

Welshpool Methodist Church, High Street

“Celebrating and Sharing God’s Love”

“IN TOUCH” **issue 5** – continuing to stay in touch during this time of social distancing for us all, and enforced self-isolation for some.

News and Updates

1. **Congratulations** to Tony Harvey who celebrates his 80th Birthday on 21st May. We send our good wishes to him and to all of you whose birthdays fall in the coming days. (If you know of anyone celebrating a ‘significant’ birthday, that is one ending in 0 or 90+, please pass on the details so that they can be published in “In Touch” and we can remember them on their special day).
2. **Thanks** from Leah Smith to everyone who got in touch with good wishes, cards and phone calls on the occasion of her 98th Birthday. She says she didn’t know she was so popular! **Thanks** also from Mildred Brown for cards and calls received on her 92nd Birthday, which were much appreciated.
3. **From the family of the late Eve Barnes** “.... please pass on our sincere gratitude to your congregation for your loving fellowship, which she so much treasured. We have taken much comfort from the lovely comments from her friends and family. We hope to give Eve the celebration she deserves when circumstances allow. We will let you know our plans as soon as possible”.
4. **Get Well Wishes** are sent to Marie, a resident at Dorothy Hughes House and frequently seen at our Saturday Lunches, who is in hospital at Telford following a second stroke, and also to Richard Ballard, who is back in hospital in Shrewsbury.
5. **Land Army Girl “Queenie”** – there is a lovely photo of Queenie (Edith Thomas) published in the County Times, and also on the My Welshpool website, as part of the town’s VE Day celebrations. Edith is one of four Land Army girls living in Welshpool.
6. **PPE Face Masks** Anne Smith is making cloth face masks, with either ear loops or ties. If you wish to place an order, phone Anne, with your requirements, on 553818.
7. **Sunday Worship in our ‘Church without Walls’** - Our Service Sheet for 24th May is being prepared by Nigel Evans and for 31st May by Kat Bond.
8. **Offerings during Lockdown** Following enquiries about how to continue to contribute to church finances, Derek advises that we set aside our weekly offerings and donations to hand in (cash or cheque) once we are able to meet again. (If you contribute via the envelope system, you won’t receive your new envelopes until then). Alternatively, you can pay now by bank transfer into the church account, details from Derek, 556117. (Please do not send cash by post).
9. **Circuit Magazine** The Circuit Magazine with Plan for the June Quarter has now been published. If you haven’t yet received a copy via post or email, but would like one sent, please get in touch with us. Please note that, although details for Sunday services are included, it is unlikely that churches will be open for worship anytime soon, and certainly not before July. We will keep you updated.

Important Dates

During this time of church closures, we are in danger of overlooking some important dates in our Methodist calendar. Thursday 21st May is **Ascension Day**, on Monday 25th May we remember the **Conversions of John and Charles Wesley**, and on Sunday 31st May we celebrate **Pentecost**. The following Prayer of Praise was written for **Pentecost** by Nick Fawcett, and is from "Prayers for All Seasons" book 2.

The Omnipresent Spirit

Holy Spirit,

We rejoice that, as you came to the Apostles on that day of Pentecost, so you keep coming to us today;

making yourself known in different ways, at different times, and in different places but always there, constantly moving in our lives.

For your presence at work within us, **we give you thanks and praise.**

You come when we are most aware of our need –

Bringing comfort in times of sorrow, courage in times of fear, peace in times of trouble, and hope in times of despair.

For your presence at work within us, **we give you thanks and praise.**

You come when we forget our need of you –

Challenging, searching, refining, cleansing;

inspiring us to greater vision and renewed commitment.

For your presence at work within us, **we give you thanks and praise.**

You come to us in power –

Releasing unimagined potential, imparting unexpected gifts;

cultivating undreamed-of fruits.

For your presence at work within us, **we give you thanks and praise.**

You come to us in quietness –

Coaxing us to new initiatives, nurturing our confidence, and deepening our faith.

For your presence at work within us, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Holy Spirit,

We welcome you again –

Opening our minds to your guidance, our hearts to your love, and our lives to your purpose.

Breathe upon us, fill us, and enthuse us, we pray.

For your presence at work within us, **we give you thanks and praise.**

In his name we pray. **Amen.**

Bible Month

June is Bible Month and the book chosen for study in 2020 is Ruth, but as this year we are not able to meet together in our groups, we are supplying information and suggestions for study on line and by post. You are receiving the first sections with this newsletter; the others will follow with issue 6.

Terry J writes:

In this strange period many are looking forward to getting back to normal. But is this possible? A recent 'Thought for the Day' had a vicar of St Martin's in the Field speaking. He spoke of the Second World War and the changes that wrought. There could be no going back to the nineteen thirties; people were looking forward to a better world.

Looking back on my career in the veterinary world I think of the major disease crisis I have been involved in. This had involved the creation of new disciplines for disease control, and many of these became the norm. This may surely apply to our present crisis. There may be no going back, but instead a moving forward with confidence and hope, being strengthened through our present experiences.

From Ruthie:

Ruthie has sent us this poem recently written by **Mark Lloyd**, of Guilsfield, who gives his permission for it to be included in "In Touch". Mark and his wife Caroline go to Guilsfield Parish Church and come to our Saturday Lunches.

Still

Through our waves of dread
we plot the deathly track
of Covid's passage.
We were stunned.
Not into stupor
But with an outbreak of our own make.
With native care and shared steps,
no stemming of the tide, a fever of goodness.
No buts, just if we can,
no flattening of this curve
of kindness, as we shield the unarmed and find ourselves.
No artifice, just selfless motion,
no sculpted plan, just steps of instinct.
No trumpets brashly calling for effect.
Our strength is in the small, the still,
the quiet.....
As if a model of our village.
In frailty we find resolve and our relief.

Our task is to hold fast to our contagion,
to be watchful of the devised vaccine,
that of false promises, of conspiring towers
conniving to appropriate the power of Us.

Let us rejoice that, in this new silence,
we have heard, in this patch,
our song.

From Helen and Allan, Borth

"Thank you for sending us the newsletter. It makes us feel we belong to Welshpool Methodist still, and we enjoy hearing news of people. These lines were written by a negro who proudly commanded an old paddle steamer on the Great Lakes, the brass-work of which shone so brightly that the passengers remarked on it".

O you gotta get a Glory in the work you do,
A Hallelujah Chorus in the heart of you.
Paint, or tell a story, sing or shovel coal,
O you gotta get a Glory, or the job lacks soul.
O Lord, give me a Glory – is it much to give?
For you gotta get a Glory, or you just don't live.

The great whose shining labours make our pulses throb,
Were men who got a Glory in their daily job.
The battle might be gory, and the odds unfair,
But the men who got a Glory never knew despair.
O Lord, give me a Glory – when all else is done,
If you've only got a Glory, you can still go on.

For those who get a Glory, it is like the sun,
And you can see it glowing through the work they've done.
O fame is transitory – riches fade away –
But when you've got a Glory, it is there to stay.
O Lord, give me a Glory, and a workman's pride,
For you gotta get a Glory, or you're dead inside.

From Gordon: "Welshpool Methodist Church Time Capsule"

When the foundation stone of Welshpool Methodist Church was laid in 1863, some artefacts were placed in a bottle and buried in the wall. In case you think a midnight hammer and chisel might yield a golden guinea or two, the contents are:

1. A parchment list of names of Trustees, architect, builder and the Circuit ministers.
2. The programme of the day's proceedings
3. A list of the names of the ladies who provided and served the day's tea
4. The Preaching Plan of the Newtown Circuit for the current quarter
(At that time Welshpool was part of the Newtown circuit, but over subsequent years the geographical composition changed several times, the circuit as we know it today coming into being in 1979, when the three circuits of Llanidloes, Newtown and Welshpool united to form the Welshpool and Bro Hafren Circuit)
5. The list of the stations of all Wesleyan ministers 1863-64
6. The "Watchman" magazine *(We're not sure what this was. Anyone know?)*
7. The Methodist Recorder
8. Copies of local newspapers
9. British copper coins of the day

You might as well leave the tools at home!

Two poems

Andrea writes: Life is so chaotic and complicated but I've found myself enjoying a few simple "fun-things" just lately. (*Andrea was inspired to write this when she stopped to play Pooh sticks in the sunshine as she walked the dog. May 2020*).

Remembered Pleasure

Down the muddy lane we tramped,
Past the bluebell wood,
Down to where the spring ran clear,
And dippers dived for food.

Down towards the Far-field gate
Standing open wide;
Down upon the little bridge
We ran from side to side.

How lovely now to reconnect
Recall each childhood scene.
Perhaps quite soon we'll gather sticks
And float them down a stream.

From "The Angel on Next Door's Drive" (Poems by **Bill Rowell**)

"The Sleeper"

I preached the other Sunday, as a vicar's bound to do
on the milk of human kindness, and First Peter chapter two,
when I was miffed to hear an interruption from the floor,
quite clear and unmistakeable, a large and fruity snore.

It came from Mr Barlow, halfway down and on the right.
When I stand in the pulpit, all the faithful in my sight,
there isn't much I miss; but here's the point, what could I do
to express my disapproval, but without quite saying who?

I waited till the final hymn, when notices were read.
And after "Thursday: sale of work" I coughed and gently said,
"I noticed someone sleeping as I preached to you today,
I'd welcome an apology sometime; now let us pray."

I thought no more about it. It was just one of those things –
Sufficient to the day, you know, the evil that day brings.
But when on Monday morning I put on my coat and hat
Twelve letters of apology were lying on the mat!

Another six by lunchtime, and by supper twenty-eight,
By which time I'd had 'sorry' notes from half the Sunday gate,
And still they kept on coming through the week, till finally
There was only Mr Barlow hadn't written one to me!

(Preachers – please note!!)

A Fred Pratt Green hymn based on a poem by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

(I received this from Marian, but share it with you, as the words will be appropriate for many of us)

By gracious powers so wonderfully sheltered
And confidently waiting, come what may,
We know that God is with us night and morning,
And never fails to meet us each new day.

Yet are our hearts by their old foe tormented,
Still evil days bring burdens hard to bear;
O give our frightened souls the sure salvation
For which, O Lord, you taught us to prepare.

And when the cup you give is filled to brimming
With bitter suffering, hard to understand,
We take it gladly, trusting though with trembling,
Out of so good and so beloved a hand.

If once again, in this mixed world, you give us
The joy we had, the brightness of your sun,
We shall recall what we have learned through sorrow,
And dedicate our lives to you alone.

Now as your silence deeply spreads around us,
Open our ears to hear your children raise
From all the world, from every nation round us,
To you their universal hymn of praise

From Leah: A Prayer for Those who live Alone

I live alone, dear Lord, stay by my side,
In all my daily needs, be Thou my guide.
Grant me good health, for that indeed I pray,
To carry on my work from day to day.

Keep pure my heart; my thoughts; my every deed.
Let me be kind, unselfish, in my neighbour's need.
Spare me from fire, from flood, malicious tongues;
From thieves, from fear and evil ones.

If sickness or an accident befall,
Then humbly, Lord, I pray, hear Thou my call,
And when I'm feeling low and in despair,
Lift up my heart and help me in my prayer.

I live alone, dear Lord, yet have no fear,
Because I feel your presence ever near.

Laughter, the best medicine! Two contributions from Graham

Never Underestimate the Elderly!

The old lady handed her bank card to a bank teller and said: "I would like to withdraw £200."

The female teller told her, "For withdrawals less than £3,000, please use the ATM."

The old lady then asked, "Why?"

The teller irritably told her, "These are the rules. Please leave if there is no other matter. There is a queue behind you."

She then returned the card to the old lady.

The old lady remained silent... but then she returned the card to the teller and said, "Please help me to withdraw all the money I have."

The teller was astonished when she checked the account balance. She nodded her head, leaned down and said to the old lady, "My apologies Madame, you have £1.5 million in your account and our bank does not have so much cash currently. Could you make an appointment and come in again tomorrow?"

The old lady then asked, "How much am I able to withdraw now?"

The teller told her, "Any amount up to £50,000."

The old lady then told the teller that she wanted to withdraw £50,000 from her account.

The teller did so quickly and handed it to the old lady respectfully.

The old lady kept £200 in her bag and asked the teller to deposit the balance of £49,800 back into her account.

(So – don't be difficult with old people – we can outwit the young and impatient who are in a hurry!!)

Misunderstandings...

A judge was interviewing a blonde lady regarding her pending divorce, and asked, "What are the grounds for your divorce?"

She replied, "About four acres and a nice little home in the middle of the property with a stream running by."

"No," he said, "I mean what is the foundation of this case?"

"It is made of concrete, brick and mortar," she responded.

"I mean," he continued, "what are your relations like?"

"I have an aunt and uncle living here in town, and so do my husband's parents."

He said, "Do you have a real grudge?"

"No," she replied, "we have a two-car carport and have never really needed one."

"Please," he tried again, "is there any infidelity in your marriage?"

"Yes, both my son and daughter have stereo sets. We don't necessarily like music, but the answer to your question is 'yes'."

"Ma'am, does your husband ever beat you up?"

"Yes," she responded, "about twice a week he gets up earlier than I do."

Finally, in frustration, the judge asked the lady, "Lady, why do you want a divorce?"

"Oh, I don't want a divorce," she replied. "I've never wanted a divorce. My husband does. He says he can't communicate with me."

QUIZ TIME!

Edible Fish – another of the weekly quizzes produced by Oswestry Methodist Church as a way of keeping in touch with their church family, sent in by Margaret Hogg.

1. Can do on rollers or blades (5)
2. Is this the one and only Cinque port? (5,4)
3. Mop your eye or reverse bad ways (3)
4. Nationalised railway, not very well (5)
5. Little Florence below – might struggle (8)
6. May need one for the piano, organ, guitar etc. (4)
7. Did have harbour (7)
8. It sounds as though the tablet has been scorched (8)
9. With Tabasco dinner it's inside (3)
10. Sea food for and with member of religious community (8)
11. BT tour provides a kind of flat meal (6)
12. Food for independent Scottish campaigner (8)
13. Comes together as red sin (8)
14. Look into Universal monetary system (6)
15. Location (6)

Towns, Villages and Places in Wales (anagrams)– from Chris R, this quiz was to be included in the Welsh Afternoon tea event for St David's Day, which was cancelled

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|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. NLGLALELON | 11. NFREDO |
| 2. ARMACRNETH | 12. SBLEHLILUTW |
| 3. ASEWASN | 13. ELABMRUE |
| 4. NOLDADLNU | 14. OERNBC |
| 5. LANE LVYALE | 15. OWOLHSLEP |
| 6. RLEEPTMA | 16. NNDWESO |
| 7. WNTEONW | 17. BTHAREYTYSW |
| 8. GDELYCWO | 18. HOBTR |
| 9. DALHOHYE | 19. YOMTRONMGE |
| 10. RHOABTMU | 20. DGFILUILSE |

Answers to Puzzles in Issue 4: Place Names

In the order they were listed: Cowes, Dundee, Hereford, Newport, Wells, Galway, Camelford, Trowbridge, Bakewell, Elgin, Midsomer Norton, Cardigan, Cork, Sandwich, Peebles, Bath (or any Spa town), Street, Leek, Bristol, Blackpool, Dover, Kendal, Alton, Redditch, Shrewsbury, Lincoln, Truro, Swansea City (anagram) or Winswell, York.

Thanks to all of you who have been 'in touch' with contributions for this issue. Please send your news, messages, thoughts, poems, prayers, quizzes, funny stories etc. for issue 6, which will be out on 3rd June, to rhodes4144@gmail.com, or by phone 01938 850514, or by post to "Brynteg", Castle Caereinion, Welshpool, SY21 9AS, by 31st May. All contributions welcome. (Cake orders: Gwen 555988 or Janice 850514).