



SUTTON, BRANSHOLME AND KINGSWOOD METHODIST CHURCHES

NEWSLETTER 2016

From the Manse

Read Numbers chapter 13 verse 16 – chapter 14 verse 10. “We explored the land and found it to be rich and fertile; and here is some of its fruit” (Num. 13 vs. 27)

Dear Friends

In the story before us today we find the people of Israel are on the verge of entering the Promised Land. Into this land, 12 spies have been sent to gauge for themselves whether this really is the place where the Lord is leading them. When the 12 return, we find that only Joshua and Caleb have the pioneering spirit, while the other 10 throw up countless objections as to why they should not enter the land. What is more astounding is that when we enter Numbers 14, some of the people want to go back to the slavery of Egypt!

So in reality we have pioneers (those who want to press on in God’s purposes), settlers (those who are happy to remain where they are – whatever God is doing or saying) and those who long for the good old days. Longing for the “good old days” is perhaps something many a Christian congregation can be guilty of. “Do you remember when everyone came to church on a Sunday?” “Wasn’t it good when so and so was our minister?” “Sunday was a special day without sport or television or shopping – and we had 100 children in Sunday school every week.”

Those of us who long for the “good old days” must answer one question. If the “good old days” were so good, then why is their legacy so poor?” What happened – what went wrong? In those days were we making disciples or

using the church as a social vehicle? It's all too easy to blame the giants in the land – the advent of sporting fixtures on a Sunday and Sunday trading – but while they are a part of the story, they are not the entire story.

We can no more go back in time than the people of Israel could travel all the way back through the wilderness to the slavery of Egypt. Therefore, our choice is to be pioneers or settlers. Are we happy where we are, with the number of Christians we are making and are we convinced we are in the centre of God's purposes? Or is God calling us to do something new? Not something extra – something new?

The people of Israel were given the choice of entering the Promised Land or of remaining on the edges of it – and they chose to stay on the periphery of what God was doing in those days. They were cowed by the giants in the land and the false reports of their not being enough food for them to eat.

It is easy for any of us to be cowed by the giants of Sunday trading and Sunday sporting events etc. and to think that we have no choice but to settle for what we've got. But do we?

I wonder if God is calling us to explore new ways of sharing our faith in the land. Are there those among us in whose hearts he is pouring the seeds of new ideas – only we daren't voice them, because they might upset our long standing traditions and structures? It is time for those with a pioneering spirit to come forward, for the land is indeed rich and fertile.

Every blessing

Peter

Future Events

"Aladdin the Pantomime" will be performed on Saturday 27 February at 2pm and 7pm. Tickets are £5 per adult, £3 per child and are available on the door."

Wives and Friends meet on the second and fourth Wednesday evening in the Potterill Room at 7.45pm. New members are always welcome to come along. Weather permitting there will be a members evening on February 24th with invited speaker, Liz Pacey, on 24th talking about "Reading, Writing and NO Arithmetic. Contact Pat Dyson for more details.

Thursday Fellowship will restart their meetings the first week in March when, hopefully any risk of the usual winter weather will be passed.

Meetings will be held every Thursday afternoon from 2pm, mainly in the Potterill Room, and with occasional outings. They have a variety of activities including invited speakers, member's days and group activities. New members are always welcome, both men and women, and are invited to come along and see if this is a group they would like to join.

Tuesday 15 March Church Council Meeting

Saturday 16 April Jumble Sale

Saturday 14 May Spring Fair

Saturday 8 October Barn Dance

Jumble sale items

Please could you let Robin know if you need any sale items collecting by phoning 712814. As well as contributions to sell we would also appreciate any help on the actual day. Many thanks for all your support Robin and Helen.

Faith Like Water

It is the heart that is most important in life. As long as our hearts are pure and true, everything is determined by our hearts, our spirit or faith.

Responding to sincerity with sincerity, that is how true bonds are conformed between people.

Leaders must not forget "It is the heart that is important" Have faith that is like flowing water, stagnant water becomes putrefied because it stands still. The same is true of our lives, not advancing is regressing. It is important to us always to remember the joy and gratitude we first felt when meeting Jesus and be ready to return to the starting point when we face difficulty or adversity.

We must keep our eyes on the compass, courageously steer the course. We must always renew our determination in Faith and challenge ourselves and win over every obstacle, continuing to grow and march forward. This is Faith like water. A single drop of water becomes a stream then a great river, finally into a vast ocean.

In the same way we need to continually expand our state of life as we forge ahead. We need to continually expand our state of life, working to benefit and enrich the lives of others.

“Faith like Water” means continuously persevering faith that flows on ceaselessly and has the power to break through even rock-like obstacles that stand in our way. If we lose faith of striving together, we will not be able to maintain the Faith in Jesus Christ.

Don't close yourselves from others, faith like water may at times come to the boil.

Maybe the ideal faith that burns with a passion and at the same time is as constant as flowing water. We need to keep a powerful, lifelong passion and dedicate to fulfilling the great vows. Otherwise our faith and life will be eroded and destroyed by devilish function, and seek to obscure our sight in our Christian Faith.

Is your faith flowing like a might river?

Adapted from a Buddhist philosophy.

Are we having discussions about the future of our local churches, if not why not? Talk, pray and think about our future? Otherwise the last man will walk out and put out the light.

Pat Dyson

Sutton Church Library will be open every Sunday I am in Church. You are welcome to look through the various books and borrow any that you wish to read. Just put your name, the date and the book title in the notebook, and then add the date that you return it.

I also have books, handmade greeting cards and produce when available, plus other items donated. Donations of things to sell are welcome too. All of the money raised from sales of these goes directly into Church funds.

Messy Church and Children's Crafts need more adult helpers for their school term time activities, held on two Thursday afternoons a month 4pm to 6pm. No experience need, just a willingness to come along and help with the children and their families enjoy the activities. Please speak to Angie if you can help. Call her on 01482 706525.

Exploring Craft groups met in January as the weather was ok for people to get to the venue. There have been some changes to the days we meet, so please contact me if you want to come along and see what we do. You can phone on 783517, or 07958385385.

Our Christmas Choir will possibly have opportunities to come together to sing on other occasions during the year. If anyone would like to join this group, please let me know, you will be very welcome.

Twiddle Muffs

I have been asked if any of our knitters would like to knit Twiddle Muffs? These have been developed for people with dementia. The twiddle elements keep them calmer by keeping their restless hands busy, and keeping their hands warm too.

If you haven't heard of them and would like a copy of the pattern, please let me know.

Linda Whitton

The only survivor of a shipwreck was washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He prayed feverishly for God to rescue him, and every day he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed forthcoming.

Exhausted, he eventually managed to build a little hut out of driftwood to protect himself from the elements, and to store his few possessions. One day, after scavenging for food, he arrived home to find his little hut in flames, with smoke rolling up to the sky. The worst had happened, and everything was lost. He was stunned with disbelief, grief, and anger.

"God, how could you do this to me?" he cried. Early the next day he was awakened by the sound of a ship that was approaching the island. It had come to rescue him. "How did you know I was here?" asked the weary man of his rescuers. "We saw your smoke signal," they replied.

It's easy to get discouraged when things are going bad, but we shouldn't lose heart, because God is at work in our lives, even in the midst of pain,

and suffering. Remember that, the next time your little hut seems to be on fire. It just may be a smoke signal that summons the grace of God.

Margaret Parker

Just a little gem from the Bible study notes I use, on the subject of having courage if people think we're foolish for being a Christian, which tickled me:*

"If I'm afraid of the bullies in the playground, it's because I've forgotten that my Dad is bigger than theirs"!

*(*Fresh from the Word, published by IBRA)*

Margaret Parker

Ann Storr wishes everyone a Happy New Year.

If you know someone who would like to receive the flowers from church please let Pat Dyson or Ann Borrill know.

The Death of a Spider

One night as I watched my television
screen

The biggest spider I have ever seen

Roamed the lounge in search of prey

I held my breath and kept out of her
way!

There was no one to call on to place her
outside

To pick her up I could not abide

She twice patrolled the rug by my fire

But showed none of the speed to which
spiders aspire

When I saw her again she was trailing
some cat fluff

I looked on with pity, enough was
enough

I gingerly placed my heel on the fur

And managed to tug it free from her

I quickly retreated to the safety of my
sofa

In case she wasn't a slow moving loafer

I felt she was suffering, I thought she
was dying

She certainly seemed to find life trying

I was concerned lest my cat should spot
her

Ebonnie did and darted to swat her

I called my cat back and checked the
wall

But the spider had escaped out into the
hall

I'm frightened of spiders I must admit

But they're a delight and do their bit

In ridding us of pests and flies

They can tackle a bluebottle twice their
size

A week later I saw an inert form by the
door

She had expired and was no more

Her eight eyes were closed in silent
repose

But I felt the relief from my head to my
toes

I gently picked her up with a tissue

My fear of spiders no longer an issue

I dropped her outside in a garden bowl

And said a prayer for her little soul

Written by Jean our friend at the café.

Sutton Rotas



Flowers

7 Feb V Hughes
14 Feb B Lazenby
21 Feb J Woods
28 Feb J Lloyd

Coffee



7 Feb Siddles family
14 Feb Elaine P, Andrew, Phil
21 Feb Elaine C, Margaret, Andrea
28 Feb Ann, Elaine P, Ruth

Cakes

Not sure, check the rota.



Sutton Methodist Church Presents



Aladdin

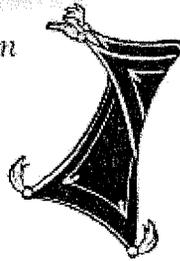
The Pantomime

At Sutton Methodist
Church Hall



Saturday 27th February 2pm/7pm

*Tickets Adults £5
 Children £3*



Tickets available on the door

FORTY YEARS AGO – The Church Newsletter, February 1976

From the late Rev Arnold Johnson's letter:

Dear Friends,

To while away the time, I insisted to Geoff, our editor, that I write a brief note to put in this Newsletter. It's a good job that you read it in printed form because my writing from my horizontal position is atrocious. Indeed you may be reading something quite different from what I have written but Geoff is good at deciphering.

My operation is over and apparently wholly successful. (I will spare you the gory details unless personally requested). My main trouble is feeding myself lying flat and I get into a shocking mess. However, I should be up on Monday and home on Friday 30th January, D.V. . . .

P.S. The nurses are smashing but don't tell my wife!

Note from the Editor

WINDOWS 10 WARNING – if you are thinking of downloading the free version of Windows 10 that keeps popping up on your computer, first ensure your p.c. is compatible to upgrade it. Mine wasn't and consequently wiped everything off my hard drive. I lost all my contacts with you, therefore if you haven't received this by email as requested by yourself please let me know and I will add you back on the mailing list.

Email editor: sonnyj@sonnyj.karoo.co.uk