



### Wesley prays on the bible

If you want the 'long' version of the meaning of the death of Jesus look into John's gospel (written after the other three and with a different focus). Chapters 11 to the end give a magnificent commentary. In chapter 17 Jesus prays for himself (17 v 1-5), for his disciples (17 v 6-19) and for all believers (17v20-26). If you count yourself as a believer, then Jesus is praying for you!!



"My prayer is not for them (*His disciples*) alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they (*that's us, folks*) also be in us so that the world may believe that you (*the Father*) have sent me (*Jesus*)."

Make time, this Easter season, to read and reflect on chapter 17 of John's gospel in particular.

April is here and how glad we are to welcome this month. It is many peoples favourite time and from abroad, poet Robert Browning wrote, 'Oh to be in England now that April's there.'

The name derives from the Latin word for 'opening' and all around us we can see the countryside being reclothed in its new spring dress as buds and blossom appear again. House Martins, Swifts and Swallows will soon return and begin building nests under the eaves. While lockdown had taken a lot from our lives, the changing seasons boost our moral and help to cheer us on our journey.

Many of us have learned the truth of that old adage: 'Laugh and the world laughs with you; weep and you weep alone.' We are told that laughing is not only a pleasant thing to do but is positively good for us and that a good sense of humour can cure many of life's ills.

Writing in 'Hope for the troubled heart', American evangelist Billy Graham said, 'A keen sense of humour helps us to overlook the unbecoming, understand the unconventional, tolerate the unpleasant, overcome the unexpected and outlast the unbearable.' Wise words. Last but not means least, a piece of wisdom from India reminds us that 'The smile we sent out returns to us.'

The sign of a good day is when, at its end, you can lean back and bask in the knowledge that you have completed your various tasks, knowing you've done as much as you can. In this context we are reminded of this old proverb: 'Sow much, reap much. Sow little, reap little.' How rewarding it is to be at the reaping stage after a long day 'sowing'

If ever you become bored with life think of these words. 'Rejoice in life for its own sake, for your life is no brief candle, rather, it is a splendid torch which you have got a hold of for a moment. Make it burn as brightly as possible before you hand it on to future generations.'

George Bernard Shaw.

At one point during the winter of 1940, my husband a house painter, was temporarily unemployed because of the weather, and the textile plant where I worked was closed due to seasonal lay-off. We literally had no money. To make matters worse, our 18 month old daughter, Rachel, was recovering poorly from pneumonia, and the doctor insisted we feed her a boiled egg each day. Even that was beyond our means. 'Why not pray for an egg?' suggested our baby-sister, who was staying on without pay to help us. We were a church going family, but the teenager's depth of faith was something new to us at the time. All the same, she and I got on our knees and told the lord that Rachel needed an egg each morning. We left the problem in his hands. About ten o'clock that morning we heard some cackling coming from the hedge fence in front of our house. There among the bare branches sat a fat red hen. We had no idea where she had come from. We just watched in amazement as she laid an egg and then proceeded down the road out of sight. The little red hen that first day was a surprise and we thanked God for it, but you can imagine how startled we were when we heard the hen cackling in the hedge the next morning? And the morning after that, and the morning after that? Every day for over a week, Rachel had a fresh boiled egg. Rachel grew better and better and at last the weather turned and my husband went back to work. The next morning I waited by the window and watched, but our prayers had been answered precisely. The little red hen did not come back ever.

Josephine M Kuntz.

### Highlights of three terms on Synod: Paul Berry

- the opportunity to go to experience life across the District, not just the circuit, that early morning trip with a compass and map to find an expectant church or School.
  - the chance to debate a conference report in depth, this term was God in Love unites us - the Marriage and Relationships report.
  - the chance to meet again a secondary school classmate 35yrs on, now stationed to Bradford North Circuit or a previous minister stationed to another circuit across the region.
  - the passing of the Leeds District, with the wonderful celebration service at Lidgett Park
- But there was another term representing the Leeds Mission Circuit that went with been Senior society steward and congregational rep.
- you maybe unknown but then the Chair becomes your Minister or titular Superintendent for a term and suddenly you are pushed to the front.
  - the Chair gets lost, but suddenly sees you outside the old Circuit manse next to the Church, "are we going to the same place, well the car knows the way, was all I could say".
  - the regular venue of Ashville School and knowing what wonderful refreshments awaited you
  - must not forget all the bookstalls and card stalls that you could shop at
- But I think the best was the first term starting thirty years ago now as a Social Responsibility Secretary and DLT member.
- the Leeds Conference of 1994 which we hosted for the Connexion.
  - the appointing of a Circuit Chair who could not drive, but was not fazed by bus timetables or other public transport. His green credentials were way ahead of time.
  - the realisation of how we made ourselves known, the number of vice presidents found to bring the Yorkshire voice.
  - the working together across Districts which soon led to sending the Chair to the Lords and eventually to joining the two Districts together.
  - the expectation that your 5mins to speak of a topical SR issue or your own calling, usually just before lunch, regularly presented itself.
- In between there was the other side when your church hosted Synod and you were making the soup and serving the cakes.
- There are still vacancies if you feel called to serve on Synod, you never know what may come your way. Do please speak with myself or another member if you are interested.

Coincidence v Godincidence -  
What are your passions  
What gifts and interests has God placed with you; which themes interest or excite you? They may be popular and shared with others in the circuit; they maybe topical here or abroad, Christian themes or secular. The Circuit is interested to know what is on your mind. These interests will be fed into an algorithm and sorted into broad groups. The Circuit meeting will then select topical, seasonal or popular interests to empower and resource.  
Please feed your thoughts back to the admin team at the Circuit Office

It was a cold, spring morning but Reg felt it was an appropriate time to dig his garden. He hadn't been working very long when he paused to wipe sweat off his face and remarked to a neighbour who was standing by, 'My word, it's getting warm! We'll have the summer upon us soon at this rate!' A few moments later, the spectating neighbour began to shiver and as he buttoned up his jacket he commented: 'Well, it feels cold to me. No sign of summer yet surely!' Isn't it remarkable how often two different people can respond to the same situation in very different ways.

During my driving test, the examiner came to the part where you're tested on the Highway Code. He fired questions at me about various rules and regulations. Then he suddenly looked up and asked, 'What does 'E' stand for?' I panicked. I couldn't remember a sign with the letter 'E' on it, and I meekly answered, 'I'm sorry, I don't know. What is it?' The examiner raised his eyebrows and said, 'I don't know. It says on this form that 'E' is your middle initial.'

'Dad' said the son., 'what is a financial genius?' 'A financial genius', said his harassed father, 'is a man who can earn money faster than his family can spend it.'

From Scotland: Having preached for half an hour the minister asked, 'And what shall I say more?' A voice replied, 'Say Amen, mon, and sit doon'

A lady was frightened of flying and spent many anxious hours before take-off trying to persuade herself that everything would be all right. One day she told her friend about her fear. She was surprised to be told, 'Oh, I feel much safer up there, dear - it's so much nearer to God you know.'