



WELSHPOOL METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Marian Jones

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www.wbhmethodists.org.uk

"Celebrating and Sharing God's Love"

AUGUST 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).

Thought for the Month EXPLORERS

We need to be explorers, leave our comfort zone;
Not toiling through the green and dripping forest swathes,
Not snatching gasping breaths of icy mountain air,
Not even charmed by coral reef and glinting fish,
Nor silenced when great stones reveal their ancient past;
But seeking, searching, reaching out beyond a world
That offers mystic relics, newly charted shores -
We should explore the endless Love of God.

Andrea Davies 2018

Required for Bulletin Having agreed to produce a monthly Bulletin for a trial run of 3 months in September 2015 (when Rhiannon was unable to continue to prepare the weekly notices) I feel, 3 years later, it is time for me to hand over the task to someone else, as I try to reduce my current workload in order to free up time for other ventures. Please speak to me if you wish to explore what is involved. Janice.

Sunday 29th July

Lectionary

2 Kings 4:42-44; Psalm 145:10-18; Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21

Morning Worship with Holy Communion at 10.45am led by Rev Marian to which we welcome friends from St Mary's on this 5th Sunday.

Evening Worship at 6pm led by Eileen Jobling

This week:

Monday 30th Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12

Monday 30th Open Meeting re: Mission Initiative, 7.15pm

Thursday 2nd Prayer Meeting, 12-12.30pm, led by Rev Marian

Saturday 4th Coffee Morning and Friendship Lunch.

Sunday 5th August

Lectionary

Exodus 16:2-4,9-15; Psalm 78:23-29; Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35

Early Communion at 9am with Rev Marian

Morning Worship at 10.45am led by Rev Marian. Bring & Share Lunch.

Evening Worship with Communion at 6pm led by Rev Michael Taylor

This week:

Monday 6th Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12

Thursday 9th 'Reading the Bible Together' at 12noon; picnic lunch

Saturday 11th Church Outing to the Black Country Museum.
(Coach departs from church at 8.45am)

Sat 11th & Sun 12th Pentre Llifior Flower Festival

Sunday 12th August

Lectionary

1 Kings 19:4-8; Psalm 34:1-8; Ephesians 4:25-5:2; John 6:35, 41-51

Morning Worship at 10.45am led by Rev Bob Thomas

Evening Worship at 6pm at Chelsea Lane Baptist (WCT)

This week:

Monday 13th Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12
Thursday 16th Prayer Meeting, 12-12.30pm, led by Rev Marian
Friday 17th Fellowship AGM & Social Afternoon at the Langfords,
Rhos y Dderwen, Cyfronydd. (Lifts from church, 2pm)
Saturday 18th Coffee Morning and Friendship Lunch

Sunday 19th August

Lectionary

Proverbs 9:1-6; Psalm 34:9-14; Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58

Morning Worship at 10.45am - a Service of Confirmation and Reception into Membership led by Rev Marian. This is Rev Marian's last day of her year with us.

Evening Worship at 6pm led by Jenny Thomas

This week:

Monday 20th Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12
Thursday 23rd 'Reading the Bible Together' at 12noon; picnic lunch

Sunday 26th August

Lectionary

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18; Psalm 34:15-22; Eph. 6:10-20; John 6:56-69

Morning Worship at 10.45am led by Andrea Davies

Evening Worship at 6pm led by Terry Jobling

This week:

Monday 27th Extended Coffee Morning from 9.30am
Saturday 1st Coffee Morning and Friendship Lunch

Sunday 2nd September

Lectionary

Deut. 4:1-2, 6-9; Psalm 15; James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Morning Worship at 10.45am led by John Harbron

Evening Worship with Communion at 6pm led by Rev Bill Rowell

Methodist Church's latest 'Review of the Year' (2016/17)

Income	£46 million (a rise of 6%)
	29% District assessment
	22% Trading activities
	19% Capital levies
	16% Donations/legacies
	14% All other
Expenditure	£48 million (a rise of 3%)
	39% Equipping the church to engage in society
	22% Training and development
	16% Empowering the ministry of overseas partners
	5% Advocacy and education
	18% 'Other costs'
Grants	£5.3m Mission and Ministry in Britain
	£4m Mission and Ministry in the World Church
	£2.6m Property
	£1.4m All We Can - Methodist Relief and Development
	£1.4m Benevolent Support
Churches	4,512
	34% Suburban areas
	28% Small towns
	21% Villages and rural areas
	17% Cities
Membership	188,000
Attendance	202,000 visits to church services each week, including 28,000 by children and young people.
	494,000 visits outside Sunday services, for activities, groups, associations, projects and events etc.

From Rev Marian August 2018

Dear Friends

I was brought up on the story of Mary Jones and her Bible as, no doubt, some of you were. In 1800, Mary Jones walked from Llanfihangel-y-Pennant, over the mountains, to Bala to buy a Bible from The Rev'd Thomas Charles. She'd worked and saved for six years to buy one and I was always told that she walked part of the 26 miles barefoot to save her shoes. She was fifteen years old and, when she got there, there were no Bibles available.

Because of her determination, four years later Thomas Charles became involved, with others, in setting up what became The British and Foreign Bible Society with its original motto: 'Beibl i bawb o bobl y byd' – a Bible for every one of the world's peoples.

The work of the Bible Society continues, translating and making Bibles, or books of the Bible, available, sometimes in languages that have never previously been written down.

Thomas Charles was buried in the churchyard at Llanycil, just outside Bala and, a few years ago, the Bible Society bought the redundant church. The visitor centre created there tells the story of Mary Jones and of the Bible Society. It's open through the year from April to October and at other times by arrangement. A lovely spot to visit, by the side of the lake ... not that I am in any way biased!

It's difficult to imagine the determination and commitment that led to Mary Jones' journey; we take the availability of Bibles for granted and I have a couple of long shelves full of different translations and interpretations and there are times when I'm preparing to lead worship that I compare the different versions. Almost invariably, I come back to the same ones – both relatively recent. The NRSV (New Revised Standard Version) is a modern translation that reads well in public – not all do! - the other is a translation by one individual, Nicholas King, and it's a translation that that makes me think and, sometimes, surprises me. Yet neither is my favourite. I have my maternal grandfather's well used Welsh Bible, in the old translation and I love holding and using it, knowing that he did, too.

A few weeks ago, a number of people commented on the Gospel reading, it sounded different! It was an interpretation by the Rev'd Trevor Dennis (at one time he was on the staff of Chester Cathedral) and he's a good storyteller!

We stand in a long line of the followers of Jesus and the invitation is to absorb the stories and to find ourselves in them. At the Thursday lunchtime prayer group we've been imagining scenes from the gospel stories, wondering where we are in the picture (or, perhaps, we're outside – looking in), listening for what Jesus is saying to us and having a conversation because there are things we want to say to him. There are as many ways of praying as there are people who pray and this is one way with a centuries' long tradition. It is something you can try at home – find a comfortable chair, a passage in the bible, an event that involves Jesus, read it through, relax, read it through again, slowly, and allow yourself to be drawn in to the picture. Does Jesus have something to say to you in the scene?

We are entrusted with handing on our traditions and sharing our faith, we need our memory and our vision to be true to our past and to look to our future.

Thank you for all that you do in the name of God; for your support over these past eleven months and keep on doing what you do so well.

With best wishes,

Marian

(The next Prayer Meetings are on Thursdays 2nd and 16th August)

Methodist Conference 2018 - a brief summary of some of the business (Read in full from www.methodist.org.uk/conference)

Revd Michaela A Youngson was inducted as President and Mr Bala Gnanapragasam as Vice-President of Conference for 2018/19. Conference designated Rev Dr Barbara C Glasson to be President and Professor Clive Marsh to be Vice-President for 2019/2020.

38 presbyters and 5 deacons were received into Full Connexion, along with 4 presbyters by transfer.

A major report was presented to Conference, which considered the nature and understanding of ministry within the church and how this might change in the future. It included a draft statement setting out the church's understanding of ministry, as well as a discussion of questions raised in recent years. This will be made widely available for study and discussion before a final version is brought for approval to Conference in 2020.

Conference directed further work to be undertaken on proposals for bringing the Methodist Church and the Church of England into closer communion with one another, with a report to Conference in 2019.

The Marriage and Relationships Task Group brought an interim report. After workshop discussions of issues raised and a long debate, the Group was tasked to produce a further report for the 2019 Conference containing a number of key theological arguments and recommendations. If accepted, it will be referred to the District Synods for a year-long process of consideration. The 2020 Conference will then make a final decision, with any provision implemented with immediate effect.

The Revd Tim Swindell, Connexional Treasurer, told Conference that £370m was held in reserves by Districts, Circuits and churches, the equivalent of £80,000 for each church or £1 million for each Circuit.

He added that the Church needed “a new generation of Christian entrepreneurs” who are willing to “take a risk to invest and share in the gospel”.

The Methodist Church Fund (MCF) assessment for 2018/19 is budgeted at £13.4m, in line with a previous decision to restrict increases to 1% per annum.

Using the formula agreed by the Conference, the level of increase in the standard stipend will be 2.55%.

3Generate, the annual children and youth assembly, continues to grow, and received agreement from Conference to encourage all churches, circuits and Districts to engage in the Year of Testimony in 2019/20, recognising the importance of speaking about God, faith and sharing stories. Conference also urged churches to build relationships with MPs to explore issues of justice and social action, and for every District to commit to an action to challenge injustice which will be shared with the wider Connexion.

Conference adopted a report from the Ministries Committee proposing increased flexibility in the training of worship leaders and a 'peer review' of all local preachers every three years.

Conference adopted a policy from the Faith and Order Committee stating that those presiding at the sacrament of the Lord's Supper are not permitted to invite participation through electronic means, such as the Internet or social media. The Committee will continue to look at the theology of online life and Christian experience.

JASCEI (Joint Advisory Committee on the Ethics of Investment) reported that much of its work over the past year has been to tackle the ongoing issues of climate change.

Conference gave approval for Methodist Church House in London to be rebuilt at an estimated cost of £22.5m.

Andrew Mathieson

Dear All

Re: Mission Boxes and Donations to World Mission

The time is now due for members holding Mission Boxes to return them and for others to make further donations if possible, in support of the Methodist Fund for World Mission in the coming year. The boxes and donations should be sent to me ("Westbourne House", Mill Lane, SY21 7DY) by the middle of August to ensure all monies are banked in time for inclusion in the 2017-18 end-of-year statement.

The total Circuit giving for World Mission in 2016-17 was £878.90, (£343.00 from boxes and donations and £535.90 from MWiB Easter Offering). Welshpool church's contribution to this was £119.00 - one annual donation of £50 and £69 from Easter Offering envelopes.

We all know that the need never stops and, as members of the Methodist Church, we should respond to the annual appeal as best we can - it would certainly be a boost if our total donations to World Mission could exceed one thousand pounds this time.

Members should know that the Methodist church has been active in raising money for World Mission since 1818 when the Methodist Connexion agreed to the formation of a general Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society (as against local ones) at its conference in Leeds on 25th July, 1818. This is the 200th anniversary year of that event so I hope your church members will make an extra effort to donate more this year in celebration of that important anniversary.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Mathieson (Circuit Secretary and Treasurer, World Mission)

Gift Envelopes are available in the foyer, or give your donation, in any envelope, to Derek or Janice to pass on to Andrew.

JUBILATE - a review of the year

After a busy year, Jubilate is now "resting" during August. Currently we have 24 members associated with the group, sixteen from our own church family, with two from Pentre Llifior Methodist chapel, one Methodist from the Marches circuit, and two Presbyterians and three Anglicans - coming from as far as Llandinam in one direction and Oswestry in the other! (We lost our dear friend Celia in December - she is much missed but not forgotten). We meet on Monday mornings from 10am until about 11.30am (a number come earlier to enjoy coffee and a chat together before singing), and we start each session with a 'Thought for the Day' led by one of the members. When we are preparing for a special service or for a concert, we also meet on Tuesday evenings from 7.15pm to 8.30pm.

During this past year we have prepared and led four morning services, have presented "Jonah Man Jazz" at Welshpool in June and at Trefeglwys in July, staged a Supper Concert in September, and presented Roger Jones' "The Gift" in December, cafe style, with a celebration tea to follow. In July, some members took part in the "Singing for Pleasure" week at Willersley Castle Christian Guild Hotel at Cromford, near Matlock. We also enjoyed our annual Anniversary Lunch at the Lakeside in March.

After our summer break, we meet again on Monday 3rd September, with a busy schedule ahead, including presenting the Roger Jones' musicals "David" in September and "While Shepherds Watched" at Christmas, and with a "Musical in Day" arranged for 20th October.

We would love to have new members joining us - spread the word that **ALL are welcome**. No auditions! Just a love of singing (and fun!) with like-minded people is the only qualification required!

GARDENER AVAILABLE: £12 per hour
Contact John on 07495 698529