



WELSHPOOL METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Sue Lawler

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"Celebrating and Sharing God's Love"

JUNE 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

"IF I MET GOD ..."

If I met God I might ask him
Why he wasn't doing anything about
Starving children in Asia
And cruel and oppressive regimes.

If I met God I might ask him
Why he wasn't doing anything about
The disappearing rainforests
And animals that are nearly extinct.

Then again, I might not ...
Because he might ask the same of me.

Used recently by Terry Postings as part of his Welcome

Sunday 4th June Pentecost

Lectionary

Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34,35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 20:19-23

Morning Worship at 10.45am led by Rev Sue Lawler, Holy Communion
Bring and Share Lunch

Evening Worship at 6pm led by Rev Dr Jennie Hurd

This week:

Monday 5th Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm

Thursday 8th Reading the Bible Together, 12noon: Letter of James

Thursday 8th Circuit Meeting at Caersws, 7pm

Friday 9th Fellowship to Derwen. Transport 2.30pm from church.

Friday 9th Gallery Group, 7pm

Saturday 10th Walking with Friends: the Ann Griffiths Walk.
Depart church at 10am. Picnic Lunch.

Sunday 11th June Trinity Sunday

Lectionary

Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20

Morning Worship at 10.45am led by Canon Julia Francis

Evening Worship at 6pm at St Mary's, Church House (WCT)

This week:

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

Saturday 17th Coffee Morning and Friendship Lunch, 11-2

Sunday 18th June

Lectionary

Gen.18:1-15(21:1-7); Psalm116:1-2,12-19; Rom.5:1-8; Matt.9:35-10:8(9-23)

Early Communion at 9am led by Rev Sue Lawler
Morning Worship at 10.45am led by Rev Michael Taylor
Evening Worship at 6pm led by John Harbron

This week:

Monday 19th Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm
Thursday 22nd Reading the Bible Together, 12noon

Sunday 25th June Conference Sunday

Lectionary

Gen.21:8-21; Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17; Romans 6:1b-11; Matt. 10:24-39

Morning Worship at 10.45am led by Jenny Thomas & Andrea Davies
(The **Annual Church Meeting** will follow. Please stay if you can).
Evening Worship at 6pm led by Nigel Evans

This week:

Monday 26^t Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm; Worship Consultation at 7.15pm
Saturday 1st Coffee Morning and Friendship Lunch, 11-2
Saturday 1st Concert: "Voices in Harmony"

Sunday 2nd July

Lectionary

Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

Morning Worship with Communion at 11am led by Rev Sue Lawler in the **marquee at MARTON** (by kind permission of the Richards families), followed by a Bring and Share **PICNIC LUNCH**. Join us for this "open air" service and time of fellowship. Stewards will arrange transport.
Compline at 6pm led by Rev Sue Lawler

PLEASE NOTE

Rev Jennie Hurd will be providing pastoral cover on the following dates when Rev Sue is on leave: 5th, 6th and 7th June, and 12th, 13th and 14th June. For any emergency, in the first instance, please phone Janice on 850514 or any steward, who will contact Rev Jennie.

JUNE IS INTERNATIONAL BIBLE MONTH

During this month, all churches, Bible Fellowship Groups, and individuals, are asked to focus on the Letter of James. Why not join our 'Reading the Bible Together' group on **Thursday 8th June** to read through this short book of the New Testament? We meet at 12noon in the church, read for about 30 minutes, then, if we are able to stay on, we bring a picnic and chat over lunch. You would be very welcome to join us. (We regularly meet on alternate Thursdays).

BBC RADIO WALES SUNDAY "CELEBRATION" SERVICES

Thank you to all who joined us on 23rd May to record two services for Radio Wales - to Rev Sue and our readers Andrea Davies, Rozel Kneale, Tony Harvey and Terry Postings, to Jubilate, and friends from Welshpool and Newtown, for singing the hymns so lustily, to our guest organist Philip Harratt, and to our technicians Derek and Clive! Stuart, our Radio Wales producer, was very pleased with our efforts. Well done, everyone!

The first of the services we recorded will be broadcast on **Sunday 25th June**, 7.30am to 8.00am (repeated at 6.30pm), and the second service will be broadcast on **Sunday 27th August** at the same times.

You can listen to Radio Wales on:

FM 93-96 and 104; AM 657 and 882

and via your TV on:

SKY 0117; Freesat 714; Freeview 719

THE CURRENCY OF LOVE

(submitted by Vio Adams)

Love has a currency all of its own.

Its smallest denomination is of inestimable worth -
Yet it is thief-proof and therefore needs no protection.
Minted freely it creates no fear of inflation;
In fact, it reverses all the usual rules.
Thus, unless it is counterfeit, its investment seeks no return,
And income usually increases with expenditure.

Its nature is always to be a gift;
It cannot, therefore, be earned,
Or claimed as any kind of recompense or reward;
And when returned,
It needs to be immediately re-invested,
For the attempt to hoard it leads to bankruptcy.

It defies drawing up a balance sheet for it cannot be enumerated;
And any attempt to put a price on it renders it worthless.
It is always available on demand, and requires no security.
Indeed it may take the form of a blank cheque,
With the consequences willingly accepted,
For counting the cost is foreign to it.

It is exchangeable the world over,
But such exchange must always be person to person.
No broker can have dealings in it to achieve cheap gain.
It can be taxed to the limit,
Yet emerge with enhanced reserves.
It is the only currency adequate to meet the cost of living.

D. Lloyd Kemp

LIGHTING A CANDLE

(submitted by Pat Pritchard following a visit to St Sampson's Church, Cricklade, where these verses were found near the Votive candles)

Lighting a candle is a prayer:

When we have gone, it stays alight, kindling in the hearts and minds of others the prayers we have already offered.

Lighting a candle is a parable:

Burning itself out, it gives light to others.

Christ shows us how to live so that we shine as lights in the world.

Lighting a candle is a symbol of love and hope:

Jesus said: "I have come as light into the world, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness".

Prayer:

As the candle lit for you is surrounded by others,
So may you know yourself to be surrounded by God's love and strength,
today and every day. Amen.

SERMONS

Terry Jobling writes:

Friends may find this incident telling. At a particular theological college (I'm not sure what denomination) students had to present a written sermon for examination. On one occasion the student was called to the tutor's room. This was a bad sign. The student sat whilst the tutor gazed at the document. The tension became unbearable as the silence continued. Finally the student burst out: "It will do, sir, won't it? It will do?"

With a resigned look of despair, the tutor replied: "Do what, young man, do what?"

JUNE

The curlew calling from the river fields,
the willow warbler's soft insistent tune,
and cuckoo, not too near or far away:
the myriad drowsy sounds of early June.

The scent of dropwort in my border bed,
first meadowsweet along the narrow lanes;
goldfinches with their young on thistledown,
as baby blue tits flit among the canes.

Eight young goosanders race in mother's wake,
as I stand on the aqueduct to see;
a sun-kissed afternoon of dappled shade,
and may's discarded petals falling free.

We sang 'Jerusalem' the other day -
a blackbird answered from the churchyard yew;
he sang on as we sat to hear God's word,
and in his liquid song that word was true.

O Brother Jesus, did you walk these hills
to grant your blessing? Bless us in our praise,
that all our sweet remembrance of this time
may carry through to winter's shorter days.

Brief glimpse of heaven, sound of angel song,
that this year's June has brought us, may it stay
to lift our hearts, and lift our hearts again,
make spirits glad, and guide on love's bright way.

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

A JUNE PRAYER

The glories found in June delight the eye,
Bright skies, fresh blossoms, softest rain;
But there are some who cannot see
Beyond a life that's dark with misery.

Loving Father, give them peace and healing.

Each dawn is greeted by the blackbird's song
And welcomed by a calling dove;
But there are some who cannot hear
Such joy, their senses dulled with doubt and fear.

Loving Father, give them strength and courage.

Fresh summer perfume scents the gentle breeze,
Sweet velvet petals, new-mown grass;
But there are some who captive lie
And have no open window to the sky.

Loving Father, give them hope and freedom.

The touch of our creator's kindly hand
Restores the world, redeems us all;
We pray for those who are distressed
And offer thanks, for we are truly blessed.

Loving Father, hear our prayer.

Amen.

Andrea Davies

WILLERSLEY - 'HEAVEN ON EARTH'

It is so quiet and peaceful,
I cannot hear a sound.
The silence is so awesome
As I stand and look around.

Little lambs are dancing,
The birds are in their nests;
Their mothers are asleep
For they all need their rest.

The beauty that surrounds me
It just takes my breath away,
For once again I'm at my favourite place ...
And that is Willersley!

The hills almost touch the sky,
And the paths lead to heaven above.
That's why I love it here ...
So close to God and surrounded by His love.

Celia Hoare

Willersley Castle is a Christian Guild Hotel at Cromford, near Matlock, situated in beautiful surroundings above Derbyshire's river Derwent. We (Celia, Derek, Anne, Eric & Jean, Janet & Tony, Joan & Bryan, and Gordon - a 'non-singer' & myself) enjoyed a week of "Singing and Music for Pleasure" in early May, when we were blessed not only with the excellent company of like-minded people, and sunshine every day, but also by the wonderful hues of the tree blossoms and carpets of bluebells in the grounds, enhancing the beauty of the place (see photos on the Meeting Room notice board). This is an annual event, where we sing in the mornings, have the afternoons free to explore, and in the evenings enjoy various other activities, with on the last evening, our Gala Concert before a local audience. Bookings are open for next year, 1st to 6th July. If you would like to know more, please ask! *Janice*.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 1st July at 7.30pm

Concert: "Voices in Harmony" - a mixed voice choir of over 50 voices from the Midlands, who come well-recommended. Tickets: £5.

Sunday 2nd July at 11am

'Open Air' morning worship (in marquee) at Marton, followed by a Bring and Share Picnic. (This event was much enjoyed in 2015).

Wednesday 19th July at 7.00pm

Circuit Farewell Service for Rev Sue, to be held in our church.

Saturday 22nd July from 10.00am

"100 Cakes" Stall to raise funds to send the Christmas Shoeboxes

Sunday 23rd July 10.00am at Zoar Chapel, Trefeglwys

Jubilate present Roger Jones' "Apostle"

Saturday 29th July 8.30am from church

Outing to Lichfield and the National Arboretum at Alrewas. Please add your name to the list on the notice board in the Meeting Room if you wish to book a place. Fare: £15.

Wednesday 23rd August 7.00pm at Newtown

Circuit Service to recognise Rev Bob as Circuit Superintendent from September for 2017-18.

Sunday 10th September at 10.45am

Rev Marian Jones has asked to be welcomed in this, her first service with us, (which will include Holy Communion at her request), rather than on a more formal occasion. A Celebration Lunch will follow, when we will have the opportunity to meet her. Rev Marian will have Pastoral Care of our church family, working the equivalent of 2 days per week. In addition she will be with us, usually 2 Sundays each month, to lead our morning worship (including 9am Communions).

