

Honham Methodist Church
Magazine



November / December 2016



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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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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Word from the Minister

Dear Friends,

The year is flying past isn't it? The seasons are changing, the kids are now hard at it back at school and Uni, and the Summer Holiday memories are beginning to fade.

Autumn is a time when we can take stock; clear out the garden maybe and relook at our daily lives. It's good to do this because before long Advent will be upon us, and then you know what! Life is so busy these days for all of us, I think it's good to grasp this opportunity to pause and think about what we are doing.

Just a few days ago I was treated to a day of Retreat, Joan and Glenys had organised a quiet day near Chew Valley Lake. It was an oasis of rest that was punctuated with fun. But it also gave me time to think and even to adjust.

Many times Jesus was seen withdrawing to think and pray; to reassess His mission before the next phase. He would sometimes take His disciples and others He would be alone. And yes I know He didn't have a house to run or a daily job to attend, and yes life is very much different these days.

Soon we are having a Day of Prayer in our church, maybe you can find a little space there to look at what you do and even what we do as a church, give that time to God and he will repay you over and over.

We will soon be in the festive season and life will get more hectic, so adjust your pace now and I am sure you will enjoy the celebration of Christmas (there, I've used the word) all the more.

God Bless to you all, *Barry*

WESLEY'S WISDOM

5. Attending Your Local Church at Least Weekly

Fifty years ago this entreaty would have troubled our consciences less than it perhaps does today. Then it was the norm to attend church at least twice on a Sunday and most of us would have thought nothing of it. Then successive governments relaxed the Sunday Trading Laws, pubs and cinemas could open longer hours and suddenly the church found herself in competition with other attractions. People found other things to do.

Wesley's instruction, although I believe still pertinent today, was spoken to a very different situation. Remember that JW was an Anglican priest and this instruction to his Methodist societies was to attend Matins at their parish church on a Sunday morning and then attend the Methodist Preaching House on the Sunday evening. Many had stopped attending the parish church partly due to ineffective, unbelieving and corrupt vicars.

But Wesley realised that once a person lost the habit of regular attendance it was very difficult to reclaim the practice.

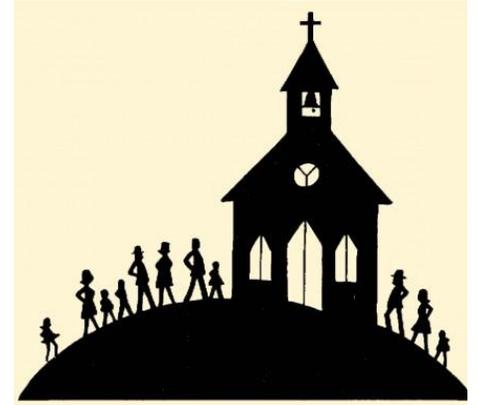
His brother Charles wrote these words.

We gladly to the temple go

Frequent the consecrated space

At every solemn hour of prayer

And meet the God of mercy there



Note that Wesley in his heading doesn't specify which day attendance is required and I feel sure that speaking today to a far more mobile population he wouldn't stipulate the local church but rather a church local to where you are at the time. Attending a different church, when on holiday, for example, may be a refreshing experience.

What he emphasises is the habit of regular worship

A story is told of a herd of elephants that were owned by a company of loggers in Burma. They were tasked with hauling logs that had been felled in the forests down to the river for transportation. They were worked seven days a week. Eventually the contract came to its end and the elephants were sold to another gang of loggers. But these men were Christians and they only worked six days a week resting on each Sunday.

Eventually their contract also came to an end and the elephants were again sold on. This time the gang who bought them were not Christians. All went well for six days but on the Sunday the loggers got up to work and tried to wake the elephants. But despite much cajoling and prompting they couldn't persuade them to start work. It was their rest day. They had acquired a good habit and were loath to let it go

May we too seek to be faithful and regular in worship.

TJL



ADVENT HOUSE GROUPS 2016

During Advent we will be meeting in House Groups to study a new course from York Courses entitled 'Living in the Light.

All meetings will be held at No. 4 Martins Close, starting at 7.30pm and finishing at 9pm with tea or coffee:

- † Wednesday 23rd November
- † Tuesday 29th November
- † Thursday 8th December
- † Tuesday 13th December

Tim Lansdown - Worship Committee Chairman

News from the Mission Committee

Frenchay Foxes with Richard Lucas: 4th November, a concert in aid of our charities (Home Start & All You Can). Tickets are £5 and include light refreshments.

Mission Sunday: 20th November, Simple Lunch

Christmas activities:

A Christmas card tree will be in the foyer from December, please add your greeting & make a donation for our charities.

Gift Service 4th December: Please join with morning worship and bring a gift for those not as fortunate as us. We shall again be supporting "Home Start", so are particularly looking for gifts for children under 5 but also their mums and families. Please ask if you are unsure of what to bring.

Christian Aid Christmas Tea: Sunday 11th December at 4pm, we invite you to share a festive tea and then evening worship.

Pam Blackmore

Hanham Methodist Wives Group

This is a quick summary of what has been happening in the Wives Group over the past year. We had talks on Retinous Pigmentosa - Fighting Blindness, The New Room, Hedgehog Rescue and the Fashion Designer Charles Worth. We had several excellent musical and craft evenings as well as our usual beetle drive and fun evening. All in all a good diverse programme – educational, productive and a good ‘sing-song’.

The summer outing was a Skittles Match and buffet in Hawkesbury Upton which was, so I am told, very enjoyable. Thanks must go to Mike Vernon for driving the KCT bus for the group. Unfortunately I missed it, something called a holiday.

The sponsored walk, well that’s another matter. The walk was from Conham River Park to Netham Lock and then back again. When we arrived at Conham it started to rain and then it rained, and rained and rained some more until we returned to Conham when the rain remarkably stopped. On arrival back at the Church we were told ‘what lovely weather you had for the walk,’ it had been fine in Hanham! All the walkers were soaked and could not believe their ears, it was a good job we had a great spread supplied by the non-walkers to compensate.

Other fund raising efforts were bring and buy sales, Saturday Coffee mornings and summer coffee evenings held in Members’ homes which helped to fill the coffers for our Charity, the RNLI.

On October 5th 2016 we held our Harvest Evening and Gary Bressington, a representative from the RNLI came along to collect a cheque for £2,000.00. What a great amount and we also gave the Church £200.00 for its funds.

We are only a small group but great things can come from small numbers, the Wives Group seem to come up trumps every year. Well done to everyone.

Pat Webber - Secretary

P.S. We are always looking for new members, we would love to see you. A copy of our next year's Programme is on the Church Notice Board and you can always contact me.

RP - Fighting Blindness

I have recently handed over the used postage stamps which were in the box in the foyer and subsequently received a letter of thanks from Ron and Gina Pritchard.

Dear Pat,

A big thank you, to you and all at the Hanham Methodist Church, for the stamps we received today. Please keep them coming, since our last contact, there have been announcements in August on further progress with the Clinical trials being undertaken.

£3304-95p has been raised so far, so your stamp contributions play an important part to enable the charity to function. We also collect old and foreign coins, unwanted stamp collections.

THANK YOU to EVERYONE who has helped us to date. YOU HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE.

We wish you all Health and Happiness. Thank you again for your valued support.

Kind regards

*Ron and Gina Pritchard
Bristol/South Gloucestershire Local Group Coordinators.*

Hanham Methodist Church

Christmas Fair

26th November

10.00am — 12.30pm

Many
stalls

Festive
Family
Fun!!

Santa's
Grotto!

Free
entry

Tea,
Coffee,
Lunch

Christmas Fair - Saturday 26th November

Our Annual Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday 26th November opening at 10.00am and closing at 12.30pm.

As well as your time we once again ask for your generous gifts of cakes (for the Country Fare stall and two refreshment outlets), unwanted gifts (those things you have that are in good condition but you don't really want), good quality children's books, pickles and jams, and toiletries etc. We cannot accept mains electrical goods.

Stall holders will be contacted. We are also pleased to have people on the day available as cover to help. We will be setting up the stalls at 2.00pm on Friday 25th November when you can bring your donations. We would welcome help setting up as well as dismantling once it is finished. Do come along and enjoy the occasion. You can also meet Father Christmas in our new Santa's Grotto!

EVCOG

Y's Men's Club Quiz Night on 12th November

Our very popular quiz night will be held on the above date. Please come and join us for an evening of fun, good food and wonderful prizes. Teams of six (no more) are required, either come with a team or we will put you into one on the night.

Start time 7 p.m. prompt. Tickets £7 from John Brown, Pam Liddiard or Pam Blackmore.



Harvest 2016

What makes one Harvest better than another? In a farmer's world the answer would likely be, the correct growing conditions at the right time, in other words enough sun & rain to supply the young shoots, which in turn provide a bumper crop.

So why are there comments this year about our Harvest weekend, like the best ever, really good? Well the church looked, as always, beautifully decorated with amazing floral displays, vegetables and fruit and enhanced during the morning service with dry goods and other gifts. (The Flower committee had again worked their magic) The two services complimented each other, one led by Barry the other by Ann. Then there was Harvest lunch, the hall looked colourful as we all sat down, in anticipation of a veritable feast. We were not disappointed! But there again this year we were able to celebrate Audrey's 97th birthday with cake and candles.

I think that what makes it special are the people, the camaraderie, the conversation, I know for me it was having my family there, to enable us to all sit down together. Whatever! It's good that we can celebrate, share with each other and then with those less fortunate.

There are some thank yous, it doesn't just all happen! To the Flower committee and Glen's Flower Group; the preachers and the organists; the ladies & gentlemen who prepared the lunch, the washers up (More are always needed); JB for transporting the Harvest gifts to the Methodist Centre and finally yourselves for enjoying a special time and giving so generously.

Pam B



Prejudice & Selfishness

In a problem-solving situation, where the significant parameters have been identified and understood by both of us, then prejudice will be the cause should your solution differ from mine – consider for example the EU Referendum.

In the aftermath, analysts explained that the voting patterns were influenced by whether we were young or old, well-educated or not so well-educated, the beliefs and attitudes of our social and political class, where we live, and importantly our employment status and financial security. But the root-cause underlying such an analysis is simply prejudice founded in self-interest. It is sometimes suggested that every action is vested in self-interest even when we help someone and suffer inconvenience and hardship as a result. In doing so, we subjectively hope that any hardship suffered is more than compensated by our feeling of moral satisfaction. But self-interest is surely trumped when a person sacrifices his or her life for another, particularly if that person does not believe in an afterlife.

Modelling Prejudice and Self-Interest:

Even a “good quality upbringing” has given us beliefs and attitudes which may not now be factual, logic or morally valid and yet these beliefs continue to subconsciously control our thinking and actions as we continue to fit into our particular society. By the time we reach adulthood we are pre-programmed even in those circumstances when we consider ourselves to be tolerant and open-minded, perhaps even a pillar of local society and the Church!

Imaginary Story (author unknown):

“Who is God?” asked the mother.

The young child thought for a moment and then said “God is a man.”

“But why a man and not a woman?” asked the mother.

“Because in pictures of God, God has a beard” said the child.

“But why do pictures of God show a man rather than a woman?” persisted the mother.

“Because I think of the name “God” as a man’s name!” replied the child.

There followed a period of quiet while both mother and child were preoccupied with justifying their own thoughts and prejudices!

This conversation between mother and child demonstrates the stages they have reached along the pathway leading to a substantial acceptance of the teaching and behavior standards of their society that will result in some corresponding loss of freedom of thought and originality. Prejudice and self-interest may prove to be positive, negative or neutral depending on the situational context but will always require rigorous evaluation in order to avoid our actions being largely based on the instinctive gut-reaction of self-interest.

ARGI

Just to Say...

I have recently unearthed a video from October 1992, celebrating Mr Philip Curnock’s 50 years as Hanham Organist. The service of thanksgiving and presentation, followed by the cutting of celebration cake was filmed from the Upper Room ‘peep hole’.

If this was transferred to DVD I wonder if people would be interested in obtaining a copy, if so please contact me and I will investigate how much this might cost, probably depending on the number wanted.

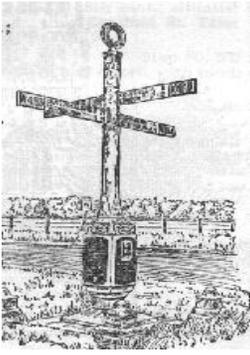
Arnold Wheeler

Christmas Wordsearch!

F T T L F R A N K I N C E N S E B C M L T G Q
V E L L L X W C A D Z L Z K J N C F K G L Y T
P L E B A B R I M M T P E G P P K T H L W N G
R C K G G E U J N T J E R U S A L E M K C A G
I A G W C L G O J Y J C M M N I G A M Q X H L
N R R H E A R S C E L E E K C A D E L G J P O
C I E L L N F E F Z S O L R P L M Y A V K I R
E M L C F N M P N V F U H B E G G M Y N M P I
O A L H M O Y H B L N X S K A M H I E B T E A
F N N R A U N R O H T A A S G T O K F L A M K
P L O I N N C R F V C L T N R F S N R T R B R
E P I S A C D Q J R W R Y I G V Y V I H S A T
A R T T G E X C E W O S B R H E Z N R E T Q X
C O A C E M P D X L K D T P A J L R J S S N K
E C N H R E R K O C M R T R T M Y S B J W D V
H L R I T N C G O N E E Q O N M R R O I V A S
F A A L W T E L N V H H R P E L L I W D O O G
T M C D R R F I L T E P B H V N A T I V I T Y
R A N V S F G R R M L E R E D T V M V K T Z G
V T I L K T L G H T H H K C A H B H G X T G M
T I B Y E K N O D X T S N Y K N L F Y G O G C
N O W I S E M E N J E V R C A M E L Q L N W K
T N A N G E L I C P B T T V H G K F D D B Y Z

How Many Can You Find?

Advent – Alleluia – Angelic – Angels – Announcement – Astrologers –
Baby – Bethlehem – Birth – Camel – Ceremonies – Christ Child – Crèche
– Donkey – Immanuel – Epiphany – Flocks – Frankincense – Gifts –
Gloria – Gold – Goodwill – Holy – Incarnation – Inn – Jerusalem – Jesus –
Joseph – Lord - Magi – Manger – Mary – Miracle – Myrrh – Nativity –
Pageant – Prince of peace – Proclamation – Prophecy – Sacred –
Shepherds – Stable – Star – Wise Men



Signposts

It seemed a good idea at the time, one of those calendars telling what should be done in the garden each week, total failure. Either the weather wasn't right or some other problem was the priority. Looking back over the year other than growing older the situation is much the same for us personally but in the world the situation seems to be worse. November at the best of times is a dark month with the outlook of the hour changing and dark mornings and evenings.

Looking back to last year at this time I wrote in Signposts : *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, two young Israel's killed – 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.

At that time Aleppo was still a city not a pile of rubble with people trapped with no escape.

The Bible teaching with the **Ten Commandments – which included “ Do Not Kill “** which doesn't seem to apply to so many countries and even in our own cities and communities as we seem to hear of murders in our news most days.

When Jesus was born it was necessary for Mary and Joseph to flee from Herod into Egypt.

When will the world change?

Only when in the hearts of so many good people in the world Christ is accepted as Lord and Saviour and the Kingdom of God is established. We pray in our services '*Come Lord Jesus*', *may we think again as we move towards Christmas as remember Jesus came giving us love.*

ACW

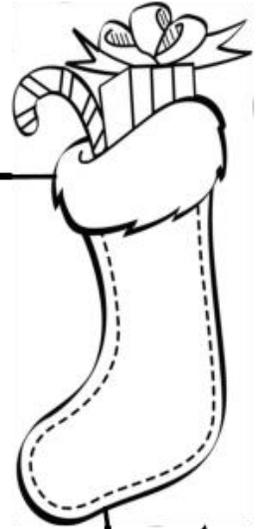


November 6th – Samson and Delilah

December 4th - Christmas

Don't forget...Hanham Street Fair on Friday 2nd December





The True Meaning of Christmas

In today's day and time,
It's easy to lose sight,
Of the true meaning of Christmas
And one special night.
When we go shopping,
We say, "How much will it cost?"
Then the true meaning of Christmas,
Somehow becomes lost.
Amidst the tinsel, glitter
And ribbons of gold,
We forget about the child,
Born on a night so cold.
The children look for Santa
In his big, red sleigh
Never thinking of the child
Whose bed was made of hay.
In reality,
When we look into the night sky,
We don't see a sleigh
But a star, burning bright and high.
A faithful reminder,
Of that night so long ago,
And of the child we call Jesus,
Whose love the world would know.



Rotas

Flowers:

Nov	6th	13th	20th	27th
Church	Barbara Lewis	Pam Blackmore	Bill Frost	Vivien Dalton
War Memorial	Barbara Lewis	Pam Blackmore	Free	Vivien Dalton
Dec	4th	11th	18th	25th
Church	Valerie Smith	Hilary Knapp	Christmas	Christmas
War Memorial	Free	Free	Christmas	Christmas

Doors and books:

Nov	6th	13th	20th	27th
Morn	K Cowie I Cowie	M Golding D Davies	P Kirby J Angell	P Blackmore J Green
Eve	Messy Church	M Kenway M Kenway	C Haycock R Ireland	W Stamford B Griffen
Dec	4th	11th	18th	25th
Church	M Wilby M Sagar	M Golding J Angell	H Teague B Jones	Christmas Day
War Memorial	Messy Church	J Morgan M Morgan	A Angell T Lansdown	



For Your Diary

Nov 4 th	Mission Concert: Frenchay Foxes & Richard Lucas
Nov 12 th	Y's Men's Club of Hanham Quiz Night
Nov 13 th	Remembrance Parade Service a.m.
Nov 20 th	Mission Sunday, with Simple Lunch
Nov 23 rd	Advent House Group
Nov 26 th	Church Fair
Nov 27 th	Advent Spiral, Cluster Evening Service
Nov 29 th	Advent House Group
Dec 2 nd	Hanham Street Fair
Dec 3 rd	That Glorious Song
Dec 4 th	Gift Service, All age Morning worship
Dec 8 th	Advent House Group
Dec 11 th	Worship led by Youth Church a.m.
Dec 11 th	Christian Aid Christmas Tea at 4pm
Dec 13 th	Advent House Group
Dec 18 th	Carols by Candlelight p.m.
Dec 24 th	Crib Service 4.00pm.; Communion 11.15pm
Dec 25 th	Morning Worship at 10.00am
Jan 1 st	Morning Worship only
Jan 8 th	Covenant Service then lunch with Messy Church