

A decorative border of autumn leaves in shades of yellow, orange, and red, framing the top and sides of the page.

Hanham Methodist Church

Magazine

A red cross logo, a common symbol for Methodist churches.

September / October 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.

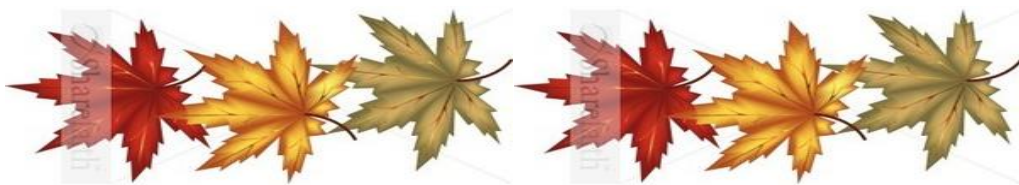
Website: www.hanhammethodist.org.uk

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Full details of all Church activities can be found on our website



Word from the Minister

Where did the summer go? Usually at this time of year there is a lull in the activities of our churches with people on holiday etc.



But this year, summer seems to have been a busy time. I cannot believe its been a year since I sprained my ankle and started a new appointment on crutches! The GCSE and A-level results are in, young people are making life changing decisions. The Olympics have come and gone and people's lives have changed for better or worse as a result.

We are a very different team to the one that competed the 1996 Olympics; GB managed only one Gold that time. We are a very different church too since then.

Time takes its effect on each of us; either we grow up and get stronger or we grow older and find things a bit harder, either way we know the effect time has on us. We cannot change that but we can be content with it. Look up Hebrews in your New Testament, Ch 13 verses 5 -6

⁵ Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." ⁶ So we can confidently say,

*"The Lord is my helper;
I will not fear;*

what can man do to me?" © ESV Online Bible 2013

Our church may have changed, we may see new faces at the front on Sundays, but be content in the knowledge that God is always the same, he never needs to win a medal, he is never down on us if we haven't achieved all we wanted to achieve. As long as we try to reach the goals he has for us he will continue to think of us as Olympic Champions.

As summer lazily drifts into the stillness of autumn, in the calendar and in some of our lives, can we still strive towards the prize the ultimate prize that awaits us in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:14).

God Bless

Barry



What does the future hold for Hanham Methodist Church?



At the start of a new Methodist year this is one of the questions we all need to ask ourselves, along with Do we want a future for Hanham? Is there a future for Hanham? Does God want a future for Hanham?

I believe that the answer to the last question is a resounding yes! But what about the answer to the other questions. Over the coming months we need to use the power of prayer as a community to try to find the answer to the above questions.

We are in many ways very fortunate at Hanham we still have a good size congregation at worship on a Sunday and at activities during the week. We are however an ageing congregation (no offence), over the years we haven't found the key that has encouraged younger people to stay and take on roles with in the church. In this we are not unique it is a problem facing a lot of churches.

What about the present? There are things we can do right now to start us on the road to that brighter future. A consultation group is being formed to look at the future for our buildings. We also need people to come forward now to take on jobs that need to be done. We need people to help with Youth Church. Natalie has taken on the role of leader and she has ideas that she would like to discuss with the young people about how they see the future of youth church. However without help to run it now in its traditional form we cannot take it forward, with the hope of encouraging the young

people to stay involved or to want to come back to us after they have been away to university.

Messy Church is also in need of help. Over the years Messy Church has been a fantastic resource for outreach and mission. Many families have learnt about the stories in the Bible and the love of Jesus. Ok so I know there is a train of thought that it hasn't brought people into our traditional worship on a Sunday but maybe the traditional service is not for everyone, maybe we need to look at a midweek non-traditional form of worship (just an idea) to run alongside our normal Sunday services, but without people to help on a Sunday once a month we may lose Messy Church and the connection with these families.

Then we also need people to be church stewards to help run the church, to help with the smooth running of the services on a Sunday and make sure ideas are discussed and moved forward.

In short it comes back to the power of prayer. We need to pray about this as individuals and as a church for people to come forward and fill these roles. We have all taken on various jobs over the years but we still need to keep doing them. We don't have the young people (at the moment) to hand the baton on to so to speak. Without us fulfilling these roles there will be no future. So please use the power of prayer and listen carefully for the answer, is God telling you that this is something you can do. I do hope so because Hanham Methodist Church needs you and future generations will thank you for it.

Eileen Everson

Senior Steward

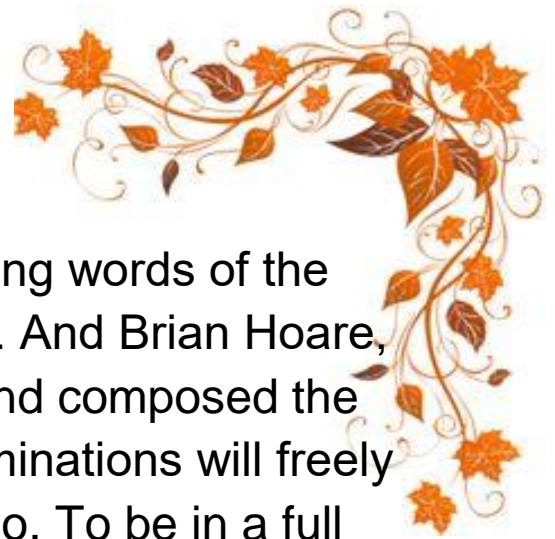
WESLEY'S WISDOM

4. Hymn singing

'Methodism was born in song' are the opening words of the preface to the 1933 'Methodist Hymn Book'. And Brian Hoare, no doubt, had this in mind when he wrote and composed the hymn 'Born in Song'. People of other denominations will freely admit that no-one sings like the Methodist do. To be in a full church with a good organist and a well-known hymn can indeed be a truly uplifting experience.

John Wesley was a great advocate of hymn singing, though he only suggested about two hymns in a service, as he wanted the service to last only the hour, therefore leaving plenty of time for a full blown sermon. The accompaniment would also have been different as there would have been no organ to be played. In fact he preferred that hymns be sung unaccompanied. Although he does write '*I have no objection to instruments of music in our worship, provided they are neither seen nor heard*'. I am not sure what he meant by the last phrase of that sentence for there seems little point in having musicians if they cannot be heard.

For Wesley the words were more important than the tune and he believed that through hymn singing the people may express their worship of God and learn what they should believe. He didn't like what he called 'simplistic songs' and would ensure that hymns only contained 'appropriate' theology. I'm sure that Charles' hymns would have stood the test although it is claimed that John would vet them and alter them if necessary before publication.



He, typically, gave rules about hymn singing.

- 1) hymns should not be altered or amended (compliers if Singing the Faith please note)
- 2) Sing them even if you have not a good voice (amen to that!)
- 3) Sing lustily at a good speed but do not bawl
- 4) Sing them at a reasonable speed (thank you Richard and Philip)
- 5) Most important of all sing them spiritually.

The more I read through 'Singing the Faith' the more I realise what a wonderful collection of hymns both modern and traditional we have. There are hymns to fit every occasion, every mood and every element of worship. Let us use them and learn from them and thank God for all who have written the words and the music.

TJL

News from the Mission Committee

In November we are to host a Concert in aid of our charities (Home Start & All You Can) The date is Friday 4th November, the singers the "Frenchay Foxes", with organ recital by Richard Lucas. Two years ago we held a similar evening, which was much enjoyed, please put this date in your diary.

Pam Blackmore

HANHAM METHODIST CHURCH

will be holding a

RETREAT DAY

at

CHEW STOKE METHODIST CHURCH

on Saturday 22nd October 2016

10.00 am – 3.30 pm

The theme for the day will be

WALK THE RAINBOW



The cost is £10 - includes a buffet lunch and the cost of the hall.

Booking is essential by the 15th OCTOBER.

Please let Joan Brabon-Hibbs (9042235) know as soon as possible if you wish to attend.

Harvest Celebrations 2016

Harvest this year is 25th September, come and take part in the celebration services and enjoy a delicious lunch at 12.15pm.

Cost will be £4.50, names to Pam B.



Messy Church celebrate their 9th birthday in September!!

Is it just fun and games?

Every month on a Sunday afternoon something strange happens in our church. The hall gets taken over by paint, glue and scissors. The kitchen is bursting with tiny sandwiches fit for a party feast. The church is filled with small children running around unrestrained by onlooking parents. “But Sunday is a day for church”, you may think. Well we think so too, and that’s why every month the Messy Church team run something different, because church is for everyone.

Messy Church has been running in Hanham Methodist for 9 years, inviting families with young children through our church doors to learn about God. Each month we take a different bible story and get stuck in, to bring the bible to life. We start with crafts and games that explore the story. From making lion masks when learning about Daniel, to building the walls of Jericho from cereal boxes, we love to get messy!

Once the crafts have been made and the games have been played, the service begins. Worship songs, creative prayer, the telling of the bible story and even a puppet performance are squeezed into a 20-minute service. After the service we enjoy a buffet tea and a chat.

Messy Church is real church. We learn about the bible together, worship together, pray together and eat together. Messy Church may be less polished, a little bit stickier, and a lot louder, but that's why we love it. Church is a place to be excited about a living God, and excitement is something the kids at Messy Church have by the bucket load.

So is it just fun and games? No it's not. At Messy Church we believe worshipping God and having fun go hand in hand. Don't believe us? Why not come along, you might even enjoy it!

1st Sunday of every month @4pm

For more information:

hanhammessychurch@gmail.com

or find us on Facebook

Ella Bakker



Upcoming Messy Church dates:

September 4th - Moses and the Israelites

October 2nd - Joshua & the battle of Jericho



HANHAM METHODIST CHURCH

DAY OF PRAYER

Our Future in God's Hands

**The Sanctuary will be open for prayer between
10 am and 4 pm
on
Saturday 5th November**

Drop in and stay for as long you can.

**There will be a number of stations to guide your
prayers**

**This is about the future of HMC - please do come and
participate**

Friendly Table

Toward the end of 1999 a group of ladies and one gentleman from the church got together to plan a weekly lunch club. It was to be for anyone, but primarily for elderly and lonely people, offering a time of companionship as well as a two course meal. It was decided to open on a Monday as that was the day that the Ladies Bright Hour met and it was felt that there would be a nucleus from the Bright Hour to support it. A competition was set up amongst Church members for an appropriate name and the winner was 'Friendly Table'.



So the Friendly Table opened in January 2000, the first meeting attracting about 25 members on a very rainy day. Since then only one of the original staff are still working with us and only one of the original customers is still attending. At the peak about two years ago we were serving around 50 lunches together with about 15 staff lunches, but we now average between 25 and 30 customers per week. We are indebted to Kingswood Community Transport who bring about a dozen of our clientele each week.

We offer a main course each week, but rotate it on a two monthly cycle. Soups or jacket potatoes are offered as an alternative. After the desert tea or coffee are served in the lounge.

We open every Monday apart from bank holidays except for a short break over Christmas and New Year and a longer break during the end of July and August when the Y's Men take over with their soups and deserts. In December we put on a full blown Christmas dinner for which we don't charge.

Friendly Table is open to anyone who is looking for some company on Monday lunchtime. If you know of anyone who would find what we offer would suit them please tell them about us. The cost will remain at £4 for the forthcoming year.

We would also welcome some extra help with staff as we sometimes struggle to get enough cover. As the years go by we find the average age of the helpers is now approaching the average age of the customers! If anyone feels they can help out if only on a part –time basis we would welcome your help. We are a friendly bunch and have plenty of laughs along the way.

Please contact Mary Golding.

The Friendly Table Staff

News from the Y's Men's Club of Hanham

My daughter in law describes her mother's annual newsletter, which is distributed around Christmas time and details the achievements of her extended family as “a boast in the post”. So I think it is appropriate to call this short missive “a brag in the mag”.

The club has enjoyed yet another successful year both socially and as a fund raising entity. We were pleased to be able to present cheques amounting to around £5000.00 to our chosen charities at our annual service in July.

We had a full calendar of events including our Supper Nights with interesting and informative speakers, Soups during the Friendly Table shut down, a Quiz Night, the Christmas meal at Bitton Railway Station, the Christmas Sing-a-long, Fish and Chips, a concert by the Frampton Male Voice Choir, a Murder Mystery (the main mystery being how we managed to do it), Hot Dogs on the Common (raising a staggering £1300.00), a trip around Bristol

Docks and the river Avon, the year culminating in our Handover and Service. All this was ably presided over by our president, Steve Jaques, who during his term of office enrolled four new members.

This year (2016-2017) we have a new President, John Brown, and a new set of charities to raise money for. Each year at our AGM we decide, by vote, the charities we will support the following year and this time they are: Alzheimer's Research UK, Safe Space and Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors without Borders).

We also have a comprehensive programme of supper nights and other events for our year which begins in September and I'm sure our hard working secretary, Carol Jaques, will be only too pleased to send you a copy. We are, of course, well into our "Monday Soups and Puddings" activity prior to our year beginning. Our Quiz Night will be on Saturday 12th November. Tickets will be on sale soon.

Once again, along with the Mission Committee we are pleased to sponsor the concert arranged and directed by Richard Lucas. It is due to be performed in the sanctuary in December and is entitled "That Glorious Song".

Of course, all of the above doesn't "just happen" it takes effort and determination and our members can be justly proud of their achievements. We are renowned for our superb catering which is always overseen by holders of the pertinent hygiene certificates. Our "special relationship" with Hanham Methodist Church" holds good and we thank the Church and its members for accommodating and supporting us.

Should you require further details about our club, please don't hesitate to contact our secretary, Carol (0117 9092510) or any club member.

John Liddiard - BOG Member

That Glorious Song

That Glorious Song is a brand new Christmas cantata for soloists and choir to be performed as a Circuit Cluster event at Hanham Methodist on Saturday 3rd December. The music is a mixture of traditional tunes and new songs and is light and easy to sing.



If you enjoy singing then this is definitely for you. Old favourites like God Rest You Merry Gentlemen and It Came Upon The Midnight Clear have a refreshingly modern treatment and new settings of The Spacious Firmament and Silent Night are a fresh approach to some traditional and well-loved words.

You don't have to be a trained singer - we want enthusiastic people who enjoy making music and who like to sing at Christmas. There are no frightening high notes or complicated rhythms. Copies will be provided (free of charge) at the first rehearsal.

Rehearsals are on Thursday afternoons at Hanham starting on 14th September at 3pm. If you have any questions please call me (0117 985 0102) or email richard.lucas@blueyonder.co.uk or, if you would like to join us, just turn up at the first rehearsal. You will be warmly welcomed.

Richard

BOOK and DOOR ROTA

I would like to thank all those who serve as volunteers to welcome people to our services. Sadly for various reasons one or two have had to withdraw and I am struggling to find enough people to fill the rota.

Is there anyone prepared to offer to go on the rota? It is a simple yet very worthwhile task. It just means arriving half an hour before the service and either greeting people as they come in or handing out hymn books and notice sheets. If you are interested please have a word with me

Hilary Lansdown

ARE YOU HERE GOD? : STRESS & HEALING

If you are that well-balanced, cheerful and optimistic person that I should like to be, then you need read no further! But if you feel almost too stressed to read this; were stressed yesterday and expect to be stressed tomorrow, then you will periodically continue to ask two questions: why is this so, and what can I do about it?

Among the more common causes of stress are the following:-

- + you are too conscientious and self-effacing, or feel guilty about not achieving more; maybe you let others down through selfish ambition. Perhaps you feel guilty for not doing more for others even when you should be relaxing and enjoying yourself.
- + you feel you are failing to cope with life because circumstances seem to conspire against you, for example most days you seem to possess too little time, finance or ability for what needs to be done!
- + you are sleeping badly, no longer experiencing that “feel good factor”
- + you are unavoidably unwell, or maybe you are grieving for someone.

Counselling and advice, intended to treat the causes of stress, may unfortunately be of limited value and depend for their success on a willingness to believe in and to adopt such advice.

It is often stated that “Time is a Healer” but Time usually takes a considerable amount of itself to do so, and it is important to fill the days with “meaningful activities” and to largely avoid those empty personal moments in which it is so easy to brood, feel guilty and descend into depression. Time does of course heal and has largely achieved its objective when those personal moments begin to feel more comfortable and panic-free as you come to terms with the situation and your involvement in it.

In our everyday life we learn to devise personal tricks for best dealing with the daily build-up of our stress – imagine the following scenario: You are a person inclined to be late for the start of almost everything in your daily life and arrive rather breathless still thinking about the last event in your day. What can you do? The usual advice for this condition includes learning to effectively manage personal time – *prepare a*

“Programme of Tasks to be done” complete with realistic time allocations and allow a contingency period to cover those little things that always go wrong when you are in a hurry. But can you afford the time to prepare such a programme?

“The Little Book of Calm”, by Paul Wilson includes the following:

- 1. Most worries are future based – they revolve around things that in most cases may never happen. Concentrate on the present and the future will take care of itself.*

The Bible says “Take no thought for tomorrow; - sufficient unto the day are the troubles thereof.”

- 2. The most important skill in staying calm is not to lose sleep. The second most important skill is to be able to view all issues as small issues!*

The Bible says something about consciously placing our problems with the Lord. At the end of the day a conscious act of “responsibility-transfer” (to God) may well make it possible to enjoy a reasonable night’s rest and to see the problems from a different perspective in the morning.

- 3. Take a lesson in calmness from children: watch how they live every moment for the pleasure of that moment. Pretend, and pretence may change into reality.*

The Bible says something about the need for us to be, in some matters, like little children. The concept that “*Pretence may change into reality*” brings to mind Peter Boehler’s advice to a doubting John Wesley: he said “...*Preach faith till you have it; and then because you have it, you will preach faith*”.

The Christian Faith in action: the Christian Church advocates a different reality in which it is possible to experience a peaceful state of mind in the middle of life’s turmoil. This reality resides in the spiritual condition of sensing the presence of God in our lives. So that like everyone else the Christian struggles in the midst of worry, illness and death but can call upon a Hope and Courage derived from knowing that God is with us, shares our burden and strengthens our human frailty.

This spiritual feeling is a kin to the child who cannot describe the love received from its parents. What the child does is to subconsciously absorb that love and then often respond to it in kind. If you were fortunate enough to have received such an upbringing then maybe you can recall the love you felt and its associated feelings of trust and assurance and well-being that remained when you were unwell.

A similar “Spiritual conviction” may result from a traumatic experience, for example, where someone has survived a life-terminating event or illness contrary to expert opinion. A person may also conclude that such deliverance was indeed an act of God! Whether such a belief is actually true or false may not be as important as the actions prompted and sustained by it, for example, John Wesley discovered “God’s presence” during a non-conformist meeting where according to his journal **His heart was strangely warmed**. Now this “conversion experience” was clearly a reality for John, but even if he was mistaken, it would not diminish the positive achievements of John, Charles Wesley and Methodism which are traceable down through history.

There are occasions where God does not seem to wave his magic wand – we pray, but nothing seems to change and gradually the evil that is despair comes to engulf us. One explanation for this non-intervention may be a “faulty-expectancy” of God. This can be a problem where a person believes in God’s ability and intention to **physically** intervene in our lives - a view claimed to be supported by Biblical interpretation. In order to maintain this belief and to justify God’s apparent non-intervention, it can be argued that this must be God’s will for reasons that will eventually be seen to have been for the best!

Obviously much more can be said about this difficult subject, but there remains one fundamental question to be addresses, namely, “Are You Here God?” and I leave the answer to you!

Prayer: Lord, bless us, strengthen our faith, grant us wisdom to act wisely and in the midst of our stress, suffering and doubt grant us Peace of Mind, Courage, Hope and finally Deliverance as we continue into our future.

ARGI



Autumn Word Search

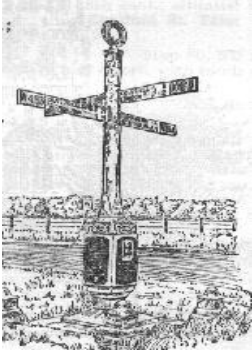


Y M V R A L N S E Z A Y N H Q
P J I C E O E N U I L V C A Y
X S O G S B I A P O S M H Y E
B R I A R H O O V C K A C R L
N O E R S A C T A E R L B I L
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E W U F N L E I E O E A A E W
K S O R I C E S O P R B U E E
A Q O R R R T R I N A T T E G
R C B O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

ACORN
BEAUTIFUL
CORNUCOPIA
FOOTBALL
LEAVES
OCTOBER
RAKE
SCENIC
SQUIRREL
YELLOW

APPLE
BONFIRE
CRISP
HARVEST
MIGRATION
ORANGE
RIPE
SEASON
SUNFLOWER

AUTUMN
BROWN
FOLIAGE
HAYRIDE
NOVEMBER
PUMPKIN
SCARECROW
SEPTEMBER
SUNSHINE



Signposts

These last few weeks have been thinking very much of what holds for the future of children in our world. This was especially so as I was able to be at the Christening service of Matilda my great-granddaughter living in a Christian family in the general peace of this country. So much hatred between nations, fighting and the despair of so many displaced people with no escape. At the other end of the scale have also celebrated the past as Hazel and I had our Wedding anniversary and were in contact with the village in Cornwall where we spent our honeymoon. A reminder of the blessings of God, the love of Jesus in everyday life.

The last couple of weeks watching the achievements in the Olympics where many gained gold medals they never thought possible. People of nations across the world coming together in competition and not at war.

Many will remember Reg Osborne, a Local Preacher, he undertook an advanced study of the Book of Psalms which I have found give that basis of so much understanding of the hopes, fears and the relationship with God culminating with the coming of Jesus, revealed in the Gospels, and His sacrifice on the cross changing the world.

ACW

Rotas

Flowers:

Sept	4th	11th	18th	25th
Church	Roy Skinner	Pam Liddiard	Shirley Goodenough	Harvest
War Memorial	<i>Free</i>	Pam Liddiard	Shirley Goodenough	Harvest

Oct	2nd	9th	16th	23rd	30th
Church	Maureen Stone	Philip Biggs	Lilian Curnock	Dorothy Blackmore	Audrey Dayer
War Memorial	Maureen Stone	Bill Frost	Brenda Jackson	Dorothy Blackmore	Audrey Dayer

Doors and books:

Sept	4th	11th	18th	25th
Morn	B Jones H Teague	M Golding J Angell	P Webber J Tippet	M Howe N Howe
Eve	Messy Church	T Lansdown A Angell	M Kenway M Kenway	C Haycock R Ireland

October rota will be finalised and circulated shortly.



For Your Diary

4th Sept 10.45am A Orton

4.00pm Messy Church – Moses and the Israelites

11th Sept 10.45am Holy Communion – Rev B Bishop

6.00pm C Sledge

18th Sept 10.45am R Wallace

6.00pm Holy Communion – Rev B Bishop

25th Sept 10.45am Harvest Festival - Barry Bishop

12.15pm Harvest Lunch

6.00pm Anne Bishop

2nd Oct 10.45am P Culshaw

4.00pm Messy Church - Joshua & the battle of Jericho

9th Oct 10.45am Holy Communion – D Hardy

6.00pm Songs of Praise Churches Together in Hanham

16th Oct 10.45am Boys Brigade Rededication - Chris Spencer

6.00pm V Lamont

23rd Oct 10.45am J Clark

6.00pm Holy Communion – Rev B Bishop

30th Oct 10.45am D Ujvarosy

6.00pm Cluster Service - United Church Longwell Green

