



Summer is here!

Rev. Graham Miles

Well at least summer as defined meteorologically which starts on the 1st of June as opposed to being defined by the phases of the sun. For many people Summer brings the thoughts of holidays with family and friends, a time to relax and catch up, a time of renewal, or a time spent relaxing in the warmth of the garden, or on the beach losing ourselves amongst the throngs of holiday makers. For some of the younger people attached it is also the time for exams and long summers away from school. It's the time of Cricket and Tennis at Wimbledon, cream teas, BBQ's. Gardens are ablaze with many varied colours and kinds of flowers.

Within all of this we see the hand of God the creator at work. I never cease to be amazed at the complexity of nature with all its variety in the flora and fauna, the many insects some barely visible to the human eye, and the animals that roam the woodlands and forests. The hymn 'O Lord my God when I in awesome wonder' springs to mind a celebration of God's hand in all that we see feel and hear. A few weeks ago I was invited to a Church in Gloucester, Stonehouse Methodist Church, this was for a special celebration as they have attained the Eco Church Gold award, this means that they have been recognised and awarded for the work they have put in to informing folk about the environment and doing 'their bit' towards reducing their impact on Climate change.

The two stories of Creation tell us that Humankind has been put in overall charge of Creation on this planet a theme echoed in Psalm 8. As part of our walk with God we need to reconnect with the natural world around us, we can do this in many different ways one method is a suggestion of what I do when out walking with Amos or at any other times, it's a simple discipline that helps you appreciate the natural world we live in

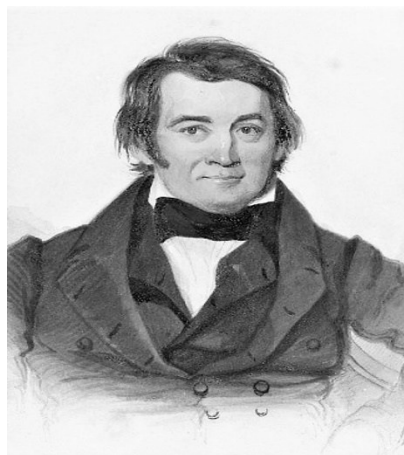
Occasionally when out walking in the morning I stop and concentrate on all the sounds that are around me. When I do I try to identify where each bird song is coming from along with any other sound, the waves crashing on the seashore, I also focus on my other senses of smell, sight and touch.

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I never cease to be amazed when focusing on the sounds, as I realise that even in the stillness of the morning there is lots of activity around me. I invite you to try standing still be quiet and listen out for all the sounds that surround you and then offer a prayer up to God giving thanks for his creation.

Graham P Miles

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Methodism : Why so many Chapels? (2) (A Potted History.) Rev. Ivor Haythorne

The next major development in Methodism centred on the West Country. Because of the economic problems caused by the Napoleonic War in that part of England (e.g. in its ruination of the manufacture of woollen goods), Devon's economy in particular was then in a very poor state: work was scarce and wages were low. Moreover, the Anglican clergy in Devon at that time were, spiritually, a very poor lot: they were described as "Nimrods, ramrods and fishing rods" instead of bishops, priests and deacons because they were more interested in the county's social life and in country sports than in their pastoral and spiritual duties; consequently, idleness and superstition were rife among their flocks.

On February 6th, 1778, William O'Bryan was born, and of staunch Methodist parents. His great boast, as he grew older, was that, as a boy, he had been blessed by John Wesley. In 1795, he was converted and became an enthusiastic preacher. He gave up his regular work in 1814 and devoted himself to missionary preaching in north Devon, relying on gifts to support him. He received an invitation to preach at Shebbear, north of Dartmoor, which he accepted, and there he went on Monday evening, October 19th, 1815. (Incidentally, the year of Waterloo.) As a result of his ministry there, he enrolled 22 members into a class; and when these people could not find the spiritual and pastoral guidance they needed in the Church of England, they decided to separate and build a chapel of their own.

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A man called James Thome became leader of this new community and he worked tirelessly among them. Meanwhile, O'Bryan continued preaching elsewhere in Devon and made many more converts. Their first Quarterly Meeting was held at O'Bryan's house in Holsworthy on January 1st, 1816, and it was reported that this new denomination – made up largely of O'Bryan's converts – had 237 members: fifteen months later, they numbered 1,112. In its early days, this new Methodist group was given many names (e.g. “Bryanites” and “Freewillers”), but the name which eventually became its accepted title was 'Bible Christian Methodists'; and 'Bible Christian' is a name which can still today be seen on the façades of many West Country chapels.

One interesting feature about this denomination, from its earliest years, was its use of *women* preachers. Johanna Brooks Neale was one of these. She conducted a revival mission with O'Bryan in 1823 which added hundreds more to the new denomination. Another, Mary Toms, went to the Isle of Wight in 1823 and spent herself evangelising the island. Yet another, Mary Anne Werry, evangelised the Isles of Scilly in 1821 and Guernsey in 1823; and later, she travelled as far afield as Northumberland. O'Bryan's own daughter, another Mary, and known as “the Maiden Preacher”, was also successful in Guernsey because she could preach in both English and French.

The aims and organisation of the Bible Christians and the Methodist New Connection were very similar, but even so, no union ever came about between them, probably because communications between the West Country, the Bible Christian heartland, and the industrial Midlands and North, the home of the Methodist New Connection, were very poor in those days: poor transport, no telephones, a poor postal service, and definitely no emails!

The first Bible Christian Conference was held at Baddash, near Launceston, on August 17th, 1819, at which O'Bryan presided and Thome was Secretary. Records of that Conference show that there were 8 chapels and 2,389 members; and it was also noted that there were 12 “stations” (that is, places which were not chapels as such, but where preachers were appointed: presumably private houses). The Bible Christians had all the usual Methodist organisation and officers, but the names were frequently different: for example, the Leaders' Meeting was called the Elders' Meeting. Unfortunately for the early Bible Christians, O'Bryan, like John Wesley before him, claimed absolute authority, believing that he could even overrule a clear majority vote in Conference. This resulted in his leaving the denomination in 1829, but only two of the 88 preachers and a few hundred of the 7,599 members went with him. Happily, six years later, there was a reunion. Afterwards, O'Bryan went to New York, and his work in north America greatly advanced Methodism both there and in Canada. His last years were spent in peaceful retirement, and he died in 1868 at the age of 90.

But there were other changes yet to come, and the story continues next time.....

Rev. Ivor Haythorne

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A letter from Harriet, Our Compassion UK sponsored child.

Dear St Peters Methodist Church

I greet you in the name of the most high lord Jesus Christ. I hope you are doing great I am very happy to write to you. All my family members are doing great and they send you warm greetings.

I thank you for the support, care, prayers, gifts and lovely letters you always send me. I really appreciate you for my birthday gift which was shs.324100. I bought the following items.

Dress at shs.50,000

A pair of shoes at shs 50,000

5kg of sugar at shs 30,000

5 bars of soap at shs.30,000

5 litres of cooking oil at shs. 35,000

And I used shs129,100 as my school fees top up in order to cater for school expenses when school resumes.

I was so happy when I received my gift and I pray to God to bless the work of your hands. We also broke off for our holidays at school and I am now looking forward to attending Center days so as to acquire more skills. I am happy to inform you that I am remaining with two terms to finish high school and am working hard to excel so as to join university. I pray to God to grant you good health and fulfil your desires.

May God Bless and Protect You.

Your child, Harriet.



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The Perils of Volunteering

Sandra Narraway

It's true, you know. The world is not run by politicians, kings or princes. It is run by volunteers. They make things happen. Volunteering is a precious gift to humanity... but be careful. Its magnetic pull can be irresistible!

Many years ago, I lived with my family in south London. Some of the residents in our street decided to form an association to deal with communal matters. The inaugural meeting was announced and eight of us showed up at the local community centre, seating ourselves round a table. The lead was taken by the enterprising chap who thought up the idea of the association. He asked us to introduce ourselves and invited us to volunteer to form a committee. One gentleman, whom nobody recognised as being a neighbour, said coyly that he was not in fact a resident, but a local teacher. He added, "My class have been discussing how committees are run, and I'd like just to observe, if that's all right."

Quite soon and after much prompting, pressurising, prodding and gentle coercion, several people had agreed to take on positions such as secretary and treasurer. Each time a role was discussed, the teacher was careful to state, "I won't be volunteering. Please remember, I'm just here to observe." He did, however, become quite animated when the question of insurance was raised, saying that his wife worked in the field and he would find out about the legal liabilities of a residents' association. More discussion ensued and I noticed that the teacher seemed to be becoming more involved all the time, but periodically, he took pains to remind us that he was but an onlooker. In due course, there remained only one post left to fill. Who would take on this most important post, we wondered...

Well, by the time the meeting ended, the "observer" had become – the chairman.

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Don't forget

It's our next Church Council Meeting 11th June 2pm, Church Hall!!

June Calendar – Dates for your diaries.



SATURDAY 7th June

(and every 1st Saturday of the month)

Geoff and Ray's Cooked Breakfast

Doors open 0900

suggested donation £6.00

Wednesday 11th June 2pm Church Council Meeting, our church hall. All are very welcome. Please come and be part of what goes on at our church.

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Mondays 10.30am Prayer Meetings. All are very welcome. If you have prayer requests, please write them on the pads in the pews and put them in the prayer box on the piano.

Tuesday Mornings - Open The Book. Two of our church teams take the bible stories to the primary schools in Mablethorpe and Sutton. They are fairly short sessions, held during assembly times. The children love them, and the teams enjoy them too!. **We would welcome anyone who might be interested in joining our Open the Book teams, just speak to one of the stewards.**

Wednesday Coffee Mornings 09.45am, with an optional short service at 10.30am.. Please come along and join in the fellowship, make new friends, meet old friends **All are very welcome.**

The Thursday Group. Games Mornings are held between 09.30am and 12.30pm. Come and join Elaine and Ernie at our Thursday Group. We have various games. including board games such as Rumikub, Scrabble, Jigsaws. Also, Table Tennis, Snooker/Pool, and of course the new Bar Skittles, and others. Just sit for a coffee and chat. Make new friends. **All are very welcome**

SUTTON ON SEA METHODIST CHURCH

Tuesdays 10.15am **Coffee Mornings.** Short service followed by tea/coffee biscuits

Saturday 14th June **10.00am – 12.00** **Coffee morning** with homemade cakes!

Saturday 28th June – Vintage Day in Sutton on Sea. Coffee morning starts at 10am, then **serving light lunches from 12pm to 2pm.**

MONDAY NIGHT IS MUSIC NIGHT FOR JUNE

June 2nd Alford Silver Band

June 9th Rhythm and Steel

June 16th Meridian Singers

June 23rd Bluebird Jams

June 30th Skegness Silver Band

All concerts 7.30 - 8.30 pm Admission by donation minimum £4. I will let you have the full program as soon as it's finalised.

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SERVICE ROTA FOR JUNE 2025

	Sunday Services 10.30am
	PREACHERS
1ST	Mr Roger Maidens
8TH	Mrs Susan Aldread
15TH	Rev. G. Miles Holy Communion
22ND	Local Team
29TH	Mrs Elaine Fox

		<u>STEWARDS</u>	
	<u>1st</u>	<u>Carol</u>	
	<u>8th</u>	<u>Elaine</u>	
	<u>15th</u>	<u>Patsy</u>	
	<u>22nd</u>	<u>Jenny</u>	
	<u>29th</u>	<u>Carol</u>	

	WEDNESDAY SPEAKERS
4TH	TBA
11TH	Mr David Beck
18TH	Rev. G Miles
25TH	Mr Nick Adams