



April - May 2022

Daphne's 'Thought for Today'

I am writing this on Racial Justice Day having listened to the Morning Service from a church I know well, St. Nicholas in Durham. My Congregational Church was 100 yds away and we shared many occasions. We're still in touch with the then rector and his wife...George and Eileen Carey; and I recall that, in our Youth Club, we loved having youngsters from many different backgrounds as the accommodation for mature Overseas Students was further up the hill.

Here in the heart of Swaledale, we seldom meet people from other ethnic groups...apart from the other side of the Pennines! But I do recall with delight, the day we welcomed a family from West Africa. I volunteered to take the small boy for a walk in his buggy which I thoroughly enjoyed, pointing out things as we went along, only to discover that the family was from a French speaking country and he'd not understood a word!

Jesus had time for everyone:- Greek, Roman, Samaritan, North African. The story in Acts 8 reminds us powerfully of the inclusivity of the Gospel message. The Ethiopian eunuch, an official in the Queen's court, was reading Isaiah 53 about the Suffering Servant and was confused. God sent Philip to him who used the encounter to speak about Jesus, His message, His Crucifixion, His Resurrection. On spotting an oasis, the Ethiopian asked to be baptized, which Philip willingly did. Was he thus, the first foreigner to become a Christian?

Jesus' injunction to 'Love your neighbour' has no limitations whatsoever: here in our little church, we welcome all people. I recall how proud I was of everyone when, at a Church Meeting, I asked if we would welcome to worship a friend of mine recently released from prison. There was unanimous agreement...apart from the minister who pointed out that, as he was on the sex-offenders register, he couldn't agree. Didn't Jesus have a special heart for sinners?

I am currently rather troubled by the way the Prayer Book I use each evening constantly asks if I welcome people of all races to my church: do we have an 'open' Communion Table?

When we moved to Durham in 1966, we asked the British Council for an overseas student lodger. Frederic Randriamamonji was a delight: an academic with degrees from Madagascar and the Sorbonne... and was a Congregationalist! He joined our church and also spoke at other churches round the District. I've just recalled an incident when I was teaching young men in Durham Prison and the question of racial equality came up. They were typically bigoted and dismissive so I told them about Fred, and his achievements. One lad grinned at me slyly saying, 'An educated spear-chucker, Miss!'

Just after our first child was born, we were asked if we could give a vacation-time home to a Nigerian boy coming to an English boarding school. We loved the idea that Anna would grow up in a mixed-race family, so Kehinds joined our family. Two years later, Peter came home asking if we could cope with a technician from his lab, so Bill from Sierra Leone arrived. Having left small children at home, he was delighted to be allowed to help with Edward... I've often wondered how old Ed was before he worked out who was actually his Dad! Bill too, was a Christian and came to church with us, as did the Arab Headteacher from Morocco, Glen from the Philippines and the two Kenyan policemen whom we also hosted in later years.

It is a sad reflection on our society that, even today, in many parts of the world, people are judged, not on their character, but on the colour of their skin.

WORSHIP APRIL - MAY 2022

		Low Row (10.30 am)	Keld (2.00 pm)
April	3 rd	Ms Meg Thomson	
	10 th	Ms Lesley Bustard	
	17 th	Rev Peter Poulter	Rev G Belford M in R (Preacher Rev P Poulter)
	24 th	Rev Ian Ring	
May	1 st	Dr James Mawdesley	Rev Alan Poulton M in R
	8 th	Mrs Maranny Jones	
	15 th	Mr Harry Bunting	
	22 nd	Ms Dot Thomson	
	29 th	Hilary & Dave Disney	

SMARBBER SERVICE: Friday 29th April is the date for the service which starts at 7.00 pm in the old chapel and concludes in the present building. It will be led by Dr James Mawdesley and anyone needing directions meet in the layby opposite the Manse at 6.30 pm

HIP OPS: Both Sue Alderson and Edward Brown are recovering after receiving new hips in March.

KELD MINISTERS IN RESIDENCE: As can be seen from the above information Revd Gillian Belford is M in R at Easter and will lead worship on Sunday but Revd Peter Poulter will preach. She would also like to invite you to morning and evening prayer, each weekday at 9.00 am and 6.00 pm (in Keld chapel) and also a bible study on the parable of the Prodigal Son on Wednesday from 10.00-11.30 am. The

Bible study will be in Keld Resource Centre, refreshments provided. Gillian will be holding "at home" afternoons each weekday in the manse from 2.00-3.30 pm and you are cordially invited to pop in for tea/coffee and chat. There will be another M in R week from 1st May to 6th May which will be led by Revd Alan Poulton. He will take the Sunday service at Keld and morning and evening prayers through the week.

CRAFTS AT KELD: On Sunday 3rd April at 2.30 pm in either the chapel or Upper Room of KRC there will be a craft session. Think about the Easter story and make something to help decorate the chapel for Holy Week/Easter.

CONTACT DETAILS

Secretary - Dr. Peter Clarke, 1A Reeth Rd., Richmond, DL10 4EH

Tel: 01748 822651

email: clarkerichmond@btinternet.com

Treasurers

Low Row - Mrs Anne Brown, The Old Mill, Low Row, Richmond, DL11 6NH

Tel: 01748 886181

email: anneedward@f2s.com

Keld - Mrs Christine Clarkson, Kison, Muker, Richmond, DL11 8ND

Tel: 01748 886354

The Link - Mrs Sue Alderson, Holme View, Low Row, Richmond, DL11 6PE.

Tel: 01748 886292

email: susana@swaledale.org

Northern Synod Website - www.unc-northernsynod.org.uk