

IN BRIEF.....

In March, heavy snow meant that one of our evening services and the Sunday "Tea-Time" had to be cancelled.

Our annual Good Friday service had to be held in the Church this year because of bad weather, but it was very well-attended.

A Coffee Morning and produce sale on the May Day Bank Holiday was quite well-attended, and raised £200 for Church Funds.



Coffee Morning May 7th

West Camel Methodist



JUNE-JULY 2018

MESSENGER

Our services are held at All Saints Church



PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

You never so touch the ocean of God's love as when you forgive and love your enemies — Corrie Ten Boom

In these days of guilt complexes, perhaps the most glorious word in the English language is 'forgiveness.' — Dr Billy Graham

The only people with whom you should try to get even are those who have helped you. —John E. Southard

Calvary shows how far men will go in sin, and how far God will go in salvation. —H.C. Trumbull

Hate is too great a burden to bear. —Dr Martin Luther King

A PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your forgiveness, so undeserved, yet freely available through the death of Jesus. As He forgave those who crucified Him, help us, by Your Spirit, to forgive those who have wronged us, and to show the world there is a better way than the way of revenge and bitterness. In Jesus' Name. Amen.



SMILE

An elderly lady had an unexpected visit from her doctor. "I didn't expect you until tomorrow, Doctor", she said.

The doctor replied "Well, I had to call on old Mrs Jones just up the road, so I thought I might as well kill two birds with one stone."

The following was overheard at a recent "high society" party:

"My ancestry goes back all the way to Alexander the Great," boasted one lady. She then turned to her friend and asked, "How far back does your family go?"

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

In a Vienna hotel:
In case of fire, do your utmost to alarm the hotel porter.

On a hotel hand drier:
Do not activate with wet hands.

In a Nairobi restaurant:
Customers who find our waitresses rude ought to see the manager.

In a Swiss hotel:
Special today - No icecream

"I don't know," replied the friend, "All of our records were lost in the Flood."

REGULAR ACTIVITIES:

Sunday: 2nd–5th Sundays 6pm. Evening worship.
1st Sunday 4.30pm. "Tea-Time" at the Davis Hall.

Wednesday: 7.30pm Bible study (various venues). First in month, united at the Davis Hall.

MINISTER: Rev. Craig Manley, Broadclose, Station Road, Ansford, Castle Cary. (Tel. 01963 351598)

STEWARD: Mrs Elizabeth Chapman, Mead Farm, Downhead. (Tel. 01935 850838)

WORSHIP CO-ORDINATOR: Mr Geoff Chapman, Mead Farm, Downhead. (Tel. 01935 850838)

EDITOR: Mr Geoff Chapman.

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. (Colossians 3: 13)

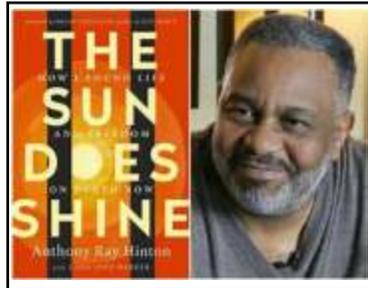
EDITORIAL

THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS



APRIL 2018 was the 25th anniversary of the murder of black teenager Stephen Lawrence — cruelly killed because of the colour of his skin. Recently, Stephen's father Neville (left) announced that he had embraced the Christian faith and forgiven Stephen's killers. In a *Sky News* interview, he said, "I wanted to be baptised and in order to be baptised you have to forgive people who have done you wrong. It has been a heavy load to carry around and hatred is not a nice thing to have. In order to free myself from carrying this burden around I decided to forgive all of these boys who, racially motivated, murdered my son."

In the United States, Anthony Ray Hinton (right) spent 30 years on death row after being wrongly convicted of the murder of two restaurant workers. Thankfully, the death sentence was not carried out, and the Equal Justice Initiative, which works to clear wrongly convicted people, spent 16 years on Hinton's case, before a new trial found that he was innocent. Following his release in 2015, Anthony wrote a book: *The Sun does Shine: How I found Life and Freedom on Death Row*. He testifies that his faith sustained him through those long years. Despite the injustice he suffered, he has been able to forgive because he knows that, through his faith in Jesus Christ, he has been forgiven. After his release, he told an ABC reporter, "I cannot hate because my Bible teaches me not to hate. I've seen hate at its worst, What would it profit me to hate?"



In a world with so much violence, where various nations and terror groups threaten vengeance, and where so many people seek to "get their own back", how refreshing it is to hear about such wonderful examples of forgiveness. There is a popular saying, "Revenge is sweet." But forgiveness is much sweeter! Harboursing resentment and bitterness, and nurturing an unforgiving spirit, is self-destructive. Forgiveness brings freedom, as both Neville Lawrence and Anthony Hinton have discovered.

Of course, forgiving those who have hurt us is not easy, especially without God's help. But our inspiration should come from Jesus Himself. As He was being nailed to the cross, He cried, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." (*Luke 23: 34*). Since He was dying for the sins of all mankind, that forgiveness applies to all who believe, and, if we are forgiven ourselves, we have no right to withhold it from those who have wronged us. Difficult? Yes, but after His resurrection and ascension Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to live within and empower us. In His strength we can forgive — and help make the world a better place. Is there someone **you** need to forgive? Ask God to help you do it today!

Dear friends, never avenge yourselves. Leave that to God, for he has said that he will repay those who deserve it. Don't take the law into your own hands.
(*Romans 12: 19, The Living Bible*)

SUNDAY SERVICES

June	3rd.	4.30pm	"Tea-Time" at the Davis Hall (U)
"	10th.	<u>9.30am</u> 6pm	All-age Service (U) Rev. Craig Manley (H.C.)
"	17th.	6pm	Mr Ken Young of Churchill
"	24th.	6pm	Mr David Herring of Bridgwater
July	1st.	4.30pm	"Tea-Time" at the Davis Hall
"	8th.	6pm	Mr Ken Hill of Congresbury
"	15th.	6pm	Rev. Craig Manley (H.C.)
"	22nd.	6pm	Mr Steve Derby of Ditcheat
"	29th.	6pm	Mrs Jacqueline Cobb of Havyatt

United "Songs of Praise"

(H.C.= Holy Communion. U = United Service)



Sunday 29th July
If you would like to choose a favourite hymn, please let Geoff know by Sunday 22nd July.

GOODBYE TO NICK

In August we say farewell to our superintendent minister, the Rev Nick Lakin, who is moving to Minehead. We thank him for his leadership and ministry, and pray for God's continuing blessing on him and his family.

NEWS FROM THE PAST

From *The Western Gazette* 50 years ago

WEST CAMEL:

A house-to-house collection in aid of the National Children's Home realised £9. 13s. (*12th July 1968*)

The evening service at the Methodist Church on Sunday was conducted by a youth group from Somerton. It was followed by the young people's monthly get-together in the schoolroom. There was a sing-song, with instrumental accompaniment, and a quiz. (*12th July 1968*)

Members of the Methodist Youth Club joined members of Somerton Club on Tuesday for their monthly outdoor social evening at Ivythorne Hill, Street. Games were played and refreshments provided. (*19th July 1968*)

On Thursday members and friends of the Methodist Church, and Sunday School scholars went by coach for their annual outing to Barry Island, via the Severn Bridge. (*9th August 1968*)