

Leprosy Mission

Stamps and postcards are still being sent to the Leprosy Mission – one box last week and another filling. They are sold to dealers and the money raised provides cures or treatments for lepers. Please post anything you have to -

Bob Dawson
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From Patrick Dawson - Circuit Administrator

I thought this week I would offer my own 'Pause for Thought'. Not being a Local Preacher I am limited in what I can say, but I offer this. Last week I went to Sainsbury's to do our weekly shop. I spent an hour in the queue outside, then another hour doing the shopping. Finally, I had one last item I couldn't find, so asked an assistant. Standing at 6 feet 6 inches away (I use imperial measurements, not this metric nonsense), I asked "where is the vinegar please", the reply was "where the eggs used to be". My reply, "Where is that", answer "Where the vinegar is". I think I'll just have to be content with salt on my chips.

Take care and stay safe.

Patrick

ST. JOHN'S METHODIST CHURCH



**"We are united by the love of Jesus.
We will support one another in love
and, through worship and service,
work together to share the
good news of Jesus with everyone."**



FREE phone lines for prayers and news from the Methodist Church

Listen to a **prayer**: 0808 281 2514

Listen to **news**: 0808 281 2478

Content is updated weekly on Thursday afternoon

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>>>Peter's day off is Friday<<<

Historical Notes on the Love Feast (Agape)



1. Christian Tradition

In the early church some celebrations of the Agape meal & the Lord's Supper seemed to overlap. The two eventually became quite distinct with the Agape meal or Love Feast dying out in the fourth century.

While the Lord's Supper has been practically universal among Christians throughout church history, the Love Feast has re-appeared at different times & among certain denominations.

The modern history of the Love Feast began when Count Zinzendorf & the Moravians in Germany introduced a service of sharing food, prayer, religious conversation, & hymns in 1727.

The Love Feast quickly became a feature of the Evangelical Revival & a regular part of Methodist society meetings in Great Britain & became an important feature of early of Primitive Methodism.

Some rural communities have maintained an annual Love Feast. In recent years churches have revived the Love Feast or Agape meal.

Aspects of the Agape, with the sharing of bread after the celebration of the Eucharistic Liturgy, are still observed in Orthodox Churches, where unconsecrated but blessed bread is shared after the Eucharist.

Agape fellowship meals are also celebrated in parts of the Mar Thoma Indian Christian tradition.

2. John Wesley's Recollections

With the Moravians in Savannah

After evening prayers, we joined with the Germans in one of their love-feasts. It was begun & ended with thanksgiving & prayer, & celebrated in so decent & solemn a manner as a Christian of the apostolic age would have allowed to be worthy of Christ.

John Wesley's Diary, 8th August, 1737

During the First Year of Methodism

Mr. Hall, Kinchin, Ingham, Whitefield, Hutchins, & my brother Charles were present at our love-feast at Fetter Lane, with about sixty of our brethren. About three in the morning, as we were continuing instant in prayer, the power of God came mightily upon us, inasmuch that many cried out for exceeding joy, & many fell to the ground. As soon as we were recovered a little from that awe & amazement at the presence of His majesty we broke out with one voice: "We praise Thee, O God; we acknowledge Thee to be the Lord."

John Wesley's Journal, 1st January, 1739

Establishing Methodist Practice

In order to increase in (the societies) a sense of all God's mercies, I desired that we might together 'eat bread' as the ancient Christians did, 'with gladness & singleness of heart'.

At these love-feasts (so we termed them, retaining the name as well as the thing which was in use from the beginning) our food is only a little plain cake & water. But we seldom return from them without being fed not only with 'the meat that perisheth', but with 'that which endureth to everlasting life'

John Wesley's 'Plain Account of the People called Methodists' 1748

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/leading-worship/additional-methodist-liturgies/a-methodist-love-feast/>



Continued next week (including a recipe for a traditional Love Feast cake, if you can find some flour!!)