



WELSHPOOL METHODIST CHURCH

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"Celebrating and Sharing God's Love"

SEPTEMBER 2017 CHURCH BULLETIN

Welcome to Phil and Pam Lee who have recently joined our church family, and to any visitors, and anyone worshipping with us for the first time. Please make yourselves known to us, sign the Visitors' Book, and stay after the service for a cup of tea.

There is a loop system for those who require it.

Please ensure mobile phones are turned off during worship.

WELCOME!

We extend a warm welcome to Rev Marian Jones, who will be ministering to us for the next 12 months. We look forward to having her support and guidance as we continue to seek ways to fulfil our calling to Worship, Learning and Caring, Service, and Evangelism in this part of God's Kingdom. We pray for her and hope that she will be happy in her work among us here.

CONGRATULATIONS!

We offer our Congratulations and Best Wishes to Yasmin Richards (granddaughter of Chris) and Jamie Siddell on the occasion of their marriage at Mellington Hall on 16th September. A young Yasmin and Jamie were members of our Playgroup in 2000 (!) and then Yasmin was in Junior Church for many years. We wish them every happiness for their future together.

Sunday 3rd September

Lectionary

Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6,23-26,45c; Rom. 12:9 -21; Matt. 16:21-28

Morning Worship at 10.45am led by John Harbron
(No Bring and Share Lunch today)

Evening Compline at 6pm led by Rev Bill Rowell

This week:

Monday 4th Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm

Tues 5th Jubilate at 7.15pm (rehearsing for Supper Concert)

Saturday 9th Walking with Friends in Attingham Park. Leave 9.30am.

Sunday 10th September

Lectionary

Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm149; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

Morning Worship with Communion at 10.45am led by Rev Marian. During this service Rev Marian will be welcomed by the Circuit, and a Celebration Lunch will follow. (See Janice if you have no ticket).

Evening Worship at 6pm at the Welsh Chapel (WCT)

This week:

Monday 11th Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm

Tuesday 12th Jubilate at 7.15pm

Thursday 14th Reading the Bible Together at 12, continuing chapters in Acts. All welcome. Bring a picnic, if you can stay on.

Friday 15th Friday Fellowship. Speaker: Mrs Merle Harding

Saturday 16th Synod at Newtown. NO LUNCHESES TODAY

Sunday 17th September

Lectionary

Exodus 14:19-31; Psalm 114; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-15

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

Morning Worship at 10.45am led by Rev Marian.

Evening Worship at 6pm at Cefn (Communion: Rev Michael Taylor)

This week:

Monday 18th Coffee Morning 9.30am; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm

Tuesday 19th Jubilate at 7.15pm

Wednes. 20th Circuit Meeting at Newtown at 7pm

Thursday 21st Property and Finance Committee at 7.15pm (**New date**)

Saturday 23rd Supper Concert 7pm: Music, Poetry, 1940s Singalong.

Please get your tickets in advance if possible, £6.

Sunday 24th September

Lectionary

Exod. 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6,37-45; Philippians 1:21-30; Matt. 20:1-16

Morning Worship at 10.45am led by Terry Jobling

Evening Worship with Holy Communion at 6pm led by Rev Bob

This week:

Monday 25th Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm

Thursday 28th Reading the Bible Together at 12.

Friday 29th Gallery Group at 7pm

Sunday 1st October: HARVEST

Lectionary

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Philippians 2:1-13; Matt. 21:23-32

Morning Worship at 10.45am led by Rev Marian. **Harvest Lunch.** **Evening**

Worship at 6pm - a Circuit Service at Newtown. Included in the service will be an illustrated presentation, "This is my Body", based on the study Rev Bob undertook during his recent Sabbatical.

Please speak to a Steward if you can provide, or require, transport.

Dates for the Diary

10th Sept **Rev Marian's First Service and Welcome**, 10.45am, followed by **Celebration Lunch** (by ticket only; see Gwen or Janice if you are without a ticket).

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

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

13th Oct **'Fish 'n Chip' Supper and Film Night'**! 6.30pm for 7. Keep your eye on the screen and posters for details.

16th Nov **Quiz Night** with Derek. More details to follow.

3rd Dec **Christmas Fair - Welshpool Winter Festival weekend.** Friendship Lunches as usual.

Our aim is to arrange one "social event" each month, both for our own enjoyment and to attract our non-churchgoing friends over the threshold to come and get to know us better. As the popular "new hymn" says: "All are welcome in this place".

If you have any ideas for such an event - and better still, if you are prepared to make the necessary arrangements - please let us know.

We are running out of ideas so your input would be very welcome.

Here's a Challenge!

FIND 30 BOOKS OF THE BIBLE HIDDEN HERE

This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an aeroplane seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much he passed it on to some friends.

One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his John boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving that she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves.

There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized.

Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or other Bible scholar to see some of them, at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in these paragraphs.

During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Beta Phi lemonade booth set a new sales record.

The local paper, the Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen.

As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "They are all right there in plain view yet hidden from sight!" Those able to find all of them will hear lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also keep in mind that

punctuation and spaces in the middle of titles are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers.

Remember there is no need for a mass exodus! There really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in the passage waiting to be found!

(Answers next month!)

Some Interesting Quotes about the Bible

Clement of Alexandria (c.150-c.215): "The world is the first Bible that God made for the instruction of man".

Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865): "I believe that the Bible is the best gift that God ever gave to man. All the good from the Saviour of the world is communicated to us through this book. I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go".

Henry Ward Beecher (1813-1887): "The Bible is God's chart for you to steer by, to keep you from the bottom of the sea, and to show you where the harbour is, and how to reach it without running onto the rocks".

Phillips Brooks (1835-1893): "The Bible is like a telescope. If a man looks **through** his telescope, then he sees worlds beyond; but if he looks **at** his telescope, then he does not see anything but that. The bible is a thing to be looked **through**, to see what is beyond".

Soren Kierkegaard (1813-1855): "When you read God's word, you must be constantly saying to yourself: 'It is talking to me, and about me' ".

THREE LITTLE WORDS

After 21 years of marriage, my wife wanted me to take another woman out to dinner and a movie.

She said: "I love you, but I know this other woman loves you too and would love to spend some time with you."

The 'other woman' that my wife wanted me to visit was my mother, who has been a widow for 19 years, but the demands of my work and my three children made it possible to visit her only occasionally, but that night I called to invite her to go out for dinner and a movie. "What's wrong? Are you well?" she asked.

My mother is the type of woman who suspects that a late night call or a surprise invitation is a sign of bad news.

"I thought that it would be pleasant to spend some time with you," I responded, "just the two of us."

She thought about it for a moment, and then said, "I would like that very much".

That Friday after work, as I drove over to pick her up I was a bit nervous. When I arrived at her house, I noticed that she, too, seemed nervous about our date. She was waiting at the door with her coat on. She had curled her hair and was wearing a dress that she had worn to celebrate her last wedding anniversary. She smiled from a face that was as radiant as an angel's. "I told my friends that I was going out with my son, and they were impressed," she said, as she got into the car. "They can't wait to hear about our meeting."

We went to a restaurant that, although not elegant, was very nice and cosy. My mother took my arm as if she were the First Lady. After we sat down, I had to read the menu. Her eyes could now only read large print. Half way through the entries, I lifted my eyes and saw my mother staring at me. A nostalgic smile was on her lips. "It was I who used to have to read the menu to you when you were small," she said. "Then it's time that you relax and let me return the favour," I responded.

During dinner, we had an agreeable conversation - nothing extraordinary but catching up on the recent events of each other's life. We talked so much we missed the movie. As we arrived back at her house later, she said, "I'll go out with you again, but only if you let me invite you".

"How was your dinner date?" asked my wife when I got home.

"Very nice. Much more so than I could have imagined," I answered.

A few days later, my mother died of a massive heart attack. It happened so suddenly that I didn't have chance to do anything for her.

Sometime later, I received an envelope with a copy of a restaurant receipt from the same place mother and I had dined. An attached note said: "I paid this bill in advance as I wasn't sure that I could be with you: but nevertheless, I paid for two - for you and for your wife. You will never know what that night you took me out meant to me. I love you, son."

At that moment, I understood the importance of saying in time:
"I LOVE YOU".

(With thanks to whoever passed this on to me for the Bulletin)

FOCUS ON THE LITTLE THINGS

"It is the little things that usually have the greatest impact in life - a compliment, a smile, a thank you, a hug.
It's these things that make up a positive outlook".

For reflection: Luke 19:17

From "God's Little Book of Hope: Words of Inspiration and Encouragement"

HARVEST PRAISE

Andrea Davies

Let's raise our voices, clap our hands,
And offer up our harvest praise;
We'll sing with joy September's song,
Delighting in these golden days.

The Lord has given once again,
His blessings fell on ev'ry field;
From tiny seeds the crops have grown,
Now combines reap each furrow's yield.

The days are gone when scythes were swung,
The corn sheaves bunched and tied by hand;
But stubble rows are lovely still,
As if they stitch and seam the land.

Like giant cotton reel, the bales
Cast shadows on a sloping side;
And where a tractor ploughs once more,
The seagulls follow, wings spread wide.

As all things turn, begin again,
So may we always turn to You,
Our guiding, giving, loving God,
Our means of making all things new.

So let us sing and clap our hands
We'll offer up our thanks and praise,
And bring to him our harvest song,
The God we'll follow all our days.

These verses can be added to our collection of hymns for Harvest, as they can be sung to the tune 'Lydia' (StF 364 i)

THE STRANGER?

Celia Hoare

I heard a lone voice calling,
It seemed so far away.
Was it someone lost or hurt?
I just stood there in dismay.

But then the voice drew nearer ...
I saw a shadow suddenly appear.
But I felt calm and unafraid,
I was not filled with fear.

I saw the stranger's face,
So kind, his eyes so filled with love;
Suddenly I knew
It was God from heaven above.

He said: "My child, you have been
On a journey, hard and long,
But never once did you give up,
You were so brave, so calm, so strong".

But now that I have found you
I will never leave your side,
For always I'll be with you,
Your Master and your Guide".

REFLECTIONS (1998)

Bill Rowell

I looked into a moveless pool
where a younger self looked up with hopeful eyes
and met my frown with an open smile.
Startled, I cast a cynical stone
and watched as the splintered fragments of my long ago
rippled away into oblivion.