



WELSHPOOL METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Bob Thomas

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“Celebrating and Sharing God’s Love”

SEPTEMBER 2018 CHURCH BULLETIN

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

Happy New Year!

1st September marks the start of the new Methodist Year, when many congregations, having said “Goodbye” to a previous minister, are welcoming someone new to take pastoral charge of their church. As Rev Marian completed her year with us at the end of August, our Superintendent Minister, Rev Bob Thomas will be looking after all seven churches in the circuit, as, due to a shortfall in availability of ministers, we have become a “one-minister station”. Please give him your support. The good news is that we don’t have to say “Goodbye” to Rev Marian, as she has kindly agreed to be with us on a regular basis on the 2nd Sunday of the month to conduct our 10.45am service of Holy Communion.

The Serenity Prayer

“God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference”.

Reinhold Niebuhr, 1892-1971

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

Bring and Share Lunch

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

This week:

Monday 3rd

Jubilate at 10am (no Coffee Morning today)

Funeral of Ivy Watkins, 2pm

Tuesday 4th

Jubilate for "David" at 7.15pm.

Wednes. 5th

Property & Finance Committee, 7.15pm

Thursday 6th

'Reading the Bible Together' at 12noon; picnic lunch

Sunday 9th September

Lectionary

Isaiah 35:4-7a; Psalm 125; James 2:1-10, (11-13)14-17; Mark 7:24-37

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

Evening Worship at 6pm at St Mary's (Churches Together)

This week:

Monday 10th

Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am;

Playgroup at 1pm

Tuesday 11th

Jubilate at 7.15pm

Saturday 15th

Coffee Morning and Friendship Lunch

Sunday 16th September

Lectionary

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 116:1-9; James 3: 1-12; Mark 8:27-38

Early Communion at 9am led by Rev Michael; Breakfast

Morning Worship at 10.45am led by Rev Bob

Evening Worship at 6pm led by Terry Jobling

This week:

Monday 17th Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am;
Playgroup at 1pm
Tuesday 18th Jubilate at 7.15pm (final rehearsal)
Wednes.19th Pastoral Committee Meeting at 7pm
Churches Together at New Street at 7.30pm
Thursday 20th 'Reading the Bible Together' at 12noon; picnic lunch
Circuit Meeting at 7pm at Newtown
Friday 21st Fellowship at 2.30pm; Gallery Group at 7pm
Saturday 22nd 'Walking with Friends', Pistyll Rhaeadr, dept. 9.30am

Sunday 23rd September

Lectionary

Jeremiah 11:18-20; Psalm 54; James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37

Morning Worship at 10.45am led by Gareth Evans

Evening Worship at 6pm led by Jubilate singing "David" by R Jones

This week:

Monday 24th Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am
Playgroup at 1pm
Fri/Sat/Sun Various events as part of the town's 1940s weekend

Sunday 30th September

Lectionary

Numbers 11:4-6,10-16,24-29; Ps. 19:7-14; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50

Morning Worship at 11am at St Mary's

Evening Worship at 6pm led by Rev Michael

This week:

Monday 1st Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; No Jubilate this week;
Playgroup at 1pm
Thursday 4th 'Reading the Bible Together' at 12noon; picnic lunch
Saturday 6th Coffee Morning and Friendship Lunch
Thursday 4th 'Reading the Bible Together' at 12noon; picnic lunch
Saturday 6th Coffee Morning and Friendship Lunch

Sunday 7th October: HARVEST FESTIVAL

Lectionary

Genesis 2:18-24; Psalm 8; Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16

Morning Worship at 10.45am led by Andrea Davies

Harvest Lunch following morning service

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

This week:

- Monday 8th Coffee Morning 9.30am to 12; Jubilate at 10am;
 Playgroup at 1pm
- Tuesday 9th Church Council at 7pm
- Thursday 11th Prayer Group at 12noon; picnic lunch
 Music Club Concert at 7.30pm: Simon Callaghan, piano
- Saturday 13th Coffee Morning and Friendship Lunch
 (Please note, moved forward one week this month)

On Sunday 23rd September at 6pm Jubilate Singers present

"DAVID"

The Christian Musical by Roger Jones, based on the life of
David - Shepherd Boy, Psalmist and King

The group has been practising hard for a number of months to learn this musical and would welcome your support. We hope to be joined by the evening congregations from Cefn and Newtown. Refreshments will be served at the conclusion. All welcome.

Friday 28th, Saturday 29th, Sunday 30th September

WELSHPOOL'S 1940'S WEEKEND

Various events will be held in our church, which will be bedecked with floral displays by different groups. See the posters for details.

Wednesday, 17th October, 7.30pm at Theatr Hafren

Newtown Musical Theatre Company presents

**"JOSEPH AND THE
AMAZING TECHNICOLOUR DREAMCOAT"**

Tickets: £15, concessions £12.50

Please sign the list on the Meeting Room notice board if you would like to attend. We hope to arrange transport for those without, subject to car spaces being available.

Saturday 20th October: 'MUSICAL IN A DAY'

Come and join us as Annie Routley with the Christian Music Ministries team teaches us the musical "Jairus's Daughter" by Roger Jones, which we will then perform it in the evening!

ALL WELCOME

NO CHARGE

'Peace through Prayer'

(From Credo, The Times, 28th July, submitted by Vio)

At a time of great uncertainty for Jesus's followers he said to them:
"Peace I leave you, my peace I give you. I do not give you as the world gives.
Do not let your heart be troubled and do not be afraid".
(John 14v.27)

Jesus promises us an inner stillness and rest which is in sharp contrast to the pressure of the world around us. It takes discipline to make this search for inner peace part of our daily lives, but since worry will always come, it's an invaluable gift to have. Whatever worries and burdens you carry, you can find God's peace through prayer.

'Listening for God in the Silence'

In the August Bulletin, Rev Marian mentioned the Thursday lunchtime prayer group, where, after relaxing our bodies and minds, a story from the gospels has been read to us, before, in silence, we spend the rest of the half hour reflecting on the passage, and listening for what Jesus is saying to us. Those of us who have been attending have valued these sessions, and on occasions, have found 'God's peace through prayer' (but sometimes his challenge too!) We are hoping to continue meeting once we have found an experienced leader, and would invite you to join us. Details will be published.

A verse from a favourite hymn (Singing the Faith 158)

(Christopher Idle)

Lord, you sometimes speak in silence,
through our loud and noisy day;
we can know and trust you better
when we quietly sit and pray.
O Lord, you sometimes speak in silence.

Methodist Prayer Handbook 2018-19

"A World Transformed"

Prayers for every day of the year

For over 120 years the Methodist Prayer Handbook has been used by Methodist people as a source of inspiration and information. It is arranged as a monthly cycle, and also includes a lectionary with suggested readings, hymns and psalms for each day of the year. Each year, prayers are based on a particular theme, and contributors range from the President and Vice-President of Conference and Chairs of District, to Local Preachers, Worship Leaders, church members, and school pupils. The theme for next year, 2019-2020, is "Responding to the Gospel" inspired by 'Our Calling', and closing date for contributions (120 words maximum) is 11th January 2019.

(Copies of the 2018-19 Prayer Handbook are £3.50, from Janice)

Two Prayers from the 2018-19 Handbook

Lord, in the silence, we hear your love;
in the stillness, we feel your love;
in the chaos of life, we sense your love,
and when stumbling on the pathway, we are enveloped in your love.
In this busy and complex world, we are humbled to know
that your love will never change, never fail, and never end.
Help us, Lord, to be true witnesses to your love. Amen.

Lord, I don't realise I am doing it.
I am walking through life with my head down, shoulders bowed.
I can't see what is going on around me, I can only see the ground.
Help me to lift my head, my eyes, and my thoughts to you,
The source of my many blessings, my comforter when life is tough,
my Saviour and my friend.
And as I lift my heart to you,
I may just notice someone is walking beside me. Amen.

The Perfect Church

*(A verse printed on a card by Rock Cottage Crafts,
submitted by Leah)*

If you should find the perfect church
Without one fault or smear,
For goodness sake don't join that church
You'd spoil the atmosphere.

If you should find the perfect church
Where all anxieties cease,
Then pass it by, lest joining it
You spoil the masterpiece.

If you should find the perfect church
Then don't you ever dare
To tread upon such holy ground
You'd be a misfit there.

But since no perfect church exists,
Made of perfect men,
Let's cease on looking for that church,
And love the church we're in.

Of course it's not the perfect church,
That's simple to discern.
But you and I and all of us
Could cause the tide to turn.

What fools we are to flee the past
In that unfruitful search
To find, at last, where problems loom
God proudly builds his church.

I Dream of a Church ...

(Learnt at a Christian Guild Singing Week by Rev'd Kate Compston & Rev'd Jonathan Todd)

I dream of a church that joins in with God's laughing,
As she rocks in her rapture, enjoying her art;
She's glad of her world, in its risking and growing:
'Tis the child she has borne and holds close to her heart.

I dream of a church that joins in with God's weeping,
As she crouches, weighed down by the sorrow she sees:
She cries for the hostile, the cold and no-hoping,
For she bears in herself our despair and dis-ease.

I dream of a church that joins in with God's dancing,
As she moves like the wind and the wave and the fire;
A church that can pick up its skirts, pirouetting
With the steps that can signal God's deepest desire.

I dream of a church that joins in with God's loving,
As she bends to embrace the unlovely and lost,
A church that can free, in its sharing and daring,
The imprisoned and poor, and then shoulder the cost.

God make us a church that joins in with your living,
As you cherish and challenge, rein in and release,
A church that is winsome, impassioned, inspiring,
Lioness of your justice, and lamb of your peace.

Circuit Outreach Newtown Community Cafe

This Circuit Mission Outreach initiative aims to provide, at Newtown Methodist Church, weekly lunches for all who are in need - including "the poor, the cold, the unlovely and the lost" with the help of food donated by local supermarkets. Volunteers required, to help prepare and serve - launch date mid-October. If you can offer your help on a rota basis (not every week), please speak to Janice. Thank you.

Church Outreach Initiatives

CAP (Christians Against Poverty)

As you will have read in previous editions of the Bulletin, three of our members, Fiona Jones, Karen Kerr and Eric Pacey have undertaken training as CAP counsellors, and have already held two courses in the Gallery for anyone seeking advice. With the support of Town Clerk Robert Robinson, the next course will be held at the Town Hall rather than in the Gallery, and it is hoped that the change of venue will encourage those who may be reluctant to cross the threshold of a church to attend. Further details are available from Fiona, Karen and Eric.

Basic Cookery Skills Courses

We are exploring the possibility of holding some Cookery Courses, using our own church kitchen, for those who have little or no cookery know-how, or those who favour takeaways and ready meals as an easy option - perhaps those on their own, single parents, those who rely on others in their family to prepare their meals, and anyone who wishes to brush up their skills using fresh, ready-available produce. Our local Sainsbury's has offered to provide us with essential store-cupboard ingredients to kick-start our project. If you think you could help in any way, please speak to any of the Catering Team.

Mid-week Movies

At Friday Fellowship's August meeting (kindly held at the home of Joan and Bryan, and followed by a magnificent tea!) we were trying to come up with some form of outreach activity that we could host, and a monthly Wednesday Mid-Week Movie Afternoon (with tea and biscuits), was suggested, targeted at those in our community who are on their own, those who are lonely, those who would like to make new friends - and, of course, anyone else who might like to come along. If you have any DVDs of suitable films that you could donate or lend, please speak to Gordon or Janice, who are trying to build up a varied collection. Thank you.

Andrea's Poem for August: "Blackberry Picking"

Down the field, along the lane,
Juicy fruits for jam and pies,
Free for all and all for free,
Time spent under summer skies.

Sticky, purpled, grinning faces,
Little fingers pricked and scratched,
"Let's see who can find the biggest!"
Blackberry time is here at last.

Blood and berries mix their reds,
Thorns are many, full of spite;
Years are blotted, smiles return,
Picnic time puts most things right.

Tired legs trudge slowly home,
Silence falls, the sun has gone;
Days like these make memories,
Take the time to pass them on.

(One of Andrea's hymns, "O Jesus, may you name be praised", which she has submitted for the Singing the Faith Plus website, has been short-listed. Congratulations Andrea, whatever the decision may be).

And finally - have you noticed.....?

Our new **rear gate** leading from the parking area to the ramp has been fitted, receiving many admiring comments from passers-by.

Two of the five **lectern falls**, the green for Trinity and the red for Pentecost and Saints Days, have arrived. Three more, purple for Advent, purple for Lent and white for Celebration (Christmas and Easter) are on order, and should be with us soon.

The **digital hymnal** has arrived and was used for the first time at 6pm on 19th August - all items thanks to the Sylvia Evans legacy.