

Traidcraft : Thank-you

It is with much gratitude for all their support and hard work, that I have to announce the retirement of Marion and Ursula from running the Wednesday Traidcraft stall. They have done this for many years and their contribution will be missed. If anyone feels they could take over from September (one stall per month, on the 3rd Wednesday only), please speak to Claire or Ann after any service.

As we look forward to the summer holiday period here are dates of the last few Traidcraft stalls before the break. So make sure you are not disappointed and stock up on things you will need to tide yourself over until September 8th. (including gifts & crafts for any treats, celebrations or birthdays

There will be Traidcraft stalls following the service on these dates in July:

- Sunday 28th July groceries only **TODAY**

Thank you to everyone for supporting the stall and helping to make a fairer world of trade. Claire and Ann

FLOWER FESTIVAL

Bingley Methodist Church

24th–26th August

A Grand Day Out

Saturday 24th August: 10:00am to 4:00pm

Sunday 25th August: 12:00noon to 6:00pm

Bank Holiday Monday 26th August: 10:00am to 4:00pm

Hot lunches served on Saturday and Monday, cold food on Sunday

Refreshments and Stalls

A few years ago we used to include a section of prayer requests. I am anxious to refresh this from September, simply names and local, national or world-wide situations.

I would need request by the Tuesday tea-time each week.

Thanks *Hazel*



Mount Zion Methodist Church

Open Day

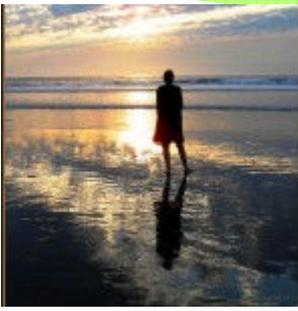
Per Lane, Ogden

10th August 2013

Please come and have a look around our very well preserved Chapel and the Cottage where 200 years ago John Wesley stayed when preaching. The Hird Collection of Wesley memorabilia will be on display. Have a look around our very large graveyard, which can be researched on our website:

www.mountzionhalifax.org.uk

The Anneessens Organ will be playing. Light refreshments in the Cottage



Mervyn's Lectionary Reflection

Mervyn Flecknoe, our **Lay Pastor**, BLOGS a reflection each week on our website.

You are welcome to join in;

He welcomes comments.

Luke tells us (chapter II) that Jesus was praying somewhere and was not to be disturbed. When he had finished, the disciples asked him to teach them to pray. A bit like most of us, they thought that prayer had to be done in a special way with special words to be proper, preferably by a rabbi or something.

The Gospels, written more as reflection than history, are nevertheless agreed that Jesus did a lot of praying. It all started in some wilderness, a six-week gap year, straight after Jesus' baptism. After that, he kept going off, finding a quiet place; why would he do that? I once sent a message to one of my children which simply said "Phone your Mum!" but I don't think it was like that.

I think that Jesus was seeking confirmation that what he was doing was right: was he on the right track? That must mean that he often was not entirely sure. What a terrific boost for all of us who experience self-doubt; and the ones who don't probably have a syndrome with a medical name. So Jesus had to check? He was human! Withdrawing from the world to reflect about whether you are doing right, whether you are doing good, whether you are doing well, is one of the marks of highly achieving people. They don't always call it prayer.

The Gospel writers tell us (but how could they know?) that Jesus also prayed for other people; and he prayed that he should avoid suffering; and he prayed for strength to defeat temptations.

So, for what should we pray? It depends on your view of God. Your view of God might be as a Supreme Being who can choose to intervene in the affairs of the World if only enough people pray hard enough, like an Avaaz or a 38degrees petition. Then it would be a good idea to pray for every unsatisfactory situation in the expectation that you were contributing to a petition (we often use "petition" to describe prayer) that would improve the World. You could spend all day in such prayer and not reach page I6 of the daily newspaper. You are left with a God who apparently does not care to intervene more often, and a guilty feeling that people are dying because you are not praying enough. I don't buy it.

If your view of God is that of the sustaining ground force of life, present in all people, seeping through the world as the essential element of goodness, responsible for raising people to greatness, then prayer is a much more reflective activity whose point is to help us become more god-like in our doings, more loving in our decisions; stewards rather than consumers of the Earth's bounty.