Methodist District and Rachel Lampard is the Team Leader of the Joint Public Issues Team of the Methodist Church, the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Church of Scotland and the United Reformed Church.

- ❖ In the UK more than 1 in 4 children live in poverty.
- ❖ 1 in every 122 people in the world is a refugee or is internally displaced.
- ❖ Water scarcity affects 4 in 10 people, and climate change is making rainfall more variable.

An awareness of holiness, of a God who longs for a world where the hungry are fed, the homeless are sheltered, and the lonely are welcomed, can prompt us to reflect the God of justice in our lives.

Holiness and justice are intimately related. Responding to love of God in Jesus means seeking to live in a different way – a way that respects and seeks justice for all people.

*"Love one another. Just as I have loved you,
you should also love one another"*
(John 13:34, NSRV)

"We are not to simply bandage the wounds of victims beneath the wheels of injustice, we are to drive a spoke into the wheel itself."
(Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

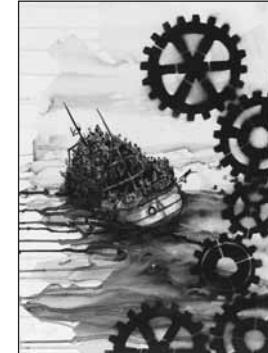
Spring Fair

Saturday 3rd June, Wetherby Town Hall

We are holding a Spring Fair at Wetherby Town Hall this year to raise funds for the church and for charity. This will run from 9.00am till 1.30pm.

There will be a café serving morning refreshments and light lunches and several stalls, including paperback books, cakes, crafts, bric-à-brac, plants and also a tombola.

Please spread the word around and support this event, which is taking the place of the usual event at St Crux in York.



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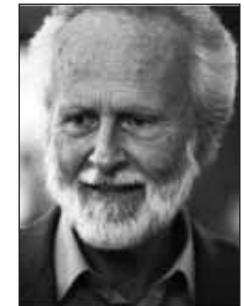
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Fred Kaan

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Fred Kaan may be less familiar to you than other modern hymn writers, but his contribution particularly in hymns reflecting 'Justice & Peace' is outstanding. You will all know '*For the healing of the nations*' (StF no. 696) and '*Put peace into each other's hands*' (StF no. 712). Other favourites include the communion hymns, '*Now let us from this table rise*' (StF no. 596) and '*Let us talents and tongues employ*' (sadly not in StF!).

Born in Haarlem in The Netherlands, Fred Kaan was arguably, one of the finest hymn writers in the Christian Church in the 20th century. His texts are in almost every major hymn book today. His words, and indeed his life, reflect the struggles that so many church leaders feel today in attempting to make Sunday worship relevant to the life of the world we live in. His hymns, which include both original work and translations from a variety of languages, address the modern challenges to faith, and notably issues of peace and justice. However, it was his wartime experience that made him a dedicated pacifist with a deep desire for people of all races to be as one.

He became a member of the Netherlands Reformed Church, its Protestant theology appealing to him, but it was through English Congregationalism that led him, in 1952, to train for the ministry at Western College, Bristol. Ordained in 1955 at the Windsor Road Congregational Church in Barry, Glamorgan, he ministered there until 1963 when he was called to Pilgrim Church in Plymouth. It was at this congregation that his poetic gifts became evident and his hymn-writing began in earnest. He wanted hymns to highlight social concerns of his day and allow people to speak of a vision of world peace. His hymns have been published in over 15 languages. In 1965, for Human Rights Day he composed what was to become his most popular hymn, "*For the Healing of the Nations*".

In 1968 Fred was called to serve the church internationally, moving to Geneva to become minister-secretary of the International Congregational Council. A passionate ecumenist, he played a significant role in uniting this organisation with the much larger World Alliance of Reformed Churches in 1970, serving this united body as secretary until 1978.

Fred Kaan returned to England in 1978, serving as Moderator to the West Midlands Synod of The United Reformed Church, finally concluding his ministry as minister of Central & Penhill, Swindon, retiring in 1990. Sadly, Fred's last years were overshadowed by the onset of Alzheimer's disease and by cancer. He died in October 2010.

[I have a copy of a biography of Fred Kaan, if anyone would like to borrow it. It is '*Healing the nations: Fred Kaan, the man and his hymns*', by Gillian Warson]

Jim Murison

Pilgrim's Progress by John Bunyan – Part 5

Following his confrontation with the foul fiend Appollyon, Christian arrived at the end of the valley only to find another known as the '*Valley of the Shadow of Death*' where he met two men. Asking them where they were going, he was met with a sharp response that they were going 'back, back, back' and that if Christian had any sense he would join them. On further questioning the two replied that they had encountered 'continual howling and yelling and fearful misery', but Christian, knowing that the narrow path he had chosen was not going to be easy, rejected their offer and continued on his way.

In the Valley, Christian was sore tried; quagmires, deep pits, fire and smoke beset him. Putting away the sword of 'God's Word' he took another weapon called, '*All Prayer*' asking God for strength and protection to enable him to meet the trials before him, with trust. As he met fearful creatures who beset him on all sides, he cried out "*I will walk in the strength of the Lord*" whereupon they retreated and troubled him no more.

At the end of the Valley, Christian discovered a cave where dwelt two giants, '*Pope & Pagan*' and despite the blood and ashes that lay around the place he found little danger as Pagan was dead and Pope, '*by reason of age, had grown so crazy and stiff*' that he could do little more than sit grinning at the Pilgrims as they went by.'

Presently, Christian met Faithful and enquired as to what had happened to Pliable who had returned to the village from whence they had both come. 'Ah' said Faithful, he is derided and without work, several times more miserable than before. 'But why?' said Christian, "because his neighbours have lost all respect for him and regard him as a turncoat and unfaithful to his calling" replied Faithful as they both continued on their journey together.

Soon the two friends became aware of companion walking beside them. His name was Talkative and he confirmed that he also was going to the Celestial City. Faithful was delighted at the prospect, but Christian was reticent, explaining that he knew the man well and had seen before how he had out-talked so many and had put them off pursuing the road to the city. Quoting from the Scriptures, Christian reminded Faithful that actions speak louder than words and that '*men shall be judged according to their fruits.*' (Matt13 & 25). Talkative argued at great length against this, believing that his knowledge was sufficient and that no further conviction was called for and so saying he told the two that they were too melancholy and he bid them farewell.

Christian and Faithful now carried on, enjoying each others company as they left the wilderness area where they had conversed with Talkative when, much to their delight they found that one whom they knew well was hurrying to catch them up. "*Peace be with you...*" said Evangelist as he drew level with them and "*welcome good friend*" they replied and proceeded to recount all that had befallen them since Christian had last seen Evangelist. "*I have sowed and you have reapedthe crown is before you,so run that you may obtain it*" exclaimed Evangelist, not sorry that they had encountered great challenges but rather, delighted that they had wrestled and had overcome temptations and evil.

Before they were far from the wilderness of trials, Christian and his friend Faithful saw in the distance, a town known as *Vanity* where the renowned *Vanity-fair* was held every day. This fair had its origins in the dim and distant past and it is said that once Pilgrim's making their way to the Celestial City when they met upon the path Beelzebub, *Appollyon* and *Legion* with their accompanying devilish companions. These contrived together to waylay the Pilgrims by means of an attraction which, they said, few would be able to resist. This enticement took the form of a grand fair, lasting a whole year and at which all manner of diversions would be on sale and would include properties, land, all types of honours from state to academic awards, and would even include complete countries. Here it would be possible to purchase husbands and wives, children, servants, sex, bawdiness, slaves, and much more including gold, silver and all manner of precious stones. As an added attraction there would also be plays, games, circus acts, cheating, gambling, apes and rogues of every kind. They could also witness murder, thieving and many more evils.

Having devised their evil scheme, and having watched it grow from year to year and century by century, Beelzebub and his devilish companions rejoiced in their success in creating Vanity Fair and watched with great satisfaction as Christian and Faithful approached the town.

For the Pilgrim's there was no way of avoiding either the town, nor the fair and as they entered, Christian and faithful were aware that they were causing something of a commotion for a number of reasons. The onlookers perceived that their apparel was odd, being nothing like that on sale on the stalls. They also saw that their language was unfamiliar as they used many words which were beyond their normal vocabulary but that which caused the greatest anguish, was that although they saw the available merchandise, they took no interest in the wares and when the stallholders tried to attract them the two pilgrim's would put a finger in each ear and hurry past.

Thus, by their very unfamiliarity with their behaviour, the inhabitants of the town saw the Pilgrim's not as good Christians, but as fools and trouble makers. One of the stall holders tauntingly asked Christian and Faithful if they wished to buy anything to which they answered, quoting Proverbs 23 v 23, "*We buy the truth*". This was taken as an insult and so great a hubbub ensued as to cause the manager of the fair to hurry to see what the cause was. He, seeing the commotion, commanded that the men be arrested and questioned as to why they were causing so much trouble as to overturn the whole fair. Christian and Faithful gave honest account of themselves and explained that they were bound for the *Heavenly Jerusalem*, and had given no cause for the commotion. The examiners refused to believe them saying that not only were they oddly robed and spoke using strange words but that they were either mad or had come with the sole intention of causing trouble and commanded that they be beaten, covered with filth and locked in a cage. In this sorry state they lay without complaint for a while whilst the rabble made sport of them.

There were however, a few who considered that the two were innocent and they courageously spoke out in defence of the Pilgrims.

*Condensed from an 1851 copy of the original by Arthur Faulkner
(Pub: David Bogue. London)*

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