



WELSHPOOL METHODIST CHURCH

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"Celebrating and Sharing God's Love"

JUNE 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).

Methodist Homes Sunday: Sunday 10th June

This year, Methodist Homes for the Aged (MHA) celebrates its 75th Anniversary, and we shall be using an Order of Service in our morning worship on 10th especially produced for the occasion, entitled "Full of Years". Gift envelopes for the work of MHA will be available, and we hope that you will respond generously.

Marking BIBLE MONTH

We shall be welcoming our friends from Newtown and also those from congregations around the town to our evening worship on 10th June, as we mark Bible Month with a special service led by Jubilate focussing on JONAH, the book chosen for Bible Month this year. The service will include the singing of a short, lively musical based on the story of Jonah, entitled "Jonah Man Jazz". Please join us!

Sunday 3rd June

Lectionary

Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Psalm 81:1-10; 2 Cor.4:5-12; Mark 2:23-3:6

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 Bill Rowell

This week:

- Monday 4th Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm; Church Council at 7pm
- Tuesday 5th Jubilate at 7.15pm
- Thursday 7th Prayer Meeting, 12-12.30pm, led by Rev Marian
- Thursday 7th Circuit Meeting at Newtown, 7pm
- Saturday 9th Coffee Morning and Stalls for CAP, 9.30am to 12
(Cakes needed for Cake Stall, please)

**Saturday 9th June at 7.30pm: "SUMMER SERENADE"
with
JIGSAW SOUND**

A return visit of this popular Shrewsbury Choir Tickets: £5

Sunday 10th June: Methodist Homes Sunday

Lectionary

Genesis 3:8-15; Psalm 130; 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1; Mark 3:20-35

Morning Worship at 10.40am led by Stewards

Evening Worship at 6pm led by Jubilate singing "Jonah Man Jazz"
(This is a WCT service and we'll also be joined by Newtown friends)

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 12noon; picnic lunch
Friday 15th Gallery Group at 7pm
Saturday 16th Coffee Morning and Friendship Lunch, 11am to 2pm

Sunday 17th June

Lectionary

Ezekiel 17:22-24; Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15; 2 Cor. 5:6-17; Mark 4:26-34

Morning Worship at 10.45am led by Rev Marian (Holy Communion)

Evening Worship at 6pm led by John Harbron

This week:

Monday 18th Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm
Tuesday 19th Jubilate at 7.15pm
Wednesday 20th Llanidloes' Closing Service, 6.30pm
Thursday 21st Prayer Meeting, 12-12.30pm, led by Rev Marian
Worship Consultation at 2pm
Saturday 23rd Festival of Transport: Exhibits and Films; Snacks
Saturday 23rd Walking with Friends - see Derek for details

Sunday 24th June

Lectionary

Job 38:1-11; Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32; 2 Cor. 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41

Festival Morning Worship at 10.45am led by Rev Marian

Evening Worship at 6pm led by Graham Smith

This week:

Monday 25th Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm
Tuesday 26th Jubilate at 7.15pm
Thursday 28th 'Reading the Bible Together' at 12noon; picnic lunch
Friday 29th Fellowship visit to Derwen Garden Centre, with Cream Tea.
Meet at church at 2.15pm for transport.

Sunday 1st July

Lectionary

Lamentations 3:23-33; Psalm 30; 2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43

Early Communion at 9am with Rev Marian

Morning Worship at 10.45am led by Rev Marian. (No Lunch today)

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

This week:

Monday 2nd Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; No Jubilate today;
 Playgroup at 1pm

Tuesday 3rd Jubilate at 7.15pm

Thursday 5th Prayer Meeting, 12-12.30pm, led by Rev Marian (TBC)

Saturday 16th Coffee Morning and Friendship Lunch, 11am to 2pm

Dates for the Diary

Monday 9th July

Coffee Morning and Stalls organised by **Cefn Chapel**

Saturday 14th July

100 Cakes Stall & Coffee Morning to raise funds for the transport of Samaritans' Purse Christmas Shoeboxes. Please provide a cake!

Wednesday 18th July at 7.15pm

An Evening with Simon Sutcliffe - Rev Simon has worked at Queen's, Birmingham since 2011, as Tutor for Evangelism and Pioneering Ministry, teaching and researching in areas of mission, evangelism, Fresh Expressions, emerging church and practical theology. He spends the other half of his time as a Venture FX Pioneer in the Stoke area, working with a group to establish small new Christian communities, meeting people where they are. We have invited him to speak with us, both about his work, but also about our own situation, and perhaps to suggest an appropriate way forward for us as we strive to find a Mission initiative to undertake in our community here.

From Rev Marian

June 2018

Dear Friends,

Many moons ago, when I was very young, my school maths teacher wanted me to include maths in my 'A' level subjects. I didn't, but I needed my maths because one of the subjects that I decided to study was physics. Still, numbers fascinate me!

Our church treasurer has discovered that I go through balance sheets with a fine tooth comb and I enjoy playing games with numbers, so the Property and Finance Committee gives me free reign and, as Derek is Lay Chairman of that Committee and a former Maths teacher, he must wonder what I'm going to ask next.

Earlier this week, at the Committee, we were presented with the balance sheet for the months from September to May and I was trying to work out in my head how much it costs to keep the church doors open and there are some 'interesting' figures. The church collection for the last nine months has totalled £10,578 and there has been a tax refund of £1,789 (thank you to everyone who pays tax and is willing to 'Gift Aid' their giving – that increases their giving, courtesy of the government, by 25% and at no cost to them). If my sums are correct, that makes a total of £12,367. As this is for 9 months, the total for the year is estimated to be £15,458. The treasurer will tell me, I'm sure, if I'm reading too much into these figures!

The expenditure for the past 9 months, calculating only basic expenses like heating and lighting, insurance, maintenance, and the Assessment (the sum paid to the Circuit for the maintenance of ministry and manses, for the work of the District and the work of the Methodist Church nationally) was £33, 411. Some of the items contained within that figure were 'one off' payments so, let's say that for 12 months the cost would be £40,000. I couldn't run my home like that! If my figures are anything like accurate, then it costs about £770 each week to keep the church doors open. Without our letting rental, we couldn't survive and rental income can't be guaranteed yet we have come to rely on it.

If you've been in church, you will have heard me mention a Jewish friend of mine who lives in Manchester. The treasurer of the synagogue to which he belongs each year calculates the number of men who belong to the synagogue, the amount it costs to keep the synagogue open and works out how much each is expected to contribute, then presents each man with an invoice – they can, of course, give more than is requested! That is common practice in synagogues throughout the world.

Thankfully, we treat women and men as equals and we have about 67 members so I'll leave you to work out the sums.

I don't drink coffee but, the other day, I took a friend of mine into a well known coffee shop (a branch of which has just opened in Welshpool). I had my money ready to pay and discovered that it wasn't enough. The coffee she'd asked for was more than £3.00 a cup! She did enjoy it, so it was worth it.

Often, when I'm receiving the collection, I use words from the First Book of Chronicles: 'Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendour, for everything in heaven and earth is yours' adding the words 'all things come from you and of your own do we give you'.

The Property and Finance Committee took my mind to places it would rather not go!

With best wishes,

Peace!

Marian

"Snippets" for June on the theme of age or ageing

marking MHA's 75th anniversary this year

Ruth Levett, a resident in a Methodist Home, wrote this poem

"CROMWELL HOUSE"

In Cromwell House we are all friends,
The long, the short and the tall,
The little and large, the dark and the fair
One big family all.

Carers, domestics and office staff
All work with hand and brain.
They have their various jobs to do
But its legs that take all the strain.

And then there are the kitchen staff,
And we need a handyman,
So many people care for us
Working as hard as they can.

Carers run to fetch and carry,
They see that we are fed.
They wash us, dress us, hoist us, guide us,
And also make the bed.

They really need a lot of patience
Just standing still to wait
While slower thought, and slower limbs
Decide a person's fate.

A hairdresser comes each Monday
To keep us looking trim;
A chiropodist also visits us
So we feel light of limb

We are well fed, we put on weight
There is a choice each day;
Each month we get upon the scales
Wondering what they will say.

All sorts of things are here to do
Sometimes a quiz or game,
Music therapy, computer or pool
Two days are never the same.

A minibus will take us out
To visit various places,
A garden centre or museum,
So we see different faces.

People come in to entertain us,
With instruments and song,
Talk to us or show us pictures,
No day need seem too long.

At 10 o'clock we worship God
And thank Him for His love.
Visitors come with us to pray
And lift our hearts above.

So spending time in Cromwell House
We find our needs are met,
Physical, mental and spiritual too,
Life is worth living yet.

Dan is also a resident in a Methodist Home.

Dan, at 101, has struck up a wonderful friendship with a much younger resident, Fred, who is in his early sixties, totally blind, but mobile. Together they have formed a "mutual help" club! Fred walks along holding Dan's arm to support him, while Dan acts as their eyes.

Dan says: "I may be getting older, but I refuse to GET OLD!"

Billy Graham (1918-2018) - American Evangelist, wrote:

When Coca Cola changed its one-hundred-year-old formula in 1985, there was a public backlash and demands for the original, so within two short months the company was forced to return the beverage to grocery shelves under the name of Coca-Cola Classic, spiking sales for the soft drink company. The conclusion of marketers was that the formula had stood the test of time. The trade-secret had trumped the new recipe, as proven by the millions of fans who did not want the "real thing" tampered with.

What does this have to do with growing old? Old is authentic. Old is genuine. Old is valuable. Some say old is even beautiful The older generation may have a hard time keeping up with the younger, but let's remember that as long as we are still breathing, we are leading the way. The generations that follow are learning about growing old from us. Are we good examples? While we have all made mistakes and would like to turn back the clock to correct some things, we know that is not possible. But the lessons we have learned from our successes and failures can help those following behind. The impact we can potentially have on them can mean the difference between leaving good memories in our place or simply being 'out of sight, out of mind'.

Pablo Casals (1876-1973) - Cellist and Conductor, wrote:

On my last birthday I was ninety-three years old. That is not young, of course. But age is a relative matter. If you continue to work and to absorb the beauty in the world about you, you find that age does not necessarily mean getting old. At least, not in the ordinary sense. I feel many things more intensely than ever before, and for me life grows more fascinating.

John Paul Richter (1763-1825) - Writer, wrote:

The more sand that has escaped from the hourglass of our life, the clearer we should see through it.

And on a lighter note: "Change and Decay all around me"

Everything is farther away than it used to be.

It is twice as far to the corner and they have added a hill, I notice.

I've given up running for the bus; it leaves faster than it used to do.

It seems to me that they are making steps steeper these days.

Have you noticed the smaller print they are using in the newspapers?

There is no sense in asking anyone to read aloud; everyone speaks in such a low voice I can barely hear them.

And the material in clothes is getting so skimpy, especially around the hips and waist.

Even the people are changing; they are so much younger than they used to be when I was their age. On the other hand, people my own age are so much older than I am. I ran into an old friend the other day and she had aged so much that she didn't recognise me.

I got to thinking about the poor old thing whilst I was combing my hair this morning, and while I was doing so I glanced at my reflection - and do you know what? They don't make mirrors like they used to!!

And finally, a prayer for all ages

Keep me Lord

- from the belittling, the interfering and the stupid;
- from the infection of irritation and anger over nothings
- from all promptings to decry the person or work of others
- from scorn, sarcasm, petty spite, whispering behind the back
- from the dishonest honesty of frankness meant to hurt
- from hasty and biased judgements, and all pleasure in them
- from all imposition of my own fads and interests upon others
- from burdening and boring others with my own anxieties and ailments
- from self-justification, self-excusing and complacency

Deliver me and keep me, O Lord. Amen.