



WELSHPOOL METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Sue Lawler

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"Celebrating and Sharing God's Love"

APRIL 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).

THANKS to all who responded so generously to the **Emergency Appeal** for the Famine areas in East Africa, which has raised £353. Our next appeal is the annual **Easter Offering**. Please return your gift for the work of **Methodist Mission** in the envelope provided by the end of April. A Circuit Service for the Dedication of the Easter Offering will be held at Newtown on Sunday 21st May at 6pm.

HOLY WEEK EVENTS:

Palm Sunday: 10.45am Rev Sue (HC); 6pm Jubilate: "Torn Curtain"

Tuesday 10th: 7.00pm Stations of the Cross at St Winefride's

Thursday 12th: 7.00pm Agape with Tenebrae at our church

Good Friday: 10.45am Walk of Witness from St Winefride's then

11.30am United Service in the Corn Exchange

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

"You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving".

Appropriate words for us to reflect upon this Eastertide.

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; Stewards' Meeting at 7pm

Tuesday 4th Jubilate, 7.15pm (for "Torn Curtain" by Roger Jones)

Wednes. 5th Lent Group led by Rev Sue, New Street, 7 for 7.30.

Saturday 8th Walking with Friends: Long Mynd. Dep. church at 10am.

Palm Sunday 9th April

Lectionary

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 21:1-11

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

Evening Worship at 6pm - a Churches Together service at which we also welcome friends from Newtown and Cefn Methodist churches. **Jubilate present "THE TORN CURTAIN" by Roger Jones**, with soloists Andrea Davies, Fiona Jones, Tony Deacon and Bill Rowell.

This week:

Monday 10th Coffee Morning 9.30am; Playgroup at 1pm; Group to Birmingham for Lunchtime Organ Recital, dept. 8.55am

Tuesday 11th Stations of the Cross at St. Winefride's, 7pm

Thursday 13th 'Reading the Bible Together' and Picnic Lunch, 12noon

Thursday 13th Agape Meal and Tenebrae, 7pm

Friday 14th Good Friday Walk of Witness, from St. Winefride's at 10.45am, to the Corn Exchange for service at 11.30am

Saturday 15th Open Church, Coffee Morning and Friendship Lunches

Easter Day 16th April

Lectionary

Jer. 31:1-6; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-8

Easter Communion at 8.30am with Rev Sue, followed by breakfast

Morning Worship at 10.45am led by John Harbron

Easter Praise at 6pm led by Terry Jobling and Derek Painter

This week:

Monday 17th Coffee Morning 9.30am

Friday 21st Fellowship, 2.30pm, sharing Seasonal Readings & Music

Friday 21st Gallery Group, 7pm

Sunday 23rd April

Lectionary

Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

Morning Worship at 10.45am led by Graham Smith

Evening Worship at 6pm led by Rev Sue Lawler

This week:

Monday 24th Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm

Thursday 27th 'Reading the Bible Together' and Picnic Lunch, 12noon

Sunday 30th April

Lectionary

Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

Morning Worship at 11am at St Mary's

Evening Worship at 6pm at Cefn

Group to Christian Guild, Willersley Castle, Matlock, until Friday, for 'Music and Singing for Pleasure' Fun and Fellowship Week

A MOTHER'S LOVE

Celia Hoare 's daughter, as a mature student, has recently graduated from university, and Celia wrote this poem, reflecting on a 'very special day'.

It was such a 'special day', my heart was filled with adoration,
I sat there so proud.... It was my daughter's graduation!

Since the day that she was born we have shared so much love,
She was a special 'little angel', a gift from God above.

The years have passed so quickly; now she has a family of her own,
But we are very close, and I never feel alone.

We've shared both tears and laughter, and she's never far away,
But she had worked so hard for this 'very special day'.

My heart was filled with joy on the day of her presentation.
I was so happy and proud that she had reached her graduation.

CHURCH IS...

Where your PARENTS bring you to be baptised

Where your FRIENDS bring you to be married

Where your RELATIVES bring you to be buried

Why not try coming ON YOUR OWN sometime?

*(Submitted by Pat Pritchard
from the magazine of the Parish Church of Cricket St. Thomas)*

HOLY SATURDAY

A sabbath rest in the garden:
where the birds sing unchecked in ancient olives, where
flowers sparkle with dew, where vines
are bursting bright new leaves from the bud
where they twine and clamber across the stones.

A sabbath rest: and there is the tomb, sealed shut
and guarded well, by armed men for whom
sabbath is a working day like any other;
they lean on their spears tossing pebbles to scare the birds;
they know that orders are orders, one does as one is commanded.

A sabbath rest - for behind that stone there is no magic:
the man laid deep inside was nothing less than dead, and
the processes of nature will already have begun
in the body's broken places, in his wounded hands and side:
shrouded the corpse and wrapped, though with some need still
for anointing and spices.

A sabbath rest for mourners lost in prayer
and in the sharing of tears, in some secret place not far away -
no-one expecting any hopeful news, and
all finding nothing to encourage, only to make afraid.

It will be necessary to go soon, to prepare
to join the pilgrims heading north,
Keeping heads down, and blending with the crowds;
they will have to go and they will leave him here.

A sabbath rest in the garden
that is the first day of forever:
for some, his Mother, an expected and dreaded forever
of grief and loss. Yet while they hide in fear,

somewhere in the birdsong and among the climbing vines
a new forever is being made, and indeed
has already been established upon a wooden throne
that yesterday was raised for all to see,
though no-one yet has seen and understood.

A sabbath rest of birdsong and shining flowers;
an ending that is not an ending, but the quiet
preface to glory.

From 'The Angel on Next Door's Drive' - poems by Bill Rowell

APRIL'S EASTER PRAYER

When April's rains run rivulets
Glistening down the roughened bark
Of ancient trees upon the hill,
I see the shadow of that other tree,
And women crying in the sudden dark,
When Jesus died for you and me.

Oh may that crucifixion change our lives,
Let us be worth such sacrifice.

When April rains bring opening buds,
Life beginning, fresh and new;
Bright streams run clear on shining stones,
But then, beside the tomb an angel shone
Who uttered words of hope that still ring true
"He is not here, he is gone."

Oh may that resurrection light the world,
And let us live to serve the Lord.

Andrea Davies