

WELSHPOOL METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Revd Keith Edwards

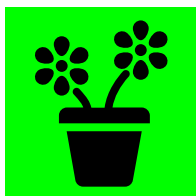
Tel: 01686 625690

"Celebrating and Sharing God's Love"

"The MESSENGER"

February 2024

We extend a Warm Welcome to ALL - to visitors or anyone worshipping with us for the first time. Please make yourselves known to us. If you are with us on a Sunday morning, do join us after the service in the Meeting Room for a cup of tea/coffee.



FOR YOUR DIARIES:

The "SPRING FAIR" is on
SATURDAY 2ND MARCH

Not as previously advertised.



FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Saturday 3rd: Coffee Morning 9.30-12.00

Sunday 4th

Lectionary: *Isaiah40: 21-31; Ps147:1-11,20c; 1Cor9:16-23; Mark1:29-39*

Morning Worship led by Revd Rob Saunders at 10.45

This Week:

Monday 5th: Coffee Morning 9.30-12.00; **Jubilate** at 10.00am.

Wednesday 7th: Church open for private prayer 10-12.00

Craft Group 2-4.00pm. Film showing 2.00pm

Sunday 11th: (Sunday before Lent)

Lectionary: *2Kings2:1-12; Ps50:1-6; 2Cor9:16-23; Mk1:29-39*

Morning Worship led by John Harbron, (Holy Communion) at 10.45

This Week:

Monday 12th: Coffee Morning 9.30-12.00; **Jubilate** at 10.00am.

Wednesday 14th (Ash Wednesday)

Church open for private prayer 10-12.00 Craft Group 2-4.00pm

Friday 16th: FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP at 2.30, speaker Revd Keith

Saturday 17th: **Coffee and Lunches** 10.30-1.30pm

Sunday 18th: (1st Sunday in Lent)

Lectionary: *Gen9:8-17; Ps25:1-10; 1Pet3:18-22; Mk1:9-15*

Morning Worship led by Nigel Evans at 10.45

Afternoon Tea Service led by Revd Keith Edwards at **4.00pm**

This Week:

Monday 19th: Coffee Morning 9.30-12.00; **Jubilate** at 10.00am.

Wednesday 21st: Church open for private prayer 10-12.00

Craft Group 2-4.00pm

Sunday 25th: (2nd Sunday in Lent)

Lectionary: *Gen17:1-7, 15-16; Ps22:23-31; Rom4:13-25; Mk8:31-38*

Morning Worship led by Kat Bond at 10.45

This Week:

Monday 26th: Coffee Morning 9.30-12.00; **Jubilate** at 10.00am.

Wednesday 28th: Church open for private prayer 10-12.00

Craft Group 2-4.00pm

From Revd Keith:

Dear Friends,

As we head into Lent on February 14th. I recall a conversation in my previous circuit where we were encouraged to ask the "Why?" question. It reminded me of an article I had seen. In an interview in "Rolling Stone" magazine, Bill Gates was asked, "Do you believe in God?" He said:

"I agree with people like Richard Dawkins that mankind felt the need for creation myths. Before we really began to understand disease and the weather and things like that, we sought false explanations for them. Now science has filled in some of the realm - not all - that religion used to fill. But the mystery and the beauty of the world is overwhelmingly amazing, and there's no scientific explanation of how it came about. To say that it was generated by random numbers, that does seem, you know, sort of an uncharitable view. I think it makes sense to believe in God, but exactly what decision in your life you make differently because of it, I don't know."

This question is one I wish more of us would ponder. It's the "OK, **now what?**" question. We say we believe in Jesus **now what?** How do we live differently? How do we show through our lifestyle that Jesus makes a difference? Ask yourself "**Now what?**" about

the way you treat your family?

the way you treat your workmates?

the way you choose how you spend your money?

the way you choose to look at people of different cultures and races?

the way you view truth, morality, goodness and virtue?

the way you treat the poor, the disenfranchised, the left out, the voiceless, the vulnerable, the widow, the foreigner, the ill, your enemies, the old and the young?

The "Now what?" question is the question begging to be answered - answered with changes in our lives because we believe Jesus demonstrated the truth of God; truth we are going to do our best to live! So perhaps during Lent you can ask yourself - "What decisions in my life will I make differently because it does make sense to believe in God?"

Grace and Peace

Keith

"Oh God, make me beautiful within. It is the beauty most worthy of thy name and it is made by the thoughts we think. There is only one Kingdom worthy of the name, it is the Kingdom of Heaven. But is it not also the Kingdom of Men's Minds? For the Kingdom of Heaven is within us. When all our thoughts and intentions are in harmony with God's will we shall express them in action and the Kingdom of Heaven will have come."

(Words from St. Augustine, sent in by Vio.)

"Listen, my people, here is my challenge"

This month's newsletter reflects the challenging words of Rev Keith as we approach the time of Lent.

From the earliest days of the Methodist societies, it was John Wesley who invited the Methodist people to renew their covenant relationship with God, which we are invited to do in this year's Covenant Service on 28th January led by our Minister.

From a "new hymn" with more challenging words - **Now What?**

"Listen, my people, here is my challenge:

Can you be loving as I love you?

Those who offend you, hurt or ill-treat you,
Like you God's children, they're precious too!"

Do you mean us, Lord? Can it be done, Lord?

Self-giving love that looks for no gain?

If you'll stay close we'll give it a try, Lord,

Showing your mercy, sharing your pain.

"Listen, my people, here is my challenge:

Can you forgive as I forgive you?

Those who have failed you, pained or betrayed you,

Do not condemn, you've all done it too."

Do you mean us, Lord? Can it be done Lord?

You will repay, so leave it to you?

Help us to trust and let you be judge, Lord.

As you forgive, may we forgive too.

Words by Gillian Collins

Suggested tune: "Bunessan" (StF 136: Morning has broken)

Bible reference: Luke 6:27, 37 Jesus said, "I tell you who hear me: love your enemies...do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven."

"Heaven's Grocery Store"

As I was walking down life's highway, many years ago,
I came across a sign that read:

"HEAVEN'S GROCERY STORE".

When I got a little closer the doors swung open wide,
And when I came to myself, I was standing inside
And saw a host of Angels. They were standing everywhere.
One handed me a basket and said, "My child, shop with care."
**Everything a human needed was in that Grocery Store,
And what you could not carry, you could come back for
more.**

First, I got some PATIENCE,
LOVE was in the same row,
Further down was UNDERSTANDING -
You need that everywhere you go.
I got a box of WISDOM, and FAITH a bag or two,
And CHARITY of course - I would need some of that too.
I couldn't miss the HOLY GHOST, it was all over the place,
And then some STRENGTH and COURAGE
to help me run the race.

My basket now was getting full but I remembered
I needed GRACE.

And then I chose SALVATION, for salvation was free -
I tried to get enough of that to do for you and me.

Then I started to the counter to pay my grocery bill,
For I thought I had everything to do the Master's will.
As I went up the aisle, I saw PRAYER and put that in,
For I knew that when I stepped outside, I would run into sin.
SONG and PRAISE were hanging up, so I just helped myself.
Then I said to the angel, "Now how much do I owe?"
"My child," he said, "God paid your bill, a long, long time ago."

ROTA FOR SUNDAY DUTIES

FEBRUARY

FEB 4th:

Stewards	Chris R and Anne
Music	Gill
Welcome	Kath S
Teas	Pat P, Pam B, Liz P

FEB 11th:

Stewards	Eric and Bert
Music	Gill
Welcome	Fiona
Teas	Eric, Jean, Fiona

FEB 18th:

(both services)

Stewards	Chris P and Chris R
Music	Vio
Welcome	Tony H
Teas	Pat J, Chris P, Trish

FEB 25th:

Stewards	Anne and Chris R
Music	Vio
Welcome	Terry P
Teas	Shirley B, Dawn H

News and Information

This month's Film - 7th February

The Time of Their Lives is a 2017 British comedy film directed and written by Roger Goldby and starring Joan Collins as Helen Shelley and Pauline Collins as Priscilla.



FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP

After a break, and be assured we are missing you all, we get off on our 2024 meetings for fellowship together, on FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH at 2.30pm.

We welcome Revd Keith as our speaker on that afternoon. If anyone has seen, or purchased items he made for the Christmas Fair, I'm sure you will be pleased to know that his talk will be about his woodcraft. He enjoys explaining where his wood originates and if it was previously a piece of furniture. I'm sure we'll have an interesting afternoon followed as always with refreshments.

Please join us, even if it is your first time, you will be very welcome. Best wishes to you all, Julia and Peter Francis.

TAX HELP FOR OLDER PEOPLE

Are you approaching pension age or older, have an income of £20,000 or less and have problems or concerns about your tax liabilities?

"Tax Help" is a charity whose aim is to assist people in these circumstances. They have a team of trained staff at their office in Dorset who try to deal with problems by phone or correspondence. Also there is a national team of volunteers who can give face-to-face support.

Tel: 10308 488066 Website: www.taxvol.org.uk

(Information provided through Fiona Jones)

A loved one Remembered

Ann Harris, family and friends remember the first anniversary of the passing of her treasured husband Tommy on 12th February 2023. We celebrated Tom's full and active life in the Welshpool community, in our church on 10th March 2023

Ann wishes to thank the church family for the friendship, warmth, help and support she continues to receive as she seeks to contribute some time and her experience to church activities.

and

Those Special Days

Sometimes we get things wrong here at the "Messenger", birthdays get missed or incorrect dates get put in!

It is also true that not everyone wants to be congratulated on yet another year going by.

A certain person, with the initials **JR**, now residing in Bromsgrove, kept a big January birthday under wraps. We do however send much love and belated congratulations from all of us here, in Welshpool. Finally, with or without permission, "Happy Birthday" to Gwen Jones, 93 on 6th February!

If you would like special/remembered occasions given a mention in **YOUR** magazine, please make sure that the relevant information is with Andrea Davies by the 12th of the previous month.

Pause for Thought:

"Here and There"

(Haiku sequence for February 2024)

February days

Elemental, wild and raw
Hillsides raked with sleet

February days

Thin winter sun breaks the cloud
Icy snowdrops shine.

February days
Displaced, afraid, still they wait
Big-eyed children wait

Cold beyond feeling
War has taken their childhood

February days.

Andrea Davies. 2024

*You may remember these words from last month's
MESSENGER.*

*Some thoughts were shared on how a favourite hymn
can inspire us and help us to reflect on our lives.
It is adapted from a heart-felt piece written for a service in
Newtown church by Joanne Saward:*

*"Will your anchor hold in the storms of life,
When the clouds unfold their wings of strife?
When the strong tides lift and the cables strain
Will your anchor drift or firm remain?"*

Looking forward to hearing from our readers about YOUR favourite hymns. You do not need to say anything about your choice, unless you wish to do so but it would be lovely to hear from you and to feature some of the hymns YOU love most.

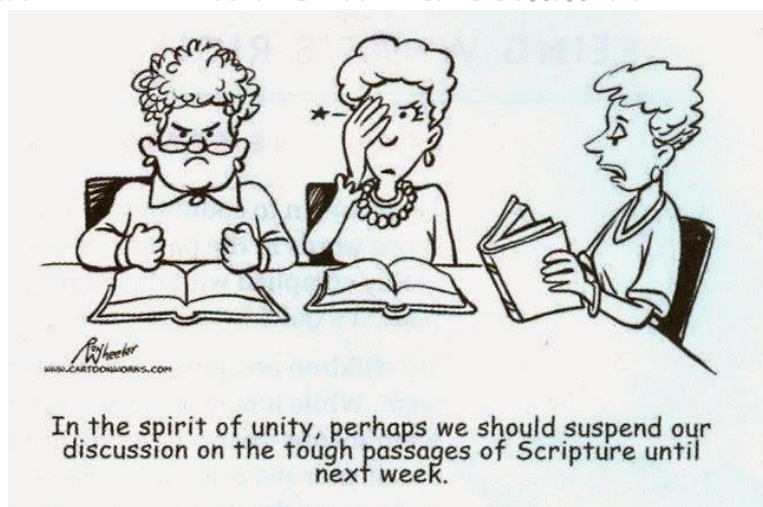
So many of the greatest hymns of the church were inspired by a verse from the Bible, and reflected by their authors in their hymns.

While you think about YOUR favourite hymns - Can you match the author with the hymn in this short list of much loved favourites?

1. Hark, the Herald Angels Sing
2. A Mighty Fortress is Our God
3. Lead Kindly Light
4. O God, Our Help in Ages Past
5. Ride on, Ride on in Majesty
6. In the Cross of Christ I Glory
7. Breathe on Me, Breath of God
8. O Little Town of Bethlehem

- a. Martin Luther
- b. John Bowring
- c. Edwin Hatch
- d. Isaac Watts
- e. Henry Milman
- f. John Wesley
- g. Phillips Brooks
- h. John Henry Newman

**For God so loved the world -
that He didn't send a committee!!**



Closing Sermon Words

A preacher was completing a sermon about the evils of strong drink:

With great expression he said,

"If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river."

With even greater emphasis he said,

"And if I had all the wine in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river."

And then, finally, he said,

"And if I had all the whisky in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river."

He sat down. The senior steward then stood very cautiously and announced with a smile,

"For our closing hymn, let us sing hymn number 365, "Shall we Gather at the River."

(Thank you, Fiona Jones)

Tomorrow's Forecast

**God reigns and
the Son shines!**

THANK YOU

**To All those who contributed to this edition of
YOUR newsletter**

The "Messenger" is YOUR monthly newsletter/magazine. If you want to keep it lively and interesting then please contribute.

It does not matter what you send in, if YOU have found it worth reading then we should all welcome the opportunity to share it.

Handwritten, email or whatever is easiest for you, to Andrea Davies (granni1975@yahoo.co.uk) or by hand, before 12th of the month.