

Melissa's Thought for the Month – April 2015

Live on a Large Map

This was an attitude with which I was brought up. One of the very early presents which I received was a small globe of the earth mounted at the exact angle to the perpendicular of the earth's axis to the sun's orbit.

There were also the times when one could truly say that the sun never set on the British Empire. This in turn may partially account for the fact that the English language (in one form or another!) is spoken more or less everywhere on earth.

My attitudes were also no doubt influenced by regularly worshipping in a Wesleyan Methodist Church before our happy union in 1932 with both "Primitive" and "United" Methodist. After all, one of Wesley's oft repeated assertion was "The World is my Parish". As an Anglican priest to the day of his death John Wesley was accustomed to the Parish system.

We are talking of when the greater part of the country was rural and the majority of Parishes would be areas of farm land. The Parish was the whole area around the village containing the "Parish Church". Churchtown grew in the neighbourhood of St Cuthbert's Parish Church. It is fascinating to read in the Church that the first rector in the Twelfth Century was "Adam", doubtless his nearest Parish and rector would then be at Croston which also has a historical Church.

What I have appreciated of the Ministry of Tim and Ann Hall has always been their wide vision. It did not surprise me in the least to hear such a good report of Ann Hall's conduct of the Circuit Daffodil Day service at Lord Street West Church. I know that I have always been very pleased when either of them has preached at Marshside Road. I told each of them on the last time I was privileged to be led in worship and in meditation by them.

We were very much aware that she led this inspiring service so soon after her sad loss of Tim in South Africa. I can't help wondering if the heat of the direct sun's rays in their summer may have been too much for his physical health. When we used to stay in the country so often we always went out early morning or after tea time – "Only mad dogs and English men, they go out in the midday sun!"

Those of you who read my "memories" in The Link may recall that I was in fact brought up by an "elderly" Aunt, who was in her forties when I was born, and had "always wanted to travel". My uncle emigrated to Australia when I was born. Unfortunately, I was not able to go that far while she was living and have only been once myself.

Now I am quite happy not going further than Churchtown – not even that for a few weeks. It is therefore even more important to keep up to date with world affairs. Otherwise how can I pray intelligently for all of John Wesley's Parish.

Sometimes I wonder if we at Marshside Road may be too locally parochial. Only two people from our congregation were at the Circuit Daffodil Service.

Melissa.