



WELSHPOOL METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Sue Lawler

Tel: 01938 552794

www.wbhmethodists.org.uk

“Celebrating and Sharing God’s Love”

SEPTEMBER CHURCH BULLETIN

We extend a Warm Welcome to any visitors, or to anyone worshipping with us for the first time. Please make yourselves known to us, and stay after the service for a cup of tea and a chat. (There is a loop system for hearing aid users).

NEW for this month -

Craft Day, Saturday 3rd September 10am to 4pm in the Gallery. Bring your craft along. Lunches will be available. Details: tel. 552935

CONGRATULATIONS to Tony and Janet Deacon, who celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 8th September

Thought for the Month “Seeds of Love” by Celia Hoare

A stream goes lazily trickling by,
A lively blackbird sings on high.
A gentle breeze flows through the trees,
The sun shines bright in cloudless skies.
Our hearts are filled with joy to see such beauty all around -
So quiet, so peaceful, we hardly hear a sound.
The earth is God's Creation - such beauty everywhere.....
So let us add a little more
By scattering seeds of love, to show how much we care.

Sunday 28th August

Lectionary

Jeremiah 2:4-13; Psalm 81:1,10-16; Hebrews 13:1-8,15-16; Luke 14:1,7-14

Morning Worship at 10.45am led by John Harbron

Evening Community Hymn Singing at 6pm led by Gareth Evans, to which we welcome friends from the town, and from Newtown

This week:

Monday 29th Coffee Morning & Light Refreshments, 9.30am - 2pm
Thursday 1st Open Church at 10am; Reading the Bible Together at 12
Friday 2nd Gallery Group at 6.30pm
Saturday 3rd Coffee Morning and Friendship Lunch
Saturday 3rd Craft Day, 10am to 4pm in the Gallery. All welcome.
Saturday 3rd Newtown's "break@backlane" - refreshments and stalls, 10am to 3pm, as part of town's Food Festival
Saturday 3rd Welshpool Music Club Young Musicians' Concert
7.30pm Tickets: £5 at the door, to include Buffet Supper

Sunday 4th September

Lectionary

Jeremiah 18:1-11; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; Philemon 1-21; Luke 14:25-33

Morning Worship at 10.45am 'Prayer & Praise' service

"Bring & Share" Lunch following the morning service

Evening Worship (Compline) at 6pm led by Rev Sue Lawler

This week:

Monday 5th Coffee Morning from 9.30am; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm; Stewards at 7.15pm
Wednes. 7th Circuit Meeting at Caersws, 7pm
Thursday 8th Open Church at 10am; 'Knit and Natter' at 12
Saturday 10th "Walking with Friends" - Pentre Llifior to Welshpool
Details from Derek, tel. 556117

Sunday 11th September

Lectionary

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28 ; Psalm 14; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15: 1-10

Morning Worship at 10.45am led by Rev Sue Lawler (Baptism & HC)

Evening Worship at the Welsh Chapel at 6pm (WCT service)

This week:

Monday 12th Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm

Thursday 15th 'Reading the Bible Together' at 12

Friday 16th Afternoon Fellowship at 2.30pm Speaker: Rev Sue

Friday 16th Alpha Introductory Meeting, with Supper, at 6.30pm

Saturday 17th Coffee Morning and Friendship Lunch

Sunday 18th September

Lectionary

Jeremiah 8:18 - 9:1; Psalm 79:1-9; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

Early Communion at 9am led by Rev Sue Lawler; Breakfast

Morning Worship at 10.45am led by Rev Bill Rowell

Evening Worship at 6.30pm at Cefn led by Rev Sue Lawler (HC)

This week:

Sunday 18th Pentre Llifior Harvest Festival at 2.30pm

Monday 19th Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm

Tuesday 20th Julian Prayer, 2.30pm at Glandwr (Newtown Manse)

Thursday 22nd 'Knit and Natter' at 12

Friday 23rd Alpha at 6.30pm

"MAKE A SPLASH". Gift Envelopes will be available today for this year's Methodist Relief and Development Harvest Appeal raising support for people who lack the vital resource of water that we so readily take for granted. Please return your offering for Harvest on 2nd October.

Sunday 25th September

Lectionary

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15; psalm 91:1-6; 1 Tim 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31

Morning Worship at 10.45am led by Rev Sue Lawler

Evening Worship at 6pm led by Nigel Evans

This week:

Monday 26th Coffee Morning 9.30am; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm
Wednes.28th Property and Finance Committee at 7.15pm
Thursday 29th Craft Group in the Gallery, 7.30pm
Friday 30th Alpha at 6.30pm
Saturday 1st Coffee Morning & Friendship Lunch

Sunday 2nd October HARVEST

Lectionary

Lamentations 1:1-6; Psalm 137; 2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10

Morning Worship at 10.45am led by Rev Peter Rees

Harvest Lunch

Evening Worship (Compline) at 6pm led by Rev Sue Lawler

Tonight, Sunday, 7.30pm in church: 1940's weekend Charity Concert featuring the **Shawbury Military Wives Choir** & supporting artists. Tickets £6 (children £4), to include refreshments

This week:

Monday 3rd Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm
Thursday 6th 'Knit and Natter' at 12
Friday 7th Alpha at 6.30pm

An anyone can come
Learning and Laughter
Pasta and Puddings
Helping one another
Ask anything

The ALPHA Course -
"exploring the meaning of life"
Where? In the Gallery
When? Fridays at 6.30pm from
16th September for 10 weeks

From the handouts we have received over the summer, we are all aware that another Alpha Course will start this month - but how much do we know about Alpha, its origins, and what is involved? Here are answers to a few questions to better inform us.

How did Alpha begin?

Alpha was developed as a church course at Holy Trinity, Brompton in London over 30 years ago. Then, in 1986, Rev Nicky Gumbel joined Holy Trinity as curate (becoming its vicar in 2005), and in 1990 he took over the running of Alpha. He found that many people outside the church wanted to explore the Christian faith. Following the first Alpha Conference he organised for church leaders in 1993, the course began to spread over the UK in churches of every denomination, and now Alpha runs in every part of the global church.

Who is Alpha for? Alpha is for everyone! It particularly caters for:

- * People asking questions of life
- * People interested in investigating Christianity
- * Newcomers to church
- * New Christians
- * People preparing for marriage/baptism/confirmation
- * Those who want to brush-up on the basics
- * Anyone interested in finding out more about the Christian faith

What happens at Alpha?

A typical evening begins with a meal together, followed by a short talk and film clip looking at topics such as:

- * Who is Jesus?
- * Why did Jesus die?
- * Why and how should I read the Bible?
- * Why and how do I pray?
- * What about the Holy Spirit?
- * How does God guide us?
- * How can I resist evil?
- * Why and how should we tell others about our faith?
- * Does God heal today?
- * What about the Church?
- * How can I make the most of the rest of my life?

After each talk there is time for everyone to discuss any issues, ask any questions they may have or express opinions. They have the opportunity to get to know each other better and learn together.

What have others said about Alpha?

You will have heard Rev Sue interviewing, in recent services, those who have already attended a course. Here are a few other quotes:

David Suchet: *'I cannot think of any other course that covers the introduction to the core beliefs of Christian faith in such an accessible way'*

Sir Cliff Richard: *'Alpha courses are communicating the Christian faith in relevant and non-threatening situations. Do go along if you get the chance'*

Diane Louise Jordan: *'Alpha is perfect for anyone with an inquiring mind and a huge heart. Try it - it will have a massive impact on your life'*

Who is the Course Organiser?

Graham Smith - ALPHA Regional Organiser since 1994 - with Rev Sue and St Mary's Vicar Rev Steve Wilson attending as often as possible. If you have any questions you would like to ask before deciding whether to attend Alpha, contact Graham 553818, Rev Sue 552794, or Rev Steve 553164

The Knots Prayer

Dear God:

Please untie the knots
that are in my mind,
my heart and my life.

Remove the have nots,
the can nots and the do nots
that I have in my mind.

Erase the will nots,
may nots,
might nots that may find
a home in my heart.

Release me from the could nots,
would nots and
should nots that obstruct my life.

And most of all,
Dear God,
I ask that you remove from my mind,
my heart and my life all of the 'am nots'
that I have allowed to hold me back,
Especially the thought
that I am not good enough.
Amen.

Author Known to God

(From 'The Beckoner',
the magazine for Beckminster Methodist Church, Wolverhampton)

Submitted by Terry Postings

Inter-faith

The following has been submitted by Terry Jobling, who writes:

'With so much tension between different racial and ethnic groups this incident is refreshing:

Tom is a minister, and a hospice chaplain. One day he was standing unnoticed at the door of the ward. He could clearly see Amir, an Egyptian Muslim, now terminally ill with cancer. His wife Jamila, in deep distress, was maintaining her vigil.

Tom - male, Presbyterian and not at all well-versed in the etiquette of dealing with Muslim women in the hijab - was unsure about what to offer.

Across the ward was Paddy, a lapsed Irish Catholic and something of a rogue. He had lived a pretty dissolute life, and viewed clergymen with considerable suspicion. Paddy was watching the distressed couple.

To Tom's surprise, Paddy got to his feet, and crossed the ward. With creaking bones he knelt down by Jamila and put his big labourer's arm round her shoulder. He gave a big hug to this distressed woman, no words being said. Then, his job done, he returned to sit on his bed, and Jamila went back to her faithful vigil.'

Tom Gordon, Wild Goose Publications

*(Wild Goose Publications is the publishing division of the Iona Community.
The Wild Goose is a Celtic Symbol of the Holy Spirit)*

Please don't forget the FOOD BANK. Non-perishable items (tins, jars and packets) can be placed in the box in the Foyer at any time.

The Turtle Dove

From "The Angel on Next Door's Drive": Poems by Bill Rowell ©

On a morning of sunshine and dappled shade,
birdsong and the sweet smell of new-mown hay
I had required a sign.

I had required a sign, said so
as I sat in the dark quiet of the gritstone walls
and an overhanging larch.
I had required a sign, for reassurance
of love, and of presence,
and of grace.

The day moved on toward its close
and I travelled with it
through conversations and challenges,
tasks to be completed, and transactions made,
and under a sky that began to be filled with grey.
My prayer, meanwhile, had slipped out of my mind,
and the clouds building out to the west
promised only a dark evening of rain,

whose first drops began to fall
as I travelled south on a busy road,
with a schedule still to complete; and there,
briefly yet clearly seen,
her marbled plumage bright in a sudden shard of sunshine -
a turtle dove, young bird
started up from the grass by an open gateway
to perch and sway on the wall nearby.

I only saw the bird and not the message,
and marvelled anyway, but for a moment only:
too much still to do, too much to think,
and my prayer as yet forgotten.
only later, with the day at an end,
did I recognise the response to my petition.
And what better sign could I have been given?
We are held as a dove may be held
in the cupped hands of God's grace,
to be treasured wherever life's dark road may take us;
and he is our sun, our rain, our breath,
and the feathered wing of our protecting Mother, beneath which
we all shall be understood, and forgiven, and loved.
This is his promise to those he calls, his promise to me.
We may walk in the dark and shade, but as we seek his lifting grace
all shall be well.

*(Copies of Bill's book are available, £7.50, with £2.50 from each sale being
donated to church)*

September Garden

Andrea Davies

A garden in September shows
Its hidden treasures, secret gold,
Forgotten tubers come to life
And vivid dahlias unfold.

The rose bush smothered by a shrub,
That's overgrown its border bed,
Grows tall and straight towards the sun,
And then unfurls bold buds of red.

The shining leaves of hellebore
Are pushed apart by fragile spears,
Such small perfection and so strong,
A tiny fuchsia sheds pink tears.

Maturing through the hotter months
A garden in September lends
Some new and unexpected gems
To be enjoyed as Summer ends.

As we come to the final edition of the first year of our Church Bulletin, I would like to thank all who have contributed articles, poems and prayers over the last 12 months. If you feel inspired to do the same, please get in touch!