

TOGETHER

NewarkandSouthwellMethodist.org.uk

Pedigree Chum

Article by Rev Peter Hibberts

In my September village magazines article, I wrote about the recent addition to our family, our Cocker Spaniel puppy Wesley. It seems folk have enjoyed reading about him and I was even recently stopped in one of my villages when someone had read the article and subsequently saw me with Wesley. The conversation we got into was a beautiful one!

We didn't plan to get a dog - the breeder is a friend and lives opposite us. (The fatal mistake was to go and meet the litter of puppies!) I have, however, learned a lot in the last few weeks about how dog breeding works and was quite surprised how much information we received when we took Wesley on. I have, amongst a lot of other information, a five generation family tree for him (I now know more about Wesley's family than my own!) It's quite interesting to look at. Even the names are interesting - amongst the sixty-two dogs that are included there is one called 'Emma's Buzzy Wuzzy' and one called 'The Countess of Oakworth'! (I would imagine there are two very different dog owners there!) My attention was drawn, by the breeder, to his great grandfather, a dog called 'Lochranza for your eyes only'. He's actually a Show Champion!

The parentage is quite an important thing to some folk though. I also got a certificate with the medical screening (including DNA tests) for Wesley's parents. I suppose the theory is that if each of the sixty-two dogs in Wesley's family tree are screened for all the best qualities in the breed then those qualities funnel down and it is hoped they will be present in him. It's what's known as his pedigree. I have to say his pedigree isn't important to me but he is a joy and I do enjoy all the qualities that he has; he is a lovely dog.

I wonder how much you share with your family tree, eye colour, hair colour, height; what about dominant traits and characteristics? I can see something of my personality in all of my children though I'll only own up to the good bits!

The Bible tells us that we are all children of God, so I wonder what we inherit from God? The theme of being adopted into God's family is one that we see in the Bible as well as the gardening theme of being grafted onto the vine. The Bible also talks about us bearing the fruit of the spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control) as characteristics that we inherit from our spiritual parentage. Like Wesley's pedigree and that of our own family tree, if we are connected to God (in prayer, reading the Bible and fellowship with other Christians) some of who God is comes out in us. The difference here is that God's pedigree is not a list of many gods but simply the one God who has always been and is always with us.

I hope, in my own journey to become more like God, the God we see in the wonderful person of Jesus - God in the flesh. I don't think I'll ever be a show champion but God helps me to be the best me I can be and navigate the difficult parts of life, grooming me, day by day. Maybe that's something you've thought about too. God certainly wants to walk alongside you, he's always waiting for your invitation!

Wesley, on the other hand, he's already a champion! (Pictured here with his first ever rosette won in the 'most handsome dog' category at the Sutton Festival.)





Gratitude and Generosity

Online Circuit Service Sermon | Luke 12:22-31 | Rev Nathan Falla

I think there is a distinct danger that we take so much of what we have for granted. We take it for granted that when we flick a light switch, we will have electricity so that we can see. We take it for granted that when we turn the tap, clean water will come out. We take it for granted that when we go to the supermarket, there will be exactly what we need. We take it for granted until there is a power cut, or a problem with the water supply or we go to the shop and find the shelves half empty, or hear rumours of supply problems, or when a shortage of CO₂ is announced which has the knock-on effect for our access to vacuum-packed meat, and vegetables which have a longer shelf life.

Harvest is a time each year when we can specifically remember and give thanks to God for all that we have; for the amazing creation that God has blessed us with and the wonderful world that we live in. We are to have an attitude of gratitude. However, our attitude of gratitude should not be limited to Harvest but should be a feature of each day. As a family we have encouraged the saying of a short prayer or grace before we share in a meal, admittedly sometimes the children think that it is a race to see who can start to say meal grace first, or how quickly they can say it, but some of the graces that they come out with when they stop and think about it are moving and profound. I wonder if we stopped and thought about it whether we would have more of an attitude of gratitude?

Harvest is also a reminder for us of the need to care for our world and to share its resources. Fred Pratt Green in his hymn 'God in his love for us, lent us this planet' includes the line "plenty for all if we learn how to share it." This is a powerful reminder that we need to be generous with our resources and be willing to share.

Our reading this week reminds us of some of Jesus' teaching which helps us to reflect on both gratitude and generosity. The reading is very much in two halves with a change of audience between the two, but the halves are very much linked as Jesus goes into more depth and helpfully explains the parable he has just used.

A man who is part of a larger crowd shouts out whilst Jesus is teaching, hoping that Jesus can arbitrate in a family dispute because the man wants his brother to divide up the family inheritance. Although it was normal for a Rabbi to settle such disputes and the man must have seen Jesus as a teacher, Jesus does not want a part in this. Instead, Jesus sees the request as being motivated by selfishness and materialism, with the man wanting to have more than was rightfully his. Jesus goes on to talk about the danger of greed by telling a parable, a story with a meaning.

The story that Jesus told was of a man who had a good crop, so much so that he thought he didn't have sufficient room to store it. So rather than building an extension or sharing the surplus with those in need, the man decides that he will pull down the old barns

1. Online Service

Join us from 10:30am on Sunday for our online Circuit Service which this week led by Rev Peter Hibberts.

Find it on the 'Newark and Southwell Methodist Circuit' YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/NewarkSouthwellMethodistCircuit>) why not invite a friend to watch it with you and share the link with them on your social media or by email!

2. 'Zoom' Opportunities

If you're feeling isolated, are not ready to be face to face yet, or can't, but are happy to meet on Zoom, there is a weekly coffee time at 3pm on a Monday run by Charles Street but open to all, email Mel Watson for more details: mellwatson42@gmail.com.

There is also still a weekly Zoom fellowship called 'The Gathering' which is part of Southwell Methodist Church and run by Philip and Francine Holmes. You'd be most welcome, contact Philip to connect: philipholmes8100@gmail.com.

3. Radio Services

BBC Radio 4 (Also [online](#).)
08:10am - 12th September 2021

Radio 4's Sunday morning service.

Details available on
WWW.BBC.CO.UK

4. Radio Nottingham

Listen every Sunday, at 8am, to a live church service on BBC Radio Nottingham. (Online or on 95.1-103.8 MHz FM for free.)

and build bigger ones so that he can keep everything for himself. Then he can relax, eat, drink and be merry. In the story, he is severely reprimanded and called a fool for focussing on the wrong thing! He is focussing on worldly treasures rather than being generous and relying on God.

Jesus then turns to the disciples and encourages them not to worry about food or clothes. But to recognise that if God provides for the birds of the air and adorns the lilies, how much more will God provide for them. Jesus urges the disciples to strive for the kingdom of God, to put into practice God's ways of love, peace and justice as a priority and to live in a way that reflects both gratitude and generosity.

I think we are all aware that the world's resources have been hoarded to create an unjust society where the poor get poorer and the rich get richer. We see it time and time again, Foodbanks should not need to exist, but they do because of the injustice in the world. We just did not know what the impact of drilling, burning and mining would be. We need to learn how to tread lightly on the Earth and central to this is recognising what we have and being able to share it. I believe that an attitude of gratitude leads to generosity and the desire to bless others.

I will never forget the generosity shown to me in South Africa, when following a service the three of us were presented with a food parcel that provided our Sunday meal, or when visiting a shack being offered a bottle of Sprite. The congregations seemed to have so little, yet they gave so generously.

How generous are you, how generous am I with our resources and our time? Do we express our gratitude to other people and to God by the way we treat others and look after our world. In Jesus we have the example of radical generosity, Jesus did not hold back but lived a life of gratitude. Challenging the status quo and making sure that those on the margins of society knew that God's love had no boundaries.

As we come to celebrate Harvest, let us be mindful of God's wonderful world, let us give thanks to God and in our gratitude work to protect God's world, for we are called to be stewards. As stewards of the Earth let us not be silent but work, pray and act so lasting change can be made to safeguard our planet and those who are on the margins of society. Let us be generous and live our lives with an attitude of gratitude. John Wesley said:

Do all the good you can.
By all the means you can.
In all the ways you can.
In all the places you can.
At all the times you can.
To all the people you can.
As long as every you can.

*May this be true for us,
today and always.
Amen.*

Prayers

God our creator,
you have made us one with this earth,
to tend it and to bring forth fruit;
may we so respect and cherish
all that has life from you,
that we may share in the labour
of all creation
to give birth to your hidden glory,
through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Janet Morley

We are grateful, Creator God,
for all the benefits extracted from land and
sea,
for all the people who have risked their
lives for our comfort,
our health, our wealth, our mobility.

We did not know, God who is with us in our
darkness,
we did not know the cost to our radiant
planet.

We did not wish to know, God who
illuminates our darkness,
we did not wish to know the cost to your
people;
health destroyed, communities ruined,
land degraded,
children labouring, conflicts raging.

For the sin we could not confess,
for the sin we did not confess,
for the sin we chose not to confess;

Lord have mercy upon us.
Christ have mercy upon us.
Lord have mercy upon us.

Kathy Galloway

EMAIL PRAYER CHAIN

If you would like to join a prayer chain and receive prayer requests or to submit a prayer request (with permission of the recipient) please get in touch with Colin Beckett colin1244@gmail.com.
It is for those of any church or none!

Circuit Vision Team Report

Have you read the Circuit Vision Team report yet? We're listening to your thoughts and would love to hear your response to it.

Your Circuit Rep has been asked to gather opinions from your church so if you have thoughts, do get in touch with them. (If you don't know who your reps are, get in touch with your minister to find out.) The report is available to all (from the circuit website: [CLICK HERE](#)).

Come, ye thankful people come (StF123) [LINK](#)

Creation sings the Father's song (SOF) [LINK](#)

God in his love for us, lent us this planet (StF 727) [LINK](#)

We see the fruitful harvest [LINK](#)

Bubble Church Questions



Would you like to be part of Covid-Safe face-to-face church? Join a bubble today by getting in touch with your minister.

1. What is your experience of saying grace before meals?
2. How do you think you could practise an attitude of gratitude?
3. Would you describe yourself as a hoarder? Could you be more generous with your time, with the resources you share?
4. In what ways do you think you could put into practice the quote from John Wesley?

If you're isolated, or know someone who is, why not telephone someone and chat these questions through with them as part of your weekly worship. You could pray together as well!

'One World One Climate' Display

The Newark based Climate Awareness Week that Andrew Ayre referred to in the front page article will be extended from 18th September onwards (as we approach COP26 - the United Nations Climate Change Conference, in Glasgow, between 1st and 12th of November this year) with an exhibition entitled 'One World One Climate', in the Quaker meeting house, Queen's Head Court, Newark. The five, four foot by six foot collapsable panels (outlining the problem, the effects and some of the possible responses) will be available for churches to display. For more details about any of this, please get in touch with Chris Rose: chrisivyfarm@googlemail.com.

Face-to-face worship across the circuit in the next four weeks...

September - November 2021		26th Sept	3rd Oct	10th Oct Homeless Sunday Prisons Sunday	17th Oct
Balderton	10:30 am	LA	Bates HF	Winnington	Hardy
	6:00 pm			Circuit Service at Charles Street 4pm	
Barnbygate	10:30 am	Falla HF / HC	at Hawtonville	Falla	at Hawtonville
	3:00 pm			Circuit Service at Charles Street 4pm	
Charles Street	10:30 am	LA HF	Mathews	LA	West
	6:00 pm	Falla HF	Bates	Falla Circuit / 4pm	Falla HC
Collingham	10:45 am	Bates HC	Morley	Ward T	Falla CA / HC
	4:30 pm			Circuit Service at Charles Street 4pm	
Elston	10:45 am	Hibberts HF		Hibberts HC / CA	
	4:00 pm			Circuit Service at Charles Street 4pm	
Hawtonville	10:30 am	at Barnbygate	West	at Barnbygate	Gibson HC
	3:00 pm			Circuit Service at Charles Street 4pm	
Long Bennington	10:30 am	Pearce	Hart	Dalby T	Bates HC
	3:00 pm			Circuit Service at Charles Street 4pm	
North End	6:00 pm	Bates HF	Morley	LA	Bates CA
North Muskham	10:30 am	Ward T	Hibberts HF / US	C Membery HC	
	2:00 pm			Circuit Service at Charles Street 4pm	LA Bubble
Southwell	10:00 am	Hardy	Adams	LA	Hibberts HC
	Other	Hibberts Fringe / 6:00 pm	Hucknall HC / 4:00 pm	Hibberts PicC / 2:00 pm	Gascoyne 4:00 pm
Sutton-on-Trent	10:30 am	United at All Saints HC / 10:00 am		LA Breakfast / 9:00 am	Hart HC
	4:00 pm	Hibberts PicC / PC	Hibberts CA / 3:00 pm	Circuit Service at Charles Street 4pm	

For more information on our Worship Opportunities visit the Circuit Website: www.NewarkandSouthwellMethodist.Org.UK

TOGETHER IS CHANGING...

TOGETHER is ready for a rethink. Should we still send out weekly? What should we include? Could we have more information specific to local churches? What elements don't we need? Do let us know so that we can get it right...

If you have a view on the future of the newsletter, please do get in touch (email Rev Peter at peter.hibberts@methodist.org.uk).

If it is to continue, we need to find a way for it to be sustainable. This may well include having a circuit editorial team who can put the newsletter together. Without this, it may not be possible to continue. If you can volunteer, please do get in touch.