

# THE ENGLESEA EXTRA

6<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2020: 7TH EDITION

PRICE: CHOCOLATE – ANY

## STRANGE TIMES

This is a bumper edition, and there's still stuff I'm saving for next week's edition! Thank you to everyone sending me items to include, keep them coming!

We were delighted that over 30 people joined us for our first Heritage Talk via Zoom, from all over the UK! Thanks to Tim for leading an interesting talk and discussion. If anyone missed it Tim has produced the transcript which I can email to you. Unfortunately confusion with BST and GMT meant that Andrea from New Zealand 'arrived' just as we were finishing, but she has given permission for me to share the details of her research below. If anyone is planning a trip to NZ when lockdown is lifted, this lovely museum would be worth a detour!

Tim and I are working with the folk at Mow Cop Methodist Church to participate in their YouTube service which will be available from Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May. If you would like to watch, search for 'Dane and Trent Methodist Circuit' on YouTube and subscribe to receive a link to their weekly services. Because this will be recorded beforehand, we will also host a live 'zoom' heritage service on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May at 3pm. As Zoom is the way we will be offering our programme of events, if any of you are struggling to use Zoom, do get in touch and we can try to talk you through, maybe have a practice Zoom session beforehand.... Embrace your inner dinosaur, it's not as scary as you think!

Every blessing Ruth

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## INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS!

***The wonders of Social Media have connected us with Andrea and her fascinating research:***

I have a Methodist and Primitive Methodist background as my mum's family were Methodists. These are my early church memories, sitting with my grandmother at church.

New Zealand got the vote for women in 1893, after an extended but peaceful campaign. The petition is in Wellington as one of our founding documents, alongside the Treaty of Waitangi.

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2227824837546926>

My interest is in the small town where I grew up, Te Aroha, where 75 women signed the petition. I think they had a variety of reasons to sign but the temperance cause was certainly a factor for some as they hoped to vote for prohibition. I have a display at the Te Aroha Museum which has created quite a bit of interest. <http://www.tearoha-museum.com/>



*The Te Aroha Museum, housed in a 1898 Cadman Bath House*

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I have researched small biographies on most of the ladies and found photos of quite a few.... around 25. I would love more photos and am still contacting descendants in the search for more photos. Te Aroha's petition sheets made it onto the petition roll and we are the second largest group for our area called Waikato. Te Aroha in 1893 was a gold town, a developing spa town and farms were being developed. I think it was a golden opportunity for these women in a new country far away from the confines of British life (sorry) to make a significant change to the rights of women. There were active Band of Hope and Blue Ribbon Army groups who kept the interest in temperance going. Whether all signers were motivated by the temperance cause is unlikely, the change they made so early in the suffrage timeline is remarkable.

I am considering taking the display information and extending the biographies and making a book. Of course this sort of project will take a while to come to fruition but in the meantime, my reading and learning about temperance carries on and I thought your talk would add an excellent international angle to my learning. **Andrea**

## Reminiscences of the Research

### Director - Another anniversary!

You probably think I am obsessive about these after two weeks running. But I'm finding serendipitously one thing leads to another. We were watching the interesting series on BBC on Primates and one of the species came from Bioko. Angela said "that used to be Fernando Po" and I remembered that we once knew a family called Barleycorn who came from there who were Methodist and joined us in the Doncaster Circuit 40 years or more ago. So, I looked up Fernando

Po in **My Primitive Methodists** under places and discovered the names of people who had served there. Sure enough, one of the founding fathers of Primitive Methodism was Rev William Napoleon Barleycorn, *pictured below*,



and the main historian of the missions there turned out to be the grandfather of one of our local preachers in the Cambridge Circuit, John Boocock. He has various books and papers which I hoped to persuade him to let us have. It was his church in Cambridge, Castle Street, which was the head of the PM circuit there which celebrated the centenary of its opening in 2013 the same year that Wesley of which I had charge celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary!! Who knows where viewing beautiful nature documentaries will lead you, especially in these lockdown days. Thank goodness for the TV and internet!! The article is too long for Ruth to contain within the Englesea Extra but it is attached separately to this email.

**Tim**

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## FROM MARGARET:

**This week, Margaret has sent in a picture quiz, from her own collection of Victorian artefacts: anyone know what these are and what they are used for?**



**Margaret received the following response from Michael Guy to last week's 'Cup of Tea' worksheet. It reminds us of those Primitive Methodists who fought for workers' rights – and there is still work to be done.**

In 2016, we visited a tea farm and factory. We were taken into the fields where we could see the tea being picked. For the finest quality tea two leaves and a bud should be picked. New shoots come quickly and each bush should be picked about three times a month. A good tea picker will pick 200 kilos a day. The picker we watched was picking two buds a second and some work considerably faster. The farm is thinking of acquiring a machine to pick the leaves. These do not produce the same quality and would be used in the case of a strike by the pickers in order to keep the factory going and to stop the bushes from deteriorating. Although it was not mentioned by the farm supervisor, food prices can shoot up enormously when there has been a poor harvest so it is not surprising that this would cause the pickers to want an

increase in wages. Unfortunately, a bad food harvest will not increase the price of tea. The bushes are replaced every few years. Drought is not normally a problem as the roots of the bushes go down thirty metres.

We then toured the factory. The first stage is quality control. The farmers bring their sacks of tea leaves to the factory and it is tested for quality. A sample of 100 grams is taken and the leaves divided into groups; two leaves and a bud, three leaves, no bud, etc. Each group is weighed and a score made. The quality has to be assessed at 70% or more to be accepted. One can imagine that the farmers might get rather nervous as their bags are being processed. The bags which are accepted are lifted by a hoist to an upper floor where they are emptied onto racks and spread out to begin the process of withering. If the weather is cold warm air is blown through the tea to hasten the process of drying. There are two stages of the withering and at the end the moisture content of the tea leaves is reduced from 80% to 10%. The company's website describes the process as follows:

'After picking, the leaves of *C. sinensis* soon begin to wilt and oxidize unless immediately dried. An enzymatic oxidation process triggered by the plant's intracellular enzymes causes the leaves to turn progressively darker as their chlorophyll breaks down and tannins are released. This darkening is stopped at a predetermined stage by heating, which deactivates the enzymes responsible. In the production of black teas, halting by heating is carried out simultaneously with drying.'

After that the tea is processed by machines. This part of the factory was not working because it was a Monday. The tea pickers do not work on Sunday so the factory machines do not work on Mondays. It was just as well that the machines were not working because we had our three young grandchildren with us! Kenya does not have as many health and safety regulations as we do. There were several stages to the processing. The last was that it went through a three

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level sieve to separate the tea according to size of leaf. After this we visited the tea tasting area where quality control is carried out. 20% of the tea is packed into small bags under the Kenfresh label for sale in shops in Kenya and the other 80% packed into large bags for sale in the tea auctions. There are three main buyers for the tea, including Tetley and Liptons. The suppliers are at the mercy of the big three. We were told that the buyers get together before the auction and decide who will buy each lot and for what price. Fair Trade™ is not the answer because Fair Trade™ cannot take over the whole market and will not help the people I saw working on that tea farm. What is needed is trade justice where the multinational corporations are held to account over the issue of price fixing. The family who run the farm are good people but they are constrained by the international price of tea.

Kenya is the biggest exporter of tea in the world and their most important export markets are Pakistan, Egypt and the UK. China produces more tea but it is nearly all drunk in China.

The whole process from picking to bagging takes less than twenty-four hours. The tea is organically produced. Tea bushes are densely planted and have few pests. There is no need for herbicides or pesticides. All they need is a little weeding. The farm and factory are at Ngorongo and the tea brand is Kenfresh (<http://www.ngorongotea.com/>).

## THE PERCIVAL'S THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

**Wherever the bounds of beauty, truth, love and  
goodness are advanced, there the Kingdom  
comes.**

*Donald Coggan*

## A President in our midst!

We are delighted that Ruth Parrott has been appointed as the new President Designate of Methodist Women in Britain. Here Ruth shares something of her journey. Congratulations Ruth – Englesea Brook will support you in whatever way we can as MWiB continues to challenge social injustice, in true Primitive Methodist tradition!

## A New Challenge

February seems a long time ago and a different world away since I travelled to Leeds to Hinsley Hall (the old Headingly Methodist Ministerial Training College) for the Methodist Women in Britain, Residential Forum. I had been summoned to interview for the post of Vice President/President of MWiB 2021-2024. What had I let myself in for?!

I had been first introduced to Women's Fellowship, as it was then, when we were in our first circuit, Newcastle-Under Lyme, and as a minister's wife soon found myself on the Circuit Committee and consequently, the District Committee. In those days, there was also a Young Wives' Committee of which I became District Secretary. We worked together to take programmes, on a theme, around the district to various meetings and planned training days for the leaders of Playgroups and Mother and Toddlers' Clubs. I was invited to a training day by the Connexional Young Wives' committee in

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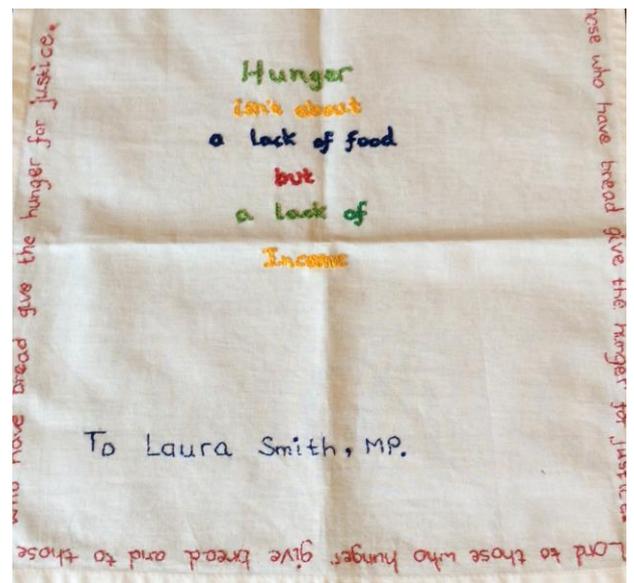
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London. I travelled down with Dorothy Lloyd Williams, a fellow minister's wife, and we both felt it had been a waste of time and money. Dorothy, who was already on the committee, suggested that I wrote to air my grievances and to put forward possible suggestions for future occasions. Yes, you've guessed it, I was invited to join the committee! I soon found myself in the middle of the negotiations for the amalgamation of Women's Fellowship and Women's Work to form 'Network.'

After that I went back to teaching but presided at local church and circuit women's meetings. I wasn't until I retired that I was able to attend the daytime circuit and District meetings again. By this time there had been another change and 'Network' had become Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB). I became District President in 2015.

Why are you so enthusiastic about a women's meeting? - You might ask. That is precisely the image we would like to dispel! Our aim is to: 'connect women with an interest in creative spirituality and a passion for global justice'. Life for many women in the world is not easy and equality seems to be something we have to fight for. The Primitive Methodists were leaders in this field day, but today, it is still a concern. MWiB works in partnership with the Joint Public Issues Team, All We Can, the Methodist Homes for the Aged,

Shoreline conversations, The Global Relationships Team and the Church of North India, to produce materials for study, worship, Dementia Friendly Churches, Visual Impairment Awareness and Dalit Solidarity to name but a few. We are currently responding to our President, Hilary Evans,' concerns about the Modern Slave Trade and Refugee Crisis. We campaign peacefully by using Craftivism to bring awareness to social injustice and joining peaceful protests.



*Craftivism – A protest to our then MP, Laura Smith, regarding Universal Credit sewn on a Dinner napkin*

We raise money to further our causes and to help to try to eradicate poverty and work with the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women and the United Nations to Highlight and work on the Sustainable Development Goals to eradicate poverty. These things

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are not something we can do on our own but together we can make a difference to the lives of others and not just of women!

We work as a team, organising the annual Conference, giving Empowerment gifts to projects with Mission Partners, grants to UK projects and we are currently working with 'Touchstone' in Bradford to develop inter-faith work. Our website: [www.mwib.org.uk](http://www.mwib.org.uk) gives more information and is currently being updated. We are also on social media with weekly blogs and prayers, Lent Reflections and information about our annual Easter Offering Service .

Since I was appointed in February, I have been on the Executive Committee but as we haven't been able to meet, we have been communicating every day by Email and business is carrying on as we try to plan for a gradual release of 'Lockdown'. Our annual Conference at Swanwick had to be cancelled, Overseas Visits, so too our Fringe Event at Conference but we are still here praying, planning, and fighting for injustices. We would value your prayers as we try to do God's will, to try to make this world a better place to live. Come and join us!

*Ruth Parrott*

## JOB OPPORTUNITY!

*I've left this in for another week, just in case someone never quite got round to emailing me...*

Chris, of Chris's Conundrums and who is co-editor of the MyPrimitiveMethodist website is wondering if there is anyone with time on their hands (hmmmm, if not now, when?!) who is looking for a project? Some current Methodist churches worship in ex-Prim buildings, but we don't have a picture on MyPrims. Would you be willing to contact them and ask them to provide a picture? It would be a great opportunity to contact people if you are missing a bit of human interaction – and make our digital archive even more useful. Interested? Drop me an email - [engleseabrookproject@outlook.com](mailto:engleseabrookproject@outlook.com). **Ruth**

## Jane's Picture Quiz:

Last week's 'oversized Love feast cup' was in fact used to collect money collected at Friendly societies. The picture depicted on the side is based on the biblical story of Rachel, who showed hospitality to strangers.

This week's quiz is on Facebook, and Jane is throwing down a bit of a challenge! If you're not on Facebook, give your children, nephews, nieces, grandchildren a ring and ask them to have a look for you... there are a series of pictures that Jane is posting so your homework is to find out what they are... I'm impressed at the number of you embracing new technology - here's another nudge!

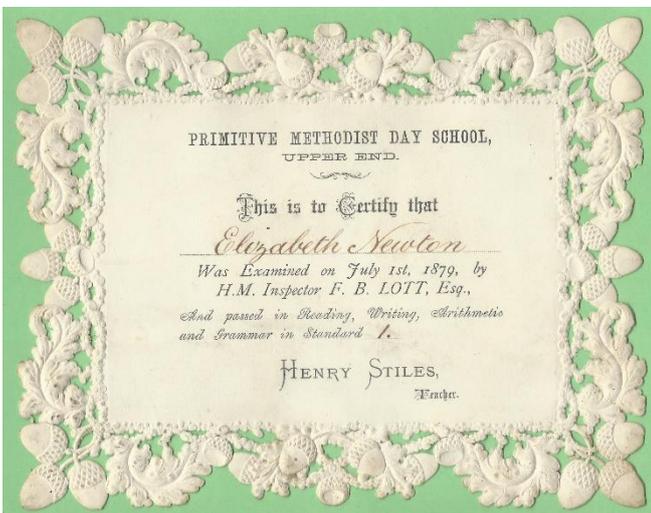
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## RANDLE'S RUMMAGING!

There are a great many certificates of various sorts in the Museum's collection, but the certificate illustrated here is rather special. Primitive Methodist day schools were few and far between, and records of them are very scarce, but this certificate was presented in 1879 to Elizabeth Newton, who was a scholar at the PM Day School at Upper End, near Chapel-en-le Frith, Derbyshire. I only had a quick look, but I was unable to identify either Elizabeth Newton, or Henry Stiles, the teacher, on the 1881 census, I hope someone else is more successful! The certificate measures 18cm x 23cm and consists of a white card, which has a decorative border of acorns and oak leaves, the green on the picture is only a backing sheet.



*Thank you, Randle, what a beautiful item! And the handwriting is exquisite – any calligraphers out there?*

## Chris's Conundrums

Here are the answers to last week's questions, how did you get on?

In which Gloucestershire chapel added this week did the Squire refuse to sell them the stone they needed to build - so they built an iron one?

*Answer: Winson – I love that they were undaunted!*

At which Hampshire chapel did they survey the chapel site by moonlight and get a stranger to bid at auction for the land so that no-one knew it was for use as a non-conformist chapel?

*Answer: St Mary Bourne*

This week's teasers really made me smile:

At which Welsh chapel was the opening disrupted (but not prevented) by impassable roads covered by eight or nine feet of snow with drifts 25 feet deep in places?

In which Lincolnshire coastal chapel was the land paid for by a gentleman bather?

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## News from Alsager Book Emporium at Hassall Road

...From Sorter-in-Chief, Rev Malcolm Lorimer

You never know how many books are going to come in or when they are going to arrive. You also don't know what it may be, a Noddy book or the latest theological tome. I have learnt that you can't judge the tattiest box or carrier bag, you have to look at all the books. One carrier bag with a whole load of magazines which were worthless had at the bottom two children's books which were produced in France in the early 1900's.

The books are sorted into books to price and go on the shelves, rarer ones which may be worth putting on the Internet and the rest which go to World of Books, some of which end up in Africa and the rest pulped to make more books-none go to landfill!!

We get a lot of libraries from Ministers and Lay Preachers which are always interesting and I remember what a college professor used to say. "You can tell when a minister left college from their bookshelves and the date they stopped buying books." Old theological books have to be sorted and sometimes we get a very old one from the 18<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> Century!

The earliest book we have had was printed in 1592! Commentaries are very useful, we get a lot of William Barclay! The most sought after are the more modern American commentaries or the sets produced in the last 20 years.

Sometimes we get a real gem of a Library. One lay person in Stoke collected a vast library of very

good Theological material from a variety of sources (over 30 full banana boxes). It kept us going for months, but the box full of Creationism books didn't interest our more discerning customers.

We cover a wide theological field from evangelical to catholic and at any one time we will have over 20,000 religious titles on our shelves. Methodism is obviously well represented (If we get another biography of Sangster I will scream!). John Wesley of course figures highly, and we always have sets of Journals and Letters etc. One of the most interesting sections is the history of Methodist chapels. These are normally small booklets written by local historians and includes a wealth of material (we hope to produce a list of these). We keep Minutes of Conference going back from 1960 to the 1880's.

You will be pleased to know that Bibles are one of our best sellers. But they have to be new or nearly new and we can usually provide one in any number of modern translations.

I am always interested when we get a library in from a minister, to see what else they were interested in, we take all kinds of books not just religious. Railways figure highly but it always good to have some of the children's books ranging from "Just William" to 19<sup>th</sup> century material. One person collected over 100 John Creasey paperbacks.

*Thank you Malcolm and all the  
volunteers at the Book Emporium –  
looking forward to a mooch as soon as  
allowed!*

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## Friday Prayers at Noon

We continue to come together wherever we are, at noon on Fridays to pray. We will close our prayer time together this week with the following prayer, from the President and Vice President of Conference:

Sometimes, dear Lord  
We are just hanging by a thread  
Holding on somehow  
To invisible strands  
Of hope.

The spirit blows  
And we are turned  
This way and that  
Wanting stability  
But spiralling round and around  
Pentecost spirit  
Wild upsurge of grace  
Transform us as disciples of Jesus  
Into unimaginable and wonderful  
Chancing and changing  
Followers of you. Amen

This week's word search, created by Jane, features Primitive Methodist Chapels – anyone know where Bottomboat is?

D	J	H	A	U	B	I	S	D	J	N	O	L	Z	M
R	T	A	A	T	E	N	D	W	E	L	S	H	M	R
V	L	L	T	Q	L	O	S	T	A	F	F	O	R	D
Z	W	M	G	Y	T	O	G	E	A	S	T	O	F	T
S	J	E	B	W	O	W	I	N	T	E	R	L	E	Y
C	U	R	Y	P	N	Y	T	U	N	S	T	A	L	L
F	N	V	Q	C	I	W	R	I	N	E	H	I	L	L
Z	Z	R	V	D	R	T	G	L	U	K	G	J	D	K
T	L	V	M	L	E	O	S	U	C	L	O	U	D	G
O	V	E	R	T	O	N	W	W	B	H	E	A	T	H
X	P	P	Z	B	O	T	T	O	M	B	O	A	T	C
V	E	P	W	O	R	T	H	G	S	T	O	K	E	D
A	E	T	T	I	L	E	Y	U	R	R	O	I	A	C
R	D	M	W	I	N	S	F	O	R	D	H	D	S	T
S	A	M	D	T	B	T	A	L	K	E	Q	V	V	D

BELTON

BOTTOMBOAT

CLOUD

EASTOFT

EPWORTH

ETTILEY HEATH

HALMER END

OVERTON

STAFFORD

STOKE

TALKE PITS

TUNSTALL

WELSH ROW

WINTERLEY

WINSFORD

WRINEHIL