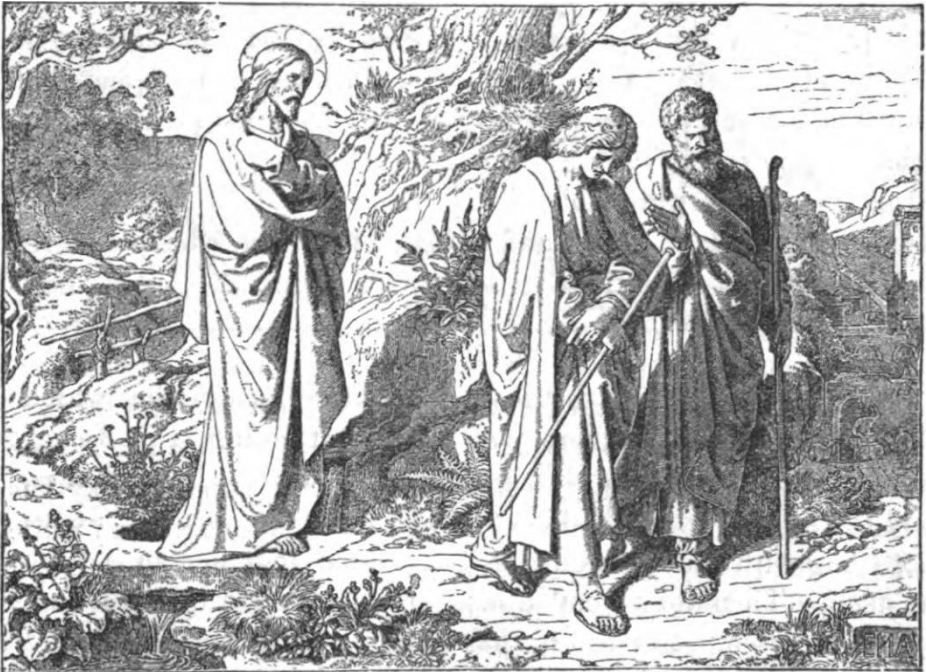


**May 2019**

**The Bridge No. 38**

**Newsletter of  
Ponte Sant'Angelo  
Methodist Church Rome**



**Emmaus Road**

## **Minister`s Letter**

Dear friends,

The Easter Offering service gives us a chance once a year to celebrate our place in the World Church and to respond with our gifts to help partner churches in other continents. This year the theme is “Longer tables, lower fences”. Read about this later.

In a world where President Trump still seems determined to build a big wall along the US border with Mexico and Mrs May resolved to follow through what she thinks is the will of the British people to leave the EU, the political situations here and elsewhere challenge the Christian notion of radical hospitality.

I love this time of the year when Spring seems to rescue us from the gloom of winter, when Easter calls us out of despair to new life and hope. The story of the Emmaus Road (Luke 24) invites us to journey with the Risen Christ and to allow our eyes to be opened and our hearts warmed as he sits with the disciples and shares bread. Not just in communion services but in longer tables where we can invite others to share in gospel feast. This story formed the basis of the Synod of Bishop`s report on Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment. Although addressed to young people, it is relevant to all who seek to follow Jesus.

The first section, entitled “Jesus walked with them” encourages us to be prepared to allow Jesus to be our companion on the journey of life. The second section, entitled “Their eyes were opened” challenges us to see who are in our midst and how we can help those we find sitting at our tables. The last section entitled “They set out at once, sets before us the choices we need to make with a missionary imperative to serve the world and not merely to look inwards. Let us see whether we can in this Easter season make sure that “all are welcome” and that the gifts of all are recognized so that our hearts may be strangely warmed for us, as they were for Charles and John Wesley on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> May 1738. Use this time to prepare for our day out on 1<sup>st</sup> June at the Eremo when we will be following this year`s theme of Thy Kingdom come, the nine days of prayer leading up to Pentecost.

May God bless you in this our period of discernment, seeking to ask what God's will is for us for the future. **Pastor Tim**

## **PASTOR TIM VISITS THE STATES**

Notre Dame Consultation

From 26 to 28 March 2019, the University of Notre Dame (Indiana, USA) hosted representatives of the five Christian world communions formally associated with the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification (JDDJ) to discuss implications of that landmark agreement in the context of growing closeness and collaboration between them. Church leaders came from the Roman Catholic Church, the Lutheran World Federation, the World Methodist Council, the World Communion of Reformed Churches, and the Anglican Communion.

The meeting opened with an ecumenical evening prayer service led by local clergy and members of the Notre Dame community. The event concluded with a public panel entitled "From Conflict to Communion: The Future of Christians Together in the World."

Participants at the consultation recognized the urgency of presenting afresh the core message of the JDDJ that "by grace alone, in faith in Christ's saving work and not because of any merit on our part, we are accepted by God and receive the Holy Spirit, who renews our hearts while equipping and calling us to good works." They stressed the relevance of this gospel message for our conflicted and wounded world.

The representatives discerned further steps on the journey toward deeper ecclesial communion and a more visible common witness. Challenged with showing the deeper bonds that have been developing over the past two decades, the group welcomed the 2016 "Lund Imperative" to act always from the perspective of unity rather than from the point of view of division. The participants also affirmed the method of differentiating consensus that allows for agreement on common convictions while maintaining different confessional expressions.

The purpose of the meeting was not to achieve theological breakthroughs, yet participants were able to discuss key issues of mutual recognition of ministry, highlighting ways of strengthening cooperation in pastoral ministry and social outreach. The group discussed the need for strategies to address

the connection between justification and justice, and proposed the production of a range of common resources such as catechetical tools.

Together participants encouraged the strengthening of the common bond of baptism in ways appropriate to local contexts.

The participants recognized the need to apply the 1952 Lund Principle, which calls them to act together in all things except when significant differences of conviction compel them to act separately. To continue the conversation, the participants decided to set up a steering committee to carry forward their ongoing work.

The members of the Consultation expressed gratitude for the generous hospitality shown by the University of Notre Dame which enabled them to move forward together on their journey. It was their prayer that the Holy Spirit bring to completion what God has begun.

## **INTERN NEWS**

April was an eventful month, particularly with a visit from Queen's Theological College, Birmingham, during Holy Week. During this time, I was able to attend some very interesting events. One of these was at the Lay Centre, entitled 'Tattoos on the Heart' by Fr. Greg Boyle who is the founder of Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles, California. Homeboy Industries is the largest gang intervention, rehabilitation and re-entry program in the world. Fr. Greg spoke about his work at the margins of society, saying that we don't go to the margins to make a difference, but so that those at margins make us different. He spoke about finding joy in this work, and not seeing it as a duty. It is important, Fr. Greg explained, that we have a sense of who God is. God does not demonise, God is about inclusion, and ultimately, any talk of God that does not comfort, is a lie. In our work and in our ministry, we need to remember that we have a God who is always much greater than any problems.

Another talk was called, 'Sharing the Vision: A dialogue on Religious Life today and into the Future' at the International Union of Superiors General. This session focused on institutions of religious life, particularly in the US, and the issues that they are currently facing. There was lots of wisdom to draw from these sisters, especially that, when we see decline in institutions, it is

important to notice the new that God is making among us, and that this is reflected in the paschal mystery rhythm, that things can die, and rise to life again, often giving way to new expressions. In terms of what the sisters called a time of crisis for the Catholic Church, there was an acknowledgement firstly, of gaining wisdom from this moment and finding a renewal of energy coming from deep pain. Attention was given to the triad of combining the discipline of listening, prioritising relationships over being right and looking for spaces to create common ground.

I have enjoyed spending Holy Week in Rome, particularly getting to know the students from Queen's Theological College who were staying in MEOR. On Maundy Thursday, we held a communion service and meal in MEOR, which was a wonderful experience of fellowship with both congregation members and the Queen's visitors. I also attended my first tenebrae service at St Paul's Within the Walls. The ancient service of tenebrae was used throughout the Catholic monastic world for many centuries during Holy Week. Consisting almost entirely of Scriptural readings it is a meditation on the sorrows, the profundity and the hopes involved in the Passion of the Christ. Throughout the service, candles are gradually put out until total darkness prevails; after which a dramatic reminder of the Resurrection is given, through a loud noise. Finally, after the busyness of Easter, I took a holiday and visited Naples and the island of Ischia. I look forward to May which promises to be another eventful and dynamic month.

**Rachel**

## **METHODIST INVOLVEMENT IN WOMEN'S EDUCATION IN ITALY**

**Pastor Tim writes:**

I have walked down Via Garibaldi and noticed a building marked Methodist Institute and often wondered what it was. Thanks to a Norwegian enquirer on the church website and the response to her enquiry from the Waldensian Archives, we now know more.

She wrote: My name is Ingrid Loe Landmark. I'm a Norwegian musicologist doing research on the Norwegian pianist Mary Barratt. She was a pupil of the Methodist school Crandon Hall in Rome from 1902 to 1908. Her teacher was the famous composer and pianist Giovanni Sgambati who was also leader of the music education at Crandon Hall. Mary did her final exam at the Santa Cecilia Academy in 1907, but stayed one more year to study with

Sgambati. She also worked as an organist at the Italian and American Methodist church from 1905 (Via Firenze) and was an assistant of Italia Garibaldi at the Methodist Sunday School. Further, she was a good friend of the American couple Mr. and Mrs. Clarck. Dr. Nathaniel Clarck was the president of the Methodist theological college at Rome. Mary was the daughter of the well known Thomas Barratt, who was also a good friend of the Methodist bishops Burt and Vincent.

I would appreciate very much if someone could give me some additional information on their issue, which I haven't been able to find. How was the school organized, who founded it and how was it that it that it was established in Rome?

I put her in touch with Gabriella Ballesio at Tavola Valdese Archives who wrote to her:

Crandon International Institute (endorsed by the Methodist Episcopal Church in Italy) was founded in Rome by the Methodist Women's Missionary Society. In the beginning the Institute was located in via Garibaldi and it was aimed at giving a primary education to poor girls. In 1896 the Institute became a boarding school, with an Elementary and a High School. The latter offered several courses like Italian, Foreign languages and Music. The Director at the time was Miss M.C. Vickery, helped by Miss Basye. The Institute was located in via San Nicola da Tolentino. In 1899 the Institute was composed of 20 Italian and 15 foreign girls living in the Institute, plus 77 girls attending only the various courses.

In 1900 the Institute was moved to a bigger and more spacious building. At that time it was attended by 145 girls (49 of them living in the Institute) from Italy, France, Great Britain, Germany and United States. The Music teacher was maestro Giovanni Sgambati while the English teacher was Miss Hughes, daughter of rev. Hugh Price-Hughes of London, UK.

In 1902 the institute was moved to via Veneto [www.romasparita.eu/foto-roma-sparita/75756/via-veneto-70](http://www.romasparita.eu/foto-roma-sparita/75756/via-veneto-70) and it changed its name to Crandon Hall. At that time the girls were 225 and the teachers were 35. Italia Garibaldi, daughter of Giuseppe Garibaldi, was in charge of the elementary education at the Institute. In 1906 the new directors were Miss Swift and Miss Edith Burt while the number of girls was about 300. In 1911 the Institute was moved to via Savoia in two buildings bought by the Methodist Episcopal Church in Italy. After the First World War the number of girls attending the Institute was

between 430 and 350. The Crandon Institute was sold to the German School Association on 30th October 1948.

Does anyone have any further information they would like to add? It is interesting to see the importance of women's education for early Methodists in Italy.

### **UPDATE FROM LUCY COWPLAND**

Greetings from London! I hope you are all doing well and that the Spring in Rome is as beautiful as I remember it!

Since I last wrote for the Bridge, I graduated from the University of St Andrews with a Masters in Peace and Conflict Studies. The year was certainly a challenge, but I learnt a lot and made some wonderful friends and am very glad that I did it. The summer was spent writing my thesis and applying for jobs. My thesis was based on the Rohingya in Myanmar and the 'Responsibility to Protect'. It was not an easy undertaking, but it was very interesting and I'm glad to report that I did well.

I was also fortunate enough to secure myself a job before finishing the course, and in September I started working at the Anglican Communion Office. I work in their Communications department and their Unity, Faith and Order department. The work with UFO has allowed me to stay in the Ecumenical world, for which I am very grateful and interested in, and Communications has been a new world for me, but one I am very much enjoying.

The first few months were relatively quiet in the office which gave me a chance to wrap my head around the complexities of the Anglican Communion! My first trip away was in December...to Durham! Not very far, but it was interesting, nonetheless. I was there assisting in the Inter-Anglican Standing Committee on Unity, Faith and Order. It was a busy 10 days, but I enjoyed getting to meet different people from around the Communion, and it was lovely to be in the Cathedral every day. In January I went to Prague for the Anglican-Old Catholic commission. It was very cold, but another interesting meeting and a great opportunity to learn more about the Old-Catholic tradition. We are now getting ready for the Anglican Consultative Council meeting at the end of this month in Hong Kong. I am looking forward

to some warmer weather, but there will be lots of work to be done in the lead up and while we are there!

There is some change happening in both of the departments I work in – the Directors are both leaving. They promise it's nothing personal! I would appreciate your prayers during this time of transition. Apart from work, things are good. London is busy and definitely a different culture, but I am enjoying it! I'm unsure how long I will be here for, but I am content for now. Sending all my love and best wishes to you all!

## **CHURCH FAMILY NEWS**

### **SAD NEWS**

Lindsay Twomlow has asked me to share this news based on scans results for Steve recently, which were not good. They have jointly decided to stop his treatment as he has deteriorated significantly over the past three months. Hopefully by now he will have been discharged from hospital and will live at home for as long as possible.

We keep Lindsay and Steve and the family in our prayers at this time.

### **GOOD NEWS**

We have heard from Abigail that she started work recently as Families Worker in her home circuit in Staffordshire. She sends her greetings to all at PSA.

## **CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS**

The Church Council met on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April and discussed the following:

- 317 Euros was raised at the Bake Sale in aid of the Rice Bowl project. Appreciation for organising the sale was expressed to the Marinelli family.
- There is an urgent need to create a locked cupboard space at the back of the sanctuary, inside the main door, to house Bible and hymn books.
- 20 more hymn books will be purchased.
- The suggestion was made to create a 'taxi fund' to enable elderly folk to attend church once a month, perhaps on the first Sunday. They would be advised of the possibility of claiming these expenses.



## **BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD**

This is a song we sometimes sing at the start of our worship, but do we always mean the words we sing? We may sit quietly waiting for the service to begin but often there are distractions after it has started with people arriving and moving around during the prayers, bible readings and even the sermon. This can make it difficult when we are trying to focus our minds on what is being said, what we are saying to God and what God might be saying to us.

With so many transport problems and events on Sundays which make it a problem for some of us to get to church in time it is inevitable that some will arrive after worship has begun. But if we are unavoidably late can we please come into church as quietly and unobtrusively as possible, whether through the main door or the back way up to the balcony.

Those who are leading the different parts of the service from the pulpit find it distracting if there is a lot of movement (and noise!) coming from above. Maybe we could wait until a hymn, to avoid undue disruption? Also can we all make sure our phones are switched off during worship?

If we can all make an effort to maintain an atmosphere of worship we can then truly say 'Be still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.'

## **EASTER OFFERING 2019: LONGER TABLES, LOWER FENCES**

The theme for this year's Easter Offering focuses on shared hospitality across the world. The worship service which has been prepared by Methodist Women In Britain encourages us to think how we may build longer tables rather than higher fences as we share whatever we have and connect with our neighbours near and far.

EO envelopes are available for your gifts for the World Mission Fund of the British Methodist Church, which supports the work of its Partner Churches, including here in Italy. The EO service will be held here at PSA on Sunday 19th May. As in previous years it will be our World Church Sunday and we shall hear stories reflecting the theme from different parts of the world, including the work of Mediterranean Hope here in Rome and other parts of Italy. Our EO envelopes will be received and dedicated during the service.

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

- 19<sup>th</sup> May Pot luck lunch after Easter Offering service – food from around the world.
- 30<sup>th</sup> June Annual General Meeting

## **LECTURE AT THE ANGLICAN CENTRE**

On Thursday 23rd May at 6pm, there is a lecture by Professor Stephen Darlington on William Byrd, a devout Roman Catholic, living through a series of English Reformations, and which had a profound effect on all composers of liturgical music. This talk explores the context within which Byrd composed, the music itself and the legacy which has led some to call him the 'Father of British Music'.

## **EXHIBITION ST PAUL'S WITHIN THE WALLS**

You are invited to the exhibition '**Abraham Out Of One, Many**'. The exhibition, which is on until the beginning of June, is an artistic exploration of living harmoniously, inspired by Abraham; the common ancestor of three celebrated contemporary Middle Eastern artists from Muslim, Christian and Jewish traditions.

## **"EREMO" GATHERING 2019**

This year on 1<sup>st</sup> June we will have our annual gathering in Monteverde area at the "eremo", a lovely, cosy chapel surrounded by fruit trees. As we did last year we will join "Thy Kingdom Come" global wave of prayer calling all Christians to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus Christ. We will have a time to thank God for what He has helped us to do this year at church and, more in general, in our lives and we will look forward to the new challenges, responsibilities and opportunities opening up in the future.

After a short time of fellowship and refreshments, we will take the meeting outdoor (weather permitting). It will be a time of reflection on the Word of God, alternated by hymns and prayers: participants will be led by Pastor Tim through the different parts of the gathering. At the end, we will finish with a symbolic sharing of bread and grape juice: this time of sharing will be a sign of

ecumenism as there will be participants belonging to different Christian denominations.

The meeting starts at 4.30 pm at Via del Casaletto 128, Suore Oblate di Gesù, "eremo". The convent is easily reachable by public transport (tram 8, buses 791, H, 31, 44, 870). The nearest stop is "Casaletto-Circonvallazione Gianicolense" at the terminus of tram 8. After getting off the tram/bus take Via del Casaletto and walk straight on for 100 metres and you will get to the convent. The "eremo" is behind the convent: please follow the sign in the yard. If you come by car, you can park in the convent yard. All are welcome to join! Please speak to Alessia & Federico for more details, call or text 3381675680.

### **BIBLE STUDY HOME GROUP:**

We meet on Saturdays at 5.30 pm and the next meetings are on 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> May. **Details:** Mobile 338/1675680 - Via del Casaletto 63 - Buzz Montelli – Milani (Monteverde area).

**WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS:** the Bible class continues at PSA at 10:30am on 8<sup>th</sup> May. See Sandra Mi if you hope to come.

### **FORTHCOMING SERVICES**

5 <sup>th</sup> May	Pastor Tim: Preaching service with the Dutch school present.
12 <sup>th</sup> May	Pastor Tim with Holy Communion
19 <sup>th</sup> May	World Church Sunday with Easter Offering service followed by pot luck lunch.
26 <sup>th</sup> May	Pastor Tim
2 <sup>nd</sup> June	No Communion (national holiday parade). Guest preacher Revd. Graham Thompson.
9 <sup>th</sup> June	Pastor Tim with Holy Communion (Pentecost)

### **Weekly Offerings** [P =cash; E =Envelopes; BB = Birthday Basket.]

April Total: P634      E1,152      BB 95.00      TTL 1,881,00

We need to achieve a target of 2000 euros per month to meet our obligations. Please consider joining the envelope scheme and giving regularly so that we don't fall further behind.



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