



WELSHPOOL METHODIST CHURCH

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"Celebrating and Sharing God's Love"

MARCH 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).

'The Lord's Prayer - Praying it, Meaning it, Living it'

This is the title of the York Course, in 5 sections, chosen by Welshpool Churches Together for study during Lent. For those of you unable to join us, these are just some of the questions to be discussed:

1. **Our Father:** does the idea of God as 'Father' work well for you? What about the word picture of God as 'Mother'?
2. **Thy Will be Done:** describe one or two personal situations when you found it difficult to discern the right way forward. Does the WWJD (What Would Jesus Do) approach help?
3. **Our Daily Bread:** Jews, Muslims and other faith communities have clear food laws and guidelines. Christians don't - but is there a 'Christian approach' to food?
4. **As We Forgive:** are some crimes/sins too appalling to be forgiven?
5. **In Heaven:** do you reflect on your own mortality and what happens after death? Think of a hymn and a Bible passage which give you support and encouragement as you contemplate your own mortality.

Sunday 4th March: Lent 3

Lectionary

Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

Early Communion at 9am with Rev Marian, followed by breakfast

Morning Worship at 10.45am led by Rev Marian

General Church Meeting after the service; Bring and Share Lunch.

Compline at 6pm led by Rev Bill Rowell

This week

- Monday 5th Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm
- Tuesday 6th Bible Fellowship, 7.30pm, at 52 Erw Wen
- Wednes. 7th WCT Lent Study Group 3, 7 for 7.30pm, New Street
- Thursday 8th 'Reading the Bible Together' at 12noon; picnic lunch
- Thursday 8th Circuit Meeting, 7pm, at Newtown

Sunday 11th March: Lent 4 Mothering Sunday

Lectionary

Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

Or, for Mothering Sunday:

1 Sam.1:20-28; Psalm 127:1-4; Colossians 3:12-17; John 19:25-27

Morning Worship at 10.45am led by Rev Marian (HC)

Evening Service at 6pm at Baptist Church (Churches Together)

This week

- Monday 12th Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm
- Wednes. 14th WCT Lent Study Group 4, 7 for 7.30pm, New Street
- Thursday 15th Prayer Meeting, "Listening for God in the Silence", 12-12.30pm, led by Rev Marian; picnic lunch
- Thursday 15th Music Club Concert: Bute Clarinet Quartet, 7.30pm
- Friday 16th Friday Fellowship at 2.30pm: Canon Julia Francis
- Friday 16th Gallery Group at 7pm
- Saturday 17th Coffee Morning and Lunches, 11am to 2pm

Sunday 18th March: Lent 5

Lectionary

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

Morning Worship at 10.45am led by Andrea Davies

Afternoon Tea Service at 4pm led by Derek and Church Stewards

This week:

Monday 19th Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm

Wednes.21st WCT Lent Study Group 5, 7 for 7.30pm, New Street

Thursday 22nd 'Reading the Bible Together' at 12noon; picnic lunch

Saturday 24th Walking with Friends: Rodney's Pillar; meet at 10am

Palm Sunday 25th March: Entry into Jerusalem

Lectionary

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm31; Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 11:1-11 or 15: 1-39

Morning Worship at 10.45am led by Rev Marian

Jubilate Anniversary Lunch at the Lakeside, 12.45 for 1pm

Evening Worship at 6pm led by Rev Bob Thomas (HC)

This week:

Monday 26th Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am; Playgroup at 1pm

Tuesday 27th Stations of the Cross at St Winefride's, 7pm

Thursday 29th Service for Maundy Thursday, 7pm, led by Rev Marian:
Institution of the Lord's Supper

Friday 30th Good Friday Walk of Witness, 11am from St Winefride's,
to service in Corn Exchange

Easter Sunday 1st April

Early Communion at 9am with Rev Marian, followed by **Breakfast**

Morning Worship with Holy Communion at 10.45am led by Rev Marian

Easter Praise at 6pm led by Derek

From Rev Marian

Dear Friends

March 2018

Most of you will know, by now, that I make fairly regular tips to the Holy Land – I hope I haven't bored you (yet!) with stories and descriptions of the places, people and scenes....

Over the years particularly on 'my own' visits, as opposed to pilgrimages, I've taken time to sit and reflect in some of the places that speak to me. In January, I was fortunate enough to be back in Jerusalem for just a few days, spending a night locked in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, built over the sites of the crucifixion and the tomb of Jesus, so it is also the place of resurrection. The reflections below are from a previous visit and, as we move through Lent towards Holy Week and Easter, I offer them to you.

Thursday – Gethsemane

Strange shadows: olive branches in the moonlight
like outstretched arms,
reaching, threatening
to grab, to take.

Shadows in the mind: a lonely darkness,
A forsaken-ness.

Time an eternity; a long silence,
No words of comfort, no affirmation now,
Those closest fail.

Waiting for a word
the Word made flesh listens...
even God is silent.

The traitor speaks no word as
from the shadows he comes
to kiss the Light –
the slightest brush of lips to cheek –
and Light dispels the shadow:

a pain he cannot bear.
He returns the Judas price
and will not let Love reach him.

Friday – the Agony

Do you re-live your agony, O Christ,
The spear-pierced side,
The penetrating pain
Each time wounds are inflicted
without reason, without care,
when silence is demanded
and abuse ignored, denied?

Do you relive your agony, O Christ,
the mental anguish,
abandonment and fear,
when children cry, unheard,
untended in their pain,
deprived by man of childhood
and love replaced by fear?

Do you relive your agony, O Christ,
when death comes early?
Or with futility and emptiness,
childhood is denied
and something in them dies –
is killed, no more to rise?

Holy Saturday

A death –
so cruel
so exposed
so laboured
so slow
- a sight beyond our seeing.

An emptiness –
no pain
no tear
no light
no feeling
-a sorrow beyond sobbing.

A grief –
so black
so bleak
so heavy
so brooding
- a sadness beyond soothing.

A tomb –
so hurried
so gentle
so solemn
so final
- a seal on our salvation.

A New Dawn

No seal
no stone
no shrouded body
no Saviour.

A graveyard
a groundsman
a greeting
an anxious grasping.

A recognition
a realisation
a promise fulfilled
a resurrection.

As we accompany Christ on his journey to Jerusalem may we know his presence with us.

Peace!

Marian

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, raffle, coffee - lunches available

Saturday 7th April at 7.30pm

Jim Wynn Swingtet (from the Jim Wynn Swing Band, Birmingham): swing music of the 30s and 40s - a concert organised by Welshpool Music Club to celebrate its 75th Anniversary year. Further details will be posted on the Notice board. Pay at the door.

Saturday 14th April at 7.30pm

Guilsfield Singers will be performing their Spring Concert in church. For details see poster on Community Notice board in Meeting Room.

Sunday 15th April at 6pm

Jubilate will be singing sections of the Communion service "Broken for You" by Margaret Rizza. Rev Bill Rowell will preside.

Thursday 26th April, 7pm for 7.30pm (to be confirmed)

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

Saturday 12th May, 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.

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

And don't forget to book for the Outing to the Black Country Museum on Saturday 11th August. Booking list on Meeting Room notice board

One More Gift

A rough-hewn cross, a broken tree
Where Jesus hung for you and me;
For me, for you, for everyone
God sacrificed his only Son.

And those that wept beneath the cross
Were numb with grief, so great their loss,
But he had one more gift to give,
Through agony he breathed, "Forgive".

Forgiveness offered for us all,
If we can answer to his call;
Take up our cross, and learn his ways,
And follow Jesus all our days.

Then when we stumble, as we might,
He's there to raise us to the light,
The light that his salvation gives;
So take the cross for Jesus lives!

Andrea Davies 2018

Andrea wrote this poem for the service Jubilate led last month on the theme "Take up your cross and follow me" (Mark 8: 34), and we concluded the service with Andrea's prayer from this year's Methodist Prayer Handbook:

Loving Jesus, let us step out with you in faith;
Grant us understanding to know what we need to do,
Grant us courage to go wherever we are needed,
Grant us strength to face our difficulties,
Grant us determination to overcome our disappointments,
Grant us wisdom to serve you well.
Lord Jesus, let us step out with you in faith,
So that your light shines far beyond our way,
bringing your truth to many.
Amen.

An article from 'Theology Everywhere'
We are the brass band of Christ
by Will Fletcher

*'Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,
To the church of God that is in Grimethorpe, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus,
called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord
Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:
Grace to you and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.'*

This is how I imagine Paul might begin a letter if he was writing to the church in Grimethorpe, a Yorkshire town synonymous with brass banding, rather than to Corinth. I choose this as someone who enjoys playing in, and listening to, brass bands. Since moving to Yorkshire, it has been such a blessing to be welcomed into Deepcar Brass Band where I make up part of the bass section on the B flat tuba.

Playing a brass instrument, we are rarely trusted with the tune. For those of you of a certain age, you may remember 'Tubby the Tuba'. If you don't, get online and find it! It tells of a tuba in an orchestra desperate to play the tune, but always getting it wrong and upsetting others. I won't spoil how this story of high drama ends...

Yet without each part of the band playing their part the piece of music can sound empty. When the band plays a hymn tune, as it often does to warm up, in four-part harmony, the rich sound can be so beautiful in a way that the melody on its own cannot. Therefore, each part of the band is necessary.

I'm no Greek expert, but I wonder if Paul did write to the Church in Grimethorpe, he might continue: 'You are the brass band of Christ, and individually members of it. For just as the brass band is one and has many members, and all the members of the band, though many, are one band, so it is with Christ. Therefore, the cornet cannot say to the trombone, "I don't need you", nor again can the euphonium say to the tuba, "I don't need you." If all were a single member, where would the band be?' (My sincerest apologies to St Paul for that butchery of his text!)

So far it may seem like a classic application of a famous passage – in the Church we all have different roles to play which we need to do in order to bring about a beautiful tune. Yet there are added points which maybe the image of the body doesn't portray, but which could be of some use for the Church today.

Firstly, in many pieces of music, not just for brass band but all manner of orchestra and ensemble, there isn't just one tune being played. Often, whilst one instrument has the melody, another instrument has a countermelody. This isn't just a bit of harmony to support the main tune, but something different that brings a bit of added sparkle and beauty. In our churches, we shouldn't be of the opinion that there is only one tune and everyone else's role is in supporting that tune. Many different people may have melodies and countermelodies, separate areas of ministry and mission that together make a beautiful whole.

The best pieces of music aren't just about the notes that are played, but also about the rests the instruments have. As a tuba player, others in the band laugh at how many rests I have. But having different instruments coming in and stopping provides colour and impact. As churches we may need to get better at encouraging people to have spells of rest so that when they are active they have the energy to serve well and bring that much needed colour and impact.

So, may we continue to work to make our churches a coherent band, each member playing their part and remembering to rest. May we be attuned to the various melodies and countermelodies that people can offer to make up a glorious tune. For as St Paul may have said to the Church in Grimethorpe, 'For when one member plays a wrong note, the whole band suffers; if one member plays a beautiful tune, the whole band rejoices.'

About 'Theology Everywhere'

Every Monday a short article is posted on the Theology Everywhere website (theologyeverywhere.org) which brings some theology to bear on an issue or topic. The website is made available by the Methodist Church as one of the actions being taken to create a learning church. Contributors are from varied backgrounds (many but not all are Methodist) and include Rev Jennie Hurd and Rev Stephen Wigley.