



WELSHPOOL METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Sue Lawler

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“Celebrating and Sharing God’s Love”

MARCH 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).

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH: “A PRAYER FOR MARCH”

When March winds whistle through the trees
And branches bend and sway above,
Then let us pray for winds of change
That bring a time of peace and love.

When March winds drive the drenching rain
To rinse all winter’s drab away,
Then let us pray for winds of change,
That we might care and share each day.

When March winds send the scudding clouds
To roll and race across the blue,
Then let us pray for winds of change
That joy and hope may spring anew.

When March winds calm to gentler breaths
And sunshine fills a quiet sky,
Then let us work and pray for change
That brings your promised “Here am I”. (Andrea Davies)

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
Friday 3rd Women's World Day of Prayer Service, 2pm, RC church
Friday 3rd "Understanding Methodism" (1) in the Gallery, 7pm
Saturday 4th Coffee Morning and Friendship Lunch

Sunday 5th March (1st in Lent) Lectionary

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 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)
Wednes. 8th Lent Group led by St Mary's at New St. 7 for 7.30pm
Thursday 9th Circuit Meeting, 7pm at Newtown
Friday 10th "Understanding Methodism" (2) in the Gallery, 7pm
Saturday 11th 'Walking with Friends' in Hereford. See notice board.

Sunday 12th March (2nd in Lent)

Lectionary

Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-7

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

Evening Worship at 6pm at the Baptist Church (WCT)

This week:

Sunday 12th Jubilate's 6th Anniversary Lunch at the Lakeside, 1pm
Monday 13th Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm
Tuesday 14th Jubilate, 7.15pm (for "Torn Curtain" by Roger Jones)
Wednes. 15th Lent Group led by Welsh Chapel at New St. 7 for 7.30
Thursday 16th 'Reading the Bible Together' at 12; Picnic Lunch
Friday 17th Fellowship at 2.30pm: "Irish Connections"
Friday 17th Gallery Group, 7pm
Saturday 18th Coffee Morning and Friendship Lunch

Sunday 19th March (3rd in Lent)

Lectionary

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

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

Morning Service at 10.45am with Rev Dr Stephen Wigley & Rev Sue and contributions from Jubilate - a Service of Thanksgiving for the Completion of the Development, followed by a Celebration Lunch
(please get your free ticket in advance from Janice, Gwen or Eric)

This week:

Monday 20th Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm
Tuesday 21st Jubilate, 7.15pm (for "Torn Curtain" by Roger Jones)
Wednes. 22nd Lent Group led by Jennie Willson, New St, 7 for 7.30

Sunday 26th March (Mothering Sunday, 4th in Lent)

Lectionary

1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

Morning Worship at 10.45am led by Terry Jobling

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)
Wednesday 29th Lent Group led by New Street at New St. 7 for 7.30
Thursday 30th 'Reading the Bible Together' at 12; Picnic Lunch
Saturday 1st SPRING FAIR in Church, 10am - raffle & usual stalls & coffee, with Friendship Lunch in the Meeting Room

Sunday 2nd April (5th in Lent)

Lectionary

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

Morning Worship at 10.45am led by Rev Bob Thomas, followed by Bring and Share Lunch

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

This week:

Monday 3rd Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm
Tuesday 4th Jubilate, 7.15pm (for "Torn Curtain" by Roger Jones)
Wednesday 5th Lent Group led by Gordon Rhodes, New St. 7 for 7.30

Palm Sunday 9th April at 6pm

Jubilate present "THE TORN CURTAIN" by Roger Jones

A musical for Holy Week which includes Holy Communion

News Updates

Stationing

Following our unsuccessful attempts to be matched with a minister through this year's Stationing process, Rev Stephen Wigley suggested that we might meet with a Supernumerary Minister of his acquaintance, **Rev Marian Jones**, currently assisting part-time until the end of August in the Cheshire South Circuit. Rev Bob and Circuit Stewards had a very fruitful discussion with Rev Marian when she visited Welshpool on 20th February, resulting in her offering to the North section of the circuit the equivalent of two days per week and six/seven preaching appointments per quarter from 1st September, for 12 months, mainly based at our church here, with occasional input at Cefn and Pentre Llifior. The Circuit Meeting on 9th March will vote on a proposal to invite Rev Marian for 12 months from 1st September 2017 and we are looking forward to the expected positive outcome.

We discovered that Rev Marian is no stranger to our area, having been born in Powys. Following the completion of her nursing training, she worked as a Ward Sister at Welshpool Hospital before entering the ministry. Her home is at Acrefair, near Wrexham, where she will continue to live during her time with us.

The circuit plans to go to Stationing again next year and hopes to be successful in securing a full-time minister for September 2018.

Development

All the work associated with our Church Redevelopment is complete. The new cooker has been installed in the kitchen and is in use. As you will have read in the weekly diary, on Sunday 19th March we are celebrating with a special service followed by a Lunch. (**PLEASE** get your ticket in advance to avoid disappointment). Over the page you will find full details of the Development final account, and you will see that we have come in on budget. Thanks, once again, from the Development Group for your support over the last few years. *Anne, Derek, Eric, Fiona, Gordon, Janice, Karen (and Rhiannon for the first year) & Rev Sue*

Bible Fellowship (from Terry Jobling. For more details phone 52349)

Friends will have noted that this meeting regularly crops up in the church notices (during Lent we join the Ecumenical Group meetings) but may wonder what happens. This brief note may be of interest.

Some half a dozen of us meet every other week in one of our homes to discuss a portion of the Bible. We usually look at a particular book for a series of sessions. The study is taken seriously but with a 'light touch' and some humour. In no way is this detailed technical scholarship. We usually have three hymns from 'the Green Book', a prayer, and end with "Arthur's blessing" (a memory of Arthur Painter, a faithful member).

Although this is a house meeting we fully accept that not everyone can open up their homes, but all are fully welcome to the group.

Jubilate "A Bit of Prose" (by Prue Bowen)

We meet on a Monday morning - our aim is to sing in tune!

There's a lot of talk over coffee and cake as we lubricate our larynx.

Our leader appears. With a look at her watch, she shepherds us into the chapel.

She quells with a look, and silence descends.

Then we listen to "Thought for the Day".

We eagerly look at the music she's brought - and faces are pulled here and there!

"I know the words, but I like the OLD tune"

"I'll NEVER hit that high note!"

She looks around at her mutinous choir....

"We'll learn it in no time!" she says.

What a lot she has to put up with
when her (mostly) over 60's children rebel.

But with humour and determination she perseveres

Until one day maybe - we'll sound like King's College Choir!!!

We work hard, but at the same time have a lot of fun - all are welcome, 10am to 11.30am. JR

The Joy of Spring

Now that Winter's almost gone,
And Spring is almost here,
It fills our hearts with hope again,
For we can feel God's presence near.

Snowdrops show off their white bridal gowns
While daffodils dance in bright new frocks,
Creating a carpet of gold all around,
And in the distance a lark is singing - such a beautiful sound.

It's a time of new hopes and beginnings,
A fresh start for all to be found,
So let's all join our hands together
And scatter seeds of love all around.
(Celia Hoare)

"Dust if you must!"

(Some appropriate words for those of us who hate spring cleaning!)

Dust if you must, but wouldn't it be better
To paint a picture or write a letter, to bake a cake or plant a seed,
Or to ponder the difference between want and need?

Dust if you must,
But there's not much time with rivers to swim, mountains to climb,
Music to hear and books to read; friends to cherish and life to lead.

Dust if you must, but the world's out there
With the sun in your eyes and the wind in your hair, a flutter of snow, a
shower of rain - this day will not come round again.

Dust if you must,
But bear in mind old age will come ... and it's not kind.
And when you go, as go you must, you yourself will make more dust!

(Anon. Submitted by Edith Thomas)

Unlucky Number

(From Patrick Kidd's column in *The Times Diary*)

I've been running a series on inappropriate music at funerals and received an email about an occasion when the deceased had requested 'Sally' by Gracie Fields ("when skies are blue, you're beguiling, and when they're grey, you're still smiling"). Alas, the crematorium assistant in charge of the CD player picked the wrong track and Sally disappeared to the strains of "Wish Me Luck As You Wave Me Goodbye".

Radio Wales Sunday Morning "CELEBRATION" services

Many of you will have been involved in the services we have recorded in recent years for the Radio Wales Sunday morning "Celebration" slot, broadcast at 7.30am. The producer of the programme must think WE sing the RIGHT numbers (!) as we have been asked to record two more services to be broadcast later in the summer.

We shall be putting the services together very soon, and, as before, we'll need to meet as a congregation to rehearse the hymns prior to the recording. Please do your best to join us and bring along your friends. Dates to note:

Thursday 19th May, 7pm to 9pm Hymn rehearsal for congregation
Tuesday 23rd May, 6pm to 9pm Recording the services
Sunday 25th June, 7.30am Broadcast of Service 1
Sunday 27th August, 7.30am Broadcast of Service 2

Other Dates for the Diary

10/04 By train to Birmingham: Symphony Hall Lunchtime Organ Recital.
Book with Janice. Details on notice board. (Tickets £6 + train fare)

20/05 Plant Sale, 9-12

25/06 Annual Church Meeting after morning service

01/07 Concert: VOICES IN HARMONY (choir of 60 from Halesowen)

02/07 Open Air Service in Marquee, followed by Picnic, at Marton, 11am

19/07 Farewell Service for Rev Sue, 7pm

29/07 Outing to Lichfield and the National Arboretum