



WELSHPOOL METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Sue Lawler

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“Celebrating and Sharing God’s Love”

NOVEMBER 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).

“REMEMBRANCE”

From “An Englishman in Wales” by W.H.Middleton, past minister

Red was His wine of Sacrament,
Drunk deep 'til every dreg was spent;
Red was the blood of Calvary,
Red, blood red, spreading on the tree.

The Legion poppies are bright red
On Village stones raised to our dead.
O, hold your eyes lest you should weep
That human blood was held so cheap.

The Flanders poppies, they were fed
With crimson mud from British dead,
This blood was shed on land and sea,
Dear God, this blood was shed for me.

JUST MARRIED - we wish Pam Harding and Ruthie Lockyer every happiness in their future life together.

Sunday 30th October

Lectionary

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4; Psalm 119:137-144; 2 Thess. 1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10

We welcome St Mary's congregation to our church this morning.

Morning Worship at 10.45am led by Rev Irfan John, and family, followed by a Bring and Share Lunch

Evening Worship at 6pm at Cefn Chapel with John Harbron

This week:

Monday 31st Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm
Tuesday 1st Jubilate at 7.15pm
Thursday 3rd 'Knit and Natter' at 12
Friday 4th Alpha at 6.30pm
Saturday 5th Coffee Morning and Friendship Lunch, 11am to 2pm
Packing Shoeboxes, in Church, during the morning

Sunday 6th November

Lectionary

Haggai 1:15b-2:9; Psalm 145:1-5,17-21; 2 Thess. 21:1-5,13-17; Luke 20:27-38

Morning Worship at 10.45am led by Rev Bob Thomas (Communion)

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

This week:

Monday 7th Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm
Tuesday 8th Jubilate at 7.15pm
Thursday 10th Bible Reading at 12
Friday 11th Alpha at 6.30pm
Saturday 12th **Coffee Morning for Development at Church House**
Walking with Friends: Forden to Montgomery. Meet at Church House at 10.15am for Coffee prior to walk.

Sunday 13th November REMEMBRANCE

Lectionary

Isaiah 65:17-25; *Canticle* Isaiah 12:1-6; 2 Thess.3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19

Churches Together United Service at St Mary's at 11am

(If able, meet at Town Hall for procession at 10.30am)

Afternoon Remembrance service in our own church at 4pm will be Communion with Rev Sue, and will include dedication of Shoeboxes.

This week:

- Monday 14th Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm
- Tuesday 15th Jubilate at 7.15pm
- Thursday 17th 'Knit and Natter' at 12; Music Club Concert at 7.30pm
- Friday 18th Fellowship at 2.30pm - Focus on Methodist Homes
- Friday 18th Alpha at 6.30pm
- Saturday 19th Coffee Morning and Friendship Lunch
- Saturday 19th **Jubilate Singers in concert at Arddleen Chapel, 7.30pm.**
Tickets: £7.50 to include Supper

Sunday 20th November Sunday before Advent

Lectionary

Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm46; Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43

Early Reflective Communion led by Rev Sue Lawler

Morning Worship at 10.45am led by Gareth Evans

This week:

- Monday 21st Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm
- Wednes. 23rd Circuit Meeting at Caersws at 7pm
- Thursday 24th Bible Reading at 12; Worship Consultation at 7pm
- Friday 25th **Winter Fair in the Corn Exchange, from 9.30am;**
Alpha at 6.30pm

Sunday 27th November Advent Sunday

Lectionary

Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44

Morning Worship at 10.45am led by Jenny Thomas

Afternoon Tea Service at 4pm led by the Stewards

This week:

- Monday 28th Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm
- Tuesday, 29th Group to Birmingham Hippodrome for "Nutcracker"
- Thursday 1st 'Knit and Natter' at 12
- Friday 2nd Carol Singing from 6.30pm (Winter Festival Lights)
- Saturday 3rd Festival Coffee Morning & Friendship Lunch, 11am- 2pm

Festival Concert at 7.30pm: 'JIGSAW SOUND' at CHRISTMAS

- a return visit of this popular singing group from Shrewsbury who will be presenting their Christmas programme. Tickets: £5, with all profit going to our 2016/17 chosen charity **Powys Dementia Friends**

- Sunday 4th Morning worship at 10.45am led by Julia Francis
Bring and Share Lunch
Compline in the Gallery at 6pm with Rev Sue

CHURCH CHRISTMAS CARD

This will be in the Foyer throughout Advent for you to sign, to pass on Season's Greetings to each other. Any donations received will go to the church's charity for 2016/7, Powys Dementia Friends.

MHA CHRISTMAS FRIENDSHIP APPEAL

Friday Fellowship will again be responding to this appeal, and will be writing cards to send to MHA who will distribute them to the lonely, frail and elderly folk in their care who would otherwise receive few cards at Christmas. If you would like to find out more about MHA or write some cards, please join us on Friday 18th November at 2.30pm.

NOVEMBER

Dull grey the early morning leaving,
Down dismal street, both cold and drear,
But suddenly from spidered hedgerow,
A bird calls out, so sharply clear.

That celebrated friend of winter,
Red-feathered, cheeky, bold and bright,
Pours forth a fluting, floating cadence,
Such notes can only bring delight.

Then light and fine as falling petals
Thin fronds of winter sun slip through
The greyest clouds which seem to smother
Skies which once were summer blue.

When from scant leaves on fire with sunlight
A bird threads music on the air,
November shares a precious secret,
Behind dark clouds, the skies are fair.

Andrea Davies

BONFIRE NIGHT (2006)

We are here to watch the cascading fireworks
flash across the cold and starry sky -
as we look across the valley;
it's strange how often our village bonfire coincides
with the first still frosty night of the season.

And we wrinkle our noses at the wreathing smoke,
and our children giggle as they stop their ears to the louder bangs.

Everyone is here, though we're all
a bit hard to recognise in the flickering shadows
and behind our muffling stripy scarves and woolly hats.

But everyone is here, of course;
it's an occasion, part of the measure of the year,
and we've most of us made some contribution
of brushwood and logs, and broken pallets
to this night's blazing fire,
best and biggest yet, they say.

And so we have turned into a charitable enterprise
the old autumn rites of our forefathers;
it's an evening out for the kids, really,
it's an occasion, it's
a chance to clear the dead wood;
and at the end of the night,
there'll be a decent cheque for the Air Ambulance.

But everyone is here, and whether we admit it or not
somewhere deep inside us all
that germ of desperation still grows; that old primeval fear -
we know in our bones that
we dare not let the dark win,
that we must bring back the light.

Bill Rowell

*(from "The Angel on Next Door's Drive", copies of which we have on sale,
£7.50, £2.50 of which is for church funds)*

COLOURS OF AUTUMN

The earth is God's creation
Such beauty to be seen
The hills are like patchwork
All different shades of green.

Colours of Autumn, red and gold,
Can be seen all around.
It is so quiet and peaceful
I cannot hear a sound.

As I stand and see the beauty
My heart is filled with love
For God our Creator, who is
In heaven above.

Celia Hoare

A FINAL MESSAGE (1940)

(Found in the aircraft of a pilot who was shot down and killed)

If I should pass beyond man's thought,
Grieve not;
For He who plans the pattern of the stars knows my course,
And if He will my destiny to be life,
Then life I seek;
If death, then death is but gateway to the truth,
Wider than the sky,
And more immense than all the universe.

Submitted by Prue Bowen

"THEY DID TAKE THEIR FOOD WITH GLADNESS"

Acts 2:46

We Methodists are greatly given
To eat and drink our way to heaven.
Circuit Dinners, Harvest Suppers,
Cakes and buns and lots of "cuppas",
Coffee Evenings, Coffee Mornings,
'Spite of dietetic warnings;
Folk hand sweets for us to munch on
While we wait for Sunday luncheon;
Light refreshments follow after
Meetings dull, or filled with laughter.
We Methodists are fat, you know,
Because we are addicted so.
This is true to Gospel teaching,
Jesus, when he wasn't preaching,
Went to lots and lots of dinners,
Eating often with the sinners.
But if I'd been a Parish priest
A stone's less weight I'd weigh at least!

Another poem by W.H.Middleton, submitted by Ann Knight

MONEY CAN

Money can buy a bed but not trouble-free sleep,
Books but not intelligence,
Fine clothes but not beauty of spirit,
Medicine but not good health,
Entertainment but not happiness,
A crucifix but not a Saviour,
A temple of religion, but not a place in Heaven.

Submitted by Vio Adams

CHURCH NEWS AND UPDATES

Autumn is a time of church meetings, with both Property and Finance Committee and Church Council having met in the last few weeks. Minutes of all meetings are displayed on the notice board in the Meeting Room, but we draw your attention to the following matters:

Pastoral

1. Edith Thomas has stepped down as Pastoral Visitor, and we thank her for her service to the church in this capacity over many years.
2. New Safeguarding regulations require all Pastoral Visitors to have DBS checks. Also, other church officers need to undertake further Safeguarding Training, and sessions are being held this autumn.

Property

1. The new Church doors are to be installed week beginning 7th Nov.
2. A new electric range cooker has been purchased to replace the gas cooker, which has been sold. The surplus wheelchair has also been sold.
3. John Gordon has done much work on new external notice boards, and a card of thanks has been sent to him.
4. All ministers and preachers appointed to take services have the option of using the movable preaching desk (adapted from the upper part of the old pulpit) if they wish to do so. When not in use, it stands as a focal point beneath the cross.
5. The premises are well-used, with, for example, eighteen different groups meeting on various occasions during one week last month.

Church Website

Volunteers are sought to oversee and take responsibility for keeping the various sections of the website up to date. If you are able to serve the church in this way, please speak to Derek, who is hoping to be able to form a group to co-ordinate website input and upkeep.

Worship

Rev Sue explained at Church Council the reasons for the request for the communion bread to be a roll rather than bread cubes - being more reflective of what would have been the practice of Jesus at the time of the institution of the Lord's Supper.

Stationing

Having studied the profiles of Ministers for Stationing in 2017, Circuit Stewards have met with Rev Stephen Wigley, and have submitted a short-list of preferences. If a match is found for us in the first round of Stationing, we shall know on 3rd November, and a visit to the circuit of the prospective minister will be made the following week.

Finance - a note from the Treasurer

At this time of year all Methodist Churches report on the state of their finances. In the last 12 months, excluding the Church Development, it cost us just over £43,000 to maintain our church and continue its mission. We have, though, received more than this in income, just over £44,700. At first glance, financially we are "comfortable" but figures can be misleading, as only £20,800 was received by direct giving, the remainder coming from people's hard work - fundraising in coffee mornings, friendship lunches, funeral refreshments, craft sales, Fairs, and many other activities. We also receive money by renting out our facilities and our garages. The picture, though, would have looked very different had it not been for the government's gift aid refund of £4,300 and the Development Fund dealing with some of our maintenance problems. So I think it is time for us all to review our direct giving particularly as our costs are projected to increase by about 3% next year. Also, I would urge you, if you are a tax payer and do not yet gift aid your giving, please do so, as the government give us back 25p for every £1 you donate. Thanks to you all - please pray for our church and review your giving.