



## WELSHPOOL METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Sue Lawler

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*“Celebrating and Sharing God’s Love”*

## DECEMBER 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).

### “FROM THE HEART” - a Seasonal Reflection

I have a list of folks I know, all written in a book.  
And every year at Christmas time, I go and take a look.  
And this is when I realise that these names are a part,  
Not of the book they are written in, but of my very heart.

For each name stands for someone whose path has touched mine  
Then left such a print of friendship, that I want to touch again.  
And while it may seem trite of me, to make this solemn claim,  
I really feel I am composed of each remembered name.

So never think of Christmas cards as just a mere routine -  
Of names upon a Christmas list, forgotten in between.  
For when I send a Christmas card that is addressed to you,  
It's because you're on that list of folks that I'm indebted to.

And every year when Christmas comes, I realise anew  
That the biggest gift that life can give is knowing folks like you.

Submitted by Gwen Jones

## Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm
- Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> Group to Birmingham Hippodrome for "Nutcracker"
- Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> Carol Singing from 6.30pm (Winter Festival Lights), Cookies and Hot Chocolate. Please join us!
- Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> Winter Festival Coffee Morning & Friendship Lunch, with Craft and Festive Stalls, 10am- 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 4<sup>th</sup> December Second Sunday of Advent

### Lectionary

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matt 3:1 -12

**Morning Worship** at 10.45am led by Canon Julia Francis. B&S Lunch.

**Compline** with Holy Communion, at 6pm in the Gallery with Rev Sue

### This week:

- Monday 5<sup>th</sup> Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm
- Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> Carol Singing at The Hermitage, 10.30am  
Bible Reading Group at 12  
Park Lane People's Christingle, 1.30pm(?)

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December      Third Sunday of Advent**

**Lectionary**

Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

**Morning Worship** with Communion, at 10.45am led by Rev Sue Lawler

**Evening Worship** at 6pm at New Street - WCT

**Welshpool Choral Society Christmas Concert** in our church, 7.30pm.

"The Fourth Wise Man" : music by Beryl Jones. £6 inc refreshments. Please support 8 members of our Jubilate Group who are taking part.

**This week:**

Monday 12<sup>th</sup>      Coffee Morning for Action for Children with Jubilate;  
Playgroup's Christingle at 1pm

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>      Carol Singing at The Lodge, The Rhallt, 2.30pm  
Service of Light, 7pm

Friday 16<sup>th</sup>      Fellowship 'Celebration of Christmas' and Tea, 2.30pm

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>      Carol Singing for Action for Children, Pinewood, 9.30am  
Friendship Lunch, 11am to 2pm  
WCT Carols in the Corn Exchange from 2pm

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December      Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Lectionary**

Isaiah 7: 10-16; Psalm 80:1-7,17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

**Early Communion** at 9am with Rev Sue Lawler

**Morning Worship** at 10.45am led by Nigel Evans

**Carols and Christingles** at 6pm, followed by seasonal refreshments

**This week:**

Monday 19<sup>th</sup>      Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>      Christmas Eve Midnight Communion service, 11.30pm

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December      Christmas Day**

**Morning Worship** at 10am: Christmas Celebration led by Rev Sue

*Celia's poem for Christmas: **CHRISTMAS JOY***

There was a star shining bright to guide wise men on their way  
On a journey through the night to find a new born baby,  
Who in a manger lay.

The baby was named Jesus,  
But he did not know how special He would be, for  
He was born to be King of All - a Saviour for you and me.

We celebrate His birth at Christmas,  
For that's when He was born;  
We hear all the bells ring out early each Christmas morn.

It is a special time to share with friends and family,  
With lots of fun and laughter,  
and gifts beneath the tree.

Like the wise men on their journey, we're on a journey, too,  
Thanks to a tiny baby  
Who was born to guide us, all our lifetime through.

**Will you share your CHRISTMAS JOY with others? Please:**

1. Sign the Church Christmas card which can be found in the Foyer, expressing your greetings to one another. Any donation you wish to make in lieu of sending individual cards will be donated to Powys Dementia Friends, the local charity we are supporting this year.
2. Respond to the Methodist Homes for the Aged Envelope Appeal for their work with the elderly, providing residential and nursing care, apartments for assisted living, and the Live at Home Scheme Volunteer service which enables the elderly to remain in their own homes for as long as possible. A Gift Envelope can be found at the back of the leaflet you will find within this Bulletin - please tear it off, place your gift inside, and return by Christmas. Thank you.

## CHURCH NEWS AND UPDATES

**CONGRATULATIONS** to two of our church members who will be celebrating their 90<sup>th</sup> Birthdays this month - Harry Owen on 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Geoff Spencer on 6<sup>th</sup>. We offer them our very best wishes.

### STATIONING FOR SEPTEMBER 2017

Rev Sue has been offered the Superintendent appointment in the Gwent Hills and Vales Circuit, the largest circuit in the Wales Synod, with 33 churches and chapels - quite a different challenge to that which she has had in Welshpool and Bro Hafren! She has accepted, and, subject to ratification by Conference in June, she will be moving to Cwmbran in the summer. Her Farewell Service will be held at Welshpool on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July.

Unfortunately, we did not receive a "match" in the first round of Stationing, so we don't have news yet of an incoming minister to replace Rev Sue, but the Circuit Leadership Team has met again with Rev Stephen Wigley, and hope for better news after Stationing Round 2. However, we all need to be aware that there is a serious shortfall of available ministers to fill the remaining appointments.

### DEVELOPMENT GROUP

With the Development almost complete, the Group held its last official meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> November. With the first of our forty Development Group meetings being held in February 2012, it has taken almost 5 years to realise our vision - with lots of heartache, but also high points, along the way. Overall, we are very satisfied with the results of all the work that has been done, and hope you are too. When the final accounts are completed, they will be published, but at this stage, we are pleased to report that we are in budget, and the scheme, which will have cost in total £211,000, will not be leaving us in debt, thanks to the support and generosity of so many individuals, groups, and local and national charitable organisations.

*Anne, Derek, Eric, Fiona, Gordon, Janice, Karen and Rev Sue - Development Group*

## MARY

The soft brown dust upon a stony floor  
Soon shifts and slides between the sandaled toes  
Of those who nudge inside a crowded door,  
To glimpse a baby, born in fetid dark,  
Among the curious beasts whose body warmth  
Some comfort gives, to one for whom this birth  
Is both a blessing and a sombre weight  
Of worried thought for what she has to do.  
So young a mother, such an anxious time;  
Although supported by a caring man,  
Through weary eyes it seems the very streets  
Give up the mob, to push into their space.  
For now, no peace, no privacy, no sleep,  
The news has spread somehow, that in this place  
Of dust and dung, in busy Bethlehem,  
A child is born whose name will rock the world,  
But just for now is nursed within the arms  
Of Mary, patient girl, whose heavy eyes  
Are dark with weakness and with recent pain,  
Yet still she knows a mother's deepest joy;  
The place is foul and maybe worse to come  
But warm and solid in her aching arms  
Asleep and safe, her angel-promised son.  
At last she dozes while the crowd looks on.

*Andrea Davies*