



## WELSHPOOL METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Sue Lawler

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[www.welshpoolmethodist.org](http://www.welshpoolmethodist.org)

*“Celebrating and Sharing God’s Love”*

## FEBRUARY 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).

### FEBRUARY PRAYER

As children, Father, we are taught in rhyme  
That February brings the thawing rain.  
We watch the scudding clouds above the hill  
And see the blackened guttering that drips  
And drips; but many never have the chance  
To glimpse a raincloud mask their scorching sun,  
Then shed its tears to slake the choking dust  
And germinate some green amongst the stones.  
We pray for them and also for ourselves.  
We must not take for granted winter rain,  
That fills the lakes and makes the rivers run;  
For blessings such as these we give you thanks.

*Andrea Davies*

### THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Always remember to forget the things that made you sad;  
But never forget to remember the things that made you glad.

## 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 6.00pm 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  
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 & Friendship Lunch, 11-2

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

### Lectionary

Isaiah 58:1-9a; Psalm 112:1-9; 1 Corinthians 2:1-12; Matthew 5:13-20

**Morning Worship** at 10.45am led by Andrea Davies and Jubilate

**Bring and Share Lunch**

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

### This week:

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm  
Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> Jubilate, 7.15pm (for "Torn Curtain" by Roger Jones)  
Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> Bible Fellowship at 7.30pm (venue to be announced)  
Wednes. 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting re: Women's World Day of Prayer at RC, 2pm  
Any lady willing to take part in the service by reading a short passage or prayer, please speak to Janice  
Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> 'Walking with Friends': along the Severn Way, from Llandrinio to Welshpool. Details from Derek.

## Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February

### Lectionary

Deut.30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37

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

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

### This week:

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm  
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> Jubilate, "Torn Curtain", 7.15pm  
Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> 'Reading the Bible Together' at 12; Picnic Lunch  
Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> Music Club Concert: Tenor and Piano, 7.30pm  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> Fellowship at 2.30pm with speaker John Ellis: "Twins"  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> Gallery Group, 7pm  
Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> Coffee Morning & Friendship Lunch, 11-2

## Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February

### Lectionary

Levit. 19:1-2,9-18; Psalm 119:33-40; 1 Corinth. 3:10-11, 16-23; Matt. 5:38-48

**Early Communion** at 9am led by Rev Sue Lawler; breakfast.

**Morning Worship** at 10.45am led by Rev Bob Thomas

### This week:

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm  
Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> Jubilate, "Torn Curtain", 7.15pm  
Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> Bible Fellowship, 7.30pm (venue to be announced)  
Wednes. 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting re: Women's World Day of Prayer at RC, 2pm  
Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> Circuit Finance & General Purposes, 7pm at Newtown  
Friday 24<sup>th</sup> Development Group Meal to mark end of all works, at The Dragon Hotel, Montgomery, 6.30pm for 6.45pm

## Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February (Sunday before Lent)

### Lectionary

Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2 or Psalm 99; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

**Morning Worship** at 10.45am led by Graham Smith

**Afternoon Tea Service** at 4pm led by Derek and the Stewards

### This week:

Monday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Jubilate, 7.15pm (for "Torn Curtain" by Roger Jones)
Wednes. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Ash Wednesday Service, 7pm, led by Rev Sue (WCT)
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	'Reading the Bible Together' at 12; Picnic Lunch
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Derek's Quiz Night & Supper, 7.30pm in the Gallery
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Women's World Day of Prayer Service, 2pm, RC church
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee Morning and Friendship Lunch

## Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March (1<sup>st</sup> in Lent)

### Lectionary

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

**Morning Worship** at 10.45am led by Rev Keith Fantham

(No Bring and Share Lunch - this month on 19<sup>th</sup>)

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

### WCT Lent Groups: "Praying the Statues"

These will be held each Wednesday in Lent, 7 for 7.30pm at New Street, and will be led by the different churches:

March 8 <sup>th</sup>	St Mary's: "The Way of Faith"
March 15 <sup>th</sup>	Welsh Chapel: "The Way of Hope"
March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Baptist: "The Way of Pity & Power, Compassion & Love"
March 29 <sup>th</sup>	New Street: "The Way of Suffering and Redemption"
April 5 <sup>th</sup>	Methodist: "The Way of Joy and Life"

## **Update on Stationing for 2017**

Unfortunately Round 3 of Stationing, held in January, again failed to find us a Superintendent Minister for September. Rev Stephen Wigley, Synod Chair, is holding meetings with the Circuit Leadership Team to explore various possibilities for the way forward.

## **Better news!**

There has been a pleasing response to our appeal for more volunteers for Saturday lunches: Audrey and John K have joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday team, Selina has joined the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday team, and Marilyn and Clive have joined the pool of reserves. Thanks to them all. If there are others who would like to help, please get in touch.

## **'Walking with Friends' (from Derek Painter)**

"I enjoy walking, particularly in the Welsh Mountains, the Lake District and the Scottish Highlands, but have not walked regularly for a few years. It was such a joy, then, when a few of us met together last year to talk about starting a walking group - it is so much more fun when there is someone to walk with and talk to. So, the 'Walking with Friends' group was started.

"We walk on the second Saturday of each month and the walks vary in terrain, type and length. So far we have walked between Fairbourne and Barmouth, up Rodney's Pillar, along Stiperstones, from Pentre Llifior Chapel to our church, and around Powis Castle and the canal. Numbers have varied but not the enjoyment, which has always been good.

**"Future walks are being planned but the programme for the year has not been established yet. However, the next two walks have been - on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February we hope to walk along the Severn Way from Llandrinio back to Welshpool and on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March we are thinking of a City Centre Walk in Hereford, taking in the cathedral and other places of interest. Why not join us!"**

### **Derek adds:**

By the way, if YOU have an interest which others may share why not bring it to church? You never know what might happen!

### **'Reading the Bible Together'**

How many of us, if we are honest, are disciplined enough in our busy lives to spend much of our time reading our Bibles? How familiar are we with some of the less "popular" books which rarely feature in our lectionary readings on Sundays? This informal group provides the opportunity to read together books of the Bible, both familiar and unfamiliar, on a regular basis, for half an hour each fortnight. We meet on alternate Thursdays at 12, and to date have read through Isaiah, Ruth and Esther from the Old Testament, and the gospels of Matthew and Mark, and now we plan to read through some of the Minor Prophets, starting with Amos this month. This is not a Bible study - no previous knowledge is necessary, so why not join us? You will be most welcome. (Bring a picnic lunch if you have time to stay for a chat afterwards - drinks provided).

### **'The Torn Curtain' (to be sung on Palm Sunday, 9th April, at 6pm)**

Rehearsals for our next Roger Jones musical begin this month on Tuesdays evenings at 7.15pm as well as on Monday mornings at 10am.

This work is somewhat different to others Jubilate have presented, the title referring to the curtain in the Temple that was torn in two at the moment when Jesus died. We are taken to the Most Holy Place in the Temple, where we sing "Jesus, I come before you", and as we stand in the Holy of Holies, we allow his Spirit to come to us to bring healing and renewal. At this point in the musical, Roger has included a setting of the Eucharist, and we shall all share Holy Communion together - it promises to be an intimate and moving experience for both singers and congregation. If you would like to sing with us, please come along - music provided.

## Special Dates this month - see Prayer List

### **Candlemas - February 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Candlemas, also known as the *Feast of the Purification of Mary and the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus* is a Christian festival commemorating the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple (see Luke 2:22-38). It falls on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, which is traditionally the 40<sup>th</sup> day of the Christmas-Epiphany season. While it is customary for Christians in some countries to remove their Christmas decorations on Twelfth Night, those in other Christian countries remove them on Candlemas. In some traditions on Candlemas, Christians bring their candles to their local church, where they are blessed and then used for the rest of the year.

### **Racial Justice Sunday - February 12<sup>th</sup>**

The Methodist Church has celebrated Racial Justice Sunday since 1989, and since 1995 it has become an ecumenical event celebrated in Britain and Ireland.

"We believe that the universe was created by a loving God who chose to become a human being in Jesus Christ, who has redeemed the world and sent the Holy Spirit to enable us to love one another with God's love. All human beings are equally children of God and loved by God. Since none is outside the love of God, none should be outside our love either.

We believe that the diversity of the human race was no mistake on God's part. God deliberately created variety within the human family and wants us to take as much delight in that variety as God does. But racism persists in Britain and Ireland. At its most obvious and brutal, it takes the form of physical attacks, which sometimes end in murder. But it takes many other forms as well, like discrimination within the police force, popular prejudice against Travellers or people seeking asylum, or reluctance to accept people of a different ethnic or cultural group as neighbours. Even within churches, people can face discrimination and unkindness because they are different from the majority in a particular community.

As long as this continues, we believe that it is important to make time to give thanks for our diversity and to pray for God's help in overcoming our prejudices and the injustices that reflect and reinforce them".

(From The Methodist Church in Britain website: [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk))

### **Poverty Action Sunday - 26<sup>th</sup> February**

We are asked to pray this special prayer for Church Action on Poverty Sunday, praying together with hundreds of other church congregations and individuals around the UK:

You call us, God -

You call us out of a harsh land and into freedom

You call us out of despair and apathy

You call us into a vision of another way of living.

You call us, Jesus -

You call us into hope and friendship

You call us to build up your kingdom

You call us to break bread with you and with the hungry

You call us, Holy Spirit

You call us to transformation

You call us to shine into the darkness

You call us into the world to change it.

Give us the strength to follow where you call.

Amen

(Marie Pattison, Katherine House. For more information on Church Action on Poverty go to the website: [www.church-poverty.org.uk](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk))



### **"Priorities!" (Submitted by Terry Jobling)**

Friends may be interested to hear of a quaint incident which occurred some years ago in the Methodist chapel of Barden in North Yorkshire. The congregation had been reduced to two ladies, probably sisters, who faithfully maintained worship.

Sister Rosalind, known to Eileen and I, arrived to conduct morning worship and was given a warm welcome. But then a request - would she mind if one of the sisters slipped out at a quarter to twelve to put the Yorkshire puddings in? It would appear that the correct cooking of the puds was more important than hearing all the sermon!

### **From a Letters Column (Submitted by Pat Pritchard)**

SIR - The Rev David Deeks's letter mentioning the social aspect of religion, reminds me of what I was told by a visiting American clergyman:

"The Methodists pick people out of the gutter; the Baptists wash them; the Presbyterians educate them. The Episcopalians introduce them to all the right people - and then the Methodists pick them out of the gutter again."

(Name and address supplied)

### **"Loving Lord"**

Lord, you are our anchor, our strength and our rock.

We need you so much and ask of you such a lot.

We need you to guide us through each day,

For when we are lost you show us the way.

When we are weak, you make us strong,

When we are troubled you help us along.

Loving Lord, you are always there, showing us how much you care.

Thank you Lord, for all that you do,

For our lives would be so empty without you.

(Celia Hoare)

### **"An Unremarkable Morning"**

This is the title of a recently published selection of poems by Andrea Davies. One of her poems 'BROWN HARES' begins:

An unremarkable morning  
Sullen skies  
Matched my mood.  
I walked from necessity  
Or habit, not desire.  
The dog leapt  
Straining at the leash,  
Rough and tight,  
It tore my hand.  
Ahead on the lane,  
Unperturbed,  
A regal brown hare ran ....

If you would like to read the rest of this poem, and all the others in the collection, why not purchase a copy of the book? You will not be disappointed! (£8.99 for a signed copy, from Andrea)

### **Important Dates for the Diary**

19<sup>th</sup> March at 10.45am

Rev Dr Stephen Wigley is guest preacher at a Service of Celebration for the Completion of the Development, followed by Celebration Lunch

1<sup>st</sup> April

Spring Fair (to be held at Church instead of the Corn Exchange)

2<sup>nd</sup> July at 11am at Marton

Marquee Service followed by Bring and Share Picnic Lunch

19<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm at Welshpool

Farewell Service for Rev Sue

29<sup>th</sup> July. 8.30am from Welshpool

Church Outing to Lichfield and the National Arboretum at Alrewas