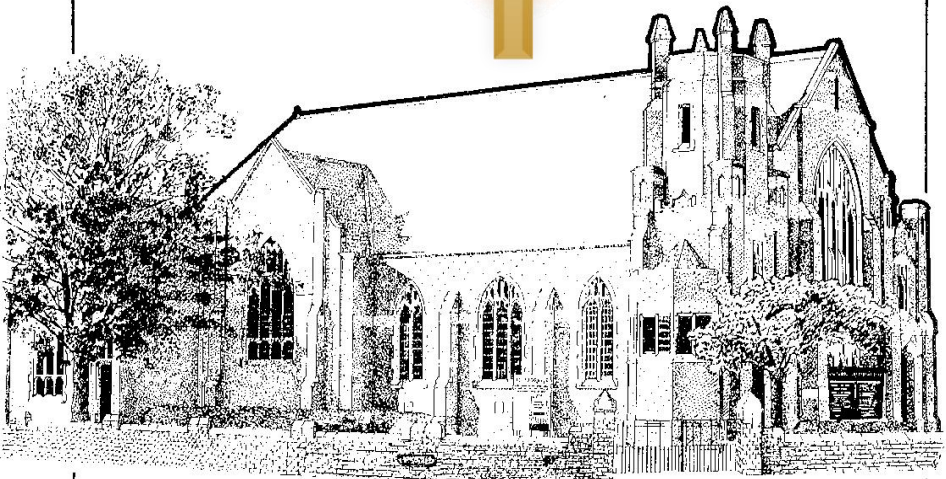


The LINK

NEWS FROM
LIVERPOOL ROAD
METHODIST CHURCH



EASTER 2021

FROM OUR MINISTER – Rev Patrick Evans

Dear friends,

I can barely believe that I am writing an Easter message for a second year whilst our church buildings are closed for weekly worship. We remain closed for a little while longer, as our support to the local community in allowing the vaccine to take hold.



For many of us the various lockdowns have given us the opportunity to declutter our homes and our minds! As a church family this has also been true. In the last year we have completed a church review, a key outcome of which will seek to increase our community engagement. During the last year, everyone in society has valued afresh gathering together, and to realise how critical this is for our well-being. We may previously have thought being members of societies or clubs, or coming together in public places like cafe's and community hubs, was just a nice thing to do. We appreciate they are a key component of our health and wholeness.

So in addition to the already great activities of Facet's, the Girls' Brigade, the Walking Club, Wesley Guild to name just a few, we will open a Food Pantry in partnership with the charity Compassion Acts, and host a library on behalf of Birkdale Community Hub and Library. More opportunities will follow, and local stakeholders have expressed to us how valuable our presence is within the heart of the community.

The last twelve months have proved extremely anxious, and as we come out of lockdown, whilst there will be relief for many there will be heightened anxiety for others, particularly of the economic impact of Covid, and this creates emotional stresses.

*'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid'.
(John, Chapter 6, verse 27)*

These were the words Jesus spoke to his disciples when he knew his death was imminent. He knew that they would be anxious and that this could be crippling for them. He equally knew through his death there would be the hope of resurrection. And so following his resurrection Jesus appears to the disciples.

'On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you" '.
(John, Chapter 20, verses 19-21)

May we know the peace that Jesus speaks. May we as individuals' share that peace with those around us, and in these anxious times, may we as a church be a place in our neighbourhood that brings healing and wholeness through the peace that only comes from our Lord Jesus Christ.

God bless

Patrick

Patrick's Leave and Sabbatical

Patrick's sabbatical will take place this year, commencing with annual leave and training from 24th April to 31st May and the sabbatical from 1st June to 31st August. Given the restrictions due to Covid the content of the sabbatical cannot be like that previously shared in 2019. Hopefully as society opens up there will be the opportunity for travel and learning, although this will be determined by what is available. Cover will be provided by Marie-Anne Kent and Sonya Marshall, as well as others. Arrangements will be finalized and communicated in due course

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

FUNERALS

Len Stobbs

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Len Stobbs. Although Len had not been able to be with us in worship this last year or so, he was still an important part of our fellowship. Please remember Len's son Brian in your prayers at this time. Len's funeral service was held on Monday 18th January 2021 at Southport Crematorium.



Derrick Chamberlain

As many of you will be aware, Derrick Chamberlain died in December. Although not a member at Liverpool Road, Derrick was well known to us at Liverpool Road as a Local Preacher in the Circuit, and lately he and his wife Carol were part of our Sunday evening congregation. Please remember Carol and the family in your prayers at this time.

Derrick's funeral service took place on Thursday, 14th January, 2021.

Eric James

It is sad to announce the death of Eric James. Eric died peacefully at home on Monday, 25th January, 2021. He was a great supporter of the Church and a much loved member of Facets and the Wesley Guild. Please remember Eric's wife Dawn in your prayers, their children and grandchildren, Eric's sister Molly Wright and brother Ron James, and their families. Eric's Funeral took place followed by a Service of thanksgiving at Church on Tuesday, 9th February, 2021.

June Chaplow

It is with much sadness to announce that June Chaplow died peacefully on Tuesday, 26th January, 2021. June will be greatly missed and her contribution as a member of the church, especially to Girls' Brigade, had been most significant. June's funeral service took place in Church, followed by committal at Birkdale Cemetery on Tuesday, 23rd February, 2021. Please remember her husband Tommy and their children William and Lin, their grandchildren and all their family in your prayers.

Church Family News – Funerals (continued)

Wendy Dunning

It is sad to share the news that Wendy Dunning died on 1 February, 2021, following a brief spell in hospital. Wendy was a member of Women's Fellowship and the Banner Group. Both Wendy and Malcolm would often meet and greet members of the congregation in the vestibule on Sundays. She was an ever present part of the life of the Church for many years. Our thoughts and prayers are with Malcolm at this time and their children Helen and Alison and all their family.

Wendy's funeral took place on Wednesday 24th February followed by a service of thanksgiving at 12.45pm in Church.

Marjorie Robinson

It is with sadness that we share the news that Marjorie Robinson died peacefully on 11th February, 2021. We remember Marjorie with fondness from her time as a member of Liverpool Road Methodist Church before relocating a few years ago to be closer to her daughter.

ON THE MOVE...

Sheila Halewood

Sheila Halewood has been with us for about 7 years following her move to Southport to support her Aunt, Mary Hall. As you will remember Mary died a few years ago. Sheila has wisely decided that the time is right for her to move closer to her daughter.

Sheila completed her move just before Christmas to Adlington in Lancashire.

We thank Sheila for her support within the life of the church and wish her well for the future. Please remember Sheila in your prayers as moving and settling into a new home and neighbourhood is always stressful, especially so during lockdown.



CONGRATULATIONS – A New Arrival



Jenny Eyes and David Kennedy married at Liverpool Road Methodist Church on 27th July, 2018.

They now live in Budapest, Hungary, where they work as science teachers in the British International school.

They are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Avalynn Rose on the 4th February, 2021, weighing in at 7lbs 9ozs.

I feel so blessed to have spent time with my baby granddaughter during the pandemic even though it has meant many Covid tests and quarantine.

Sally.

Liverpool Road and Ainsdale Methodist Church Bible Study

We continue to really enjoy, and have been greatly encouraged as we meet together each Tuesday morning via Zoom from 10.30 a.m. until approx. 11.45 a.m.

Patrick, and Sally from Liverpool Road, and Lesley from Ainsdale, usually lead these friendly inspiring sessions.

At present about 18 join most weeks but we would love even more to join us to read and discuss God's word to us, together.



It is important to say that we are quite happy to join with us and just listen, if that's what you would prefer to do. Please don't be put off by thinking that you have to make a verbal contribution. God often prefers each of us just to listen.

The Zoom link is printed in our church notices on the Sunday prior to the Tuesday Morning.

Helen & Ken Revill

The Role of Evangelism within the Methodist Church.

The Calling of the Methodist Church, indeed of most Christian churches is to four main areas:-

Worship
Learning and Caring;
Service
Evangelism.



In my view, these are not 'stand alone' areas but overlap.

For example – Worship and Learning, Caring and Service. Evangelism could and, indeed I would suggest, should contain all the other elements, and especially Caring and Service.

The last year has resulted in restriction, lifestyle change and extreme experiences of worry and hardship for many. This has caused us all to question many aspects of life, including our previously well-established thoughts about church and church life.

Does our ministry role of care and service to reach others in our community require a rethink?

Our Church Council through strong leadership from our Church Stewards has embraced this challenge. We are indeed grateful that all the research, thinking and planning has resulted in the finalising of the Mission and Evangelism Section of 'The Way Forward' project for our church.

You will no doubt have heard by now of several initiatives such as the Food Pantry which will change our ministry and outreach dramatically, as soon as restrictions are eased. Elsewhere in this edition of 'The Link' you will find Craig Horan's report of our church collaboration with 'The Station Master's House' Library development in Birkdale village.

Evangelism can be many things but must be a central activity of the Church, reflecting a God who just loves people.

In practical terms for most of us, it is more effective when it involves personal relationships, is invitational, local, and has a heart for loving care and service in the name of Jesus.

Ken Revill

HE IS RISEN !

Luke 24:2-3: "They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus."

Although we will not be able to gather together in 2021 to mark the events of the death and resurrection of Jesus in our traditional way due to the restrictions in place because of the pandemic, over the Easter weekend, there will be the opportunity to take part in a time of personal reflection and witness in the grounds of the church.

On Good Friday, a bare wooden cross will be placed outside the front of the church along Liverpool Road. An invitation is extended to anyone who would like to visit on Easter Sunday, pause a while, and place flowers on the cross. In doing this, we must respectfully ask that you keep to social distancing guidelines. The cross will remain in position, as a symbol of this time of renewal and hope, during the next week.



Doreen Iddon
Church Steward

BROWNIES



Throughout lockdown, the 63rd Brownie unit has been running sessions on Zoom. The children and leaders have had lots of fun playing enjoyable games, learning about different countries, languages and festivals that are celebrated in the UK. Girls were very engaged and participated in all activities, expanding their knowledge and understanding of the concepts. During their time on

Zoom, they went on a 'cruise' and visited places such as Scotland (for Burns' night) and China for Chinese New Year. Musical instruments were used to play along to the Brownie version of 'Row, Row, Row your boat', they all had great fun learning all about the different chords and playing along and singing together. The girls have been working towards their wellbeing badge and by completing tasks and activities, have now earned this achievement. In the future, they will be running more sessions and working towards more badges.

Amanda Turner

Brown Owl

WESLEY GUILD

Well, there seems to be light at the end of the tunnel, with the successful roll out of two vaccines. However, there could be more twists and turns to come. All we can do is put our trust in the Lord.

Guild and other midweek meetings are unlikely to start before the autumn, let's hope the virus doesn't produce further delays, as we are all missing face to face meetings, however, it is good to see people on zoom and watch, or listen to, the Circuit Services.

As you know a number of Church members have sadly passed away and some of them were past, or present, members of the Guild. Eric James was a regular, and much valued, member for a number of years and continued to attend until the lockdown started last March. He will be sadly missed and we send our love and condolences to Dawn and her family and to Molly Wright. We will continue to remember them in our prayers. Marjory Robinson moved away from Southport a few years ago, to be near to her daughter. Marjory was also a regular and much valued member. June Chaplow had not been a member in recent years but she was a regular member until her involvement with Girls' Brigade which, as you probably know, also meets on a Tuesday evening. We send our love and condolences to Tommy and all the family.

We hope Margaret Fisher is feeling better during her stay in a Nursing Home. We are pleased to hear that Sheila France is continuing to recover and we wish her a very happy birthday for a special one that is coming up shortly. I keep in regular contact with Olive Copeland and she sends everyone her love and best wishes.

On behalf of The Wesley Guild we wish you all a very happy and healthy Easter and look forward to seeing you all in the Sunday Services before too long.



Eileen Fyles

*'Let us always meet each other with a smile,
for the smile is the beginning of love.'*

Mother Teresa

PROPERTY MATTERS

Not a lot has been carried out by the Property Committee due to Lockdown, but one or two of us have kept an eye on our premises.



Julie, our cleaner, whilst on furlough has called in Church, fortnightly and reports on anything untoward. Recently deep cleaning between funerals which had been prepared for families and friends to safely attend.

Geoff has regularly visits the Halls and Church to run the water supply, flush toilets, &c as a prevention of legionella. Geoff, Graham and Andy have carried out minor repairs and generally tidied the grounds as necessary.

Craig has prepared the Beginners Room for the Community Library, moving everything into the Primary, at present being used to store our furniture and other property, ensuring Property Use is adhered to through our Risk Assessment. Once our premises are reopened we shall probably have to dispose of some items as well as needing extra hands to return the stored items to their normal places. Andy has undertaken this work as well as preparing the lounge and circuit office in readiness for the Foodbank – emptying both rooms, sanding floors and repainting, and our best thanks are extended to Andy for his efforts.

Most recently, due to the heavy downpours The Church Vestibule Toilet, South side walls of Church (Sandon Road) and the Foodbank (ex-Circuit Office) have had lot of water ingress. The toilet ceiling tiles have disintegrated and the Foodbank (much to Andy's disappointment) may need repainting.

Contact has been made with a roofing contractor who felt the amount of heavy rainfall, has resulted in the gutters and downspouts being unable to cope. We have also had quotes for the flat roofs over the Office & Lounge, the Kitchen and Store in the New Room which maybe part cause of some damage. It is many years since these flat roofs were re-felted.

Geoff France

COMMUNITY LIBRARY



As you will already be aware, we have been working with the Birkdale Community Hub and Library to set up a library on our premises. This is an extension of the library that they have set up in The Station Master's House in Birkdale Village, at the train station

The library will be located in the Beginners Room and will have a sign on the door "The Library Room". The team of volunteers from the library are busy redecorating the room, including fitting new carpet on the floor and installing bookshelves. They will spend the next few months cataloguing books and stocking them on the shelves and preparing their systems so that the stock is integrated into their main library. It's quite a high-tech affair as the books are also available on virtual shelves on their website, enabling members to 'click and collect' from either library.

The church library is looking to open in September, however the library in the village will open as soon as lockdown restrictions allow.

They get many books donated but not all make it into their library stock (what goes on the shelves). Those that are donated and not used and are of a certain standard and quality are put up for sale on their on-line shop. The profit from this is shared 50/50 with us.

As well as the Library Room, they are also installing bookshelves in the New Room. These will be stocked with surplus stock, not catalogued and will be a 'Book Swap'. Free for people to take, read and bring back when they've finished.

The initial plan is for the library to open for a few hours when another activity is taking place such as Facets or Slimming World, etc. Hopefully as it becomes more popular with our Birkdale Community we can extend the hours and welcome more people on to our premises.

Community Library (cont'd)

This really is an exciting development and is a direct result of the recent Church Review and our desire to have more community engagement and support our mission to proclaim the Lord Jesus Christ, through whom the people of Birkdale and beyond can come to know God and grow in His love.

If anyone is interested in getting involved volunteering for the library, please let me know and I can put you in touch with their manager.

Happy Reading.

Craig Horan

Birkdale Churches Prayer Group

Our church, along with St. John's, St. Peter's and St. James' have continued to meet by Zoom during lockdown to pray for our community in Birkdale, for individuals and for further development of Church Unity.



We also enjoy our discussions on many issues which concern our churches and our current and possible future community development in Birkdale and beyond.

The meeting is open to everyone and meets on a Monday morning, every three weeks from 10.00 a.m. to approx. 10.45 a.m.

The next meeting is on 29th March. We would be greatly encouraged for more friends at Liverpool Road to join us and you are assured of a very warm welcome.

The Zoom link is printed in our Church Notices prior to the Prayer Meeting.

Helen & Ken Revill

HUGS

It's wondrous what a hug can do.
A hug can cheer you up when you're blue.
A hug can say "I love you so."
Or, Gee! I hate to see you go".

A hug is, "Welcome back again!"
"Great to see you!" or "where've you been?"
A hug can soothe a small child's pain.
And bring a rainbow after rain.



The hug! There's no doubt about it,
We scarcely could survive without it.
A hug delights and warms and charms,
It must be why God gave us arms.

9+



Hugs are great for fathers and mothers,
Sweet for sisters, swell for brothers.
And chances are some favourite aunts,
Love them more than potted plants.

Kittens crave them. Puppies love them.
Heads of state are not above them
A hug can break the language barrier.
And make the dullest day seem merrier.



No need to fret about the store of 'em.
The more you give the more there are of 'em.
So stretch those arms without delay,
And give someone a hug today.

Seen on a building in Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire.

Submitted by
Audrey Lloyd

All in this together.

Oh, what a new thing is now being done, we're in this together everyone,
When we are set free and lockdowns do end, you'll find that our church is
ready again.

Our hard-working stewards have had no rest, they've done great things all at
our behest.

Research is done and new ventures are planned, and they hope that all will
lend them a hand.



A public library is agreed to start, in one of our rooms
we're playing our part.

Books have been given and help is at hand, so tell all
your friends for no one is banned.

The food pantry to is going a pace, folks have been busy
all over the place,

A pressing need it will seek to fulfil, there's real poverty at
our doorstep still.

Books from the library can be brought round, to the food
pantry by folks on the ground.

How great the vision a parent to see, read to
their child who is sat at their knee.

Some will work hard on allotments nearby,
food for the foodbank, will it be you or I?

Some may join in and restore there some
pride, by working for food that God will
provide.



Imagine a vision when harvest comes, we celebrate together all that's been
done,

Invite the workers whether churched or are not, even harvest supper we could
invite the lot.



They have spoken to heads at the local school, we may be of
help when resources are pooled.

After school clubs could be using our rooms, and holiday
clubs Lord bring it on soon

So, see how busy our stewards have been, others will have
helped without being seen,

All in this together (Cont'd)

Let's tell them how much we appreciate, see all they have done I think it's just great.

Now I have reached three score years and ten, but if it's God's will I can start again,

If in some small way I can still lend a hand, please pray and join in wherever you can.

Derek Taberner

THE POWER OF PRAYER

I have a story to share if I may.

I am a big believer in the power of prayer.

My niece who is 43 years old was just diagnosed with breast cancer.



A devastating bit of news as you can imagine.

However through great fortitude she has had

an operation to remove the lump and it's proved successful subject to further radiotherapy.

We all said our prayers and the Lord answered them. This isn't the first time that my prayers have been answered. God may work in mysterious ways but he's helped my family no end.

One can't buy faith. But trust me, prayers work and how grateful am I for it.

I want this to be an inspiration to anyone in distress.

May God Bless you all and your families.

Paul C. Matthews

TRIBUTE TO A FRIEND – Derrick Chamberlain

In case you missed it this is the tribute I was asked to make at the funeral of Derrick Chamberlain who sadly died on Christmas Eve 2020.

I first met Derrick in 1985 when we moved to Southport. Derrick as a local preacher, came to preach at our church. Derrick was also the circuits JMA Secretary at that time and used to run an annual children's party for the children involved. As we had just come back from Zambia, he asked us to be involved and to get them singing songs. As I recall there was much fun and laughter had by all. A few years later, after I became a local preacher myself, Derrick took on the role of Local Preachers Meeting secretary. He fulfilled that role in a typically dedicated way for many years. Not only keeping us organised but showing a great and humble compassion and pastoral care towards other preachers, far beyond the call of duty. I doubt that not one of us went through a hard time without receiving a card or perhaps even a visit from Derrick.

It was at a course run by the circuit on the mission of the church some 12, or more, years ago, when, talking about mission through friendships, that Derrick was the one who was humble, honest and courageous enough to stand up and say that though he had many acquaintances, he thought he found forming close friendship was not easy. At the end of that meeting, I made a beeline for him, thanked him for his comments, and assured him that I felt exactly the same way. We both agreed to meet together to discuss this. This became the start of us meeting every three weeks for over 2 hours at our local Dobbies Café over the past 12 or more years. (Other Garden centres were also available). We would get waterlogged with several cups of tea/coffee not to mention a few cakes. I did discover that Derrick had just one weakness and that was for banoffee tarts. Our friendship developed over the years and we discussed deep things about the Christian faith, about our churches and experiences. He has a 'big heart' for many things but especially the 'Persecuted Church' and we often thought about them. We also share an interest in cricket, football and rugby, though Derrick was a Rugby Union supporter whereas my background had been in Rugby League.

The friendship took on the roll as a local preacher support relationship for us both, sharing our experiences and encouraging one another and asking for prayer.

Tribute to a friend (Cont'd).

Derrick is first of all a very committed Christian and then is very committed to his family. He has also been very involved in numerous charity and church work and only recently did failing health force him to take more of a back seat. He spoke of his time in youth work and several members of his fellowship went on to hold positions in the church and in its ministry. 'You shall know them by their fruit' is the verse that comes to mind.

Even when his health started to fail and lockdowns got in the way we would still meet in Derrick's back garden and with Carol's help, he would struggle out because he wanted us to continue meeting.

Derrick is one of the most thoroughly Christian friends I have ever known.

Micah 6: 8 says "and what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God". I can't think of anyone else who has done that more closely than our friend Derrick

I would say that except for my own family, Derrick is the closest friend I have had over the past 12 years and I think the closest friend I have ever had and by some distance. Having said that, and in spite of what Derrick said all those years ago, I am sure Derrick has many friends who feel exactly the same as I do. He would talk of long-term friendships going back over the years with other preachers such as Ken Hooton and the late David Goodwin.

People used to joke that we met together to put the world to rights. Maybe there was some truth in that, but first and foremost we were putting 'each other' to rights. Very often I would leave our meetings together feeling much better about myself than before our meetings.

It goes without saying that Derrick's family will miss him the most and we continue to pray for them. I will also miss my friendship with Derrick very much, he is just not replaceable to his friends. The deep and often personal conversations we had will have a lasting effect on me.

Derrick has now gone to a better place where there is no suffering.

Rest in peace our friend, rest in Jesus.

Derek Taberner

LINK HUMOUR



Just spent £300 on a limousine and discovered that the fee doesn't include a driver...

Can't believe I've spent all that money and have nothing to chauffeur it!

Craig Horan



Pronunciation.

On a beautiful summer's day, two American tourists were driving through Wales.

At the village of Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwylllantysiliogogoch, they stopped for lunch, and one of the tourists asked the waitress,

"Before we order, I wonder if you could settle an argument for us. Can you pronounce the place where we are, and say it very, very, very slowly?"

The girl leaned over and said: -

"Burr gurrr king....."

Ice Cream.

Where do you learn to make Ice Cream?

At Sundae School

Addictions.

Did you hear about the man addicted to Brake Fluid?

Says he can stop any time.



I used to be addicted to soap, but now I'm clean

Golfers

Why do Ken and Bernard wear two pair of trousers when playing golf?

Just in case they get a HOLE IN ONE!



Gambling.

I backed a horse Last Saturday at 10 to 1

It came in at Quarter past Four.

Church Visitor.

Those who enquired the name of the Frenchman,

who wore sandals, when visiting Church last year.



He was called PHILLIPE PHILLOPE.

Today's short reading from The Bible:

From Genesis: *'And God promised men that god and obedient wives would be found in all corners of the earth.'*

Then he made the earth round...and laughed and laughed and laughed!

He must pay.

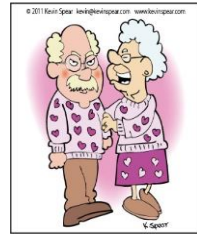
Husband and wife had a tiff. Wife called up her mum and said "He fought with me again; I'm coming to live with you."

Mum replied, "No darling, He must pay for his mistake. I'm coming to live with you."

Laughter

Laughter is a quick diffuser of rows

Observations on Growing Older



Your kids are becoming you...and you don't like them...
but your grandchildren are perfect!

Going out is good...Coming home is better!

When people say you look "Great"... They add "for your age!"

When you needed the discount, you paid full price. Now you get discounts on everything...Movies, Hotels, Flights, but you're too tired to use them.

You forget names...But it's OK because people forgot they even knew you!!!

The 5 pounds you wanted to lose is now 15 and you have a better chance of losing your keys than the 15 pounds.

You realize you're never going to be really good at anything...Especially golf.

Your spouse is counting on you to remember things you don't remember.

The things you used to care to do, you no longer care to do, but you really do care that you don't care to do them anymore.

Your spouse sleeps better on a lounge chair with the TV blaring than he or she does in bed. It's called their 'pre-sleep'.

Remember when your mother said, "Wear clean underwear in case you GET in an accident?" Now you bring clean underwear in case you have an accident!

You used to say, "I hope my kids GET married...Now, I hope they STAY married.

You miss the days when everything worked with just an "ON" and "OFF" switch.

When Google, iPod, modem...were unheard of, and a mouse was something that made you climb on a table.

You tend to use more four letter words...what?...when?...???

Now that you can afford expensive jewelry, it's not safe to wear it anywhere.

Your husband/wife has a night out with the boys/girls but is home by 9 p.m.

Next week it will be 8.30 p.m.

You read 100 pages into a book before you relies you've read it.

What use to be freckles are now liver spots.

Everybody whispers.

Now you spouse has retired... You'd give anything if he/she would find a job!

You have 3 sizes of clothes in the wardrobe...2 of which you will never wear.

But old is good in some things:

Old Songs, Old Movies, and best of all OLD FRIENDS !!

