

I remember vividly a simple poster I saw on the notice board of our local Methodist Chapel. It had a silhouette of three crosses on a hill, and underneath, the words, 'FOR YOU'. Nothing fancy or clever, but a clear presentation of the Easter message, and it struck me deeply. This Easter, why not think about these two simple words: FOR YOU.

The Rev Tony Horsfall, in Parish Pump

# OCTAMAG

YARM METHODIST CHURCH  
MAGAZINE  
Easter 2019



**Our Mission Statement**  
To love Jesus Christ  
To live Jesus Christ  
To share Jesus Christ  
In this community and beyond

## IN THIS ISSUE

Minister's Letter	Page 3	Money Matters	Page 13
Life after Delivery	Page 4	All We Can	Pages 14-15
Where is God?	Page 5	Easter Bunny	Page 16
Journey to Ethiopia	Pages 6-9	Contacts	Page 18
Beattitudes	Page 11	Weekly Activities	Page 19
Pastoral Visiting	Page 12		

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition of the magazine, and special thanks to Malcolm Robinson (aided? by Ian Fyfe) who has printed it with technical help from Graham Clarke.

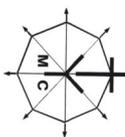
You can read the final episode of James Toon's fascinating trip to Ethiopia; if you follow the links given at the end you will find some more items of interest.

Please give some thought to Sheila Hargreaves' request for pastoral visitors, as they are an important part of our church fellowship, providing continuity as we change ministers, especially as the number of ministers in the Circuit is down to only three.

Many thanks to the young people (and the ever-young Paul Topliss!) who set us the Lent Foodbank Challenge. We are well on the way to achieving our goal; as we go to press it is still Lent so we cannot give final figures. But please don't stop giving!

Jacqui and Isabella

## YARM METHODIST CHURCH WEEKLY ACTIVITIES



<b>Sunday</b> Worship and Junior Church (all ages) Second Sunday in the month: Youth Event Y7 and above	10.30 am  6.00-8.00pm
<b>Monday</b> Women's Fellowship	2.00 pm
<b>Tuesday</b> Bowls Club	7.00-9.30 pm
<b>Wednesday</b> Parent and Toddlers' Group Ladies' Friendship Group Brownies (age 7-10 years)	10.00-11.15 am 2.00-3.30 pm 6.00 -7.30 pm
<b>Thursday</b> Octago Zumba Youth Club Choir Practice	10.00-12.00 6.00-6.45pm 7.00-8.30pm 7.30-9.00 pm
<b>Friday</b>	
<b>Saturday</b> Coffee	10.00-12 noon

If you have a story, memory, poem or an experience to relate, send this to Jacqui Fyfe by 16 June 2019  
Email: [helmutbaer@binternet.com](mailto:helmutbaer@binternet.com)  
(a Word attachment is best).

The next edition of Octamag is to be published in July 2019

**CONTACTS**

Minister	Rev Moira Peters 15 Hanbury Close Ingleby Barwick	643713
Council Secretary	Mrs D. Moon	782969
Treasurer	Mrs J. Rivers	648461
Finance Team Secretary	Mr M. Salmon	652851
Property Secretary	Mr P. Toplis	788034
'Gift Aid' Promoters	Mr & Mrs P. Litherland	780432
Halls Booking Secretary	Mr A. Mairs	07484 706809
Publicity Officer	Mrs J. Breckon	(01325) 333133
Envelope Secretary	Mrs M. Dowling	780807
Flower Arranging	Mrs G. Bainbridge	780695
Creche Secretary	Mrs J. Breckon	(01325) 333133
Women's Fellowship	Mrs J. Howells	648594
Ladies' Friendship	Mrs G. Livingston	898625
Group	Ms C. Goodall	898340
Bowls Club	Mrs D. Moon	782969
Parent & Toddlers' Secretary	Ms L. Taylor	07792 093222
Youth Club	Rev M. Peters	643713
Brownie Guider	Mrs H. Wortley	730215
Choir Secretary	Mrs M. Walker	(01325) 332824
Safeguarding Officer	Mrs G. Bainbridge	780695
Editor	Mrs J. Fyfe	780423

**As spring awakens in the world**

**so also we are re-awakened**

**to the joy of our Easter Salvation story.**

**LETTER FROM THE MINISTER**

Dear Friends,

There is an old saying that you can't please all the people all the time and that even applied to Jesus. As we travel through Lent towards Good Friday we see increasing opposition to Jesus' words, deeds and person. Jesus expected opposition – he wasn't there to be a saccharine sort of person who would upset no one.

The Romans didn't want trouble. They would allow people considerable religious freedom to keep them quiet. The religious leaders were the ones who forced the Romans to take action. Jesus had troubled them for 3 years. Many times they had sought to be rid of him and now they would manage this by convincing Pilate to have Jesus executed. So he would be dead and buried and they were relieved. Dead and soon, they hoped, forgotten. But then the rumours started, an empty grave, appearances, were these rumours or truth? They paid off the guards at the tomb and started worrying.

Jesus was not dead and certainly not forgotten and now nearly 2,000 years later Jesus is still remembered and still has disciples. For everyone in Jesus' days on earth this was a time of enormous change; in their lives, in their land even a time of change for the world though they didn't realise it at the time. Jesus was alive, would return to the Father, the Holy Spirit would come at Pentecost and the gospel would spread with great power.

Come and worship with us this Lent and Easter. Come and celebrate not a dead hero but a living Lord and Saviour. May God challenge and change you this Easter time

With love

Moira

**The following piece appeared on Facebook : you may remember hearing it from Jan Smith, or reading it before, but perhaps it's worth repeating!**

In a mother's womb were two babies. One asked the other "Do you believe in life after delivery?" The other replied "Why, of course. There has to be something after delivery. Maybe we are here to prepare ourselves for what we will be later".

"Nonsense" said the first. "There is no life after delivery. What kind of life would that be?" The second said "I don't know, but there will be more light than here. Maybe we will walk with our legs and eat from our mouths. Maybe we will have other senses that we can't understand now."

The first replied "That is absurd. Walking is impossible. And eating with our mouths? Ridiculous! The umbilical cord supplies nutrition and everything we need. But the umbilical cord is so short, life after delivery is to be logically excluded". The second insisted. "Well I think there is something and maybe it's different from here. Maybe we don't need this physical cord anymore."

The first replied. "Nonsense. And moreover, if there is life, then why has no one ever come back from there? Delivery is the end of life, and in the after-delivery there is nothing but darkness and silence and oblivion. It takes us nowhere".

"Well, I don't know," said the second, "but certainly we will meet Mother and she will take care of us". The first replied "Mother? You actually believe in Mother? That's laughable. If Mother exists, then where is She now?"

The second said "She is all around us. We are surrounded by her. We are of Her. It is in Her that we live. Without Her, this world would not and could not exist". Said the first "Well I don't see Her, so it is only logical that She doesn't exist."

To which the second replied "Sometimes, when you're in silence and you focus and listen, you can perceive Her presence and you can hear Her loving voice calling down from above".

Submitted by Eric Mason (Eric Mason?? Facebook????)



Why didn't Noah go fishing from the ark?  
He only had two worms.

A Puritan is a man who noes what he likes.

If you took all the people who fell asleep in church on a Sunday and laid them on the floor end to end . . . . . they'd be a lot more comfortable!

What part of "THOU SHALT NOT" don't you understand?

Exercise daily; walk with the Lord.

The wages of sin is death. Repent before payday.

Have you heard about the telephone advice service for atheists? They ring the number and nobody answers.

## Where did the Easter Bunny come from?

The Easter bunny is a gentle figure of folklore, who seems to have first come from the German Lutherans. They depicted him as a rabbit who brought, in a basket on his back, coloured Easter eggs to children. The idea of an egg-giving hare went over to the US in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, when Protestant German immigrants in the Pennsylvania Dutch area told their children about the 'Osterhase'. Osterhase means Easter hare, and according to the legend, only good children found the hare's gifts of coloured eggs, placed in the nests that they had made in their caps and bonnets before Easter.

The Easter bunny became a prominent symbol of Easter. Rabbits, prolific procreators, are an ancient symbol of new life. Easter eggs are said to represent Jesus' emergence from the tomb and resurrection.

Decorating Easter eggs dates back to at least the 13<sup>th</sup> century. One possible reason for the custom was that in those days eggs were forbidden during the Lenten season. So people would paint and decorate them to mark the end of the period of penance and fasting, and then eat them at Easter as a celebration.

From Parish Pump

*PS. If you want to know about Stups, der kleine Osterhase, ask Alison Dale!*



## WHERE IS GOD?

A couple had two little children, ages 8 and 10, who were excessively mischievous. The two were always getting into trouble and their parents could be assured that if any mischief occurred in their town their two children were in some way involved.

The parents were at their wits' end as to what to do about their children's behaviour. The mother had heard that a clergyman in town had been successful in disciplining children in the past, so she asked her husband if he thought they should send the children to speak with the clergyman.

The husband said, "We might as well. We need to do something before I really lose my temper!". The clergyman agreed to speak with the children, but asked to see them individually. The 8 year old went to meet with him first. The clergyman sat the child down and asked sternly,

### Where is God?

The child made no response, so the clergyman repeated the question in an even sterner tone, "Where is God?" Again the child made no attempt to answer. So the clergyman raised his voice even more and shook his finger in the child's face, "**WHERE IS GOD?**"

At that the child bolted from the room and ran directly home, slamming himself in the closet. His older sibling followed him into the closet and asked what had happened. The younger child replied, "We are in BIG trouble this time - God is missing and they think we did it!"

## A JOURNEY TO ETHIOPIA

*A continuation of James Toon's account of his visit to Ethiopia.*

### We'll take the high road

Most of the places we visited in Ethiopia were above 2,000m so the weather was not too extreme and we witnessed some spectacular landscapes.

We spent time in the Simien mountains, a UNESCO World Heritage listed National Park, and trekked to 4,000m. The peaks are extremely distinctive.

According to the national park regulations we had an armed scout with us at all times. He was a friendly chap although perhaps a little too willing to brandish his gun for photos!

Here we are sampling the ubiquitous Ethiopian fermented bread "injera." No self-respecting Ethiopian would go a day without eating some. Or without drinking the local coffee with cups filled to the brim.



Cyclone Idai has torn its way through Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe. 2.6 million people have been affected across these three countries. This number is rising, as are the injury and death tolls. Critical flooding in Malawi during the month of March caused widespread devastation with loss of life, displacement and entire harvests destroyed. The President announced a state of emergency on 8 March.

Even before the flooding, 3.3 million Malawians required food assistance due to failed harvests; this high level of food insecurity is what brought All We Can to work in Malawi. The number of communities now in desperate need of food has now been exacerbated because of this extreme weather destroying entire harvests. Not only have food supplies been eradicated, but whole livelihoods, 65% of Malawians rely on agriculture to earn a living – this includes the communities that All We Can works closely with.

All We Can launched a joint appeal with The Methodist Church on 15 March 2019 for those affected by the devastating floods. The need has now grown further in the aftermath of the cyclone. All We Can already has local partners working in the worst affected areas of Malawi.

Thank you very much for the £1460 you have donated through Church to the Cyclone Idai appeal.

### FUNERALS

Mr Andrew Pasztor	d. 7 December 2018
Miss Mary Smith	d. 6 January 2019
Mrs Ida Abbott	d. 17 January 2019
Mrs Maureen Tannahill	d. 23 January 2019
Mr Ron Dawes	d. 6 February 2019
Mrs Connie Clarke	d. 9 February 2019
Mr Ian Simpson	d. 24 March 2019





From All We Can's chief executive, Graeme Hodge:

Since 1938, All We Can has worked at the forefront of relief and development in situations of great need around the world. Inspired by Christian principles, and an integral part of the Methodist family, All We Can takes the special nature of this work and the stewardship of its funds very seriously.

All We Can understands that when people give to our organisation they do so trusting this money will be used wisely and responsibly. We make every effort to ensure that with great care and thought financial gifts are used cost-effectively to ensure the greatest impact possible in some of the world's poorest communities.

In 2017-18, 81.7% of our spending was on charitable activities which compares favourably with other organisations in the sector. Through these activities we impacted the lives of more than 655,000 people either living in poverty or facing crisis in a humanitarian emergency.

All We Can seeks to help people – of all faiths and none – to live with respect, and have the opportunity to flourish. We believe that our vision to see every person's potential fulfilled is only possible when, globally, we all work together. While the commitment and compassion of the inspiring individuals and local organisations we work with around the world means that, more than anyone else, they are best placed to unlock the potential in their communities, we also believe everyone has a role to play in seeing this potential realised. As an organisation we are therefore dedicated to providing opportunities for people in the UK and around the world to engage in global education to inform, challenge and motivate people to take a stance against poverty and injustice.



We also stopped at Lake Tana, from where the Blue Nile begins its journey north. This is probably a hippo!

Since we visited at the end of the rainy season the nearby waterfalls were spectacular. However, the poverty suffered by the locals was upsetting. In this part of the country most live a rural life that appears virtually unchanged since biblical times. Fields are ploughed using oxen and there is limited electricity and running water.

However, the land is very fertile and we were assured that a repeat of the infamous famines is unlikely. These resulted primarily due to civil war and general mismanagement by the oppressive communist regime overthrown in 1991.

We did several flights with the most excellent Ethiopian Airlines. Much better than BA and always on time. "Follow that Smile" is an appropriate catchphrase! Aside from this we travelled by jeep on some roads of varying standard often having to swerve for donkeys, goats and cows.

### Cradle of Civilisation

Whether or not you choose to believe local folklore or the archaeologists there is no doubt that Ethiopian history goes back a long way.



The famous skeleton of "Lucy," thought to be 3.2 million years old was uncovered in the Afar region in 1974. The "time team" were famously listening to "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds" when they made their discovery.

This does of course conflict with the creationist theories many people hold, not least amongst the Ethiopian orthodox community here.

All locals are convinced that the Queen of Sheba lived in Axum around 1,000 BC. The story goes that the son resulting from her conquest with Solomon in Jerusalem was the first in a long line of Ethiopian kings that ran until late in the 20th century. However, what the locals unanimously call her palace, seems to date from 600AD based on the scientific evidence to date. What is 1600 years among friends?!

They also believe that the original Ark of the Covenant (tablet with the Ten Commandments) was taken by the Queen and is now stored in a church here in Axum.

What is certain is that the town has a remarkable history, much of which is yet to be unearthed given the curiously limited excavations completed to date. It was

## MONEY MATTERS



Since our last report, we have been able to send £646 to the local branch of Action for Children following the collections at our Christmas services. If it is at all possible we like to support the work done locally by such organisations. £82 was also collected for PACT North East (Parent And Child Together) at the retiring collection in January. We are continuing to support the lunches at Tiley School, Stockton, during school holidays.

For the period that we have not had printed notices, the weekly collections to the nearest £ have been as follows: January 6<sup>th</sup> £989, 13<sup>th</sup> £1039, 20<sup>th</sup> £1078, 27<sup>th</sup> £1075, February 3<sup>rd</sup> £959, 10<sup>th</sup> £1244, 17<sup>th</sup> £1142, 24<sup>th</sup> £1211. In future, you will be able to see the collection totals every fortnight in the notices. During the same period, our Saturday coffee mornings have raised an average of £16 per week. This is a small but useful source of income for the church, and hopefully serves as a social get-together, and an outreach to passers-by in the High Street. We are grateful for all of the above, and indeed for all of your giving.

The offering totals above are primarily made up of contributions by standing order. Thank you to all who have switched to paying your offering by this method. For anyone who hasn't done this and would like to do so, now would be a good time as we are approaching the end of the tax year. We can give you the necessary information if you wish. Just "catch" or contact one of us. Also, the Sunday count teams are really pleased as they now can get home for their Sunday lunches a bit earlier than previously! We know that some of you like to review your giving at this time of year. This may include some of you who have had a standing order for about a year. Any increase that you are able to make would be welcome, to cover ever-increasing costs. Again thank you for all your contributions.

Joan Rivers, Church Treasurer  
 Michael Salmon, Secretary of the Finance Team  
 Jenny Prior, Youth Treasurer

Ps. A special thank you to Jenny for continuing in her role as Youth Treasurer.

### Pastoral Visiting



Pastoral Visiting is a vital part of our Church Family life, especially for those who are ill or housebound and who welcome visits from a friendly face: this also helps to keep them in touch with the Church. Those who are new to the Church may also find this contact helpful in getting to know more about us and making friends. At Yarm we are have been lucky to have a good team of Pastoral Visitors who help to ease the burden on Moira - and who also keep her informed when health or other problems arise which may need her personal touch.

Unfortunately our team of Pastoral Visitors is getting smaller due to Visitors having moved away, or retiring because of age or health problems, and it would be good to increase our numbers again. Being a Visitor involves delivering the Octamag about five times a year and getting to know the families or individuals you deliver to. As you get to know people better, friendships develop and grow, with mutual benefits. Due to Safeguarding regulations, Pastoral Visitors now need to be DBS checked and to attend a short Safeguarding course, but if you enjoy meeting people and feel you could spare a couple of hours every so often, please do think about becoming a Pastoral Visitor. For further information, please have a word with either Moira or myself.

Sheila Hargreaves (Pastoral Secretary)

### **The Bishop's Visit**

A bishop was visiting a small church in his diocese for Easter. He wanted the young people to understand what he had to say about the Good Shepherd, so he dressed up in his bishop's long, flowing robes and carried his crook. "Now," beamed the bishop, "do you know who I am?"

After a moment's silence, one child ventured, "Little Bo Peep?"



here that Ethiopia's kings first converted to Christianity following the visit of missionaries, most probably from modern day Syria, around the 5th century AD.

The Ethiopian Orthodox Church continues to inspire great devotion, especially amongst the rural population in the north of the country. Nowhere is this more evident than in Lalibela; probably Ethiopia's best known historical site due to its remarkable churches carved directly from the rock. No one knows quite how they were constructed - perhaps by King Lalibela with the help of angelic intervention in 12th century. His aim was to create a new Jerusalem and many of the sites are named after Biblical locations.

Not for the first time on our trip we were awoken at 4am; the church services start early and go on for hours using megaphones to ensure no one misses out on the chanting. Not good for Ethiopian productivity or The Editor's mood!

Addis Ababa, the current capital, is by far Ethiopia's biggest city with a population approaching 5 million. It was only founded in 1886 so does not have the historical interest of other parts of the country.

It is also the Brussels of Africa, site of the African Union, perhaps because Ethiopia was never entirely colonised despite the best efforts of the Italians.

Currently there are many programmes underway to up-grade housing and infrastructure. Despite the recent political turbulence the economy is one of the strongest in Africa and if political stability can be maintained, the future looks bright.

cont.

If you want to see the whole text of James' account, and all the pictures, please follow the links below, where the photographs can be seen more clearly.

- <https://wp.me/p4x8ZX-ni>
- <https://wp.me/p4x8ZX-nu>
- <https://wp.me/p4x8ZX-oo>
- <https://wp.me/p4x8ZX-nz>

### Fortnightly Church Notices

Many thanks to Hazel Hare for producing the fortnightly newsletter and to Ros Matthews for supporting her. If you have a notice for inclusion, please send it to: [notices@yarmmethodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:notices@yarmmethodistchurch.org.uk)

To access the newsletter online, go to: [www.yarmmethodistchurch.org.uk/weekly-notices.aspx](http://www.yarmmethodistchurch.org.uk/weekly-notices.aspx)



You know, somebody actually complimented me on my driving today. They left a little note on the windshield that read: 'Parking Fine'. That was so nice.

Where did all the Fiat Pandas go when God flooded the Earth?... Noah's Park.

How do you parallel park?  
... Park somewhere else!



shutterstock - 104064977

### Beatitudes for the aged.

- Blessed are they who understand my faltering step and palsied hand.
- Blessed are they who know my ears today must strain to catch the things they say.
- Blessed are they who seem to know my eyes are dim and wits are slow.
- Blessed are they who look away when coffee was spilt on the table today.
- Blessed are they with a cheery smile, who stop to chat for a little while.
- Blessed are they who never say "You've told that story twice today."
- Blessed are they who know the way to bring back memories of yesterday.
- Blessed are they who make it known I'm loved, respected and not alone.
- Blessed are they who ease the days on my journey home in loving ways.