

Hamham Methodist Church Magazine

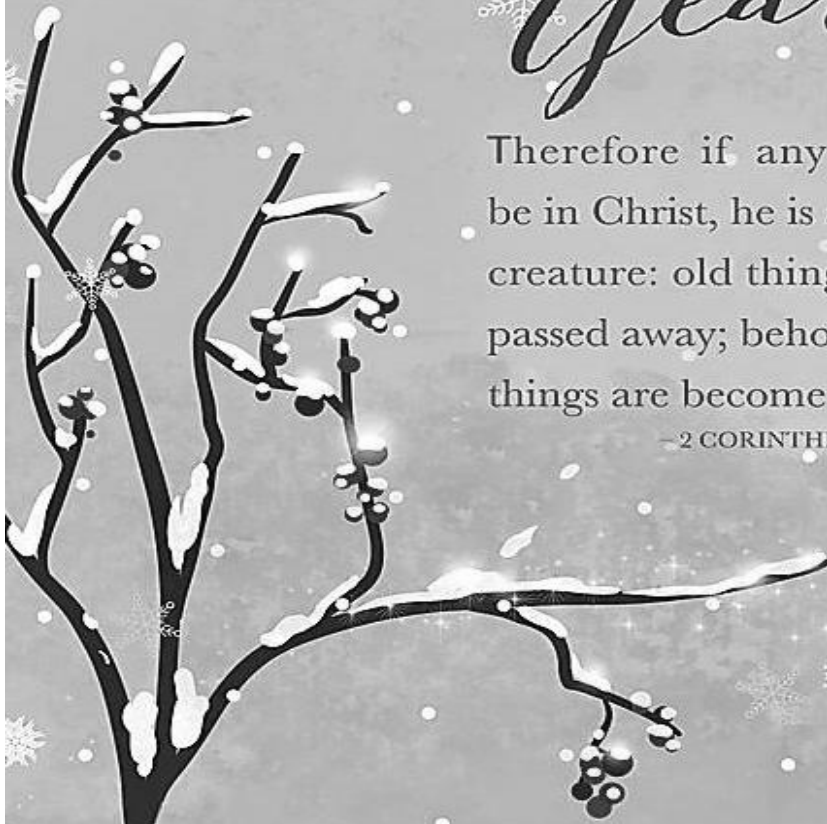
January / February 2016



Happy
New
Year

Therefore if any man
be in Christ, he is a new
creature: old things are
passed away; behold, all
things are become new.

— 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17



Welcome to the magazine of Hanham Methodist Church, a member of the Bristol and South Gloucestershire Circuit.

Our services are open to all, whether or not you are a Church member. Youth Church runs in parallel to our Sunday morning service, and a crèche is also available.

We have a loop system for those hard of hearing. Notices and service sheets are available in larger print and services on CD are available for the housebound on request.

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Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect Church policy. Enquiries should be directed to the Editor.

Copies of this magazine are held on the Church website and therefore all articles can be viewed through the internet.

Submissions of all articles should therefore highlight any information you wish to be removed from the online version.

Website: www.hanhammethodist.org.uk

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Contents

Word from the Minister.....	4
Advent Blessings.....	5
Eastwood Park at Christmas.....	6
Macmillan Coffee Morning.....	8
Y's Men.....	9
And Just to Say.....	10
Signposts.....	12
Quiz page.....	13
And Finally.....	14
Rotas (Doors and Books, Flowers).....	15
For Your Diary.....	16



Word from the Minister:

Dear friends,

It's another New Year 2016, so first of all Happy New Year to you all. Many thoughts go through one's head at this time of year.

Reflections on the past, prospects for the future and even things that you could have done better you resolve to do at the outset of 2016. The church has always been in the businesses of new beginnings, it has seen more than 2000 New Years in and resolved to try harder each year. But what of us and what of God?

Well there is one thing we can do, one thing that will make a difference to everything else we do; remember the verse from Deuteronomy 6:5 " ...love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength". Jesus said similar words in Matthew 22, but he added "and love your neighbour as you love yourself." If we colour everything we do with love as that prayer suggests we will surely make a difference this year.

I am going to try this year, will you join me by recalling those words as often as you can.

God Bless you friends and may you receive peace and prosperity from the Lord out of His love for you.

Barry

Revd. Barry Bishop

ADVENT BLESSINGS

I am writing this ten days before Christmas in order to catch the magazine. We are only part way through Advent but as the next issue isn't due until the Spring I wanted to reflect on the blessings Advent had brought us thus far.

On Advent Sunday evening Richard led us in a time of reflection. At the front of the sanctuary was a spiral of greenery with a large white candle burning in the centre. The congregation was invited to make their way around the spiral and light a small candle from the central candle and place it among the greenery, before retracing their steps. I believe that all who took part found this very moving.

Then on a Friday evening we gathered to listen to a choir drawn from the Eastern Cluster perform a musical interpretation of the Christmas story written by Richard. I know that there were concerns about the performance right up to the last rehearsal. But on the night all was well and the congregation left feeling blest for being there.

Finally on the third Sunday of Advent the Youth Church performed their interpretation of the well-loved story of the Nativity. With the story told in rhyme this was a fast moving production with the seven young people each playing several parts. There were several songs and two solos all beautifully sung. A comment I heard afterwards was that 'there wasn't a dry eye among us this morning'.

Without mentioning names our grateful thanks are due to all who have played a part in these and the other acts of worship through this important season.

Tim Lansdown

Chairman, Worship Committee

Eastwood Park at Christmas

For those of you who travel up the A38, you may well think that I am referring to the Conference Centre and Garden Centre at Falfield, in fact I'm talking of HMP Eastwood Park, which is a custodial establishment for ladies and situated at the end of the next turning on the left. A group from Hanham Methodist Church have been visiting, initially at Christmas but now also at Easter for a time of meditation or vigil.

Don started it back in about 2003/4 when he was a Methodist chaplain there and we have continued it. We have only missed twice since 2007, once because of snow and once because the prison clashed its dates. It may seem a strange thing to do but for those of us who have been going forever(!) it's a vital part of our Christmas celebrations, so much so that after we feel that Christmas is truly beginning for us with the visit.

It isn't everyone's cup of tea as there are lots of locked doors to circumnavigate and we are never sure how many ladies will come and join us or what their response will be. At the beginning Don fetched and returned two or three different groups from various wings and we repeated our readings and music. However for several years now we have one group of ladies, who usually come into the chapel at about half 9, for an hour. They are only allowed to come if they fill in an "ap" or application, and then some will be called away at the last moment to see a solicitor or make a court appearance. Their ages range from teenagers to mature ladies. We never ask the reason for their being incarcerated, although some will talk freely. Mostly they want to talk about their families and how they will miss them at this festive time. Some are distraught, so that there

are always plenty of tissues and also friends who will lend a shoulder.

Our time together is very relaxed, as we take them from Advent through to Christmas and beyond, by means of readings, carols and music. The ladies are invited to light candles and write prayers, the latter are incorporated into our time of prayer at the end. This year we had over forty ladies and we were a bit taken aback, especially as with those numbers we also needed three officers, usually the chaplains will pop in and out!

It is a time of sharing, we know that our efforts are appreciated and last Tuesday we went away feeling that it was a “Job well done”. It’s one of those occasions, when I think that you can feel the presence of the Holy Spirit working quietly, influencing lives. We certainly went away feeling uplifted, yet thankful for our freedom.

Pam Blackmore



Messy Church meets at 4pm on the first Sunday of the month and all families are welcome. Come and get messy!

January 3rd and February 7th

Macmillan Coffee Morning

In spite of the many calls upon both time and purses at Christmas, the response to the Macmillan Coffee Morning on December 12th was truly magnificent.

There must be very few people whose lives have not been touched in some way by cancer. Generous giving to Cancer Research by ordinary people has enabled scientists and doctors to make tremendous breakthroughs in working towards a cure for this disease. This work is very important, but just as important is the help and support given to patients, their families and friends by Macmillan nurses and trained volunteers both at the time that devastating news is given, during treatment and with end of life care. Like many of you, Roy and I have been very grateful to Macmillan for being there just when needed.

Thanks to your generous giving, the sum of £515 pounds was raised to support this important work. Through Gift Aid, the final amount received by Macmillan will be in excess of this figure.

We are truly grateful for all the help given that morning in so many ways.

Roy & Glen Lewis



Y's Men's Club of Hanham



Our year, as usual, began in September, but I need to step back a little to cover the end of the previous year and the period between July and September.

On 6 June we enjoyed a very successful outing to the RNLI Headquarters at Poole along with members of the Kingswood Y's Men's Club.

The Rev Denise Yeadon conducted our annual service in July. She was extremely sympathetic to our cause and we presented cheques worth £4468.00 to representatives of our chosen charities.

As you know, the Friendly Table takes a well-earned rest during the summer recess and our club fills the void by serving soups and puddings during the down time. This year we raised £760.00 which will go to our chosen charities for 2015/2016. The elements required to achieve this are many and varied so a big thank you to everyone for their hard work and generosity.

And so on to this year, we have already had two supper nights, the first being an illustrated talk about a group of members' visit to Apulia in Italy and secondly a talk by a representative from Christians Against Poverty. We enjoyed our joint supper night with our brother club when we were entertained by a magician, held an extremely successful Quiz night, dined at the Bitton Railway for our Christmas Meal and sang our hearts out at our Christmas Sing-along. Oh yes, we managed to throw in a couple of coffee mornings as well.

We have a full program for the rest of this year which, as well as the usual high quality catered supper nights, includes a Fish and Chip Night, a Murder Mystery and a concert by a Male Voice Choir. We welcome active new members and will be pleased to give anyone who is interested in joining us details about our club and its program.

We meet at 7.15 pm on the third Friday of each month between September and July, we do, however need notice if you are coming so that we can cater for your every need. The club contacts are: Steve Jaques (President), Carol Jaques (Secretary) both on 0117 9092510, John Brown (Catering Officer) on 0117 9679869 and/or any member of the club.

Each year we choose three charities to support and this year they are: Meningitis Now, Little Wings and Caring in Bristol.

We thank Hanham Methodist Church, its members and friends for its continuing support and our own members and friends for their sterling efforts and fortitude.

John Liddiard – Club Past President

And Just to Say...

Nativity is alive and well!

A long queue was rapidly forming at the entrance, and within 10 minutes of the door opening, there was hardly a seat left inside the church. Soon the platform filled with boys and girls dressed as kings, shepherds, angels and others in their bright blue tops as members

of a “heavenly choir”. The congregation waited eagerly for the first song.....

Was this a scene from Sundays past at HMC? No this was a recent bright December afternoon when staff, parents and children from Hanham Pre-school celebrated Christmas with carols, traditional songs, costumes, a few words and some unscripted moments from those taking part. A few of us, at church for other reasons that afternoon, were able to look-in and listen from the lounge area.

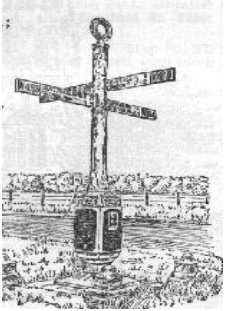
In a week where there had been a report that we now live in a secular society and questions are being raised about the validity of Christianity in our society and particularly in the education of our children, it was good to see such a celebration of a Christian festival. Of course Christmas is an exciting time for children, especially those young enough to appreciate the magic of Father Christmas and all the other things we all associate with this season, but if our children are not exposed to the real meaning of Christmas and Christian values, how can they make informed choices as young people and adults?

Well done and thanks to the children, staff and parents of Hanham Pre-school for that glimpse of the true meaning of Christmas. Long may this church support them in this and the excellent work they do from week to week.

Glen Lewis



Signposts



Writing this a few days before Christmas we remember the struggle of Joseph and Mary travelling on foot and donkey the eighty odd miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem for the census. The coming of the baby Jesus, the light and salvation of the world, then having to flee to another country, Egypt, to escape the fury of Herod.

Last year Hazel and myself looked forward to a new year with Hazel just home from hospital but soon we had to change the dining room into a bedroom and our future was uncertain.

Years ago on visiting Israel, Bethlehem was silent with shops shut, we were fortunate to have a Moslem guide who took us down to the shepherd's fields and a shop opened for us, but young children carried automatic weapons – no peace in Bethlehem. Now the situation is much worse, a wall divides the town. Civil war in Syria, immigrants flooding Europe, terrorist attacks across the world, so recently the events in Paris.

Christ came bringing love, peace, forgiveness - a new way the world doesn't seem to want. Listening to the Queen speaking to the Commonwealth her words seem vital for us: "We are guardians of a precious flame, and it is our duty not only to keep it burning brightly but to keep it replenished for the decades ahead."

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.

ACW

New Year Wordsearch!



BEGINNING
CALENDAR
CARDS
CELEBRATION
COLD
CONFETTI
END
FIREWORKS
GLASSES
GREETINGS



IN
MIDNIGHT
NEW
OLD
OUT
REFLECTION
RESOLUTION
SNOW
TOAST
WINE

And Finally:

The New Year

Dear Lord, as this new year is born
I give it to Thy hand,
Content to walk by faith what paths
I cannot understand.

Whatever coming days may bring
Of bitter loss, or gain,
Or every crown of happiness;
Should sorrow come, or pain,

Or, Lord, if all unknown to me
Thine angel hovers near
To bear me to that farther shore
Before another year,

It matters not—my hand in Thine,
Thy light upon my face,
Thy boundless strength when I am weak,
Thy love and saving grace!

I only ask, loose not my hand,
Grip fast my soul, and be
My guiding light upon the path
Till, blind no more, I see!

- *Martha Snell Nicholson*

Rotas

Doors and books:

Jan	3rd	10 th	17 th	24 th	31 st
a.m.	M Golding R Ticktum	P Kirby J Angell	P Webber J Tippett	M Howe N Howe	P Blackmore J Green
p.m.	Messy Church	C Haycock R Ireland	B Griffen W Stamford	M Morgan J Morgan	T Lansdown A Angell

Flowers:

Jan	3rd	10 th	17 th	24 th	31 st
Church	Free	Nesta Hogg	Hazel Wheeler	Free	Martin Sagar
War Memorial	Free	Rosemar y Ireland	Hazel Wheeler	Free	Ann Houlden

Feb	7 th	14 th	21 st	28 th
Church	Audrey Dayer	Joan Brabon- Hibbs	Joyce Godwin	Barbara Lewis
War Memorial	Pat Webber	John Brown	Carol Haycock	Barbara Lewis

For Your Diary

1 st Jan	2.00pm - 4.00pm	<i>New Year Meditation and Music</i>
3 rd Jan	10.45am 4.00pm	<i>Barry Bishop - Covenant Service</i> <i>Messy Church</i>
10 th Jan	10.45am 6.00pm	<i>A Parker</i> <i>Barry Bishop – Holy Communion</i>
17 th Jan	10.45am 6.00pm	<i>K McNally</i> <i>A Orton</i>
18 th – 25 th Jan		<i>Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity</i>
24 th Jan	10.45am 6.00pm	<i>V Jackson</i> <i>P Lansdale</i>
31 st Jan	10.45am 6.00pm	<i>Barry Bishop</i> <i>Circuit Taster Holy Communion Service at St Andrews</i>
7 th Feb	10.45am 4.00pm	<i>Barry Bishop - Pastoral Visitors Re-dedication</i> <i>Messy Church</i>
10 th Feb		<i>Ash Wednesday</i>
14 th Feb	10.45am 6.00pm	<i>G Lewis - First Sunday of Lent</i> <i>Barry Bishop – Holy Communion</i>
21 st Feb	10.45am 6.00pm	<i>R Lucas</i> <i>H Wilson</i>
28 th Feb	10.45am 6.00pm	<i>Barry Bishop</i> <i>P Brazier Taster Service</i>