

## A Eureka Moment

I had a Eureka moment at Purley Chase a few days ago and I would like to share it with you. We had been talking about the gender of God. I sense that my God is male and female in some way and the source of all love and wisdom.



My understanding is that the female lives from love primarily with wisdom within her whereas the male lives from wisdom with love within. This is why the heavens are full of conjugal pairs, each being attracted to the love or wisdom radiating from the other and 'the two will become one flesh' (Genesis 2:24). Swedenborg's revelation that two spouses in heaven appear as one from afar, but as two when they draw close, is beautiful to me.

We know from Genesis that we are created in the image of God. Perhaps we are only truly in this image when we are united with our conjugal partner as one flesh? In which case is my Lord essentially a conjugal pair – as much female as male? The Lord is seen as the sun by the angels. Because God is one, two spouses in heaven are one. As the angel draws close, the individuals are seen – as the Lord draws close love and wisdom are seen.

Does this matter? Well, it makes me feel wonder at creation and more fully a part of my God so it matters very much to me.

**Judith Wilson**

### Lifeline

Lifeline is published in the first week of the month by the General Conference of the New Church. Articles and notices should reach the editor by the end of the second week of the month prior to publication.

Editor: Alan Misson,  
Tel: 020 8777 5098 Email: alanmisson@btinternet.com

Distributor: Howard Turner  
Tel: 020 7229 9340  
Email: howard.turner@generalconference.org.uk

ISSN 0308-3624

new church

# Lifeline



Photo: Lynda Joseph-King

## Walking the Angel Way

(see page 4)

**May 2011**  
Number 397

**Our mission is to express, share and experience with others in life an inclusive, non-judgmental vision of God's kingdom.**

## Telling the Story

*Wasn't it like a fire burning within us... ?*

That's one way of translating the excited words of the two disciples when they returned to Jerusalem on the day of resurrection to tell the Eleven what had happened on their walk to Emmaus. Other translations speak of "our hearts were burning within us."

They'd had an extraordinary experience as they trudged homewards in a state of confusion. They simply didn't know what to believe. They'd seen their beloved Jesus crucified, and breathe His last. Apparently it was the end of all their hopes and dreams of a saviour for their people. Now, some of their friends were claiming that His body had disappeared, and had been told by angels that He was alive. Can you imagine the feelings of these two, ranging back and forth between despair and elation? Down into the depths, and up to the heights.

The intriguing thing is that these two disciples didn't recognise who it was walking with them to Emmaus. They were intent on pouring out their frustration and disappointment, and their suspicions about the stories of Jesus' resurrection. It was only when Jesus went into their house and broke bread at the meal that their eyes were opened. Suddenly they knew without doubt who their companion was, and immediately rushed all the way back to Jerusalem to tell their friends.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Contents

Telling the Story	2	Relating to Love - the Lamb of God	10
Walking the Angel Way	4	Committee for Auxiliary Ministry	13
Honorary Treasurer of Conference	5	In Memory - Don Marshall	14
Birmingham New Church	6	Annual Meeting of the New Church College	15
A 40 minute lesson ...	9	A Eureka Moment	16

For the current issue of Lifeline, back issues and other resources visit:

**[www.new-church-lifeline.org.uk](http://www.new-church-lifeline.org.uk)**

He studied and became a Lay Preacher and took services here regularly - always well constructed, informative and interesting. During the last few months he has taken excellent informal services here on alternate weeks; an amazing achievement for one in his late eighties.

This is all factual, so what of the man himself? He was the very epitome of a kindly, independent, reliable, stalwart and trustworthy but private man, always punctual, smartly turned out and well prepared in whatever he did. One could always rely on him to get things done, and without any prompting. In all this he earned our great respect and love – in fact he was the king pin of the place, and it was obvious that he cared for Oaklands and all of us as his family, in lieu perhaps of the family which sadly he and Eileen could not have.

Although it is an understatement to say we shall miss him, nevertheless we are all so grateful that he no longer has to tackle the problems that we are currently facing with these premises, but we shall miss his wise, thoughtful and loving contribution to our lives here. We shall also miss his positive outlook and his strong faith.

**Gill Silk** (abridged)

### Annual Meeting of the New Church College

Saturday 25th June 2011 at 14.30

Following on from the business meeting, there will be a practical session on Listening in the Church. As we communicate together in church life, we often fail to realise how much is needed to make our listening effective. In mistaking listening for something passive, we can easily miss how much we bring of ourselves into this process. In a positive sense this can be our understanding of or empathy towards another person, but it can equally be our own fixed ideas or even prejudice. We shall be working together on how we can increase our awareness of what enters into our listening.

The work of The College continues to develop in new and interesting ways, and we would warmly like to invite you, whether or not you are a Governor, to join us for the afternoon. Tea and cakes will be provided; a donation towards the cost will be welcomed. If you are able to attend, it would be helpful if you would contact:

**David Haseler**  
Secretary

0121 440 8070  
david.haseler@generalconference.org.uk

There is so much one could say about Don Marshall for he has been bound up in the lives of many of us for a very long time. I personally have known him since he first arrived in Birmingham in the nineteen forties as part of his job, but let's start at the beginning.

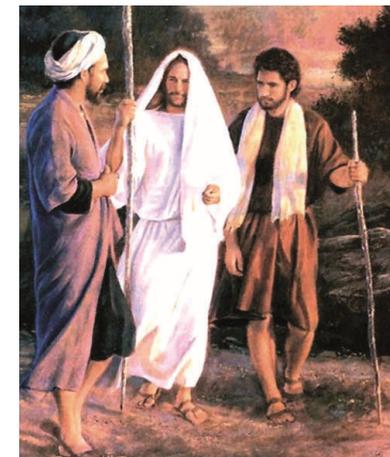
An only child, Don was born in Nuneaton on 5th September 1922 where his father was currently head gardener at one of the big estates near Purley Chase. Little did his family know then how much Purley Chase, a country house belonging to the church, would come to mean to him in later years. After various moves around the country the family settled near Brighton where he went to Brighton Grammar School and later Brighton Technical College where he studied electrical engineering. His first major decision was starting to work with Simplex GE in 1940 and they were, I think, his only employer. Later, he was sent by the company to their headquarters in Birmingham and he stayed with them until his retirement in 1982.

His next major decision was where to live. He decided to stay as a lodger with the Duddleston family in Handsworth. They had an attractive daughter and before long he became one of the family when, in 1950, he and Eileen married. By then she had introduced him to the New Church in Wretham Road and he was duly made a member there in January of 1950.

That turned out to be another major decision as much of his subsequent life was devoted to serving the church he had come to love. He quickly joined the church choir at Wretham Road where he sang tenor. When we were teenagers he became Youth Leader at the church and I remember many happy times at youth club and also at planning meetings at their house where we would be regaled with Eileen's sumptuous and delicious cakes. At this time, as many of us remember, he and Eileen were hosts at Purley Chase Young Peoples' weekends.

He served the church here at Oaklands as secretary from 1974 until his death, and apart from all the usual business of being secretary, undertook much responsibility for the maintenance of the buildings, and the outside bookings, but that is only a fraction of his involvement with the wider church in Britain. He was appointed a member of Conference Council from 1989-1995 where his good grasp of issues was much appreciated, and he then became a Trustee of Conference and finally an Honorary Life Member. Altogether he attended 32 Annual Meetings of Conference - not bad for one who had come into the church in the first place through his wife!

What strikes me forcibly is that it was their hearts that burned within them as Jesus opened up the inner meaning of all the inspired books of the Old Testament. As He laid out the meaning of the Hebrew Scriptures and demonstrated how everything there related to His own glorification, their hearts must have been pounding and their pulse rates soaring. What Jesus said to them "blew them apart"! No doubt their minds were also exhilarated by what they heard, learning for the first time the real significance of all the stories they had been taught. But the greatest impact was upon their hearts.



Knowledge and unusual insights do have a great effect upon us, and it can be wonderfully exciting when something dawns upon us for the first time. But those occasions when something speaks to the heart are of a different order. I guess we can all remember times like that, when our hearts have overflowed and we've been almost overcome with the power of some new realisation. It's most common in human relationships, especially when the depth of feeling for another person consumes us. Ordinary common sense just pales into insignificance alongside the powerful emotions at play. [It works in reverse, of course. We can become so enraged by negative feelings that no rational arguments can calm us down.]

For those disciples, the supercharged feelings came out of the presence of God. The risen and glorified Christ had actually troubled Himself with them, he'd walked with them, He'd opened His heart to them, He'd shared their home and had a meal with them. Nothing would ever be the same again. Now they knew, once and for all, that their God was Divinely Human, He knew them individually, and He cared for them.

This is what the Lord's incarnation and life was all about, and this is what makes the story eternally relevant for men and women. He comes to everyone who yearns for Him. He accompanies us along our way, and whenever we show Him that we really want Him, He enters our hearts and informs our minds.

It is His gift to us that we can ignore Him, be sceptical, even deny Him. That's the pain He bears even now. But the barriers we create are not insurmountable. He is with us always, eternally available, ready to respond at a moment's notice, dying to "break the bread" and share His love with us. That's the glory of Easter.

**Rev Bruce Jarvis**

## Walking the Angel Way

On March 19, I joined 25 other interested participants at a very enjoyable 'angel day' entitled 'Walking the Angel Way' at the Greenhill New Church in Barnet, Hertfordshire.

Swedenborg wrote extensively about his visions of the afterlife, including his visions of angels, which he described as having lived life as a human being and hence they know our difficulties. People are born to become angels and, providing we have lived a considerate and kind life, whatever our religion, we can live for eternity doing good works.

The morning session was about angels in the heavenly realms. Each member of the group received a card with a different angelic message. Mine said: Notice the Angels who only see the loving child in you! And we were asked to choose a greetings card with a picture of a winged angel and to say something about why we chose it. I chose an Edward Burne-Jones painting of an angel. Our facilitator for the day was the psychotherapist, Helen Brown, and she introduced us to a beautiful yoga meditation which involved taking a ball of energy from the ground and making a ball of energy and sending it in thoughts and feeling and actions to all areas of the world.

Our communal lunch is always special as we get the chance to talk to other attendees. After lunch, the session was about how we can make the world a better place and practise being an angel in the world. A leaflet contained information about how we can do this wonderful work. Then we were given a choice of activities, one was the opportunity to create an artwork using feathers and coloured card, another to get together in small groups to talk about angels and then to watch a video of a conversation between two young women. The video featured the choices of good or bad thoughts that came into the heads of these young women when talking about a third friend. The decision to respond in a caring or uncaring way depends on our closeness to the angels. Our angel event ended with a circle dance where we gathered good energy from the Earth and distributed it to those in need around the world.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable day, made especially pleasant by the company of the Swedenborgians who emit a beautiful calm and caring presence, the exceptional surroundings of the building where I have no doubt angels gather in abundance, a delightful lunch and interesting activities that allow conversation about a beautiful subject, all combined together, a day for angels to be most active!

## Meditation

Imagine yourself on that holy mountain that Isaiah describes (Chap 11:6-9). A little child is leading you.

Feel the ground under your feet ... breathe in the fresh mountain air ... sense the sun on your skin and the wind in your hair.

Look at all the creatures from lions to lambs living in harmony, without violence or conflict ... Walk among them ... what do you see? How does it feel.

Can you see the little child? ... What is He doing? Speak to him, how does it feel as He looks at you? What is the expression on His face?

Now look at your own inner world. Ask the child born at Bethlehem to lead all your thoughts and affections, and to bring within you the same peace, harmony and wholeness you have enjoyed on His holy mountain.

Five Essentials - Aspects of Loving - a focus for the Church  
2nd Essential: Part 4: Relating to Love - the Lamb of God  
Published by The General Conference of the New Church.  
Downloadable from [www.new-church-lifeline.org.uk](http://www.new-church-lifeline.org.uk)

### Committee for Auxiliary Ministry Sermons by Rev Geoffrey Clarkson

CAM is pleased to announce the publication of a further collection of sermons by Rev Geoffrey Clarkson.

Worship Leaders may feel free to adapt them to suit their own style.

The set costs £5.00 if you require printed copies. If you prefer to receive copies by email these are available at a cost of £1.00 per set and CDs are also available at £2.00 per set. If you would like to receive this new collection please send your order to:

**Jan Millar**

Telephone: 01484 401910  
Email: [jan.millar@generalconference.org.uk](mailto:jan.millar@generalconference.org.uk)

Cheques should be made payable to 'The General Conference of the New Church'.

*But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and by His wound healing was given to us. (Isaiah 53:5)*

These words describe the grievous temptations that the Lord underwent in the world that He might subjugate the hells, and reduce all things there and in the heavens into order. It was during this time He glorified His Human. The human race could be saved by no other means.

(based on Apocalypse Explained 365/31)

The Lord is said to have borne sins on behalf of the human race. Some think it means that He took the sins of the human race onto Himself and allowed Himself to be condemned even to death on a cross, but no such ideas should be understood by 'bearing sins'. No one's deeds can be taken away by transference onto another who will bear them. This only happens by repentance and a changed life.

The Lord bears sins when He fights on behalf of a person against the hells; for no one is able by himself to fight against them. Rather the Lord alone does so, indeed constantly for every individual person, yet differently with each one according to their reception of Divine Good and Divine Truth.

(based on Arcana Coelestia 9937 - also see AC 1846/3, AC 10132/5-7 & AE 805/5)

### **Experiential / Personal Reflection**

Sometimes we refer to a little child as a "a little lamb". This especially when we are moved by the heavenly sphere of the angels who watch over small children and are very close them. Jesus speaks of us needing to become 'like little children' in order to 'enter the Kingdom'. It is their quality of 'innocence' that is being referred to. If you can, watch children at play. Enjoy their spontaneity, the way they live in the moment, and their joy in little things. Notice their openness, simplicity and honesty – and also their vulnerability. Reflect on these new lives and how the Lord's inflowing is present in more visible and approachable ways.

Consider Isaiah's prophecy describing how the Lord comes to us. He writes, "the wolf will live with the lamb ... and a little child shall lead them" Is.11:6. See the Lamb of God in the eyes of a child. Skip with the Lamb of God - do something with a child just because it's fun, then thank the Lord for joy and laughter. ( Note - some of God's children are 80 years young!)

From the 'Angelic Ways' leaflet to help us achieve angelic understanding and wisdom:

Radiate love and unity  
Be naturally humble as all has been given by God  
Bring comfort and hope especially in times of difficulty  
Bring compassion and empathy  
Listen to the inner music of the heart  
Encourage self-awareness and the expression of good feelings  
Have non-judgmental acceptance and focus on what is good and true  
Communicate appropriately and with compassion  
Watch patiently and be ready to respond  
Focus on the positive  
Protect from negativity and falseness  
Be led by God to the Way to Happiness

Our thanks to all those involved in providing a wonderful day for attendees.

### **Wendy Stokes**

Editor's Note:

Details of future workshops can be found on the Spiritual Wisdom web site. Go to **[www.spiritualwisdom.org.uk](http://www.spiritualwisdom.org.uk)** and click on Spiritual Workshops in the centre and towards the bottom of the home page. On the Spiritual Workshops page click on Walking the Angel Way. You will then be able to see the dates and locations of future workshops and download appropriate leaflets.

### **Honorary Treasurer of Conference**

Conference urgently needs a new Treasurer to take over from Nigel Sutton who is retiring.

Duties include oversight of the work of the Conference Accountant, Assistant Treasurer Pensions, and Assistant Treasurer Payroll; presentation of reports and forecasts as required by the Governing Council, and to report to the Conference on an annual basis.

For further details, please contact Nigel Sutton on 01283702764 or email [nigel.sutton@generalconference.org.uk](mailto:nigel.sutton@generalconference.org.uk).

# Birmingham New Church

---

Printed below is a letter on behalf of the Birmingham New Church and a Summary of their current proposals. A more detailed Interim Report may be downloaded from the Lifeline website. Go to [www.new-church-lifeline.org.uk](http://www.new-church-lifeline.org.uk) and select Resources. On that page you will find a link to enable you to download the file. **Editor**

.....

Dear Editor,

There is a growing interest in thinking about a vision for the future of the New Church in this country. At the Birmingham New Church Committee Extraordinary Meeting on 13th February 2011, a decision was taken not to sell Oaklands and a Feasibility Steering Group was formed to look into options for our future.

One proposal of this Group is to share our church building with the Tree of Life organisation who are in an excellent position to create a social atmosphere attracting people interested in a range of holistic activities and events. Our hope is to create an opportunity for New Church growth by reaching out to spiritually minded people brought into the building by this multi-faith group. We think this is a feasible idea in terms of space, finance, human resources, ethos, and the retention of our distinctive identity and teachings.

Regards Stephen Lacy and Cathy Mahmood on behalf of the Steering Group.

.....

## A Future for Oaklands in Birmingham?

Summary Sheet, April 2011

To gather interest, support and comment among Friends and Members of Birmingham New Church Society and General Conference

### Introduction

At the Birmingham New Church Committee Extraordinary Meeting on 13th February 2011, a decision was taken not to sell Oaklands and a Feasibility Steering Group was formed to look into options for our future. What follows is a summary of our findings - an exciting new opportunity that the Steering Group believes is a feasible way forward for Oaklands.

world perceives patience and forgiveness too; but the reality couldn't be more different. It takes an inner strength (unimagined by the bully or the hypocrite) to refuse to hate or to harm an enemy. Jesus did more than lay down His life for friends, He did it for His enemies too! He had the power of the entire angelic heaven to command (Matt 26:53), yet He cries from the cross "Father forgive them". To say this is love is not enough, it is Divine Love - an infinite compassion, an undefeatable devotion on a scale that defies our comprehension. Here is an energy so intense we need to be shielded from its true power.

When the lamb is finally named, He is "The Lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David" (Rev 5:12). The Lion being the King of beasts, and David being the king whose exploits inspired and united a nation. A powerful name indeed! The apostle Paul puts the paradox of the Lamb in this way - 'His strength is made perfect in weakness' .

### Bible focus

Read through **Isaiah 53:1-9** and reflect on how vulnerable and defenceless is the humanity in which the Divine chose to come to us that we might be neither threatened nor harmed.

The Lord's Divine Human, being called 'The Lamb' was a treasured insight for the early Christians who often faced persecution and suffering for their faith. See **Acts 8:26-35**

Reflect on **Rev 5:1-14** the contrast between the name that is spoken and the vision that is seen of the love that comes to us in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

### Teaching focus

*"He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth"* (Isaiah 53:7)

Some thoughts drawn from Swedenborg's writings :-

The Lord when He was in the world was – as to His Human – Innocence itself, and since for this reason innocence emanates wholly from Him, the Lord is called the Lamb and the Lamb of God. (Arcana Caelestia 10132/5)

## 2nd Essential: Part 2 - Relating to Love - the Lamb of God

---

**He was led like a lamb to the slaughter and as a sheep before her shearers is silent so He did not open his mouth.**  
Isaiah 53:7

**John saw Jesus coming towards Him and said ‘Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!’** John 1:29

**Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels .....  
‘Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth, and wisdom and strength, and honour and glory and praise’**  
Rev 5:12

In these three verses we move from the Old Testament through the Gospels to the final book of the Bible. In doing so we travel from tragedy and a travesty of justice in the Servant songs in Isaiah, through trust and hope in the words of John the Baptist, finally ending in triumph in the visions of the Book of Revelation.

In these passages are profound and humbling truths that speak of the love of the Lord for you and me, for the people we know, indeed for every individual everywhere. This is no distant Divinity that we cannot know or feel or relate to. This is the love of which Jesus spoke when he said “greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends” John 15:13.

### *Meek and lowly of heart*

These passages speak not of the outward form that the Lord took when he walked the lanes and byways of Palestine to teach and heal. These verses show us something far more real. In the parable language that Jesus Himself was to use, ‘the lamb’ is a picture of the Lord’s heart. It is a living image that speaks to our hearts of His affection for us; free of any threat, with nothing we could ever have any need to fear.

### *A lamb called ‘the Lion’*

A gentle and lovable lamb is a defenceless creature at the mercy of a harsh world. This is often how we think of love and gentleness. It can be the way the

### **What is proposed?**

- To continue at Oaklands – maintaining regular worship and encouraging participation in New Church spiritual workshops and discussion groups run by our ministry.
- To maintain the current Church Committees Objectives (p3 in the full report).
- To rent out space to the ‘Tree of Life’ as a major user of the building for an initial period of two years. They are in an excellent position to create a social atmosphere attracting people interested in a range of holistic activities and events.

### **Why?**

To create an opportunity for church growth by reaching out to spiritually minded people. Here is our vision:

*The heart of the New Church is our love for the Lord and desire to live the Lord's life together. The essence of our worship manifests in how we connect to a community spirit of love and light.*

*We use Swedenborg's interpretation of the Bible to enhance our understanding of the divine working through us. We believe our teachings are universal and can be inspirational to all spiritual seekers.*

*We hope to work collaboratively with other people using the Oaklands Centre as a base for Spiritual growth and well-being. We are committed to finding new ways to express and share our faith.*

### **Is there enough space for this?**

With the newcomers, competition for space would likely hot up but we know there is enough room for our meetings. Current regular users will continue to be able to use the building.

### **How will the Church retain its identity?**

The Church Committee will manage the use of the building and develop a new programme of New Church events (complementing the role of Purley Chase). The Tree of Life feel that their multi-faith ethos is in harmony with the universal spiritual teachings of our Christian denomination. They will seek to honour the continued use of the building as a sacred space.

### **Have we enough people to keep the Church Committee going?**

Stephen Lacy, Sheree Wilkinson, Jane Leigh and Cathy Mahmood are standing for election at the AGM on 22 May 2011 at which Gill Silk, Ken Eadie and Marjorie Belfield will be retiring. Catherine Lauber will also be present as a

member (ex-officio). We urgently need more nominations from Birmingham New Church Society members to join the Committee and support the idea over the next 2 years. The Interim Report shows how the tasks of arranging building repairs, ensuring building security, monitoring health and safety and other jobs will be covered.

### **Is this financially feasible?**

The Interim Report gives details of projected budgets, costs and income and the Steering Group believe it is possible for the building to pay for itself mainly through increased usage and rent.

### **What is the alternative?**

To sell the building and close the Society.

### **Who are 'Tree of Life'?**

Tree of Life is an independent non-profit making community organisation based in Birmingham. It was founded in 1992 as Tree of Life Magazine and is now Birmingham's focal point for holistic learning; producing a quarterly magazine (7000 copies of each issue) and organising a full programme of workshops, talks and community events. It is run with the help and support of many volunteers – dedicated to exploring diverse ways of living and being, honouring all spiritual traditions and welcoming people of all cultures.

We would appreciate hearing your views and comments in time to prepare a final report and recommendations for the AGM on 22nd May 2011.

To comment or request a copy of the full Interim Report via email or post, please contact Jane Leigh on 0121 5236880 / 07986 532663 or email [janeleighis@gmail.com](mailto:janeleighis@gmail.com). Or download the Interim Report from the Resources page of the Lifeline website.

Help us make this vision a reality! Any nominations for the Church Committee need to be received as soon as possible! To discuss what this might involve please call Jane on the numbers above.

---

### **Change of Address**

Peter and Thelma Wilson

Tel: 01341 - 251238

Email: [peter.wilson16@virginmedia.com](mailto:peter.wilson16@virginmedia.com)

## **A 40 minute lesson on how to understand God**

---

I boarded the train ten minutes before it was due to leave and I got a nice seat - two in fact, as the train was virtually empty. Then a woman came in with a severely handicapped boy in a wheelchair. The boy was about 10 and he found it hard to climb up and sit opposite my seat. The woman immediately got out a flask and started to feed him some sort of broth. She had to spoon-feed him, and that must have been the reason for giving him his lunch while the train was standing still.

The boy mostly had his mouth open, and was making strange sounds and had uncontrolled hand and arm movements. "Is this lady his mother or a carer?" I asked myself. She does not have a wedding ring, but she is very calm and protective. In her late thirties I guessed. She is so calm and protective. He often snuggles up to her, touching her face and turning it to himself. I feel a great admiration towards her.

Men have usually assumed the right to the priesthood since ancient times – pagan or Christian. Yet this woman is far more an image of God and divine compassion than I could ever improve on. She is lovely and accepts the boy's constant touching her face very calmly. He gets quite rough in handling her nose and her mouth, turning them towards himself; but she calmly takes his hand and gently moves it away. After a while she begins to doze - but not for long: he pulls her face towards him. She moves his hand aside, but lets his hand rest in hers so that he does not feel rejected. There is so much calmness and wisdom in her movements and in their constant interaction.

Does he know where they have been, and why they are on a train? I assume they've been attending a hospital or clinic. If she is his mother or constant carer, does she get rest at night or are there constant interruptions? Did I catch in his mumbling a word resembling "Mum"? I can't be sure. They get off at Laindon, just before Basildon, and I have about 20 more minutes to think about them. My mind goes to the male priesthood and I feel some anger at the concept that women are not worthy of representing the Divine.

This woman I have been watching has been a perfect representation of divine love and infinite patience. Everything she did could not have been improved by any "holy gestures" - in fact they would have seemed as crazy as some of the boy's meaningless movements. Priestly rituals and gestures would have been anachronistic, artificial and meaningless in this situation. If men have claimed to be the "image" of the Divine, let her be seen as the "likeness". Our doctrines point out that "image" represents faith, which usually comes first in time; but "likeness" represents love, which resides in the heart and so in the will. I rest my case and thank the Lord for my 40 minute lesson.

**Christopher Hasler**