



WELSHPOOL METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Marian Jones

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"Celebrating and Sharing God's Love"

APRIL 2018 CHURCH BULLETIN

We extend 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. (We have a loop system Please turn off mobile phones).

EASTER OFFERING APPEAL 2018

Each year, the Methodist Church holds an Easter Offering collection, a tradition dating back to 1883 when women in Manchester collected £32 for Missionary work overseas from 'Christmas pennies' at family gatherings on Christmas Day. In March 1884, the London Districts distributed Easter envelopes and collecting bags asking for a penny a head, and collected around £100. In 1900, Women's Work raised £1,655 for the work of overseas missions.

Since that time, each successive Methodist women's movement has encouraged donations in support of God's mission. All the money raised goes to the World Mission Fund to be allocated for work in 65 Partner Churches around the world for the benefit of women, for example, in education and training, health care, and developing leadership roles.

In 2016 (the latest available statistics), £437,798 was raised. Please return your envelope for this year's offering by the end of the month. A circuit service for the Dedication of the Offering will be held at Newtown on Pentecost Sunday, 20th May at 6pm. Thank you.

Easter Sunday 1st April

Lectionary

Acts 10:34-43 *or* Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24;
1 Corinthians 15:1-11 *or* Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 *or* Mark 16:1-8

Early Communion at 9am with Rev Marian

Easter Breakfast at 9.45am

Morning Worship with Communion at 10.45am led by Rev Marian

Easter Praise at 6pm led by Derek

This week

Monday 2nd Coffee Morning and light Lunches, 9.30am to 1pm
Tuesday 3rd Jubilate at 7.15pm, rehearsing for "Broken for You,"
"Jonah Man Jazz" & a Roger Jones work. All welcome.
Wednes. 4th Film Evening, 7pm: "Beauty and the Beast" £3 (£1 child)
Thursday 5th 'Reading the Bible Together' at 12noon; picnic lunch
Saturday 7th **SPRING FAIR**, Coffee and Lunches: 10am to 2pm
Saturday 7th Music Club's 75th Anniversary Concert at 7.30pm with the
Jim Wynn Swingtet. Tickets £12. (Children £5)

Sunday 8th April: Easter 2

Lectionary

Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1- 2:2; John 20:19-31

Morning Worship at 10.45am led by Gareth Evans

Evening Service at 6pm at Welsh Chapel (Churches Together)

This week

Monday 9th Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup
at 1pm
Tuesday 10th Jubilate at 7.15pm
Thursday 12th Prayer Meeting, "Listening for God in the Silence",
12-12.30pm, led by Rev Marian; picnic lunch
Friday 13th Thanksgiving Service for the life of Lily Gordon, 2pm
Saturday 14th Guilsfield Singers' Spring Concert, 7.30pm.

Sunday 15th April: Easter 3

Lectionary

Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48

Morning Worship at 10.45am led by Rev Marian

The General Church Meeting, postponed from 4th March, will follow the service, and then there will be a Bring and Share Lunch.

Evening Worship with Communion at 6pm led by Rev Bill Rowell, with settings from "Broken for You" by Margaret Rizza, sung by Jubilate.

This week:

Monday 16th Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm
Tuesday 17th Jubilate at 7.15pm
Thursday 19th 'Reading the Bible Together' at 12noon; picnic lunch
Friday 20th Fellowship at 2.30pm. Speaker: Rev Jeanette Wilkes
Friday 20th Gallery Group at 7pm
Saturday 21st Coffee Morning and Friendship Lunch

Sunday 22nd April: Easter 4

Vocations Sunday

Lectionary

Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

Morning Worship at 10.45am led by Jubilate

Evening Worship at 6pm led by Terry Jobling

This week:

Monday 23rd Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm
Tuesday 24th Jubilate at 7.15pm
Thursday 26th Prayer Meeting, 12-12.30pm, led by Rev Marian (TBC)
Saturday 28th Walking with Friends: Chirk Castle

Sunday 29th April: Easter 5

Morning Worship at 11am at St Mary's

Evening Worship at 6pm led by John Harbron

Dates for the Diary

Wednesday 4th April at 7pm

Film Evening: "Beauty and the Beast" - £3 (children £1)

Saturday 7th April from 10am to 2pm

Spring Fair: all the usual stalls, tombola, raffle, coffee, lunches

Saturday 7th April at 7.30pm

Jim Wynn Swingtet: swing music of the 30s and 40s - a concert organised by Welshpool Music Club to celebrate its 75th Anniversary year. Tickets £12 (concessions for children) at the door.

Saturday 14th April at 7.30pm

Guilsfield Singers will be performing their Spring Concert in church.

Thursday 3rd May, 7pm for 7.30pm

Derek's Quiz Night - another popular fun evening to test your brain power! Interval refreshments.

Monday 7th May, from 9.30am

Annual **PLANT SALE** (grow some contributions please!)

Saturday 12th May at 7pm (to be confirmed)

Social Evening - either a Ceilidh or a Beetle Drive. Details later.

Sunday 13th May at 10.45am

Revd Canon Gareth Powell, Secretary of the Methodist Conference, will be our guest preacher. This will be a Circuit Service, and will be followed by a Bring and Share Lunch

Christian Aid Week Churches Together service at 6pm at St Mary's.

Saturday 9th June at 7.30pm

"Summer Serenade": Concert with JIGSAW SOUND of Shrewsbury

Saturday 11th August

Church Outing: BLACK COUNTRY MUSEUM (for more details and booking list see Meeting Room notice board)

Craft Group

The Craft Group continues to raise considerable sums of money, both for the church and for the wider community. Thanks are extended to the Craft Group, including those who work at home, for all their hard work, and to all our loyal customers. Thank you all very much.

All the money raised goes to charity. Here is a breakdown of monies raised at church events in 2017:

Coffee Mornings)	
Friendship Lunches)	
Spring Fair)	
Christmas Fair)	£796.26

In addition, throughout the year, the Craft Group raised further funds at Craft Fairs and other venues.

Donations made:

Church Funds	£800.00
RJAH League of Friends	60.00
Welshpool League of Friends	20.00
Royal British Legion (for sale of poppies)	43.00
Rhallt - Comfort Fund at the Lodge	25.00

In addition, cards have been given to all the Care Homes in Welshpool and to St Nicholas, Churchstoke, to the Food Bank, and to Montgomery Wildlife Trust.

A large number of soft toys were donated to the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal in 2016 and in 2017 for distribution locally.

June Taylor

The Craft Group meets weekly in homes on a Thursday evening, and usually monthly at church one Saturday. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact June.

Have you tried any of the other church groups/activities? If not, why not find out more, and give one (or more) a try?

Monday Coffee Mornings 9.30am - 12midday

Both customers and volunteers welcome: contact Gwen

Monday Jubilate 10am-11.30am (& some Tuesdays 7.15-8.30pm)

Friendly singing group of all abilities: contact Janice

Monday Playgroup 1pm-2.30pm

Fun for babies, toddlers and their parents/carers: contact Karen

Tuesday Bible Fellowship, 7.30pm - fortnightly in homes

Informal bible study and discussion: contact Terry or Eileen

Thursday Bible Reading, 12 midday - alternate weeks

Reading through selected books of the bible for 30 minutes; option to continue fellowship over picnic lunch: contact Derek

Thursday Prayer Group, 12 midday - alternate weeks as arranged

"Listening for God in the Silence" for 30 minutes, reflecting on a passage of scripture; option of picnic lunch: contact Rev Marian

Friday Afternoon Fellowship, 2.30-4pm - monthly, on 3rd Friday

A varied programme, with tea to follow: contact Gordon or Janice

Friday Gallery Group, 7pm - monthly, on 3rd Friday

Discussion based on film clip (follow on from Alpha): contact Graham

Saturday Walking with Friends - monthly, 4th Saturday

From easy to moderate, local and further afield: contact Derek

Saturday Friendship Lunches, 11am-2pm - 1st and 3rd Saturdays

£4.50 lunch deal (free for volunteers!): contact Chris or Janice

"O JESUS, MAY YOUR NAME BE PRAISED"

(Tune: "Angelus"- StF 653)

The crowds hailed Jesus on the streets
With waving palms and voices raised;
He knew his time, his death was near,
O Jesus, may your name be praised.

He hung for us upon the cross,
Obeyed his Holy Father's word;
Accepted crucifixion's pain
So we might learn to serve one Lord.

Then three days on, he rose again,
And brought some hope for all dismayed;
The seed that died engenders more,
O Jesus, may your name be praised.

Still through his death he bears us up,
All peoples from around the world,
To die to sin and live in Christ,
We praise you Jesus, living Lord.

Andrea Davies, March 2018

EASTER

Each Easter morn's a new blest tide of love,
A world set free from sin and pain of death,
Silver the dew, clear blue the sky above,
The myriad scents of spring fill every breath:
End of each sorrow, cure for every pain,
Risen and free, my Saviour lives again.

Bill Rowell, 2011

HERE ARE YOUR DISCIPLES

Lord Jesus,
here are your disciples -
your wounded hands and feet
in the world today are ours.

At times we have been the frightened ones,
staying at a distance,
worried about our safety and our reputations.
But you come close to us,
bringing peace and challenge,
unlocking our potential
and setting us free.

At times we have been the doubting ones,
when creeds conflict
or certainty has evaded us.
But you come close
and allow us to speak our minds,
accepting us
and setting us free.

At times we have been the confused ones,
feeling far from you
with questions that don't have answers.
So, at this time of your resurrection
we listen for your voice.....

The risen Christ says to us: 'Peace be with you.
As the Father sent me, so I am sending you.'

*Through our fear, through our doubt, through our confusion,
may we continue Jesus' work as we travel many roads,
liberated and united by the love of the Resurrected One. Amen.*

An Easter Prayer from "Stages on the Way": Wild Goose Worship Group

From Rev Marian

Dear Friends

April 2018

Through Lent we've been preparing ourselves for the events of Holy Week ... or have we? It seems that so many people move from Palm Sunday to Easter Day with little thought for the journey between. Is Easter really about chocolate eggs and bunnies? I have enjoyed (and I'm enjoying!) the lambs in the field and the primroses that have taken the place of snowdrops on the verges as I travel to Welshpool. There are so many signs of spring and warmer weather, with greening and new growth. What does it mean for us to be an Easter people, a resurrection people? Recently, I've been reading about hope – *“Hope is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense, regardless of how it turns out.”*

Jesus does not go looking for death. Rather his crucifixion is the consequence of his commitment to life. It is because he chooses life for those around him, that he is put to death – but not before the seeds of imagination have begun to take root in the lives of those following him. His focus is on living out what “makes sense”, what it is that most reflects the life of God, and he is prepared to take the consequences, even if they are not pleasant or welcome.

If the crucifixion is the response of the powerful, the 'religious' and those in authority, to the kind of hope, freedom and imagination that Jesus shows in his life, then the resurrection invites us to look more deeply and see the ways in which Jesus' life does make sense; how we might pick up the threads of his life as an act of resurrection – how we can live his risen life. What on earth does that mean? The invitation is to live the kind of life that Jesus lived, a life of sacrificial giving, a life of love.

Many years ago, the Roman Catholic Church held a huge conference in Liverpool which they called 'Easter People'. For a number of years, the Methodist Church held a gathering for young people during the Easter holiday and that, too, was called 'Easter People'.

What could it mean for us in Welshpool to be an Easter people, a Resurrection people?

One day, I'll preach on 'the mother of the sons of Zebedee'! She isn't given her own name (was she yet another 'Mary' ... who knows?). We meet her at two critical moments in Matthew's Gospel. The first of these is when she approaches Jesus with a request that her two sons be given places of honour at his right and at his left when he comes into his kingdom (Matthew 20:20-28). The story differs from Mark's version, where James and John do the asking themselves (Mark 10:35-45). Why does their mother take the lead in

Matthew? Is it because she is a pushy mother trying to get the best for her sons? Is it because her sons don't have the courage to ask Jesus themselves? Is she pushed into it by her husband, Zebedee? What she hears is Jesus turn upside down what the world understands by greatness. What matters, instead, are the values of humility and servanthood, of choosing life, even if it costs life. Did she understand? I doubt it – even with the benefit of hindsight, we don't understand, so how could she have done ...

... and yet ... Matthew is the only gospel writer to include “the mother of the sons of Zebedee” explicitly among the women at the cross (Matthew 27:56). On Jesus' right and left are not her sons, but two criminals. The way Matthew describes both this woman and the idea of being on the right and on the left is so similar to the first story I referred to that, perhaps, Matthew wants his readers to make a connection between the two. This ‘mother of the sons of Zebedee’ is there with Jesus to the end, waiting with him, sustaining him with a sense of her presence. She's learned so much from what Jesus said about servanthood and greatness. Even before the act of crucifixion is complete she has begun to live out the resurrection. She is beginning to understand this new world with very different values that Jesus had tried to tell her, and others, about.

What more is there for us to in order to truly call ourselves an Easter people, a Resurrection people?

Peace,

Marian

From Hedydd Spencer

“Please convey my sincerest thanks for all the kind wishes and prayers sent to me over the course of this last year (when I've had seven hospital admissions). I'm due to have my other hip done on 24th April, and then hopefully I can spring into life again after all my recent challenges.”