



## WELSHPOOL METHODIST CHURCH

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*"Celebrating and Sharing God's Love"*

## JANUARY 2017 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).

**A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS!**

### "JANUARY PRAYER"

When the shrouded hills look grey and cold  
Let us remember sparkling frosty days.  
When the skies are loaded low with clouds  
Let us remember skylarks in the blue.  
When the land is clutched by winter's fist  
Let us remember trickling streams of spring.  
When the howling winds blast creaking trees  
Let us remember golden sunset peace.  
Amongst these thoughts of other, kinder times  
We find you, Lord; for You indeed, are love.  
We pray that we may learn to trust this endless love  
And in it find the hope and joy for all our days.

Andrea Davies

## Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January

### Lectionary

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

**Morning Worship** at 10.45am led by Rev Michael Taylor

### This week:

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12  
Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> 'Reading the Bible Together' at 12; Picnic Lunch  
Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Coffee Morning & Friendship Lunch, 11-2  
Montgomery Festival 'Messiah' Choral Workshop, 10-6

## Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January

### Lectionary

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

**Morning Worship (Covenant Service)** at 10.45am led by Rev Sue

**Bring and Share Lunch**

**Compline with Holy Communion** at 6pm in church with Rev Sue (WCT)

### This week:

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> Bible Fellowship at 7 Little Henfaes Drive, 7.30pm  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> Music Club Concert: Mauro lo Conte, Piano, 7.30pm  
Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> Alpha Group "Away Day" at the Manse

## Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January

### Lectionary

Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:25-42

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

**Morning Worship** at 10.45am led by Terry Jobling

### This week:

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> 'Reading the Bible Together' at 12; Picnic Lunch  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> Fellowship with Rev Sue, 2.30pm  
Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> Coffee Morning, Friendship Lunch, & Crafts, 11-2

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January

#### Lectionary

Isaiah 9: 1-4; Psalm 27:1,4 -9;1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

**Morning Worship** at 10.45am led by Rev Bill Rowell

**Afternoon Tea Service** at 4pm, led by Rev Bob Thomas.

#### This week:

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm  
Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> Bible Fellowship, 7.30pm (venue to be announced)  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> Plygain at Arddleen, 7.30pm (Jubilate to take part)

### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January

#### Lectionary

Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

**Morning Worship** at 10.45am, to which we welcome our friends from St Mary's, led by Rev Sue Lawler and the Schools' Impact Team

**Evening Worship** at 6.30pm at Cefn, led by Rev Bob Thomas

#### This week:

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm  
Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> Property & Finance Committee, 7.15pm (date change)  
Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> 'Reading the Bible Together' at 12; Picnic Lunch  
Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> Church Council, 7pm  
Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> Coffee Morning and Friendship Lunch, 11-2

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February

**Morning Worship** at 10.45am led by Jubilate. Bring & Share Lunch.  
**Compline and Holy Communion** at 6pm in the Gallery with Rev Sue.

### ***Methodist Homes for the Aged Envelope Appeal***

*The response to this has been rather disappointing, but if you wish to make a donation for MHA's work, it is not too late to do so. If you have mislaid your Gift Envelope, simply place your donation in an envelope marked "MHA" and put in the collection plate. Thank you.*

### ***Update on Stationing for 2017***

*We have to report that Round 2 of Stationing, held in November, again failed to find us a Superintendent Minister for September. The Circuit Leadership Team is in contact with Rev Stephen Wigley, Synod Chair, who will be attending Stationing Round 3 this month. If we are again unsuccessful, he will be meeting with us over the next few months to help us plan the way forward.*

### ***Better news!***

*Two of our members, Andrea Davies and Derek Painter, have been considering possible "calls to preach/lead worship" in recent months. Both attended the November Circuit Preachers' Meeting, and we are delighted to report that Andrea has been given "a note to preach" as she embarks on Local Preacher training (she will lead the service on 5th February), and that Derek will be training alongside her for the first part of the course, until he qualifies as a Worship Leader.*

### ***Saturday Lunches - can you help?***

*Our twice monthly Saturday lunches not only provide a service to our community, but also a valuable source of income for our church. However, if they are to continue, we need more volunteers to join the teams, or act as "reserves". In particular we need a permanent volunteer for "front of house" on the 1st Saturday in the month to help to take orders. We also require those willing to perform general duties (taking out orders, clearing tables, occasional washing up etc.) as the need arises. If you (male or female!) can offer 3 hours' help once a month please speak to Janice or Chris.*

## **New Year Thoughts (from "The Friendship Book" 2017)**

"Every first of January, so it says in the 1862 Book of Days, is at once a resting place for thought and meditations, and a starting point for fresh exertion in the performance of our journey.

"The man who does not at least propose to himself to be better this year than he was last, must either be very good or very bad indeed."

Well, most of us probably fall somewhere in the middle of that assessment; not too bad - but not as good as we might be.

Resolutions are all very well - and often all very temporary - but if we try to be better this year than we were last, and then do the same next year, then step by step, year by year, we shall edge ever closer to being "very good indeed".

As we commit to such improvements, we become very aware of the limitations of our will-power. But there is always help on hand. Drawing on the Good Lord's strength and support may we all be new and better creations in His service, in this year of 2017 and beyond".

## **From the current Methodist e-newsletter .. a 'Timely Reminder'**

The Methodist Church is one of the largest Christian Churches serving Great Britain, with nearly 209,000 members and regular contact with 512,000 people. It has 5,023 churches in Great Britain, and also maintains links with other Methodist churches in a worldwide total membership of over 80 million. Its activities are based on four aims known as OUR CALLING (which are explained on our Membership Tickets):

- \* To increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love (WORSHIP)
- \* To help people to grow and learn as Christians through mutual support and care (LEARNING AND CARING)
- \* To be a good neighbour to people in need (SERVICE)
- \* To make more followers of Jesus Christ (EVANGELISM)

May we resolve to make these our personal aims for this New Year.

## **"Another New Year": Celia Hoare**

Another year has passed, a new one has begun.  
May it bring peace and happiness for each and every one.

Soon it will be springtime - daffodils and snowdrops poke their heads up  
through the ground, and little lambs dance all around.

You will hear a blackbird sing, celebrating the birth of young;  
How wonderful and magical for each new life begun.

Whatever the year brings forth, we know that God is there;  
He will be walking beside us, guiding us with His tender care.

## **"In the Autumn of their Years"**

Submitted Pat Pritchard,  
from the news sheet of St John's by Methodist Church, Llandudno.

The Church is full of people  
in the Autumn of their years.  
Some have led colourful lives  
leaves bronzed and golden  
through exposure to the elements  
their appearance the centre of attention.

Others have been exposed  
to more extreme conditions  
branches bowed and scarred.

Some go unnoticed,  
yet stand tall and steadfast  
against wind and rain.

All have a story to tell.  
All can offer support and shelter  
for saplings which grow beneath  
their leafy canopy.