



April 2016

Dear friends

Towards the end of our visit to India we went to a place called Muttom beach on the Southern coast of India. It was a beautiful beach and we arrived just as the sun was setting so the sky was already turning orange. As we walked onto the beach 3 young men, probably in their late teens, ran up to us. They were very excited and holding a fish - about a foot long, which they had just caught in the sea. As English people we were a novelty and the only white people on the beach and they wanted to have a photograph taken with us and their fish. It was a happy encounter and just one of many occasions when we were made to feel special because we were different. I wonder how many phones in South India now include pictures of these strange English visitors!

In one of the resurrection appearances of Jesus we find him on a beach with fish. He takes the disciples by surprise, helping them with their catch of fish and then cooking them breakfast. It was a happy encounter and if i-phones had been invented there would have been plenty of selfies taken with their friend who had come back from the dead. Jesus had come back from the dead to overcome death and division. To bring us into a right relationship with God and to remind us that all people are loved by God and welcomed by him.

In India we felt an overwhelming welcome wherever we went. The fact that we were different was seen as a positive and a reason for a handshake, a conversation and often a photograph. I am not sure we show this welcome in our country. We are often suspicious of those who are different to ourselves and can feel threatened. There is much misunderstanding and mistrust of those of different cultures and religions. I learned many things in India but certainly one of the most important things I bring back is that desire to show God's love and welcome to all. To value difference and diversity and see it as something positive, something to learn from, something that can enrich our lives and hopefully enrich others as well. Jesus stands on the beach and is reunited with his friends. Yet he also comes to remind them that God's love is for all and of the need to show love and care to all people.

May we be challenged by him and live for him.

Grace and peace, Andrew



ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

The Annual Church Meeting is open to all members of the congregation. The agenda can be quite varied, but the most significant item is that there is a “conversation about the work of God within the local church” This is your chance to have your say about what has happened, what is happening and what you would like to see happening within the local Church.

The Annual Church Meeting also provides the means and opportunity for new Church Stewards and Representatives from the meeting to the Church Council to be appointed. If you are interested in either of the appointments, please have a chat with Rev. Andrew about what is involved.

Below are the dates of this year’s Annual Church Meetings. Please note the dates, try to come, be a part of the Meeting, make your voice heard and help seek the Will of God for this part of the Circuit.

**Bamber Bridge:
Monday 9th of May at 7-30pm.**

**Trinity: Monday 16th May
at 7-30pm [supper at 7-00pm]**



***Keep an eye on the Notice
Boards and Weekly Notices
for more information***

A TASTE OF INDIA



**Saturday 16th April
from 7-00pm.
at Bamber Bridge
Methodist Church**

An evening of stories, pictures and videos from South India.

Cost £5 adults, £2 children including a meal
—Indian and English options!

All profits to NET school.

Tickets from
Andrew and Sarah Webb
[01722 323818]
or Ian and Eileen Roberts

BAMBER BRIDGE GIFT DAY

Saturday 9th
Sunday 10th April



Fund-raising Events



CHURCH

Fundraiser



Saturday 23rd April : 10am – 12noon

Bacon Butties & Refreshments
available at reasonable prices.

Come and bring your car along for a wash. Enjoy a brew,
Bacon Buttie and a natter whilst your car is being cleaned.



Methodist Women in Britain news



Four of us set off to St Anne's for our District Conference in February. We went early this year so that we had time to visit the White Church at Lytham. It is open to visitors each Sunday and Thursday afternoon and well worth seeing.

Our conference was led by Deacon Denise Creed. It was entitled Reflections on the Cross. We had three sessions:- The palm cross, the cross of nails and the cross of wood.

In the first, we were encouraged to think about being one of the crowd on Palm Sunday, or one of Jesus' women followers. We made origami crosses and found lots of words beginning with p connected to that day. Try it! We managed over twenty. Then we thought about how Hosanna became crucify so quickly.

The cross of nails session thought about different forms of sacrifice and sprinkling of blood. The more blood that touched you, the more you could approach Holy God. "God has given us every good thing and all we have given him are nail marks". We did a circle dance to a Taize chant- "Remember me, when you come into your kingdom".

In the final session, we sanded crosses and Denise got us thinking about the women of Jerusalem, including the professional mourners, Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of Jesus. We sang "I was there when they crucified my son".

We concluded with a moving communion service. It was an excellent conference and we look forward to Denise becoming our District President in October.

Lesley Ross



Pause for Thought

THE PROMISED LAND

In memory of Anne Bee who was my friend.

By Freda Patchell

There is a land not far away,
Where love abides for free.
It's there to share amongst us all,
It's there for you and me.

We must not baulk, we must not shirk,
But strive to do His will.
And when His work is over,
We must really love Him still.

And when we reach the Promised Land,
We'll wait outside the door,
Until the Lord admits us in
To stay there evermore.

Wedding Anniversaries



during April



**Congratulations and
Best Wishes to :**

Rebecca and Martin Roscoe

On the 5th of April

**Congratulations on your
Sapphire Anniversary
*Vicki and John Shepherd***

On the 14th of April
as you celebrate 45 years

Children`s Birthdays During April

Amy Dolphin - 7 on the 4th

Samantha Arnold - 12 on the 15th

Lucy Dolphin- 10 on the 21st

Jayde Hindle - 8 on the 29th

Nancy Strong - 2 on the 29th

