

## HOME AND AWAY

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When Daniel was a little boy he was busy amusing his baby brother. Mummy was busy in the kitchen and she could hear them playing. Suddenly all went quiet, the sound we really don't want to hear when children are playing.

Mummy waited for a moment and then she called, "Daniel".

There was no reply. She tried again, "**Daniel, come here**". The silence continued for a moment and then a small voice said, "I am here".

Here is a difficult concept for a 3 year old who is just coming to grips with the language. We explain to children that 'here' is where we are now, then we ask them to 'come here'.

**We can think of here as our home. The place we feel safe. Home is where the heart is.**

I got to thinking of the disciples who left their homes to follow Jesus. How did their wives cope? It is never easy

for a family with no man at the head, but 2000 years ago in Israel it was almost impossible, shameful even. **Jesus was asking a lot of these men but he was asking even more of the women they left behind.** The wives who really must have wanted to say 'come here, come home'. Managing without a wage coming in, without a man to speak for them. Children without the strong influence of a father. How those women must have struggled.

As I have watched the news in recent weeks I have seen pictures of families separated by war. Men putting their wives and children on a train and then staying behind to fight for their homes. Women having to care for their children alone, until hopefully they will be reunited.

**Without those people who, through the generations, were willing to leave their homes and tell the gospel story, the word would never have spread, and we would be left out of the promise of salvation.**

Jesus told us to store up riches in Heaven as we always have our heavenly home. What wonderful reassurance we have as Christians, and the knowledge we have that **when the time comes God will say, 'Come here' and we will know exactly where HERE is.**

**Beth Ely**  
Stoney Middleton Church

# NATIONAL SPIRITUAL COORDINATOR



Recently I accepted the role as the Wesleyan Reform Union's National Spiritual Co-ordinator. After time in prayer, we believe the Lord told us that He is not finished with our denomination. But our churches have to be filled with people who actually love Jesus and that we ought to love each other.

1 Peter 1:22 says *"Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart."* That word "fervently" means enthusiastically or passionately! Is that what defines us? Can we begin to imagine what our Churches would look like if this kind of selfless love was on display at all times.

In the Gospel of John 13:34-35 Jesus said *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."* That is how the world should see the Church, as a shining beacon of love.

There are three areas where we can be focussing upon in this role:

**INTERDEPENDENCE; FOCUS; RE-ENGAGEMENT;**

I believe that the Lord has called us to bring to the fore a sense of interdependency amongst our Churches. There is a prevailing thought that the Union is an upper tier or level of management, and that it has no relevance to the people in our local Churches. Absolutely not! We **ARE** the Union and each of us have a part to play. We need to re-discover our sense of community both in our local churches and nationally. We want to help discover the gifts our Church family have in order to edify the local Church. Too many people attend church for many years and don't use those gifts. We lose so much when the body doesn't operate as a body. It is not just the Pastors who have gifts, we all have!

We have to learn again to "dare to believe." God is a great big God, He is a God of the impossible. If we are to grow, then we need to start daring to believe that He will make a way where there seems to be no way.

## FOCUS

We need to focus on spiritual growth. We cannot grow numerically unless we grow spiritually. We can no longer just attend Church on Sunday and not be the church for the rest of the week, we all need to re-affirm our commitment to Christ's Church and do everything we can to serve Christ and one another and then share our faith simply within our communities.

We need to encourage our existing leaders, not only our Pastors, but those who lead our Churches, where a Pastor

is not in place. We have to ensure our Pastors and leaders are equipped to do the job they are employed to do.

We also need to ensure that there is a better flow of information around our churches with regards to best practice, by making better use of our website and social media.

## RE-ENGAGEMENT

The Bible tells us that we are not to forsake the assembling together of our Christian family. In the past two years we have learned so much about the different ways to communicate, and to do Church. But we are only strong when we are together.

I believe that this new role will bring opportunity to bring together a Union of Churches to work cohesively, effectively and in unity, that we might be the salt and light in our communities. I believe that we all have a part to play in the future of our Union, the body of Christ to which we belong, that we may share the hope that lies within us to an ever-darkening world. Let us all dare to believe that God is able to do mighty things, and that His promises are everlasting and true. Let us dare to believe that change will come if we put our whole trust in Him and in Him alone. And then put that love and faith into practice. God bless

If you would like to read the whole transcript of this message, then please visit our website.

**Rev Michael Hedley**  
National Spiritual Coordinator

## ATTLEBOROUGH WESLEYAN REFORM CHURCH



The friends at Attleborough Wesleyan Reform Church (Nuneaton) joined together after the Morning Service to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The refreshments for the occasion were provided by friends of the church. It is good to give thanks for a Queen who believes in God and faithfully serves both Him and the country. We pray that that we too will do the same.



## THIS SERIES OF STUDIES IS BEING PREPARED FROM A BOOKLET ENTITLED "READ MARK LEARN"

### Study 1 — Mark 1:1-11 (Please read)

The Gospel of Mark is regarded as the oldest of the gospels. Information seems to suggest that it was written by John Mark between AD65 and AD75. The word Gospel means Good News, and these eleven verses tell us two main things about it.

**First it was preached by John.** What a wonderful gospel it was and still is. "the forgiveness of sins", verse 4. When God forgives a person's sins they are wiped out and done away with. That was true from the beginning of time and still is true today. Jeremiah chapter 31 verse 34 says "I will forgive their wickedness and remember their sins no more. But notice that before a person can be forgiven there has to be repentance (verse 4). To repent is to change one's mind about something, but not only changing one's mind but changing one's behaviour and attitude. To change the way we live. In the case of sin, it means to turn one's back on it completely. Notice how Jesus linked repentance and the gospel in verse 15 (which comes in the next part of the study). Are you sure that you have obeyed His command? If so, then you can certainly claim God's promise.

**Second it was provided by Jesus.** The best news that the world has ever heard is "the gospel about Jesus Christ the Son

of God" (verse 1). John knew that he was preparing the way for someone "more powerful than I (verse 7). John was the messenger; Jesus was the Message! Jesus allowed Himself to be baptised by John, not because He had any sin of his own that he needed to repent (read carefully what it says in Hebrews chapter 4 verse 15), but to identify himself with sinful men. Verses 9 to 11 give us the account of the baptism Jesus, and here we see all three members of the Godhead together. Father Son and Holy Spirit. Jesus in the water, the Holy Spirit descending in the likeness of a Dove, and the Father saying "You are my Son whom I love; with you I am well pleased". The Son of God left the Glory of Heaven to be identified with us in His birth, His baptism, His life and above all in His death. For as Peter reminds us in! Peter chapter 2 verse 24 "He himself bore our sins in His body on the cross". Jesus was more than example; He took your place and mine in order to undergo the death penalty due because of our sin. He died that we might be forgiven! Take time now to rejoice in that wonderful fact!

*"In Christ God forgave you"  
(Ephesians 4:32)*

Prepared by **David Shuttleworth**  
Jump WR Church

# THOUGHT FOR THE DAY



## A BASKET OF SUMMER FRUIT

In my daily reading, I have been looking through the sermons of Charles Haddon Spurgeon and I found a message based on Amos 8:1, 2. "Thus hath the Lord shewed unto me: and behold a basket of summer fruit. And he said, Amos what seest thou? And I said, a basket of summer fruit. Then said the Lord unto me, the end is come upon my people of Israel; I will not again pass by them anymore" (Authorised Version)

This is not good news for the people

of Israel, but the basket of summer fruit is a most welcome sight to the **Women of Action** when they venture up to Coal Aston for their AGM every April. Muriel Stonehewer is a most generous hostess and after a beautiful crisp ham salad, the basket of summer fruit is unveiled. (I am salivating as I write this). We are spoilt for choice.

So, if you were considering coming to our next AGM, not only do we share a blessed time of prayer, inspirational teaching from our co-ordinator, a



planning session and a time of fellowship... remember the basket of summer fruit. See you there (DV).

**Daphne Hodkinson**

# CONFERENCE 2022



As many of you will know, our Annual WRU Conference has just taken place at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> June. Here are some of the highlights from this year.

## BUSINESS

The main items of news at Conference this year were-



- The vote to convert the Union to a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) The appointment of the new Spiritual Coordinator for the Union.

The vote to convert to a CIO was unanimously carried and Rev. Michael Hedley was appointed as our new National Spiritual Coordinator.

Other items of news:

- President Designate for 2023 – Rev. Michael Hedley
- General meetings will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in October (except this year when it will be the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in
- November), and the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in March (these meetings will replace the old General Committee and Half Yearly Meetings). Anyone is welcome to attend these meetings.
- New Union Trustees were appointed under the new CIO.
- Daphne Hodgkinson stood down as the representative of CESA, after serving in this role for 16 years. Graham Johnson, Pastor of 'The Little Chapel' in Bedworth, will take over this role.

## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Our President George Philips led his devotional sessions from the Prophecy of **Ezekiel Ch 47:1-12**. His title was '**Back to the future**', and '**Hope for the future**'. George spoke under 4 headings:

**Procession** – All things depend on the source of the river, which is capable of giving life and sustenance, and this is only possible because the source is God himself. God had to be the source of redemption for Israel and eternally for humanity today.

**Progression** -How the river progresses. The church is always growing, every new person who accepts Jesus adds to the church of all time and builds on all those who have gone before. It is from this prophecy in Ezekiel that we see God's Word spreading today.

**Purification** – When the river enters the Dead Sea the water becomes fresh. Where the river flows everything will grow. God will renew all things, a new heaven and a new earth will be restored.

**Provision** – The fruit is a direct result of the

life-giving river flowing directly from God, the source. As we look back at the prophecy, we can look forward to the future. The message of the life-giving river that we have to proclaim is a provision on which our future rests.





# CONFERENCE 2022

## NEW ROLE - 'NATIONAL SPIRITUAL COORDINATOR'



Rev. Michael Hedley gave a presentation on his calling to the role and how he sees it developing over the next year.

Michael Quoted **Revelation Ch 3:7-13** and spoke of how when he and Lindsey were called to join the Union, **verse 8** spoke to them. **"I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name."** Our denomination stands true to the Word – we are a people of the Word.

Every one of us in our Churches has a part to play, we are the Union. We need to re-connect - sharing and praying together. We need to check our spiritual foundations. We need to dare to believe, God has not finished with us yet!

Michael and Lindsey feel that they have been called to this post 'for such a time as this'.

Michael's full address is available on our website [www.thewru.com](http://www.thewru.com)

## OVERSEAS MISSIONS PROJECT 2022-2023 'SAFE HAVEN HOT MEALS PROJECT LEBANON'

A new Overseas Missions Project 2022-2023 was introduced.

Safe Haven Society started as an orphanage for at-risk girls from all over Lebanon, providing shelter, food, medical care, education and spiritual care for up to 15 girls at a time, aged 4-17.

With the economic crisis crippling Lebanon, some 50% of children in the country are going to bed hungry. The Hot Meal Program will offer every child that comes to the centre a daily Hot Meal.

## CONFERENCE SPEAKER LOUISE MORSE PILGRIMS FRIENDS SOCIETY

### Snippets from Louise's talk by Mike Young

What do you mean by "old"? Is 60 the new 40? If you didn't know your age how old would you say you are? What do you see when you look in the mirror?

These were a few questions Louise asked us to consider.

Old age is categorised in negative ways. Getting work over 45 is widely documented as being very difficult and ageism is common in many ways. Our society portrays being young as of utmost importance. Apparently the young spend more money and contribute more to the economy. This is not so!

The good news is God has a special purpose for older people. God designed old age and we need to change the perspective on aging. Older people are revered in God's word.



Our inner self is being renewed day by day. Your inner value is the focus here. **Psalm 91 v 16 "with long life will I satisfy him and show my salvation."**

Being older means you will have much more experience than young people, be more relaxed and have more time to pray. These benefits can help you contribute in a softer yet more powerful way.

You can teach and encourage the younger generation, witnessing from experience and knowledge.

Young people grow up too quickly and because of the lack of experience make some bad choices. You are here to listen and mentor. We have all seen how children love spending time with older people. All part of God's design!

**Psalm 78, Psalm 71, Psalm 145.**

Louise has written several books. She specialises in cognitive behavioural therapy and her latest book is named "Dementia – Losing your mind doesn't mean losing your soul". Her message was to continue to give people spiritual support. The person remains so persist – pray and read the bible to them.

You do not have a "use by" date. Serve the Lord always and rejoice.

# THE VIEW FROM THE PROMENADE



The hot sun was beating down.... but still they worked on, whole families frantically working together. Time was short and they needed to finish.

We watched as they built.

Some of their creations were very simple, some far more elaborate. Some had turrets and flags, even a moat. Others were no more than a mound, decorated with seaweed, shells and pebbles. But everyone had taken time, care and planning throughout the various stages of their constructions.

Alas it would all be in vain... whatever the design. No matter how much effort had gone in, the castles wouldn't last five minutes against the inevitable onslaught of the incoming tide.

The children had fun, but they knew the castles wouldn't stand, wouldn't last. Their castles were built in the wrong place, on the wrong foundations, using the wrong materials.

How often in life do we build our "castles" in the wrong place, on the wrong foundations, with the wrong materials and then are surprised when they don't stand. Our Bible tells us that we should be wiser, we should build in a better place, build on God's foundation.

Our materials are God's love and fellowship. Our building should be surrounded with a "moat" of God's Word. Then when the storms of life come... and they will, our house will stand.

The Viewer



## OVERSEAS MISSIONS Minibus Project 2021/22

## THANK YOU

The Overseas Missions team would like to thank everyone who prayed into and gave monies to the **Minibus Project**. We are very thankful you were all on board. Praise God for His provision and we give Him all the Glory.

### LETTER OF THANKS

Hello friends,

Well, you absolutely smashed your fundraising target! We are so delighted to have your support for this minibus project, and yet again I am personally reminded of God's faithfulness as well as a God who sees much further into the future than we do. **One of the impacts of sanctions placed on Russia has been the significant rise of prices of many items, including cars and minibuses. We can clearly see in the total raised that God knew even this was coming.**

I messaged Alina, who manages the Women's Crisis Centre, and this is what she said in response to hearing what you raised, "A huge thank you from us and our children for your kind hearts and support during this difficult time for everyone! **Thank you very much! We couldn't have done it without your support!! God bless you and reward you a hundredfold!**"

Since we started fundraising for this minibus the work on site has grown. We anticipate that it will continue in this direction as the needs of families in Russia increases due to increasing food prices and heightened anxieties causing rises in levels of addictions and domestic violence. A second building is now in use, a new group for girls from vulnerable families is exploring how to have safe relationships, and the Centre is reaching out to families in the community by running a free summer camp for children from their local town.

This work is so precious to us, empowering families who been through the most horrific experiences, supporting them through rehabilitation, and then equipping them to reach out to others. **We know that having a minibus for the Centre will make this ministry even more effective.**

Please continue to pray for our work, especially for our ability to continue getting our support out to those who need it most. I will rendezvous with Alina to pass on the funds for the minibus in August. Please pray for our safety and for wisdom for Alina and her husband Roma as they start shopping for the right vehicle for the Centre. We will keep you updated!

**On behalf of us as a UK staff team, Alina and all the women and children she supports, thank you - we are so grateful.**

Anna



# What Is Your Model Like?

One of the television programs that I have enjoyed watching recently is the "The Great British Pottery Throwdown". I am surprised that I do actually find it so interesting and of course I'm amazed at the skills and talents of the people taking part as they face such a variety of challenges.

As I write this article, I have just been watching the latest episode where the contestants have been challenged to create a self-sculpture. What a challenge!

*What would your self-sculpture portray?*

*Would you be prepared to show all you know about yourself?*

*Would there be bits you didn't want others to know about?*

In the competition each contestant

tackled the task, as you might expect, from different perspectives. The overall winner of this week's task had suffered breast cancer as a younger woman and she chose to show her body as now being incomplete. She wanted the model to show strength and she had scratched on to it the words '*Never be afraid of a scar; it shows a battle won!*'

As you may well imagine there was a lot of emotional reaction to the model and it made me stop and think about what my model might look like (not that I have any pottery skills!).

However, all the models were carefully considered by the judges and in spite of some faults in production they saw evidence of many positive things, but also of course some faults too.

Psalm 139 reminds us that our



being was created by God and that we are fearfully and wonderfully made. As models made by the divine creator may we always remember that we are also judged by him. **Thankfully, even when the cracks appear he still loves and encourages us.**

*Have Thine own way, Lord, have Thine own way;*

*Thou art the Potter, I am the clay.  
Mould me and make me after Thy will,  
While I am waiting, yielded and still.*

*A.A Pollard*

**Muriel Stonehewer**  
(Coal Aston Church)

## BEACH MISSIONS REMEMBERED



Last year, as we walked along the promenade with our grandchildren, past the beach huts on North beach at Scarborough we noticed a large gathering of children and adults on the beach and wondered what was happening. As we drew closer it became apparent that a beach mission was taking place. A buzz of excitement carried on the breeze as we watched children dashing around working out a quiz. "What are they doing? Who are

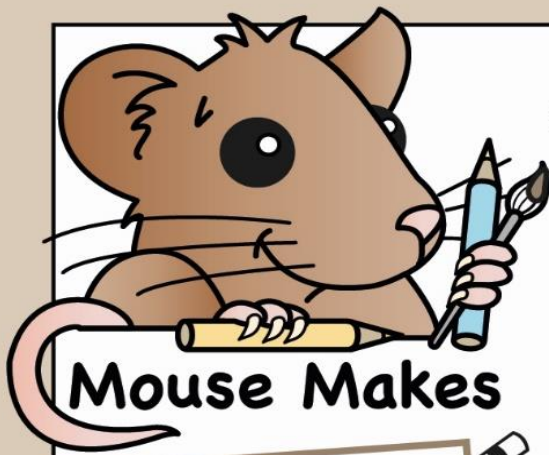
those people in red tee shirts? Why are they on the beach?" All our grandchildren's questions were answered as we recounted our experiences of being part of a beach mission team in 1996.

Our youngsters were surprised to hear our stories of the times we shared God, alongside other "red tee-shirted members" on the beach at Filey and in the Church Hall in Hunmanby. It

came as a surprise to learn their mum and dad were also on the team as well as their other grandparents.

Looking back it was a time of great blessing even though we didn't perhaps realise it at the time. Lifelong friendships were formed across the Union as we worked alongside each other. Confidence grew as we encouraged each other to "Go Banana's" for God, teaching songs, organising quizzes and playing games, with the message of God's love for humanity at the heart of each activity. I don't know whether our grandchildren will ever have the opportunity to take part in something as multi-generational as our experience was, but I would certainly encourage them to do it... I guarantee that God will richly bless them as they work for Him.

**Marie Nichols**



# Mouse Makes

Cross out all the X  
to find the bible verse:

NXOXWXTXHXERXEXA  
 XRXEXMXAXNXYXOXT  
 XHXEXRXTXHXIXNXGX  
 SXTXHXAXTXJXEXSXU  
 XSXDIXDX.WXEXRXEXE  
 XVXEXRXYXONXEXOXFX  
 TXHXEXMXTXOXBXEXW  
 XRXIXTXTEXNX,IXSXU  
 XPXPXOXSXETHXAXTX  
 TXHXEXWXOXRXLXDXI  
 TXSXEXLFXCXOXUXLD  
 XNXOXTXCXOXNXTXAI  
 XNXTXHXEXBOXOKXS  
 XTXHXAXTXWXOXULX  
 DBXEXWXRXIXTXTEXN  
 X.JXOXHXNX2X1X:2X5X

What did Jesus turn  
water into?



John 2:1-11

Who's mother-in-law  
did Jesus heal?

Matthew 8:14-15

How did Jesus get out  
to the disciples  
in the boat?



Matthew 14:22-27

Who did Jesus raise  
from the dead?

John 11:38-44

How long had the  
woman at the synagoge  
been disabled?

years

What did she do after  
she was healed?

Luke 13:10-13

Who did Jesus  
heal when his ear  
was cut off?

Luke 22:47-51

DID YOU KNOW?

Jesus fed thousands  
of people from a  
few loaves and fish,  
... not once but twice!

READ

Matthew 14:13-21

AND

Matthew 15:32-39

In each story...  
How many loaves  
and how many fish  
did Jesus have?

How many people  
were fed?

How many baskets of  
broken pieces were  
left over?

DID YOU KNOW?

There  
are over

37

miracles of Jesus  
recorded in the Gospels.

How many of them  
do you know?

Find these words  
in the word search

JESUS • MIRACLE

DEAF • HEAR • BLIND • SEE

PARALYSED • WALK • SICK

HEALED • DEAD • RAISED

MUTE • SPEAK • DEMONS

CAST OUT • STORM

CALMED • WATER • WINE

FISH • MULTIPLIED

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