



WELSHPOOL METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Sue Lawler

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www.wbhmethodists.org.uk

"Celebrating and Sharing God's Love"

AUGUST 2017 CHURCH BULLETIN

We extend a Warm Welcome to any visitors, or to anyone worshipping with us for the first time. Please sign the Visitors' Book, and make yourself known to us, and stay after the service for a cup of tea and a chat. (The church has a Loop System).

Please ensure that mobile phones are turned off during worship.

Thought for the Month - the Brick

The bricklayer laid a brick on a bed of cement
Then, with a precise stroke of his trowel spread another layer,
And without a by-your-leave laid another brick.
The foundations grew visibly
The building rose, tall and strong to shelter man.

I thought hard about that brick
Buried in the darkness at the base of the building,
No one sees it, but it accomplishes its task
and the other bricks need it.

Lord, what difference whether I am on the roof-top or in the
foundations of your building
As long as I stand faithfully at the right place.

From "Wise Words - an Anthology", edited by Barbara Bowdler and Dorothy Raine

Sunday 30th July

Lectionary

Gen. 29:15-28; Psalm 105:1-11,45b; Rom. 8:26-39; Matt. 13:31-33, 44-52

Morning Worship at 10.45am led by Gareth Evans, to which we welcome our friends from St Mary's on this 5th Sunday

Evening Worship at 6pm at Newtown with Rev Dr Stephen Wigley

This week:

Monday 24th Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am
Thursday 3rd Reading the Bible Together, 12 noon: the book of Acts
Saturday 5th Coffee Morning and Friendship Lunch, 11-2

Sunday 6th August

Lectionary

Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

Morning Worship at 10.45am led by Rev Bill Rowell. B&S Lunch.

Evening Worship at 6pm led by Rev Michael Taylor

This week:

Monday 7th Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; No Jubilate this week
Saturday 12th Walking with Friends: The Fron Viaduct, along canal.
Leave church at 9.30am.

Sunday 13th August

Lectionary

Gen.37:1-4, 12-28; Psalm 105:1-6,16-22,45b; Romans 10:5-15; Matt.14:22-33

Morning Worship with Communion at 10.45am led by Rev Bob Thomas

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

This week:

Monday 14th Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am
Thursday 17th Reading the Bible Together, 12 noon
Friday 18th Fellowship AGM at 'Brynteg', Castle Caereinion

Friday 18th Gallery Group, 7pm
Saturday 19th Coffee Morning and Friendship Lunch, 11-2, and
'Grand Sale' of Books, Crafts and Bric-a-Brac

Sunday 20th August

Lectionary

Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133; Romans 11:1-2a,29-32; Matthew 15:21-28

Early Communion at 9am led by Rev Michael Taylor. Breakfast.

Morning Worship at 10.45am led by Terry Jobling

Evening Worship at 6pm led by Rev Bill Rowell

This week:

Monday 21st Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am

Wednes. 23rd Circuit Service with Rev Stephen Wigley to Welcome Rev Bob as Superintendent Minister, Newtown at 7pm

Sunday 27th August

Lectionary

Exodus 1:8-2:10; Psalm 124; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

Broadcast of Service 2, Radio Wales at 7.30am & 6.30pm

Morning Worship at 10.45am led by Graham Smith

Evening Worship (Prayer and Praise), at 6pm

This week:

Monday 28th Coffee Morning and Light Lunches from 9.30am;
No Jubilate

Thursday 31st Reading the Bible Together, 12 noon

Saturday 2nd Coffee Morning and Friendship Lunch, 11-2

Saturday 2nd Music Club Annual Young Musicians Concert, 7.30pm

Sunday 3rd September

Morning Worship at 10.45am led by John Harbron

Compline at 6pm led by Rev Bill Rowell (no Communion)

Dates for the Diary

10th Sept **Rev Marian's First Service and Welcome**, 10.45am, followed by **Celebration Lunch**. By ticket only, from Gwen or Janice, before Monday 4th September. (Free, but donations towards cost invited if desired).

23rd Sept **Supper Concert: Music, Poetry and 1940s "Singalong"**, with Jubilate and Friends. Tickets: £6

1st Oct **Harvest Festival**, 10.45am, with Rev Marian, and Harvest Appeal for "All We Can". **Harvest Lunch** will follow the morning service.

Minutes of Meetings

Do you know what is happening in Church and Circuit? A Reminder The Minutes of all Church Meetings - Church Council, Property and Finance Committee, Pastoral Committee, and Worship Consultation, together with the Minutes of Circuit Meeting - can be found on the Meeting Room Notice Board. All have met in recent weeks. Please find a little time to get up to date. If you would like a personal copy of any of the Minutes to take home, please ask Janice.

Pastoral Care

Rev Sue will have conducted her last service in the Circuit on 23rd July and following that, will be preparing for her move to Cwmbran on 10th August. Rev Bob will be providing Pastoral Care during August until Rev Marian begins her appointment on 1st September.

Rev Bob: tel. 01686 625690. Rev Marian: tel. 01978 810292

"A Reverent Farewell"

(Written by Andrea for our contribution to Sue's Farewell Service)

The time has come with sighs and tears
To say goodbye to Reverend Sue;
And I must try in lines that rhyme
To say how we'll remember you!

Well, first your shirts of many shades
And pretty jackets, jazzy bright,
And hair that's short, then long, then short
And changes colour overnight.

You never had sufficient time,
A meeting here, a service there;
Your emails often went unchecked,
Your life was live on wing and prayer.

By "Queen of Puddings" you were known,
You loved your afters; one, two, three!
"With custard, please" we'd hear you cry,
Your slimness is a mystery!

A Facebook fan, we've followed you
On holiday and shopping trip,
And seen the mess upon the floor
The day you let the crumble slip.

We knew your other interests too,
To learn to sing and lead the hymns,
Or strum on ukulele strings;
Your fitness gained at local gyms.
Your fitness gained at local gyms.

But when the running then began
We really were a lot perplexed,
"She's got enough to do," we said,
"Whatever will she take up next?"

Just like the Scarlet Pimpernel
At times you never could be found,
Now Reverend Sue, just where were you,
When always running round and round?

Why, you were off to Derbyshire,
To visit lovely, rolling dales,
That's what we thought - but now we know
You stayed with one of Derby's males!

So when you move to your new home,
Make space for his Adidas talc,
For wedding bells are soon to ring,
You've guessed! The bridegroom's name is Malc!

We wish you both the very best,
A new life beckons in Cwmbran,
You will be missed, but we all know
A page has turned in His Great Plan.

So farewell Sue, and sad goodbyes
To Holly-Dog and Boo-the-Car;
One day we'll surely meet again
Cwmbran's not really all that far.

Points of Interest from Methodist Conference 2018

Presidential Addresses The new President, the Revd Loraine Mellor asked: "How are we disturbing the present in the Church today?" as she shared her concerns for the current state of the Church and her vision for taking radical risks to change its culture. Jill Baker, Vice-President, reflected on the need for both laughter and lament in the church's life, calling upon her own experiences. Read in full:

<http://bit.ly/Let's-change> (for President's address)

<http://bit.ly/laughter-and-lament> (for Vice-President's address)

Statistics for Mission

Currently there are 188,000 members of the Methodist Church in Britain, there having been a 3.5% year-on-year decline in membership over the past decade. The triennial statistics also revealed that engagement in local churches through cafes, clubs, alternative forms of church and other bodies reached 500,000 people each week. The Connexional Secretary, presenting the report said: "While it makes for a challenging read, it's important to remember that membership figures alone don't tell the whole story. Across the country, thousands of Methodist communities are impacting the lives of hundreds and thousands of people every week in a wide variety of ways." Conference discussed the report and adopted a Notice of Motion, included in which was a call for every Church Council, each year, to answer the question "Do you have a Growth Plan or an End-of-life Plan?", with the answer to be presented to the Circuit meeting in order to aid the circuit's 'wider, strategic, oversight of mission and ministry'.

The Conference recognised the challenges and changes facing all communities in the UK and the urgent call on Methodist people to share the love of God in word and action. Every local church was asked to launch the new Connexional year (1st September) with a day of prayer and fasting.

Mission and Ministry in Covenant

The Conference discussed a set of proposals which would make the ministries of the Methodist Church and the Church of England interchangeable. These proposals were included in the report *Mission and Ministry in Covenant* which was produced by the Faith and Order bodies of both Churches. Under the plans, a development from the Anglican-Methodist Covenant made in 2003, a Methodist "president-bishop" would be appointed and ordained. The report stressed that the structural unity of each Church would remain, as would each other's "distinctive form of church polity". The proposals require approval from both the General Synod and the Conference, and plans for formal discussion and debate will be presented to the 2018 Conference for debate and decision.

Notices of Motion included:

- * A call to Methodists to challenge Sainsbury's intended move to drop the globally recognised FAIRTRADE mark from Sainsbury's products and replace it with the phrase 'fairly-traded', meaning that products will not need to adhere to globally-recognised standards.
- * A call to all to build relationships with people of all faiths, especially from the Islamic community, following recent terrorist attacks, with the aim of creating more open, tolerant and inclusive communities
- * A call to MHA (Methodist Homes for the Aged) to provide more shared accommodation to enable married couples to stay together.

The 2018/2019 President and Vice-President

Conference designated the Revd Michaela Youngson, one of the Chairs of London District, to be President, and Bala Gnanapragasam who serves on the boards of Christian Aid and MHA, is a trustee of London HIV/Aids Chaplaincy and was the first Synod Secretary for the unified London District, to be Vice-president.

Holiday at Home

It's lovely to be able to sit on a beach or take in some country air while you're on holiday. But if you're older, or not as fit as you once were, you may no longer have the means or the mobility to get away. Putting on a 'holiday at home' is a great way for churches to reach out to their older members and neighbours, especially those who are lonely, bereaved or unable to see their families very often. No suitcases or visas are required for these guests, who can enjoy a range of daily activities for the best part of a week. It's a chance to make new friends and have some fun, as well as indulge in the odd ice-cream or two!

This year, St John's Church in Harborne, Birmingham, will be running their 10th "Prime Time", the name for their annual three-day holiday at home. Over the years, guests have enjoyed a variety of themed events, from the Olympics to a 'cruise', complete with cocktails with the Captain. The Seasons has been another theme, which included a full Christmas Dinner and a visit to Father Christmas in the middle of August!

Catriona Foster, the Older Person's Pastor at the Church, says: "Guests benefit physically, socially, mentally, emotionally and spiritually from joining in. Sometimes a volunteer driver might comment that a person was a bit down in the morning, but by the time they were picked up to be taken home they were a different person - bright and more agile. Guests experience the church as a good place to be. Relationships are built up, and some, hopefully, are helped by the spiritual "Thought for the Day" at the end of each session".

(Part of an article from the "Inspire" magazine, June 2017)

A 'Holiday at Home' could be just the ticket for some older people in our community who can't get away. Could we organise one next summer? What do you think? Would you be prepared to help?

Thoughts of August

The month of August slowly turns
A summer's heat to early autumn's haze,
The air still warm with unshed rain;
Thank you Lord, for all our days.

Bestrewn with stars, the sable night
Retreats before a single rosy ray,
First herald of a radiant dawn;
Thank you Lord, for each new day.

The hay is in bit corn stands tall,
Still green and gold, a crop of whiskered maize
Provides a children's maze of fun;
Thank you Lord, for joyous days.

Soft shadows stretch across the lawns,
Before the twilight draws in damp and grey,
Long evenings gift a quiet peace;
Thank you Lord, for close of day.

Time yet for fruit to burst with juice,
Time yet to feast a thoughtful, inward gaze
On all our blessings, full and free,
To give you Lord, our thanks and praise.

Andrea Davies

And finally, to make you smile

The curate was convinced of the importance of involving the congregation in the Family Service sermon.

"Who was the funniest man in the Bible?" he asked.

A teenager promptly replied: "Samson. He brought the house down".

(We never did learn what the 'correct' answer might be!)