



WELSHPOOL METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Sue Lawler

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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 29th 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 30th Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm
Thursday 2nd 'Reading the Bible Together' at 12; Picnic Lunch
Thursday 2nd Church Council, 7pm
Saturday 4th Coffee Morning & Friendship Lunch, 11-2

Sunday 5th 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 6th Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm
Tuesday 7th Jubilate, 7.15pm (for "Torn Curtain" by Roger Jones)
Tuesday 7th Bible Fellowship at 7.30pm (venue to be announced)
Wednes. 8th 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 11th 'Walking with Friends': along the Severn Way, from Llandrinio to Welshpool. Details from Derek.

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

Sunday 19th 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 20th Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm
- Tuesday 21st Jubilate, "Torn Curtain", 7.15pm
- Tuesday 21st Bible Fellowship, 7.30pm (venue to be announced)
- Wednes. 22nd Meeting re: Women's World Day of Prayer at RC, 2pm
- Thursday 23rd Circuit Finance & General Purposes, 7pm at Newtown
- Friday 24th Development Group Meal to mark end of all works, at The Dragon Hotel, Montgomery, 6.30pm for 6.45pm

Sunday 26th 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 27th Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm
- Tuesday 28th Jubilate, 7.15pm (for "Torn Curtain" by Roger Jones)
- Wednes. 1st Ash Wednesday Service, 7pm, led by Rev Sue (WCT)
- Thursday 2nd 'Reading the Bible Together' at 12; Picnic Lunch
- Thursday 2nd Derek's Quiz Night & Supper, 7.30pm in the Gallery
- Friday 3rd Women's World Day of Prayer Service, 2pm, RC church
- Saturday 4th Coffee Morning and Friendship Lunch

Sunday 5th March (1st 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 19th)

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 8th St Mary's: "The Way of Faith"
- March 15th Welsh Chapel: "The Way of Hope"
- March 22nd Baptist: "The Way of Pity & Power, Compassion & Love"
- March 29th New Street: "The Way of Suffering and Redemption"
- April 5th 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 1st Saturday team, Selina has joined the 3rd 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 11th February we hope to walk along the Severn Way from Llandrinio back to Welshpool and on Saturday 11th 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 2nd

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 2nd, which is traditionally the 40th 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 12th

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)

Poverty Action Sunday - 26th 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)

"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

19th 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

1st April

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

2nd July at 11am at Marton

Marquee Service followed by Bring and Share Picnic Lunch

19th July at 7pm at Welshpool

Farewell Service for Rev Sue

29th July. 8.30am from Welshpool

Church Outing to Lichfield and the National Arboretum at Alrewas