



PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

2310 East Fourth Street, Duluth, Minnesota 55812 • Telephone 218-724-8503

Pilgrim
visit to

Bath

July 28, 1987

1987

The Rev. Michael St
and the Congregation
Central United Reformed
Bath, England

Dear Friends in Christ

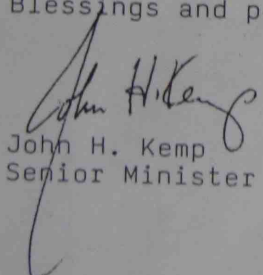
Greetings from the
Church in Duluth! Our love and
friendship of us all.

The bonds that have grown between our congregations
over the years mean much to the Pilgrim family.
As more people share in our exchanges, those bonds
grow deeper.

As the new senior minister of Pilgrim Church,
I cherish the opportunity to meet you in the future.
Several years ago for a brief time I was visiting
minister in the Sherwell United Reformed Church
in Plymouth. I look forward to meeting you and
visiting your part of England.

Meanwhile, may God be with you all in your ministry
in Bath, and in these days together with our Pilgrim
visitors, may you enjoy rich fellowship and friendship.

Blessings and peace be with you!


John H. Kemp
Senior Minister



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July 28, 1987

The Rev. Michael Stolton
and the Congregation of
Central United Reformed Church
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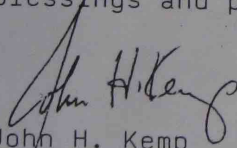
Greetings from the entire congregation of Pilgrim Church in Duluth! Our visitors bring the love and friendship of us all.

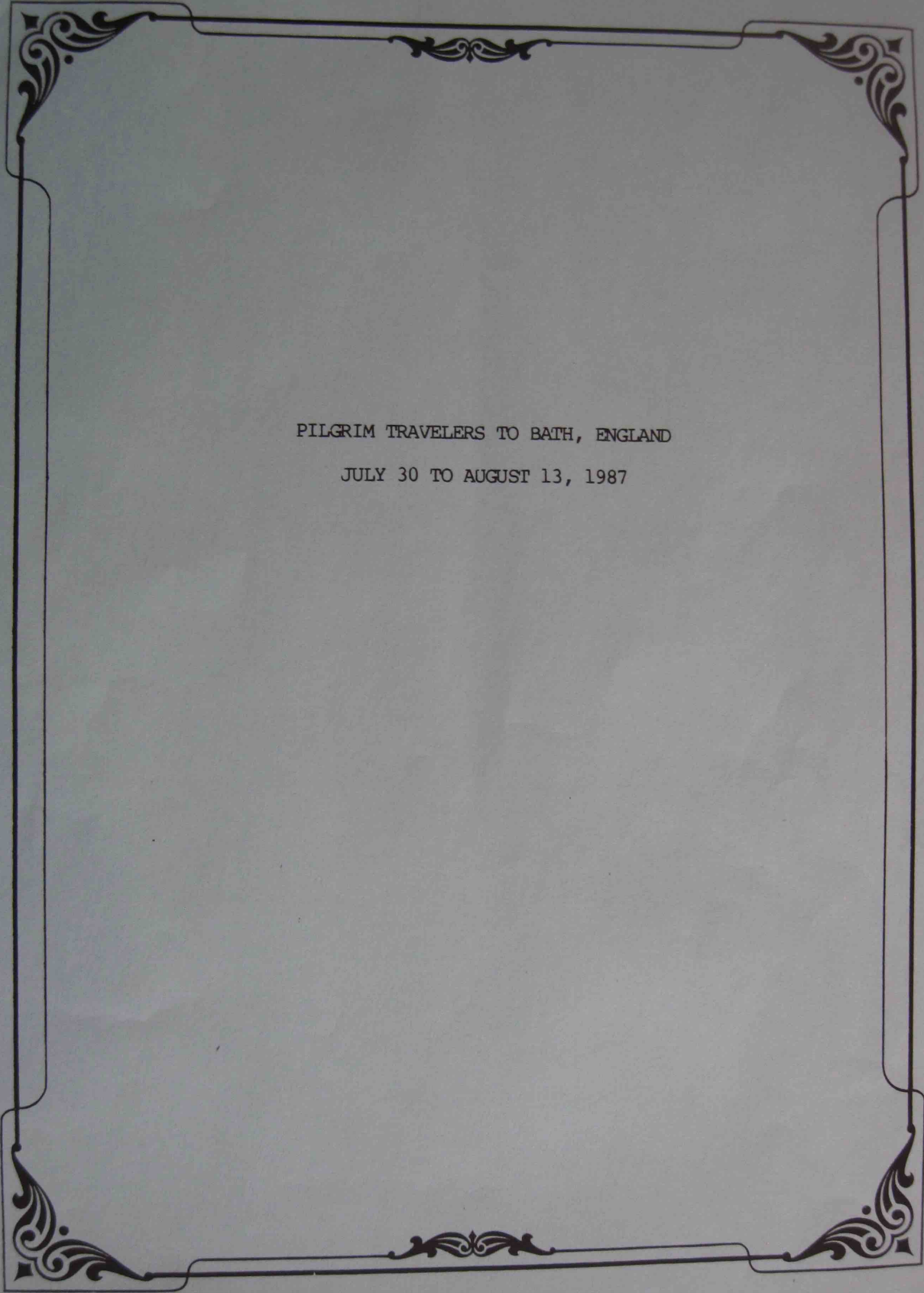
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PILGRIM TRAVELERS TO BATH, ENGLAND

JULY 30 TO AUGUST 13, 1987

PROGRAMME FOR THE VISIT FROM DULUTH.

FRIDAY July 31st 7.30 a.m. Arrival at Gatwick
12.30 appr. Arrival at Bath (University car park).
Rest of day free.

SATURDAY August 1st 10.00 a.m. Visit to Roman Baths.
7.30 p.m. Lunch with hosts. Free Afternoon.
Welcome supper with the Palmers or
Phyllis Brown.

SUNDAY August 2nd 10.30 a.m. } Church
6.30 p.m. } Rest of day free with hosts

Monday August 3rd 10.00 a.m. Guided tour in the city with Frank Harper.
(Meet in Abbey Churchyard). Dutch Lunch.
Free afternoon.
7.30 p.m. Dinner by invitation.

TUESDAY August 4th 9.30 am Wells and Glastonbury by car.
Lunch at Glastonbury. Tea at Somerton *meet Rev. John Young*
Dinner with hosts.

WEDNESDAY August 5th Morning free.
2.00 p.m. Canal walk from Limpley Stoke with visit to
the Saxon Church at Bradford-on-Avon.
(Transport by car).
7.30 p.m. Dinner by invitation.

Thursday August 6th 9.30 a.m. Coach tour to the Cotswolds.
Lunch at Rodborough Chapel.

FRIDAY August 7th Change to new hosts.
3.00 p.m. Garden party at the Gilsons
7.30 p.m. Dinner by invitation.

SATURDAY August 8th 9.30 a.m. Visit to the Costume Museum.
Coffee at Central Church.
Tour of Church premises.
Rest of day free with hosts.

SUNDAY August 9th 10.00 a.m. Church service with conference.
Picnic lunch.
Discussion groups and service at 4.15 p.m.

MONDAY August 10th Morning free.
1.30 p.m. Afternoon visit to Stourhead House or
garden by car.
7.30 p.m. Dinner by invitation.

TUESDAY August 11th 9.30 a.m. Coach tour to the Wye Valley.

WEDNESDAY August 12th Free day.
7.30 p.m. Farewell social at Church.

THURSDAY August 13th Morning Departure.

'PILGRIM TRAVELERS' HOSTS AND ADDRESSES.

<u>Guests.</u>	<u>Hosts; 1st week.</u>	<u>Hosts; 2nd week.</u>
Beth and Cy Brown	Lesley & Mary Palmer 3 Trossachs Drive Warminster Road Bath BA2 6RP Tel: 61981	Phyllis Brown Colworth The Avenue Combe Down Bath BA2 5EQ 832134
Betty & Bruce Buchanan	Don & Jenny Stephens Deerhurst 54 Greenway Lane Bath BA2 4LL Tel: 21070	Martin & Joan Cawte Hillside House Summer Lane Combe Down Bath BA2 6EU 835687
Mary & Bill Gemuenden	Mrs. Betty Horn 44 PennLea Road Bath BA1 3RB Tel: 21874	Rex & Jane Tollyfield 29 Forester Road Bathwick Bath BA2 6QE 64488
Ellen & Dick Harkey	Rex & Jane Tollyfield 29 Forester Road Bathwick Bath BA2 6QE Tel. 64488	Tegid & Brina Peregrine 39 Lower Stoke Limpley Stoke Bath BA3 6HR 8222476
Sadie Strebling & Barbara Hayes	Phyllis Brown Colworth The Avenue Combe Down Tel: 832134	Ethel Megson 7 Darlington Street Bath BA2 4EA 63977
Pat Wellborn & Ginny White	Ethel Megson 7 Darlington Street Bath BA2 4EA Tel: 63977	Kay Millard 18 Pickwick Road Fairfield Park Bath BA1 6NN 315443
Ginny White		Lesley & Mary Palmer 3 Trossachs Drive Warminster Road Bath BA2 6RP 61981
Vera Dunbar	Elizabeth & John Twine ST Just Maple Grove Bath BA2 3AF Tel: 334356	Morfydd Jones & Gwerfyl Moss 24 Northanger Court Grove Street Bath BA2 6PE 69707

Virginia Nelson

Andrew & Rosa Clarke
South Dale
Greenway Lane
Bath BA2 4LW
Tel: 310162

Ruth Welch & Bertha Banks
12 Stonehouse Lane
Combe Down
Bath BA2 5DW
833160

Eleanor & Charlie Nicholl

Stewart & Barbara Wright
5 St Stephens Close
Lansdown
Bath BA1 5PP
Tel: 317129

Mrs Sarah Nicholas
79 Cranwells Park
Bath BA1 2YE
332720

The dialling code for Bath telephone numbers is 0225.

CENTRAL
UNITED REFORMED
CHURCH
BATH

Tel. 310050

(incorporating Argyle U.R.C. and Trinity U.R.C.)

Minister:
Rev. MICHAEL B. STOLTON, B.D.
22 Penn Lea Road, Bath BA1 3RA

Secretary:
J. D. EDE, 12 Springfield Place, Bath BA1 5RA

Treasurer:
E. V. ATKINS, 12A St. Catherine's Close, Bath BA2 6BS

Tel. 23286

Tel. 22362

Tel. 66758

10th June 1987

Mrs. Beth Brown,
1212 Denney Drive,
DULUTH,
Minnessota 55805

Dear Mrs. Brown,

I gather from Barbara Wright, with whom you have been corresponding about the 'Duluth Visit' to Bath in August, that you are the 'contact person' to whom I should write about our plans for Sunday worship while you are with us.

On the second Sunday, August 9th, we are having an Afternoon Conference to which all the Duluth Visitors are invited along with members of our own congregation. This will follow a picnic lunch after the Morning Service, details of which will be made known once you are here.

So that everyone can share in the conference to the best advantage I have prepared some material in advance both for you and members in Bath. I would be grateful if you could arrange to have the enclosed material reproduced for each member who is coming to Bath, in time for them to have a look at the material and be prepared to contribute to our thinking and discussion on that occasion. I apologise for asking you to do the reproducing of material, but had I undertaken that here, the postage on the complete package would have been rather enormous.

We are keenly looking forward to your visit and trust that everything we are planning will go toward making your time in Bath a memorable occasion.

With greetings and best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Michael Stolton

(Rev. Michael Stolton
Minister)

DULUTH VISIT 1987
Sunday Worship Patterns

Sunday August 2nd

- 10.30 a.m. Family Worship: Holy Communion
- 11.40 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Service

Sunday August 9th

- 10.30 a.m. Family Worship
- 11.30 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship
- 12.15 p.m. Lunch
- 1.15 p.m. Afternoon Conference
- 4.30 p.m. Concluding Act of Worship

The following preparatory material is for the afternoon Conference on Sunday August 9th.

THEME: 'CROSSING THE DIVIDE'

BIBLICAL PASSAGE: Romans 10 v 14-17

The Revised Standard Version is suggested as the translation to follow.

After lunch there will be a 'keynote' talk outlining the main thrust of the passage. This will be followed by group discussion, based on the talk, but particularly on the notes provided below.

A plenary session will attempt to gather all the strands together; and a concluding Act of Worship will provide a suitable climax to the Conference.

INTRODUCTION

The theme: 'Crossing the Divide' suggests the need for the Church to find meaningful ways of bridging the gap between 'believer and non-believer', 'Christianity and humanism', 'church and society', so that the person of Christ may become real for each new generation. This seems to be the implication of the passage before us.

THE PASSAGE IN DETAIL

Verse 14 'How are men to call upon him in whom they have not believed?'

Perhaps we ought to begin by trying to determine the state of belief in contemporary society. Can we crystalize what our neighbour's position really is - i.e. what kind of 'market' are we facing?

Is there a 'ground swell of belief' or has society drifted into an agnostic/atheistic position: humanism: secularism or materialism?

Verse 14 'How are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard?'

What qualities do we find in Jesus Christ to meet the need our market research uncovers?

Does society need Him as a healer: teacher: comforter: Saviour - or just someone to whom to turn in a crisis?

How do we interpret the person of Jesus to a contemporary society - i.e. how do we 'take off the wrappers' of the gospel and reveal Jesus as a living contemporary figure?

What does He have to say: what can He accomplish within society which is 'unique' - i.e. do we believe Jesus is 'unlike any other' - if so, in what ways?

Verse 14 'How are they to hear without a preacher?'

Perhaps we ought to understand the word 'preacher' here in a corporate, as well as an individual, sense.

If so, then we need to work out what 'style' of ministry the church requires in the next decade to fulfil the task of 'crossing the divide' -

e.g. does it need: profession/ministry of Word and Sacrament
auxiliary ministry(non-stipendary)
church related community workers
university, hospital, industrial
chaplains
various styles of lay-leadership.

Can we try to define these roles afresh so that they become more relevant to today's situation and move toward a 'structured pattern of ministry' involving the whole church, which is competent to offer the things of Christ to a very complex society.

What qualities are we looking for in those who are to be vehicles of Christ's healing love and grace? Can we measure or quantify 'spirituality' and search out from among us those whose discernment of Christ's love has a dynamic depth?

Verse 15 'How can men preach unless they are sent?'

- a) The notion of 'being sent' can be very patronising if you happen to be on the receiving end! If the church is to 'cross the divide', it can't afford to assume a superiority or appear to have all the answers. Perhaps this raises the question as to how we actually find ways of 'touching another person's life' so that the love of God in Christ may be kindled in their experience.

It is also true that the notion of 'sending' implies a direct 'commission' from God. Is the idea of 'vocation' in this sense understood by a society which seems to have lost the concept altogether? If not, should the church try to re-establish the notion as a key response in the divine-human encounter?

- b) What is the role of 'the preacher' in twentieth century experience? Is there still space for 'declaring the gospel' in the traditional sense, in worship - despite the preponderance of visual/audio aids which typify every other aspect of contemporary life? Should the church create opportunities for 'preaching in other environments'? This depends upon your understanding of the term 'preach' - to quantify that, may provide some of the answers.

Verse 16 'They have not all heeded to gospel'

How do we react when the gospel is 'not heard' and is 'rejected'?

Do we withdraw from what seems a negative response: or do we find new and fresh ways of presenting the 'good news'? If so, how 'new' are our concepts and ideas - are there ways of 'crossing the divide' of complacency and disbelief which break new ground?

Verse 17 'Faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes by the preaching of Christ'

Here we are brought back to the centrality of Christ. He stimulates faith: He motivates the preaching of the gospel: He conditions the hearer: He alone becomes the focus of the church's 'out-reach'.

What kind of person is Jesus for you: for that will determine whether or not He is seen and understood by others on the 'other side of the divide'.

NOTE: the remaining verses of the chapter suggest that though the people may reject God's messenger, God will never reject the people. This is cause for great hope. However, what qualities does this suggest rest in the Godhead, that allows Him to go on searching, in the ultimate hope of reaching His children? heart, despite their continual rejection of His advances?

Michael Bolton
June 1987

By air mail
Par avion



Aerogramme

The Rev. John Kemp,
Pilgrim Congregational Church,
2310, East Smith Street,
DULUTH,
Minnesota 55812
U.S.A.

Name and address of sender

Rev. M. B. STOLTON,
22, Penn Lea Road,
BATH,
Avon, United Kingdom
Postcode BA1 3RA

An aerogramme should not contain any enclosure

To open slit here

To open slit here

Bath 23286

22 Penn Lea Road,
BATH
Avon BA1 3RA
United Kingdom
29th August 1987

Dear John,

I am sorry this letter has been rather delayed, for by now all your 'pilgrims' should have returned safely to Duluth after their visit to Bath and other parts of the British Isles. However, I hasten to send greetings from us all at Central and to express our grateful thanks both for your letter and the beautiful book which your people brought with them for our Church library. It has already been much admired and, I think, kindled the wish in some hearts for an early return to Duluth!

We were abundantly blessed by the group who recently came to us - they were so delightful and brought a breath of fresh American air to our rather traditional ways in this part of the west country. Bath is a beautiful place, but its population is a bit geriatric - which lends itself to conservative expectations when it comes to church life - and, I suspect, most other aspects of life as well. To have an input from another continent is always a refreshing experience and, especially during our afternoon Conference during the visit, the inter-change of ideas and thoughts was a most valuable part of the exchange. We hope that the programme arranged met most of our visitors aspirations - though geography prohibited some of the places which a few would have liked to see. Everyone, including the hosts and hostesses seemed to be having a wonderful time - and that was enhanced by the generous spirit of those who came from your shores to enrich our lives for the two weeks of the visit.

Now things are 'back to normal' - at least as much as they can ever be in a church. We hope that those who came won't return with too many ideas for 'change' at Duluth - or you will bless us for having given them all itchy feet! Whether we shall be able to send an 'official' party in two years time is yet to be decided, but I know that several people here are already talking about private return visits to Duluth in the not too distant future.

We do value these exchanges a great deal and look forward sometime, in the not too distant future, to meeting you and sharing fellowship together. In the meantime, may I ask you to convey to your congregation - not least those who came to Bath - our

warmest good wishes and our prayers for the continuing ministry and mission of Pilgrim Church. We share a great 'Reformed tradition' and I hope our association together will long prove to be an enriching experience through which much blessing will accrue.

With greetings from Judith and myself at the Manse to all our dear friends at Duluth - and not least to yourself,

Sincerely yours,

Michael Stolton

(Rev. Michael Stolton)