



## WELSHPOOL METHODIST CHURCH

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*"Celebrating and Sharing God's Love"*

## OCTOBER 2017 CHURCH BULLETIN

### October's Prayer

October mornings, misty blue and still,  
Demand that we should take a calming breath,  
And see the sunshine spark from gilded leaves;  
We thank you Lord, for days of peace like these.

October afternoons can swirl with winds  
Which tear and strip the gold to winter's black,  
And as we watch the changing autumn skies,  
We pray for those with hard and damaged lives.

October evenings dim to frosty night,  
Starry beauty lost on those in need;  
Oh Lord, we have so much, for we are blessed,  
Help us to help all those with so much less!

*Andrea Davies 2017*

### Thought for the Month

'Forgiveness is the key that unlocks the door of resentment and the  
handcuffs of hate'

*Corrie ten Boom 1947*

## Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October: HARVEST

### Lectionary

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Psalm 25:1-9; Philippians 2:1-13; Matt.21:23-32

**Morning Worship with Communion** at 10.45am led by Rev Marian, followed by Harvest Lunch at 12.30pm

**Evening Worship** at 6pm at Newtown (Circuit Service)

### This week:

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Coffee Morning and Friendship Lunch

## Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October

### Lectionary

Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:7-15; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matt. 21:33-46

**Morning Worship** at 10.45am Prayer and Praise service

**Evening Worship** at 6pm at Church House (Churches Together)

### This week:

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> Church Council at 7pm

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> 'Reading the Bible Together' at 12. Picnic Lunch.

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Fellowship at 2.30pm. Speaker: Rev Marian

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Fish 'n Chip Supper & Film: "West Side Story" 6.30 for 7

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> Walking with Friends to Chester. Leave 9.30am.

## Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October

### Lectionary

Isaiah 25:1-9; Psalm 23; Philippians 4:1-19; Matthew 22:1-14

**Early Communion** at 9am led by Rev Marian, followed by breakfast

**Morning Worship** at 10.45am led by Rev Marian.

**No Evening Worship** (Cefn's service at 6pm led by Bill Rowell)

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> Gallery Group at 7pm  
Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> Coffee Morning and Friendship Lunch

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October

#### Lectionary

Isaiah 45:1-7; Psalm 96; 1-9 (10-13); 1 Thess.1:1-10; Matt. 22:15-22

**Morning Worship** at 10.45am Prayer and Praise service with speaker from Church Action on Poverty

**Afternoon Tea Service** at 4pm led by Nigel Evans

#### This week:

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> Coffee Morning 9.30am; Jubilate at 10am (tbc); Playgroup at 1pm; WCT at 7.30pm  
Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> Reading the Bible Together' at 12. Picnic Lunch.

### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October

#### Lectionary

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18; Psalm 1; 1 Thess.2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46

**Morning Worship** at 11am at **St Mary's**

**Evening Worship with Communion** at 6pm at **Cefn** led by Rev Bob

#### This week:

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm  
Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> Coffee Morning and Friendship Lunch

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November

#### Lectionary

Joshua 3:7-17; Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37; 1 Thess.2:9-13; Matt.23:1-12

**Morning Worship** at 10.45am led by Rev Bob. Bring & Share Lunch. **Compline** at 6pm led by Jenny Thomas and Andrea Davies

## 'ALL WE CAN' HARVEST APPEAL 2017

Once again, our Harvest Envelope Appeal and profits from the Harvest Lunch are for the work of ALL WE CAN which traces its roots back to the 1940s when a Methodist minister, Rev Henry Carter, felt the Church had a responsibility to respond to the post-war refugee crisis in Europe. He pioneered the Methodist Refugee Fund as a personal initiative to raise money and collect supplies to relieve hunger and improve conditions among refugees.

In the 1950s, the remit expanded, and the Methodist Refugee Fund became known as the Methodist Relief Fund.

In the 1970s, with growing concern for global hunger and poverty, all Methodists were challenged to start giving 1% of their income to world development, and a new World Development Fund was launched alongside the Methodist Relief Fund.

In 1985, MRF and WDF were merged to form the Methodist Relief and Development Fund, and in 1991 MRDF's income reached £1million for the first time, and it was supporting work in over 50 countries. In 2004 the Indian Ocean Tsunami realised the biggest response to an MRDF Emergency Appeal to date, when over £5million was raised.

On 8<sup>th</sup> April 2014, MRDF became All We Can. The new name reflects its role and vision, as well as its Methodist roots and heritage, with its echoes of John Wesley:

"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can,  
in all the ways you can, in all the places you can,  
to all the people you can, for as long as you can."

"CHIRP FOR JOY!" the 2017 Harvest Appeal, asks churches to 'chirp for joy' at God's creation and make a practical difference.

## MONTHLY EVENTS 2017

Thanks to all who supported the **Supper Concert** on 23<sup>rd</sup> September. The profit of £404 has been shared equally between the church and Cedewain School, Newtown, this year's chosen charity.

### Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October                      **Fish 'n' Chip Supper and Film Evening**

The Film being shown is "West Side Story" with the original cast. The Supper will precede the film. Please arrive as soon after 6.30pm as possible, so that orders can be taken. Supper will be served at 7pm and the Film begins about 7.30pm. Pay on the night: £5/person

### Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm    **Derek's Fun Quiz Night**

Teams of 3 or 4 - £2 per person, to include light refreshments.

### Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December                      **Christmas Fair in church**

All the usual stalls plus some new ones, for which we require ladies' handbags and scarves (to Eric) and unwanted Gift Bags, of any size (to Anne). Coffee and Lunches will be available.

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## PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND 2018

- Date:** 29<sup>th</sup> October to 9<sup>th</sup> November 2018, flying from Heathrow to Tel Aviv; 6 nights in Jerusalem and 5 nights in Tiberias, with half board accommodation
- Company:** Israel Travel Service, Manchester
- Leader:** Rev Marian Jones
- Cost:** £2,345.50 (£782.00 single supplement)

For more details, Brochure with Itinerary, and Booking Form, speak to Rev Marian, or phone 01978 310292.

## FROM REV MARIAN: 'History Beneath our Feet'

History beneath our feet! How many feet below our path had those first disciples walked? In places, the excavations revealed fascinating sights – the synagogue at Magdala and the village fish-salting factory; in Capernaum, the remains of the house of Simon Peter's mother-in-law within the house church ruins, within the walls of an octagonal church beneath the glass floor of a 20<sup>th</sup> century church and, walking towards the white walled synagogue built at the highest point of the community, the streets with the ruins of black basalt house walls.

Walking down the Mount of Olives following the steep path of the Palm Sunday walk, imagination takes over. Conversation on the journey, listening to the voices of companions, until we reach the Garden of Gethsemane and sit among the olive trees listening to the Jerusalem traffic and the echoes of another voice. The Anglo-Welsh poet, RS Thomas wrote:

'... his are the echoes we follow,  
The footprints he has just left.'

Somehow, the echoes here come from a place not too far away; the footprints are only just ahead of us.

The Holy Land is called 'The Fifth Gospel', and for good reason.

Not everyone is able to visit but, for the majority who go on pilgrimage, the gospel stories come alive. To sit on the shore of the Sea of Galilee listening to the story of Jesus cooking breakfast for the disciples who are out fishing and to see a little fishing boat sail into view ... to see the remains of a 1<sup>st</sup> century fishing boat preserved following its discovery in the mud in the 1980s when the water level of the lake fell ... to stand at the foot of the steps leading to Temple Mount ... and imagine and remember.

You'll probably hear a few stories in my preaching as the months go by as I try to share with you some of the places Jesus would have been familiar with and the events that took place there.

**Peace!**

**Marian**

## FAREWELL

This month we have to say "Farewell" to two friends, Ruthie and Pam, who are moving to Shropshire. Ruthie writes:

### **To our Church Family**

As some of you may know, by the time you read this, Pam and I will have moved to live in Ellesmere. Pam has been a member of Welshpool Methodist Church for a number of years (though I never took this step) and we have been supported by many friends amongst you over the last 13 years when we moved here from Cumbria.

I try to live by the words of my hero, Maya Angelou, who said, "People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel". I know only too well that I have often failed to live up to this, but Pam joins me in thanking those of you who gave us positive feelings of Christian love.

I/we may turn up occasionally again – Ellesmere is not far away – but we have enjoyed the company of many of you and felt especially accepted following our marriage – I need not have had so many misgivings.

Pam and I thank you for everything and wish all good things for you and yours.

Ruthie

We thank Ruthie and Pam for all their contributions, both to our church family and to others, during their time in Welshpool, and will remember particularly their work with their charity in Kishamba, and Ruthie's art work (on the covers of many Circuit magazines) and her talent for writing. We wish them much happiness in their new home.

Ruthie has submitted this poem, written by one of her colleagues in Methsoc when they were at University together in Cardiff. David trained as a teacher and latterly was headmaster in a school in the South Wales valleys.

## For in Her Eyes is Love

"I don't believe in God you know," said the architect to me,  
"I build my buildings just for other men to see,  
And so I build them very high so men like you will stop and stare.  
What matters is the way it looks, and not the people living there."  
Well I've never built a building and I've never planned a plan,  
But I've wondered where the stones came from which were never  
made by man.

"You can't believe this Jesus stuff," said a scientist I knew,  
"The facts are not explainable and therefore are untrue.  
Man is mainly water and water's H<sub>2</sub>O,  
A scientist can split a man as far as he will go."  
But you can only get so far, dissecting bit by bit,  
And when you've split the world in two there's nothing left to split.

"You can't believe in Jesus Christ," said Pilate in a dream,  
"I had him killed, oh, years ago to keep the city clean.  
It's true we had to bribe some guards and persecute a few,  
And then most left Jerusalem and that's the last we knew."  
And suddenly the scientist was also in my dream,  
And by him stood the architect, with Pilate in between.

And by each one stood Jesus Christ, and then a woman came,  
A prostitute from Magdala they'd certified insane.  
And Mary Magdalene spoke, and each man watched her eyes  
Which spoke, much more than words, of truth, where they had  
spoken lies.

So split the atom, ban the bomb and build your buildings high,  
But do not ask me what you saw in Mary Magdalene's eye.

*David Kitchen*



**THANKS** to everyone who submitted poems and other snippets for this month, some of which have had to be held over for a future edition, due to limited space. The following are just a few of the items received:

### **The Good Snooze**

The Rev Steve Morris, a London priest, warns new clergy to manage their expectations. After one of his first services, a parishioner came up to ask if he wrote his sermons down and if he could have a copy. He wrote in *Christian Today* that he felt "a flurry of pride" and wondered if the man wanted to keep it for posterity or to go over its message again. The worshipper replied: "No, Steve. I fell asleep as you started speaking and only woke up when you said 'Amen'!"

### **The New Commandments**

*Seen displayed in the porch of a Chapel in Cornwall. Should we do likewise?*

1. We will make you welcome
2. We will be family friendly
3. We will make sure you can hear clearly
4. We will be practical and relevant
5. We will help you explore answers to your deepest questions
6. We will offer you time to stop and think in a busy life
7. We will help you make sense of the Bible and of who Jesus is
8. We will make sure your visit will be helpful and challenging
9. We will help you discover for yourself God's love, acceptance and forgiveness
10. We will offer you the chance to make a new start

### **The Legacy we can leave behind**

No matter what occupies our days, when we reframe our tasks as opportunities to help others, our lives and our work feel more significant. Each of us has a circle of people - in our families, in our communities and at work - whose lives we can improve.

That's a legacy everyone can leave behind.

## A reflection on a recent holiday in Poland (Celia Hoare)

The mountains stood tall and proud,  
But covered by the morning mist, created by low cloud.  
When the mist lifted and the sun came through,  
The scene was magical, as they made a back-drop to a sky of blue!  
Everywhere was beautiful and calm, another of God's amazing creations.  
The trees in the pine forests stood tall and strong,  
They took my breath away, and filled me with elation.  
In this place where I now stand, there is such beauty all around.  
How lucky I was to come here, to this lovely country of Poland.

### And finally, CAN YOU HELP?

#### **Dementia Friends, Welshpool, Monday mornings**

Karen Rodenburg, Welshpool Dementia Friends Coordinator, is seeking volunteers for a couple of hours on Monday mornings from the end of October, when a range of activities will be provided for members in the Gallery. As a Volunteer, you will be present to assist the Activity Leader. Please sign the list on the Meeting Room notice board if you can help, or require more details.

#### **Catering Team, 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in the month**

Urgently required! At least one volunteer for "front of house" to take orders and payment (11am to 1.30pm). No food preparation or other kitchen duties are involved, and your payment is a free lunch! If you can help, please speak to Janice ASAP. Thank you.

#### **Christmas Shoeboxes**

Please see Anne if you have suitable shoeboxes, items, or can knit.

#### **Did you find the 30 Hidden Books of the Bible last month?**

In the order they appeared, they were: Amos, Mark, Luke, John, Joel, Judges, Job, Hebrews, Esther, Acts, James, Ruth, Romans, Titus, Matthew, Genesis, Philemon, Chronicles, Daniel, Nahum, Hosea, Lamentations, Revelation, Timothy, Samuel, Numbers, Malachi, Peter, Exodus, Kings.