

THE ENGLESEA EXTRA

4TH EDITION

PRICE: 3 AVOCADOS (PAYABLE TO ESTHER HILTON!)

STRANGE TIMES

I look forward to greeting you all each week, it's a lovely way to connect because I often find myself thinking of you. I'm sure many of you, like me, found yourself reflecting on the extraordinary experience of celebrating Easter in such a uniquely different way than any of us could have possibly imagined. For me there were feelings of disconnection and a lack of rootedness, yet there was also a sense of new life, ways of connecting that felt equally authentic as the physical gathering of foot washing, worship, shared Easter breakfast, or rousing hymn singing. Time, real time to quietly reflect on the passion of Christ in such challenging times offered new and creative insights – we sang 'Christ the Lord is Risen today' with our neighbours on Easter morning, many of whom don't go to church. Here I would like to share something written by Rev Rachel Parkinson, the Chair of the Wolverhampton District who wrote this meditation when she woke at 5am on Easter morning. I have found it powerful, and it's given me a sense of peace, of Christ holding us and loving us through all the fear and uncertainty.

Every blessing

Ruth

Dear Jesus

We're really sorry, but we're going to have to

cancel your party this year.

It's not that we've been buying land or livestock

or even getting married.

(If it helps, all those things have

been cancelled too).

It's that we are burying our fathers and mothers and friends.

And those of us not burying today are worried that we'll be burying tomorrow.

We know you've not accepted this as an excuse in the past but hope that this time you will understand.

Plus

we've had to lock up the venue.

We were all looking forward to the party food so

you see

we are really as disappointed as we know you will be.

(And, if we're honest,

we're not really in the mood for party music).

Sorry again.

Hopefully we will be back to normal next year.....

Dearly beloveds

Please don't apologise.

I've been there before....remember?

I love that you enjoy the feasts you put on for me

but there is more than one way to party

and some of the best I've been to have had a soundtrack of the Blues.

What if I come round to your place this year?

We can have a Lockdown party

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There's precedent.
I know you're worried about security
But I'll let myself in.
I've a track record of making feasts
of store cupboard ingredients
so just leave the food to me.
And I know some of you are angry
with me
(even if you're too polite to say so)
so I'll bring a peace offering.

Refs: Luke 14:15-24; 9:59; John 20:19;2:1-12; 6:1-14

From Tim: Researching gems!

Local preachers in the 19th century : John Dean

The Primitive Methodism Magazine contains some wonderful vignettes of some of our PM forebears and gives details of their endurances and trials .

John Petty, the Connexional Editor often wrote a biographical sketch at the beginning of the monthly edition. I summarize and quote from one that W.D wrote and he added a note to in the April 1852 publication about John Dean, a local preacher.

Her was born in Sandbach. Until the age of 28 he was a nominal Anglican. Then he had an accident which brought him to a period of reflection. He resolved to go and hear the [Wesleyan] Methodists and so went to a humble preaching room in Sandbach where he heard the Rev George Marsden. His experience of conversion happened after he joined the society. It was not in the chapel but at home over dinner in the year 1799 when all the family and servants were gathered. "Devoutly waiting on the Lord, his sense of guilt was removed, and his soul was filled with peace and joy through believing. ... he knelt down in the presence of them all to return

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thanks to God for what he had done". His father was enraged and tried various ways to make him give up Methodism but to no avail, John travelled the seven miles to Congleton to morning worship but when the PMs opened up a cause in Sandbach [in the 1820s?] , he preferred "their lively and zealous way of conducting religious worship". He threw his lot in with the infant society and became its leader. His house became a home for the travelling preachers and he himself was soon admitted onto the plan as a local preacher. He was instrumental in opening up new preaching places and some new chapels.

"He was not a sluggish Christian; he frequently walked ten or twelve miles on a Sabbath day, preached three times, and returned home at night; and when nearly seventy years of age, he went three miles on a weeknight to lead a class, and returned home afterwards. He was an early riser. It was not unusual for him to rise at four or five o'clock, when he seldom spent less than an hour in fervent prayer to God, for his family, the Church of Christ and the ungodly world".

He died the 26th December 1851 in the 81st year of his age, 52 years since his conversion of which he had been 33 years as a local preacher.

John Petty added that in the years 1829 to 1831 [when stationed in the Tunstall Circuit – his third appointment as a travelling preacher] he had often stayed at John Dean`s home on the visits to Sandbach. He well remembered his loud and earnest prayers early in the morning. Members of the family said that the boards where he knelt were visibly worn by the length and frequency of his devotions. His character was "one of solid and uncommon excellency". He was known as "Faithful John" by his neighbours.

For further information about the first Sandbach chapel (built 1832), see the PM Magazine for that year.

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FROM MARGARET:

The Atlas Printing press has always been very special to me because of its indisputable links with the Bourne family and, of course, Bemersley.

It is also very special because it is still working and hundreds of school children have thoroughly enjoyed dressing up as Apprentice printers as they produce printing to take back to school for display. And just this week, low and behold in the Telegraph online, I find this:



THE PERCIVAL'S THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

If you wanted to put the world to rights, who should you begin with: yourself or others? *Alexander Solzenitsyn*

A Picture Quiz from Jane:

Last week's picture was a fascinating artefact which forms part of our PM Missionary collection. It's a manilla, or armband, usually made of brass or copper, and was the first currency to be used in West Africa circa 16th century. The most popular African name for manillas, Okpoho, comes from the Igbo language. They became known as 'slave trade money' after Europeans started using them to buy slaves, many were made in Birmingham and exported to Nigeria. Manillas were legal tender until 1949 when they were replaced by British West African currency.



This may look and sound like a rattle for a football game but who can tell me what it was actually designed for and what it is called?

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Chittoe in Wiltshire. Read more about this at:

https://www.myprimitivemethodists.org.uk/content/chapels/wiltshire-2/a-c/chittoe_heath_primitive_methodist_chapel

CAN YOU HELP?

Here is the other chapel which Randle can't identify from his postcard collection...anyone?



And the chapel where the treasurer ran away was in Newtown, Shropshire!

This week's conundrums, the answers to which can be found with a bit of digging on the MyPrimitiveMethodist website, and your life will be the richer for it, are as follows:

Which Somerset chapel was opened by H.O. Wills of cigarette factory fame - himself a non smoker?

Which Warwickshire chapel was it where one of the people setting it up "was bruised, torn, and gored by an infuriated cow, and was saved from an untimely and melancholy death by a most striking interposition of Divine Providence?"

CHRIS'S CONUNDRUMS

At our Maundy Thursday online service, we had a time of fellowship over tea and cake... and Chris Hill who many of you will know runs the MyPrimitiveMethodist website with Geoff Dickinson, set us some homework!

Which chapel had a '60 gallon tea urn and perfect sanitary arrangements'?

The answer is Bath, and more information can be found here:

<https://www.myprimitivemethodists.org.uk/content/chapels/somerset-2-2/bath-primitive-methodist-chapel>

Which chapel did the local Anglicans pay for the Prim chapel to be located?

... AND FROM GEOFF DICKINSON:

Philip Thornborow is a regular contributor to the pages of MyPrimitiveMethodist archive, and sent this to me:

'My main area of academic interest is crisis mortality, so I find it very interesting that the present Government's actions are virtually identical to those of the Privy Council in 1571 (the Books of Orders which were dusted down for every epidemic from 1571 to the eighteenth century) : if anyone in your household gets it, stay indoors until 4 weeks after the last death in your household. We will organise food deliveries.

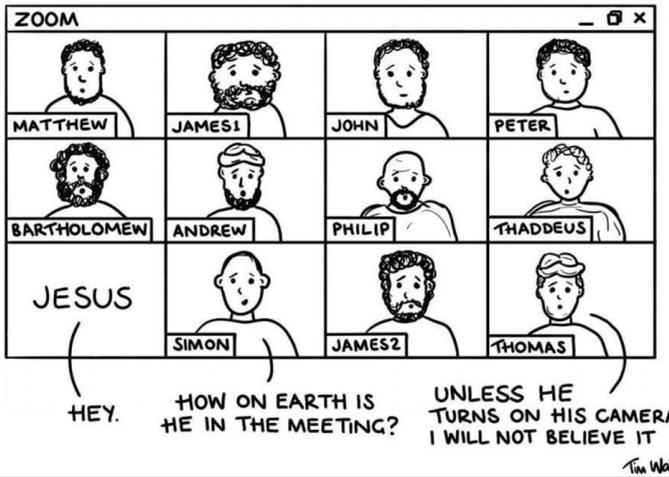
Other orders covered panic buying!'

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Raising a smile.....



Remember, back in our first edition, I shared a prayer written by Rev Dr Barbara Glasson beginning: We are not a people of fear, we are a people of courage. A church in Newcastle was so inspired by those words that they wrote a praise song. I thought I would share it with you, as something joyful and uplifting!

<https://youtu.be/6s1p9U7EaWc>

And finally, following the success of our Zoom worship on Maundy Thursday, we are offering another opportunity for us to meet up virtually and maintain our worship pattern as closely as we are able. Do join us if you are able:

HERITAGE SERVICE

SUNDAY 19TH APRIL AT 3PM

Rev Tim Macquiban will lead a brief act of worship. I will email out an invitation on Thursday. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Bring your own tea and cake!