

Triangle

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The quarterly magazine of the
Methodist Churches of
Springdale and Wombourne

Autumn 2017

First-day terrors

David Hotchkiss, editor



Hello and welcome. “What on earth am I doing here?” No, no – not here exactly. I very nearly know what I’m doing here. No, “What on earth am I doing here?” is what I always ended up asking myself on my “first days”. First day at Saturday job, first day on training course, first day on newspaper (then another, then another). Being painfully shy – honestly – I loathed being gawped at, the unknown newcomer among poised old hands. I still feel awkward with large numbers of strangers and have to be “persuaded” to join in with things.

On my first day at the Express & Star’s training department, I was dropped off in Queen Street by my father, driving the hired Ford Anglia he was just returning after a holiday (he didn’t own a car). “Nervous?” he asked. “Well, just a bit,” I said as I climbed out. I was terrified. I would rather have tried to stroke a hungry lion. A really bad-tempered hungry lion. Whose team had just lost. Nervous?!

The feeling didn’t last, of course. I soon enough made friends and eventually became one of those poised old hands. Plus I had a stable family background and if everything really had unravelled, I wouldn’t have starved.

Our new minister, Rev’d Teddy, who introduces himself opposite, comes not only to a new job but to a new home in a new country. And he brings with him his responsibility for his family, who also must start everything anew. At his first service, Teddy preached on Exodus 3 – Moses and the Burning Bush, in which Moses must relinquish his shoes in the hostile desert when God speaks to him. It is when Moses is at his most vulnerable and fearful that God reveals his plan.

Teddy recounted that, on the flight to Birmingham, his son asked him how he felt. He replied that he was scared. (His son, though, was “excited”!)

If Teddy seemed nervous to our searching eyes, it’s probably because he was. But courage is not lacking fear, it is facing fear. And it takes a brave man indeed to stand up in public and say “I am scared”. We are very pleased to welcome Teddy and his family, and trust we will not be strangers for long.

The deadline for the next edition of Triangle is

November 19

Articles can be given to me or your stewards, sent by post to David Hotchkiss, or emailed to [triangle\[at\]springdalechurch.org.uk](mailto:triangle@springdalechurch.org.uk)

A waterfall of welcomes

The Reverend Teddy Siwila



Hello. My name is Teddy Siwila. I come from the southern part of Africa, a country called Zambia, which was formerly known as Northern Rhodesia. I am married to Muulo and together we have three handsome boys, Lukundo, Wila and Salifyanji.

We've served in the United Church of Zambia for 22 years and we are delighted to serve in a new context. We thank God and the Methodist Church for giving us this opportunity to share our ministry in the Wolverhampton Circuit.

We have been received warmly and at once felt at home. All the smiles and warmth reminded us of the **Mosi-oa-Tunya**, that is "The Smoke that Thunders", at Livingstone in Zambia.

For us it is an opportunity for learning and sharing in God's ministry and mission. We pray that we will have a great opportunity together.



Rev'd Teddy

Rev'd Teddy with his wife Muulo and the two younger boys on the flight over from Zambia



(Mosi-oa-Tunya The explorer David Livingstone rather predictably named it after his queen: the Victoria Falls, the world's largest sheet of falling water. – Editor)

Whither Fairtrade?

Brenda Shuttleworth on a worrying shift of attitudes



Do you remember how we all saved our supermarket receipts back in the early days of Fairtrade? Our ask was for them to stock fair trade products. We asked and they did!

We asked Cadbury's to switch to Fairtrade – and before long the iconic Dairy Milk bar was carrying the Fairtrade logo. When KitKats and Maltesers switched to Fairtrade, we were rocking.

But times are changing and the big players in international trade are changing with them. Last year Mondelez, the giant multinational which now owns Cadbury's, opted out of the Fairtrade market in favour of its own Cocoa Life brand.

The Fairtrade Foundation continues to engage with the company to make sure that they keep to their promise of delivering a better standard of living to more farmers while securing their cocoa supply chain. The jury is out on that one.

This year it is the turn the Sainsbury's. The company recently announced that they were dropping the Fairtrade mark in favour of a "fairly traded" logo on their own-brand teas.

Looking at the packets of tea on the shelves, very little seems to have changed but the shelves declare "new and improved". I am not sure what it is that is "new and improved", but the farmers at the sharp end of the supply chain are very angry about this move which is a pilot which may be rolled out to other Fairtrade goods such as coffee and bananas.

While Sainsbury's assure us that farmers will continue to receive a fair price for their tea, they will no longer receive the premium for them to invest in their

Members of Wolverhampton Methodist Circuit
are warmly invited to

Wolverhampton Fair Traid

on Saturday, October 7th

10am – 3pm

An opportunity to browse, taste and learn
about the products we stock

Free coffee and tea!

Christmas cards and a range of Christmas
goods will be available on the day and to order

**Darlington Street Methodist Centre,
24 School Street, WV1 4LF**

co-operatives as they wish. Instead they will have to bid for grants from Sainsbury's London headquarters which will be given only in relation to the company's development goals. The farmers have thus been completely disempowered. Additionally there is now no independent verification of the standards on the tea plantations; this has always been at the heart of the awarding of the Fairtrade mark.

As we are a Fairtrade circuit, the circuit Fairtrade steering group felt it was appropriate to respond to the Fairtrade Foundation's request to contact Sainsbury's. A letter from the circuit and individual letters from all our churches were sent to Sainsbury's CEO. At the time of writing we are waiting to hear from the Fairtrade Foundation about any progress and any further work that needs to be done by fair traders.

Meanwhile, do look carefully when you are buying your groceries. If you choose to buy Fairtrade, check that the familiar logo is on the packaging of the product. At first glance "fairly traded" sounds like a good thing but in the case of Sainsbury's tea, it is definitely not.

Buyers dig deep for church garden fund

Fundraising efforts for Wombourne scheme

Wombourne's Pauline Hotchkiss took part in a table-top sale near her sister's home in Wolverhampton to help raise money for the church garden fund.

The church's plan for a major makeover of the front-facing garden has had to be put on hold due to other financial commitments, but maintenance work continues.

Pauline took £40 on the day and is also selling seeds painstakingly extracted from her own garden to help grow the fund.



Peace mission that led to romance

Nicola Jones, nee Hodgson, on a family celebration

Congratulations to Jean and John Hodgson from Springdale who celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary on August 17th, receiving a card from Her Majesty the Queen congratulating them on their 60 years together, along with many other good wishes.

Jean was from Sutton in Surrey and John came from Crook in County Durham and after the war they both applied from their respective Methodist youth clubs to go to Germany on a Youth Reconciliation Trip. So, in 1952, they met at Victoria Station in London with many others from all over the country.



Jean and John celebrated their diamond anniversary with family

On returning from a successful trip they corresponded and sometime later John was sent to London on a training course and Jean's father invited him, as a fellow Scout, to stay with them at their home while there. Romance blossomed and

**THEY MET IN GERMANY
—MARRIED AT MORDEN**

Hodgson—Harrop

A romance which began in Western Germany in 1953 at the National Youth Assembly led to the wedding at the Central Methodist Hall, Morden, on Saturday, of Miss Jeannette Margaret Harrop, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dan F. Harrop, Woodend, Sutton, and Mr. John Clarkson Hodgson, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Hodgson, Bishop Auckland, County Durham.

The bride, who is the daughter of the District Commissioner for Scouts in Morden and St. Helier, has been a teacher at the Central Hall Sunday School for some years. When she and Mr. Hodgson met they were representing British Methodist Youth.

Given away by her father, the bride wore a lace gown and her veil was held in place by a small coronet. She carried a bouquet of roses and lilies of the valley.

Miss Millicent Schad, chief bridesmaid, wore a white organza gown sprigged with yellow, and the two child attendants wore white dresses. All three carried yellow and white posies.

Mr. Bill Hodgson, bridegroom's brother, was best man.

(Grove Press, Railway Approach, Wallington.

A black and white photograph of a young couple on their wedding day. The bride is wearing a white lace gown and a veil, and the groom is wearing a dark suit. They are standing together, smiling.

The couple's wedding report from 1957

following National Service for John in the RAF they married in 1957 and moved to Durham. Jean, having "gained permission from her company" (*I know, fancy having to have permission to carry on working after getting married!*) was transferred from the London offices of Legal & General to one closer to her new home.

John was later to accept the offer of work in Dudley and they moved into digs near Wombourne (some rooms in a house in Himley), in 1960 while their house in Greenfields Road was being built. Their daughter, Jacqueline, was born in January 1960 and Baptised at Wombourne Methodist Church. Nicola was then born at their home in Greenfields Road and in 1966 they moved to

their present home in Penn, worshipping together at Springdale to this present day.

Along with their two married daughters they have four grandchildren, two of whom are also married, so 12 of them celebrated this occasion together in Church Stretton, walking, playing sport and sharing meals and games together in the evenings. They had a wonderful few days and their family love them dearly.

All of their married life they have spent embedded in the Methodist Church with God at the heart of it, in all sorts of ways, with all sorts of duties. They worship together weekly on a Sunday evening. Long may they continue to do so!



The Queen's card

Friends of Kenya's Children famine appeal

From UK organiser Sandra Noon

We are always astonished at the generosity of FKC's members and supporters, but the response to the famine appeal for the people of Tarkwel village was just remarkable. It was the first time in our 14-year history that we had sent out a direct appeal for funds in an emergency, but the response was immediate. We needed £3,000 to be able to send a useful amount of food to the village. In total, the appeal raised a staggering £8,200!

A large supply of maize, beans and rice was purchased in Eldoret at best prices, and a vehicle was hired, suitable to carry the load and navigate the awful road to Lodwar, then across the desert to Tarkwel, some 400 miles, with the constant threat of being hijacked on the way. But the lorry arrived safely and the food was distributed – just in time for some of the very young or elderly and frail. The villagers were, of course, very grateful.

For some months the diet of the boarders at Champion's School [which the charity supports] has been very restricted due to the famine and soaring prices. But FKC has been able to promise an increase in the monthly food allowance, money being rechannelled with the permission of donors.

● *FKC raised enough money for a second food run and it was due to take place at the beginning of August. Pastor Kenneth, who runs the school, had decided to send the boarders home early because of the elections, and didn't want them to go home "to starvation". Since then, as you may have heard, the elections were declared invalid and will have to be run again. We await a further report from Sandra. Wombourne has been supporting FKC for more than 10 years. – Editor*

What's it all about, Springdale?

Senior steward David Crook



'Tha

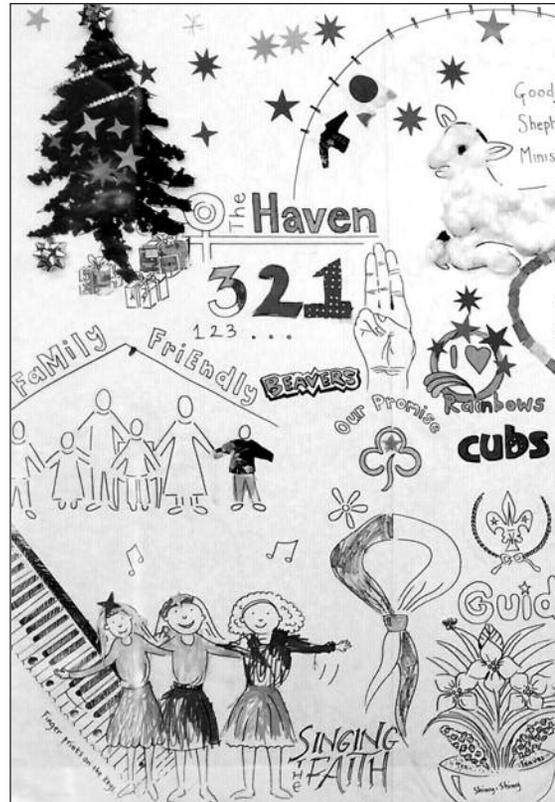
As we approached the summer school holidays the stewards thought it would be good to have a project for our young people to focus on. Obviously our junior church numbers at this time are unpredictable, and our junior church staff are taking a very well-earned break.

The first positive which came from this was the number of members who volunteered to support the project through supervision each week, enabling the young people to enjoy a very worthwhile experience.

Terri Malcolm volunteered to design an 8ft by 4ft collage to be filled in with various materials each week. She entitled this "Springdale Church – What's it all about?". As we studied the finished article we could not believe the number of church and community projects that we are involved in. It was truly eye opening and amazing, and a celebration of Springdale's many facets.

As far as the young people are concerned they are loving it, and we have difficulty persuading them to pack away at the end of the service. The adults as they come into the centre for coffee stand and look at it and you hear comments such as "Oh yes, I forgot we were involved in that" or "What's that all about? I didn't know we did that", or "Don't we do a lot of things?"

Hopefully at the end of the holidays it will be completed in all its splendour. Thank you Terri for reminding us of how busy we are. Thank you, children,



Springdale's junior church collage reminding

for filling it in so beautifully, and thank you God for giving us the talents, the energy and the constant commitment of such a large group of volunteers to enable all of these things to take place.

The black and white illustration does not do this justice, so please come and have a look at it when you are next at Springdale. As we welcome our new minister Rev'd Teddy and his family, we can now use our lovely collage to show most clearly what we are all about.

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Thank you God for giving us the talents, the energy and the constant commitment . . .'



dedicated members just how many church and community projects they are involved in.

Bob's Brainteaser

from Bob Hughes

These are cryptic clues to towns in Britain.
 For example: "Which car?" could mean **Watford**.
 How many can you work out? Answers on Page 13

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1 A dirty place to swim | 8 Someone leaving |
| 2 Cattle | 9 How to eat dangerous cheese? |
| 3 Ding dong quickly | 10 Check this on fresh food |
| 4 Spielberg shows his years | 11 Offal snooker |
| 5 Colourful vehicle | 12 Store wine |
| 6 Cook's meadow | 13 Chefs advice? |
| 7 Witches have a go | 14 Horses proceed to funeral |

Wombourne vestry news

Pat Beddall, senior steward



As we start another year in our church life, things have moved forward. There has been a change in our vestry since we said thank-you to Charles for all his help and ministry as he retired from his stewardship, and we give a warm welcome to Amanda Slater, who has overcome her nerves and stepped into his shoes. We pray God will stay close and give her guidance and support as she works for Him.

It is with a certain amount of sadness that we have said farewell to the Rev'd Chris as he leaves to take up his new posting. We thank him for all his ministry and wish him well for the future. We know he's not going far and trust we shall see him from time to time.

The church held a light luncheon for him on Sunday, July 23rd, and our thanks go to Sue Sinnett and

Doreen Pike and all their helpers for a wonderful meal. We later gave Rev'd Chris a painting and some Communion cloths, items he had asked for. Again we thank him for his ministry to the church and wish him well for the future.



Rev'd Chris opening one of his farewell gifts at the lunch

We now look forward to welcoming our new minister, the Rev'd Teddy Siwila, and his wife Muulo and two of their three sons. Coming from Zambia, we know things are going to be very different for them, until they get used to our ways of doing things, and we realise they will need our prayers, help and support until they settle in. A welcome service for all the new ministers was due to be held at Codsall on September 2nd.

Our church is settling back into its routine after the holidays and hope all who have been away are rested and ready to do whatever He asks.

Congratulations to Doreen Pike, who held her annual Marie Curie Coffee Afternoon and July 28th, raising almost £300 for this worthy cause. Well done!

We are now looking forward to our Harvest on September 24th and Ladies' Day on October 8th, and our Bazaar takes place at the beginning of November.

After much consideration and prayers it has become necessary to curtail our Sunday evening services and so from September there will be no services on the

second and fourth Sundays. We continue in prayers for our housebound members, knowing that God will stay close to them.

*May God bless and keep you, may He stay close to you
and give you all you need to face the future.*

Pat Beddall

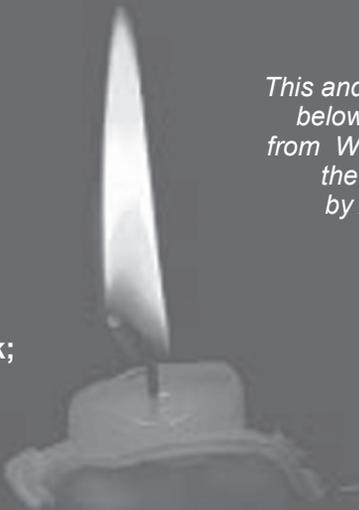
Of dedication and peace

Jackie Nielson introduces two poems for the season

August 6th is the day in the church calendar when the Transfiguration of Christ is remembered (Mark 9: 2-8). It is also the day the bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. Many groups of people throughout the world float lighted candles on lakes and rivers to commemorate this, and to remember the terrible event on human life. It's an act of dedication to peace.

Thoughts on 6th August

Bright light around him
Transfiguring with glory;
Giving us insight.
Harsh light above us,
Mushroom-shaped cloud
destroying
Hope for the future.
Soft light of candles
Sent on their way by peace-folk;
Pushing back darkness.
Giving us insight.
Hope for the future,
Pushing back darkness.



*This and the poem
below are taken
from Watching for
the Kingfisher
by Ann Lewin*

Transfiguration

*A moment of blinding perception –
It would be good to stay there,
But clutch it, and it's gone.
They come unheralded,
These moments of clarity,*

*And leave us as suddenly.
As well try to catch the kingfisher
Darting through stillness.
Be thankful for its jewelled beauty,
And keep awake, alert.*

Counting my golden blessings

A reflection by Jackie Nielson

*They brought out their gifts of **gold**, frankincense and myrrh and presented them to him **Matthew 1: 11b***

Gold . . . on reflection (well gold does dazzle) it colours our life. These are my golden years, and although they are tarnished and will always be so, my faith is carrying me forward with hope.

Daily the glory of sunrise and sunset reveals gold scattered with many hues of pink, orange, blue and mauve. My gold bands I wear, daily representing our years together. Many new born and young babies are crowned with golden hair. I have a yellow rose in bloom at the moment – Golden Wedding, a present to celebrate my parents' special anniversary. Buttercups delight throughout the year.

My gold cross, given to me by Ken when I became a church member many years ago. A host of golden daffodils reminds me of the Forest of Dean, where Ken and I saw the small wild daffodils. My sunflowers planted with the grandchildren are growing very tall but have not flowered yet.

Oil seed rape against a blue sky and trees dazzle in spring sunshine. Autumn leaves, especially butter yellow, lighten an autumn day with dappled sunlight. One of Jesus' gifts was gold (denoting he was a king). There are many references to gold in the Old and New Testaments. In winter the joy of discovering golden crocuses in the garden. I gain a sense of calm and thankfulness daily counting my golden blessings.

Flowers

They grow among desolation.

They shroud the scars of war.

They grant a haven to the desolate.

They bring hope to those who are injured or ill.

They comfort the bereaved.

They mark remembrance.

They cheer city yard and suburban garden.

They defy the machine.

They are lights in darkness.

They are the promise of renewal.

They are life.



Pam Brown, b. 1928

We do like to be beside the seaside!

Gill Worrall reports on a Wombourne Wives Group outing

It was a bright and sunny June morning and 40 ladies were waiting outside Wombourne Methodist Church. As always when going out for the day in this country we were well prepared with umbrellas, macs, and, in my case, a pair of white cotton socks (if it got very cold), plus a tube of sun-cream (in case it got very hot). The coach arrived, names were checked and off we went to Llandudno.



Diana Spreadbury and Louise Wright in Llandudno

We had a short break at Llangollen, where we had coffee and a look at the river, and we listened as the steam train gave two toots and disappeared into the green trees. When we returned to the coach we were each given a gift of chocolate. (Thank you Diana and Louise for getting and wrapping the chocolate). Driving over the Horseshoe Pass, the views were amazing.

We arrived in Llandudno around noon, and there was lots to do – walking along the front, sitting on a bench and looking out to sea, eating fish and chips, or strolling around the shops. Or we could take a ride on the little train to the top of the Great Orme, where it was very windy, but the ice-cream was lovely. Again, we could see the mountains across the bay. Some of the ladies even went for a paddle.



Wombourne Wives' secretary Gill Worrall and then president Sue Sinnett with some of the goodies for the group's AGM and traditional afternoon tea.

All too soon it was time to go home. It had been a lovely day, with lots of memories.

We stopped for refreshments on the way home – we'd never seen so many motorcyclists! We arrived back in Wombourne at about 8.30pm, just in time to go home and have a nice cup of tea.

Answers to Bob's Brainteaser on Page 9: 1 Blackpool. 2 Cowes. 3 Belfast. 4 Stevenage. 5 Redcar. 6 Sheffield. 7 Coventry. 8 Exeter. 9 Caerphilly. 10 Selby. 11 Liverpool. 12 Stockport. 13 Bakewell. 14 Canterbury.

Springdale pastoral news

Jane Rawlings, pastoral secretary

Well it's that time again, and this message for Triangle has been one of my most difficult to write, as we have lost three of our members, one of them who was a founder member of the church:

■ **Kay Roberts** (*May 24th*)

Kind, caring and always had a smile, even during the most trying of times.

■ **Geoff Race** (*July 7th*)

A gentleman and a gentle man. A founder member of Springdale Church. Always happy to advise, help or teach, whether it be on painting, tennis, accounts or computers.

■ **Denis Campion** (*July 23rd*)

Enthusiastic with a capital "E" about everything, even his singing! No sheep would be lost with Denis around – "Yo Fluffy!" – he helped guide and welcome one and all.

After the loss of such big figures I always turn to my favourite poem, "Footprints", when the Lord replies: "During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

Let us all help to carry and pray for the families of Kay, Geoff and Denis through the coming weeks and months and remember that our Lord will never forsake us and he will give us strength to carry on. He has three amazing new helpers sitting at his right hand now. Church life will not be the same without them but their faith and dedication will live on in the memories they left behind in all of our hearts.

On a happier note, on July 1st Wendy and Richard Gould announced the safe arrival of their new granddaughter, Michaela. May she bring joy and happiness to all the family. On August 5th Springdale celebrated the wedding of Lizzy and Julian. The sun shone for them after a morning of rain. Everyone looked resplendent and a good day was had by all. May the Lord bless you both as you continue your life as a married couple.

I kept you all in suspense, having missed the last Triangle deadline (sorry), about the service we had back in April when we welcomed 10 new members into the Springdale family. I was honoured to be asked to do the welcome from the Church family, such an uplifting service and what a special occasion for everyone.

Congratulations to anyone who has celebrated a birthday or anniversary recently or has one coming up in the near future, I won't name names as I am sure to miss someone. As we move into September and think about returning to school, college or work after our holidays, may we look forward with excitement and anticipation. Remember that if we are starting somewhere new, we are never

alone; our Lord will always be with us, giving us the strength and courage to take our next step into the unknown. **God bless, Jane**

Following the wolf trail

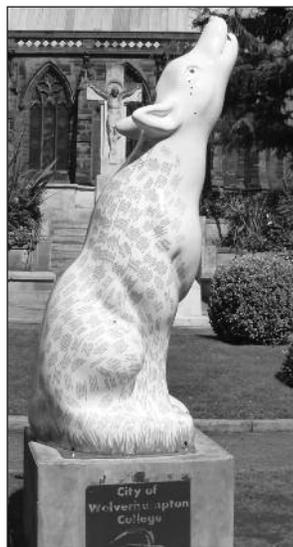
Jackie Neilson took the grandchildren on a discovery walk

Wolves and sheep will live together in peace. Isaiah 11:6

I've had great fun with my three grandchildren in the school holidays. We've been on a "wolf hunt" (and a bear hunt, too, but that's another story for another time). We wandered around Wolverhampton city centre looking for the Wolves armed with our map. Who was going to see the wolf first?

We were lucky with the weather on the two occasions we explored the city centre. James, Georgina and Lewis particularly liked the small wolves in the Art Gallery, about 20 of them, and their favourite was the one in the Wolves football colours. They're all impressive and deliver a message about the city, life or nature. They're colourful and artistic.

The one outside the Civic Centre has the Wolverhampton motto "Out of darkness cometh light". Jack and the Beanstalk is appropriate at The Grand Theatre, as is The Fallen in St Peter's Gardens. It is all white, with names of those who gave their lives in the First World War, adorned with a poppy, and the poem "Jack", by Rudyard Kipling. Fenrir (Anglo-Saxon wolf) in the Arena Theatre has Celtic markings, and of course the Staffordshire Knot.



St Peter's and the wolf

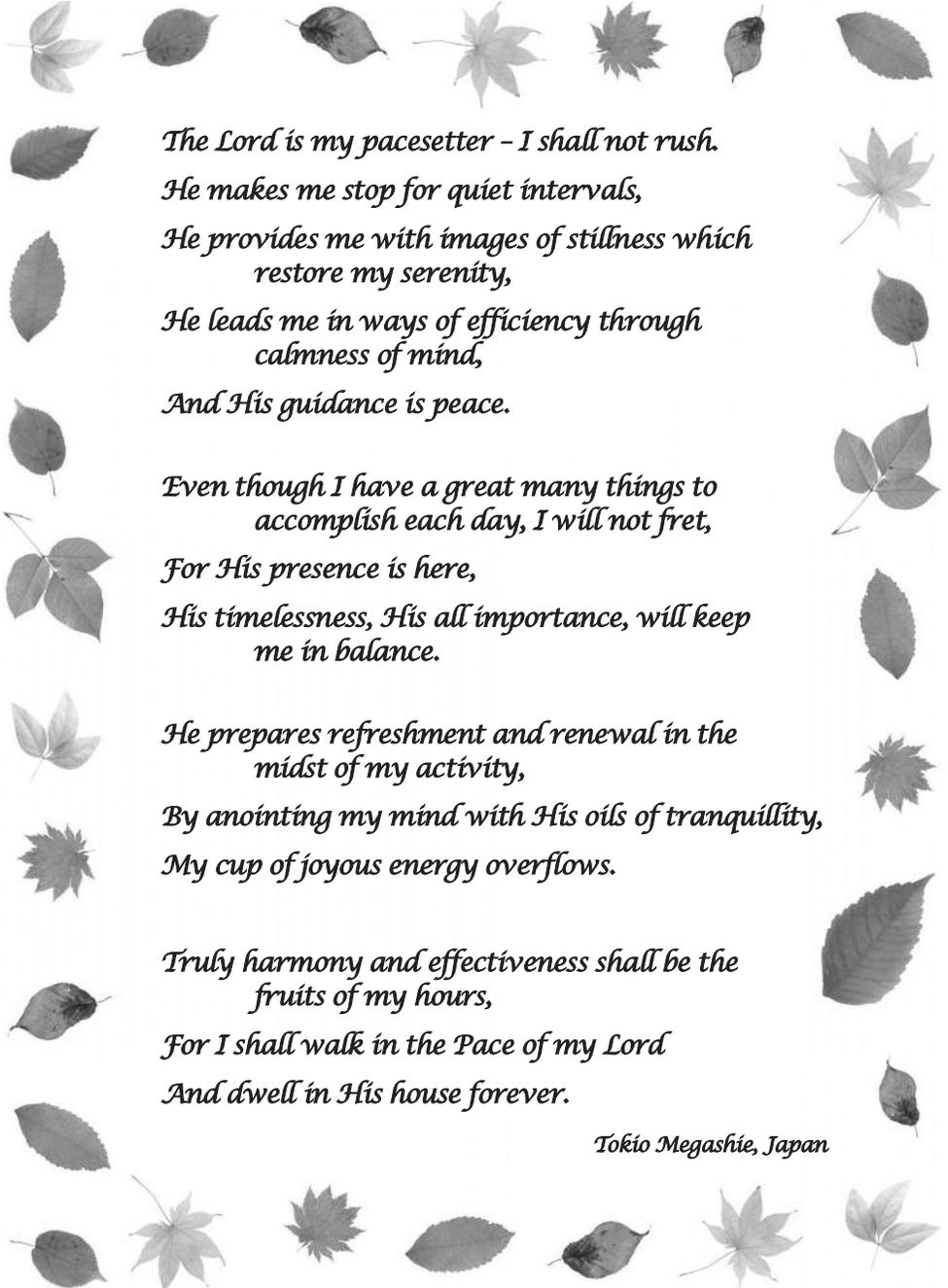
They're all interesting to study and make you think. I managed to take them round to see 24 out of 30. I've seen 27, as I visited with a friend on another occasion. I'm certainly trying to manage those 10,000 steps daily!

The children were impressed, wandering around the city centre looking for the wolves and noticing the interesting buildings, learning road safety and finding blue history plaques. One particular plaque, in Waterloo Road, marks where the Reverend Macdonald lived with his four daughters, who left their mark on history. Georgina married Edward Burne-Jones. Alice was the mother of Rudyard Kipling. Louisa was the mother of Stanley Baldwin (Prime Minister). Agnes married Edward Poynter, artist (Royal Academy). Thus Stanley and Rudyard were cousins.

So Rudyard's poem is quite apt on The Fallen. Here endeth today's history lesson for them. I think Gina will remember, especially, as one sister shares her name.

A 23rd Psalm for the 21st Century

With thanks to Doreen Pike



*The Lord is my pacesetter – I shall not rush.
He makes me stop for quiet intervals,
He provides me with images of stillness which
restore my serenity,
He leads me in ways of efficiency through
calmness of mind,
And His guidance is peace.*

*Even though I have a great many things to
accomplish each day, I will not fret,
For His presence is here,
His timelessness, His all importance, will keep
me in balance.*

*He prepares refreshment and renewal in the
midst of my activity,
By anointing my mind with His oils of tranquillity,
My cup of joyous energy overflows.*

*Truly harmony and effectiveness shall be the
fruits of my hours,
For I shall walk in the Pace of my Lord
And dwell in His house forever.*

Tokio Megashie, Japan