

Dear Friends,

Don't you just get fed up listening to other people's holiday experiences? "We did this, we did that, we got the runs, the food was awful, the service was non-existent, the sun shone all the time, it was wonderful..." No? Good, because I want to tell you a little bit about our trip to Skiathos, one of the islands just off the Greek mainland. It's tiny, but both Pauline (the better half) and I agreed it is one of the most beautiful places we'd ever seen. It was stunning and parts of what we saw filled us with awe. The whole place, the scenery, the smells, the food and drink - just tantalised all of our senses.

Despite all this beauty, our holiday could have been ruined by the horrific noise made by tourists, which threatened to spoil it all for us; it was reflecting on this that made me wonder just what beauty really is.

A place's beauty cannot really be measured only by what the eye can see, the nose smell or the stomach feel, it goes far deeper than any of those things; it has to do with the very heart of the nation, the character of its people, what they do and why. Certainly one can be taken in by the way a place looks, but if all the other things don't match up, then the beauty is marred, rather like the spot on an otherwise flawless complexion. Jesus once described the Pharisees as painted sepulchres - brilliant white on the outside but full of rotting dead men's bones on the inside - and exhorted his disciples not to concentrate on the externalities but to look for beauty within people. Therefore, when one considers a place one must also have regard to its people. Are they, for example, hospitable to outsiders? Do they open their homes to visitors and make them feel welcome. Are they willing to share the natural beauty of their country, the sunshine, their culture and history? Do they have compassion, seeking to help strangers to find rest and peace from their problems? Are they obedient or are they willing to compromise their beliefs and moral standards in order to line their pockets? The Bible speaks often about this important ministry of hospitality to strangers, particularly within the Holiness Code, which reminds the Israelites that they, too, were once strangers in a foreign land. And, in one story, Jesus scolds Simon the Leper for not providing water to wash his feet or fragrant oils to refresh his head and for not greeting him with a kiss of welcome.

The word 'hospitable' is defined as being warm and generous, having an open, generous and receptive mind'. If we are to be beautiful, then these characteristics must be embodied within our nature. Indeed, the beauty of Jesus is not in how he looked but in how he spoke and acted: he received everyone who came to him with courtesy, openness and love - he rejected no-one. He loved so much that he gave himself to and for others, bringing healing, forgiveness and peace to the troubled and weary. He never once compromised his ideals by seeking to exchange them for fame, wealth or power and instead took on the role of a servant.

Some of our modern hymns recognise that personal loveliness is intrinsic, stemming from the very nature of God within us rather than from all those grooming aids which we can buy over the counter.

All humanity bears the image of God and therefore is intrinsically beautiful at heart. It is only when people allow the craving for power in all its forms to take over their lives that the image is disfigured. Ugliness is characterised in so many ways: greed, power, lust, poverty, disobedience, selfishness, unrighteousness, the list is endless. We can see just what it does to some people: it's in their faces, in their voices, in the way they treat people, in their hearts.

Beauty, therefore, is love in all its fullness, characterised by the desire to seek only the highest good for others and to think nothing of self; to be open, generous and receptive; to share all that one is and owns with everyone.

All these things are found in abundance in Skiathos. Would they be found in our Church?

Happy holidays to all. **Tony.**

THIS AND THAT

Thank You Thank You Thank You Thank You

Thankyou to everyone who supported the 'Lady-in-Style' Fashion Show, £500.00 was raised to support the work of NSPCC and Childline.

SAFELY HOME

Congratulations to the Waifs and Strays, who, representing the Children's Society, won the ninth Annual Sprotbrough Village Quiz in the church hall on Saturday 14 May. They were in the lead at the half-way point, with the Be Prepareds, of the 67th Doncaster Scouts, in hot pursuit. At one point in the second half the two teams were neck and neck, but the Waifs and Strays finally lifted the silverware, with the Be Prepareds only four points behind, and the Mallets (from the Croquet Club) in very honourable third position. A good time really was had by all, and a much appreciated £401 was raised for the church roof.

NSPCC 
Cruelty to children must stop. FULL STOP.

Sprotbrough NSPCC

Ploughman's Lunch

12 midday - 2pm

Adults £6.50 Children £3.00

Cakes • Raffle

Afternoon Tea

3pm - 5pm

Adults £3.50 Children £1.00

Raffle • Games

on Thursday 18th August

at 'Colindale', Park Close

Tickets from Erskines - 850890



AN EVENING OF WINE AND FUN

On Saturday 3 September, commencing at 7.30pm, there will be an evening of fun accompanied by several wines to tickle your taste buds. Please support this event, which is in support of the church roof appeal. Tickets are available now, price £7.50, from Barbara Perry and Wendy Taylor.



Cream Teas at Betty's

2.30pm - 5.00pm

Saturday 6th August

at Copley House, Park Drive

to include an Art Exhibition by Sheila Bury

Donations towards Church Roof Appeal.

Everyone Welcome



67th Sprotbrough Scout Annual Road Race and Family Gala

SUNDAY 17TH JULY

Starting at 1.00pm. Road Race to start 2.00pm

Entries for the road race available prior to the event at the post office, via our web site www.sprotbroughscouts.co.uk or tel: 788822. Entries are accepted on the day.

Please come along for a 'family fun filled afternoon' with many attractions and side shows to support our local scout group. Anyone who wishes to have a stall, please contact Janet Graves, 853932

Bring new hope

It's time once again to begin preparations for the Link Romania Family Shoebox Appeal. The churches in Sprotbrough welcome all donations of a wide range of goods (see below) for distribution to poor and disadvantaged families in Romania this Christmas. Items will be packed in shoeboxes, gift-wrapped and taken over by volunteers as gifts from the people of Sprotbrough. Please, no used or unsuitable items. Contents can include, for example:

Adults

Shampoo
Shower gel
Deodorant
Toothbrush/toothpaste
Soap/flannel
Safety razors
Brush/comb
Gloves/scarf/hats (new)
Nailfile/clippers
Plasters/scissors

Children

Sweets (not chocolate)
Small toys
Small teddy
Colouring books
Pens/pencils
Felt-tipped pens/crayons
Geometry set
Balloons
Hair accessories
Socks/tights (new)

Please take your contributions or filled shoeboxes to any of the churches in Sprotbrough and become one of the thousands of supporters who try to bring smiles to families in one of the poorest countries in the world.

Link Romania was established in 1991 in response to devastating television pictures that came out of Romania of the appalling conditions in the orphanages there. Even though much has changed in Romania since then - it joined the European Union in 2007 - grinding poverty remains for many Romanians. Indeed, it is estimated that around 30% of Romanians live below the poverty line. The country has one of Europe's highest rates of infant mortality and thousands of children still live in state-run institutions.

Link Romania works with locally run community development projects to help meet the needs of disadvantaged and marginalised people, mainly through education and social care, and they fund and offer support throughout the year that focus on either or both of these areas.

Link Romania has a Christian ethos and while faith inspires their work, they are committed to supporting people and projects of all faiths and none.

If you *really* want to, you *can* make a difference!

Getting away from it all

Are you experiencing problems in your family life? Want to get away for a while? Then the Mothers' Union may be able to help.

Away From It All (AFIA) is a holiday scheme, funded by members of the Mothers' Union, to help people who wouldn't otherwise be able to have a holiday.

Mothers' Union normally help with part of the cost for a holiday or with travel expenses, but sometimes they can pay for the whole trip, according to individual circumstances. Funds are limited, but MU will always help as much as they can. Each year, hundreds of families have a break thanks to AFIA.

The scheme is open to anyone who is experiencing stress in their family life. It is open to any individual or organisation – you don't have to be a member of a church. If you apply for yourself or your family, a member of the clergy, doctor, head teacher or social worker may be asked to support your application. Some basic information will be required, for example, when you last had a holiday and the reason why you would like a break. There is a simple application form to fill in.

The holidays may take different forms: some are more suitable for families, others for individuals, for example:

- Specially organised family weeks with activities and outings arranged;
- Time at a Mothers' Union caravan, usually on a site with full facilities by the beach;
- Staying at a guest house or small family hotel;
- Breaks at a holidays camp;
- Days out.

These are just a few of the options available and MU will try to find the most suitable holiday, because everyone is different.

To apply, contact the Rector, the Reverend Tony Sophianou, in the first instance on 01302 857073.

Mothers' Union is an organisation of more than 3.6 million Christians in more than 78 countries who believe in the importance of families. The organisation is committed to strengthening family life though working in local communities and aims to provide practical, emotional and spiritual support to parents. *Away From It All* is just one of a number of practical initiatives aimed at giving families space to spend precious time together.

If you would like more information about Mothers' Union, which is open to Christians and non-Christians, men and women, please contact the Rector on 01302 857073.

Churches Together in Sprotbrough

Sometimes the cover of The Church and Community in Sprotbrough shows a picture of St. Mary's Church and Sprotbrough Park Methodist Church, There are, however, as you know other churches operating in the area. Many of them are represented on a group which aims to help all Christians to

- Explore their faith together
- Worship, pray and reflect together
- Respond together to the needs of society
- Live and share the gospel together and with others

In the past year this group has worked by

- supporting and organising joint services, such as those at Advent, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost. Over the year there were 14 such services which have become an accepted part of Christian worship in all Sprotbrough churches.

- encouraging (but not taking over) joint activities, such as Bible study; weekly prayers for unity; Open the Book (including the presentation of It's Your Move to all Year 6 students in local schools); a lunch club held every second Thursday of every month; a Chat Room held every fourth Thursday, etc.

- organising joint activities. It has been a very active year for Churches Together in this field. The year began with a challenging address of high quality by Revd Dr Chris Blake, Principal of Cliff College. The next joint activity was a well attended Pentecost party held in St Mary's Church Hall grounds. Both a Christmas and an Easter hand-out sheet was widely distributed throughout Sprotbrough, showing the season's services in all participating churches. Over 1500 copies of the December Church and Community in Sprotbrough (including the Christmas hand-out) were delivered to the area between the disused railway line and York Road. A weekly Lent course was organised, meeting at different times in homes and in Sprotbrough Park Methodist Church, involving a video stimulus Love for the Future and a variety of prayer, discussion and bible study aids. Two occasions were arranged to give a chance for members of different congregations to pray together, and this is planned to continue and extend. Other activities are in process of design.

The group had its AGM in May, and was addressed by Revd Frances Eccleston, who gave an illustrated talk on the Iona community which has similar aims to Churches Together in Sprotbrough, though it works as a dispersed community. She emphasised the similarity she identified, where the greatest challenge is not uniformity, but whether we can love each other, though different. Many left the meeting feeling that they would like to experience (or re-experience) the Iona ethic in operation.

**Mission
Aviation
Fellowship**

Flying for Life

On Busuka Island on Lake Victoria, Uganda, more than 500 people received medical treatment when MAF flew a team of 20 there from Ugandan Medical and Dental Mission. Without that 20 minute flight, they would have faced travel by water - equivalent to crossing the English Channel in small wooden boats for 8 hours.

Far Reaching Ministries is working to bring the Gospel to soldiers in the Sudan People's Liberation Army by training chaplains from among their own ranks. MAF flew 13 of their chaplaincy students from Kauda to Nimule for training. The three hour flight saved them at least a month of painful overland travel across southern Sudan.

Following the Haiti earthquake MAF flew 'nonstop'. Their hangar became the communications and logistics centre for numerous organisations. They coordinated the storage, distribution and transportation of huge quantities of aid. They flew 1,801 passengers, 158 tons of cargo, and made 1,037 landings in 3 months. Flights continued throughout the year and assisted during cholera outbreaks. These are just some of the things MAF does. SO WHAT IS MAF?

MAF is a worldwide Christian organisation operating over 125 light aircraft in more than 30 countries. Around 280 flights every day transport patients, relief teams, medical supplies and Christian workers in the world's remotest regions and places of deepest human need. Places where flying is not a luxury but a lifeline. Normally, passengers contribute a highly subsidised fare towards the true cost. The balance comes from people concerned that others should have a better life spiritually and physically. In the UK, MAF is a registered charity funded by voluntary gifts, which help finance MAF's operational work and support services.

WANT TO KNOW MORE? Look at the notice board in St. Mary's Church.

Copy for the magazine's August edition should be handed to the Editor, Betty Brockman, Copley House, Park Drive, Tel: 852046, NO LATER THAN Monday 4th July 2011 please.

Enquiries about advertising should be made to Vivien Jenkinson, Tel: 859453.



Mr Sprouts Page

FROM LITTLE THINGS

- Sometimes the smallest, most
- innocent looking things can
- cause great changes. The
- proverb says that great oaks
- grow from little acorns and it
- seems a miracle that something
- so small as an acorn, so small
- that you can hold a lot of them in
- your hand, can
- grow into
- something as
- huge and
- strong as an
- oak tree.



- Jesus talked about this power in
- the parables, the stories that he
- told, when he said the Kingdom
- of Heaven is like yeast. Yeast is
- a small fungus but without it we
- wouldn't have bread, wine or
- beer. Jesus reminded us that you
- don't have to be big to make a
- difference. A very small amount
- of yeast turned a lot of flour into
- bread. We may be only one,
- small person but we too can
- make a difference.

BABY NAMES

When a cat has babies they are called kittens. What are the babies of these other animals called. Answers at the bottom of the page.

- A baby **DOG** is a
fluppy puppy huffy
- A baby **GOAT** is a
kid cuddle goat
- A baby **HARE** is a
harbour cub leveret
- A baby **BEAR** is a
cub hug teddy
- A baby **KANGAROO** is a
roo joey bluey
- A baby **ELEPHANT** is a
dumbo tusker calf



How can you tell a baby snake?

By its rattle.

What's a baby whale called?

A little squirt.



Answers: 1. puppy, 2. kid, 3. leveret, 4. cub, 5. joey, 6. calf

By Angela Webb

A Summer Supper Evening



Many people enjoyed a Summer Supper Evening at

46 Westmorland Way last year. There was a lovely meal, dessert, cheese and a glass of wine, all hosted by Gill Blackshire.

By popular request she is repeating the occasion on Saturday 16 July 2011 at 7pm

- all for a modest price of £7.

Get your tickets now from Gill (853717), from Betty Holden (852366) or from Victor Hext (854467).

The proceeds will go to support the Society's vision of a better childhood for every child in this country - and directly help many who are in direct need.

A teacher was giving a lesson on the circulation of the blood. Trying to make the matter clearer, she said, "Now, class, if I stood on my head, the blood, as you know, would run into it, and it would turn red in the face..."

"Yes," the class said.

"Then why is it that while I am standing upright in the ordinary position the blood doesn't run into my feet?"

A little fellow shouted, "Cause your feet ain't empty".

Churches Together in Sprotbrough

"It's Your Move"

Once again Churches Together are giving away this booklet to individual pupils in year 6 in Copley School and Richmond Hill. The aim is to help them in the transition from junior to secondary schools.

Sunday t-Time

Sunday t-Time is a time when families, especially those with young children, can meet together for worship in an informal way. At each of the meetings there is a story linked to a parable or theme from the bible followed by a time of activities. These take place in St Mary's Church or Church Hall allowing everyone to choose how they spend their time.

In July there will be meetings on the 3rd July and 17th July.

The Sunday t-Time Team



The Children's Society

PEOPLE TO REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

FUNERALS – Our prayers and thoughts are with the family and friends of:

7 June 2011 Nickolette Inglis
 14 June 2011 Hugh Graves
 14 June 2011 Godfrey Dent

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - JULY 2011

- 1 Friday 2.00pm Ecumenical Bible Study, 350 Melton Road.
 5 Tuesday 1.30pm Sewing Group, Copley House.
 6 Wednesday Sprotbrough Wives Summer Outing.
 12 Tuesday 7.30pm W.I. "Memories of a Retired Solicitor" Andrew Revitt.
 14 Thursday 12.30pm Community Lunch - Methodist Church.
 16 Saturday 7.00pm Children's Society Summer Supper.
 18 Monday 7.30pm Mothers Union "History of the M.U.", Marcia Priest.

Methodist Church Sunday worship during July

	Sprotbrough Methodist Church, Park Drive		Sprotbrough Road M.C. Goldsmith Community Centre	
3 July	10.00am	Holy Communion Rev Dr Frank Okai-Sam	10.30am	Mr Keith Mears
10 July	8.30am	Holy Communion Rev Dr Frank Okai-Sam	10.30am	Holy Communion Rev Bob Stevens
	10.00am	Rev Sandie Exley-Watts		
17 July	10.00am	Mr Barry Parker	10.30am	Mrs Jenny Barlow
	6.00pm	Stream Service at Bentley Methodist Church	5.00pm	Fun Day
24 July	10.00am	Family Service Mr David Banks	10.30am	Rev Bob Stevens
			6.00pm	Prayer and Praise
31 July	10.00am	Rev Mavis Bruce-Hodgson	10.30am	Miss Joy Ventom
	6.00pm	Holy Communion Rev Dr Frank Okai-Sam		

A Sunday school teacher: was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds.

After explaining the commandment to "honor" thy Father and thy Mother, she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"

Without missing a beat one little boy: (the oldest of a family) answered, "Thou shall not kill."