

**HANHAM METHODIST  
CHURCH MAGAZINE**



**MAY / JUNE**



## **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](http://www.hanhammethodist.org.uk)

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

*I can do* ALL THINGS  
*through Christ*  
*who STRENGTHENS* *me.*  
-Phillippians 4:13



# RIVERS OF THE BIBLE

## Exodus 2: 1-10

The closing 14 chapters of Genesis tell the gripping story of Joseph, the young Hebrew boy, sold into slavery by his brothers who rose to become Pharaoh's second in command over the whole of Egypt. So grateful was the Pharaoh to Joseph for saving the country from seven years of famine by his ability to interpret dreams that he invited Joseph's family to move to Egypt to avoid the famine that had also hit Canaan.

Time had now moved on. The Pharaoh of Joseph's time was long dead and Joseph's great work had been forgotten. Over the years the Hebrew people had grown in number and the current Pharaoh felt threatened by their presence fearing they might take up arms against the Egyptians. So he decreed that the numbers be contained by ordering that every new born Hebrew male be thrown in the Nile.

One woman, Jochebed, driven by her strong maternal instincts hid her baby in a basket, waterproofed with tar, placed among the reeds on the banks of the Nile. The story tells us that Pharaoh's daughter came down to the river to bathe and spotted the basket with the baby inside. At that point Jochabed's daughter Miriam appears and cleverly offers the child's own mother as a wet nurse. So the babe was saved and moved into Pharaoh's palace.

The Princess names the babe Moses because he was 'taken from the water' and so begins the story of the great liberator, lawgiver and prophet of the Hebrew people, who led them from the slavery of Egypt into the Promised Land.

So following on from the River of Creation we have the River of Salvation. And salvation is a theme that we find running right through scripture. Even earlier than the Moses story we find God saving the life of the young Isaac from Abraham's knife. Further on in the Old Testament we find Elijah saved from starvation by the widow of Zarapeth. Then after 50 years or more in exile God leads his people away from incarceration in Babylon back to Jerusalem.

But it is in the New Testament that we find the matter of salvation most fully expressed. Despite the pleadings and warnings of a great line of prophet's the Hebrew people could never fully be at one with God. As the parable of the absentee landlord (Mark 12:1-8) reminds us the servants sent to the vineyard were ill-treated by the tenants and eventually the landlord sent his own beloved son who the tenants murdered. The parable clearly points to Calvary and the death of Jesus which Christians see as the pinnacle of God's work of salvation (1 Peter 2:24).

But the Bible is also clear that the doctrine of Salvation is more than just the saving of the individual for the promise of heaven. There is a much larger picture of salvation painted in the Bible. It describes the whole of creation being restored and reconciled to God. Paul writing to the Ephesians says' *...that the universe and everything in heaven and on earth, might be brought into a unity in Christ'* (Eph. 1:10).

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More than 1000 years ago the Celtic Church recognised that creation and redemption were interwoven and that is why the Celtic cross has a cross within the circle. The circle represents the whole of creation and the cross the salvation of the whole.

*O unexampled love,*

*O all-redeeming grace!*

*How swiftly did you move*

*To save a fallen race!*

*What shall I do to make it known*

*What you for all the world have done?*

TJL



## Invitation to a 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

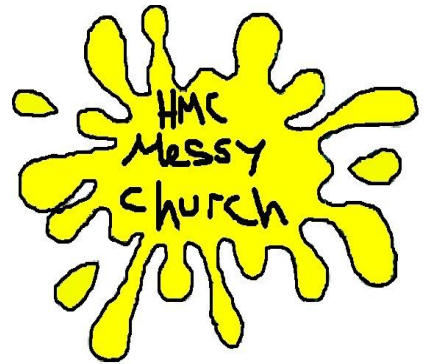
In June 2002 a small group of folk from H.M. Church, led by " little Don," went along to the Beeches Residential Home to conduct a simple act of worship. They were made very welcome and a group has been leading worship there once a month, except August, ever since. This year the Beeches is celebrating its 30th. Birthday being still run by the same family. We are all invited to the Celebration being held on Saturday 19th. May 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. Many of you will have realised that that coincides with the Cup Final and the Royal Wedding. Do not fear, the television lounges will be available, if you can't bear to miss a minute of either! Please let Tim or Rosemary know if you intend to support this to help the Beeches folk with catering arrangements.

We would always welcome anyone to join us on the third Thursday of the month from 2.30p.m.- 3.15 p.m. We work on a rota so it doesn't have to be every month. Again, speak to Tim or Rosemary if you are interested.



## **Messy Church fundraising update**

Thank you to everyone who has supported us towards our £1000 target with our coffee morning, Smartie tube Challenge and Beetle Drive. The sum raised so far is an amazing £780.



Our next event is another coffee morning on Saturday 23rd June at Hanham Methodist Church from 9.30am. Offers of cakes and help would be most welcome and Anna will be selling some of her Caribbean marmalade!

***Hanham Messy Church team***



## **Kingswood Methodist Food bank**

KMC are doing sterling work with a Food Bank in Kingswood. If you would like to help, please leave pasta, tea, sugar cereals tins in the box provided.

This in no way means that we have given up on the Methodist Centre. We shall continue to support that regularly through the year.

Thank you for your generosity.

***Pam B***



## What a Month is May!

**May 10<sup>th</sup> is Ascension Day**, the 40th day of Easter. This is one of the earliest Christian festivals dating back to 68 AD. According to the New Testament, Jesus met several times with his disciples during the 40 days after his resurrection to instruct them on how to carry out his teachings. On the 40th day he took them to the Mount of Olives, where they watched as he ascended to heaven.



**May 13<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> is Christian Aid Week**, an annual fundraising drive by Christian Aid, which works with 700 local organisations across 50 developing countries. Working with poor communities, it trains people to deal with the effects of climate change and



prepares them for the threat of natural disasters, as well as providing training and education, health and sanitation, peace and reconciliation.

**May 20<sup>th</sup> is Pentecost**, celebrating the gift of the Holy Spirit, fifty days after Easter, when Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to his disciples to help them in their faith, and continue their work of establishing the church and spreading the gospel further. The word "Pentecost" comes from the Greek word "pentekoste," which means "fiftieth."





## More Random Thoughts

Comedian Spike Milligan's epitaph reads "I told you I was ill".

The helicopter created a deafening noise and considerable vibration which passengers countered by reading, wearing ear plugs, or just staring out to sea through small portholes.

Conversation was impossible except at the top of ones' voice and mobile devices were prohibited.

To the seasoned passenger this was quite normal, although, with hindsight, this particular take-off had seemed sluggish; but really nothing more. As the helicopter flew west over Penzance Bay the stewardess, having only minutes before instructed us in the safety drill for an emergency ditching in the sea, suddenly announced that a technical problem had arisen and it was necessary to return to the heliport. She said everything would be alright and directed us to put on our safety belts as a precaution. Now I tend to panic when advised *not to worry and everything will be alright* – perhaps you are the same. I immediately assumed we were in a potentially life threatening situation as I passed from panic to numbness and the hope I would properly acquit myself whatever the outcome – which joyously was a safe return to the heliport.

Back in the departure lounge, it was rumoured that the helicopter was overweight and some of its luggage was unloaded to be transported on a later flight. Twenty minutes later we took off again in the same helicopter with the same noise and vibration and seemingly the same sluggish ascent and flew perfectly safely to St Mary's on the Isles of Scilly, after a very long thirty minute flight.

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So, was it a life-threatening situation or not? It was certainly an unnerving experience whether real or largely imagined and its memory brought to mind what some famous people have said when faced with the spectre of their demise.

My selection can be summarised as a form of habitual defiance in the case of Dylan Thomas, reconciliation from Jane Austen, a witty dismissiveness from Oscar Wilde and a statement of steadfast Faith from John Wesley.

DYLAN THOMAS said *I've had eighteen straight whiskies – I think that's a record.*

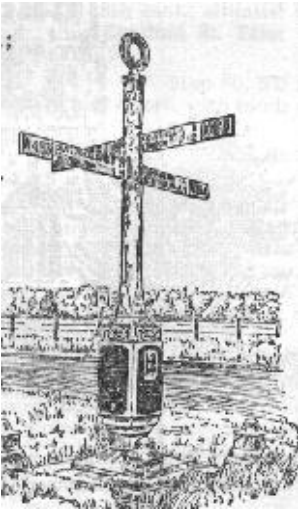
JANE AUSTIN in answer to the question, is there anything you require, responded with, *nothing but Death.*

OSCAR WILDE said *either the wallpaper must go or I do.*

JOHN WESLEY is said to have repeated the opening words of Isaac Watts' hymn "I'll praise my maker while I've breath" and added *the best of all is God is with us.* John Wesley's confidence is a state of mind to which we may well aspire and is a serious proposition worthy of consideration.

Finally and on a humorous note, Woody Allen said, *it's not that I'm afraid to die, I just don't want to be there when it happens* – at the time of writing he is presumably thankful to be still with us.

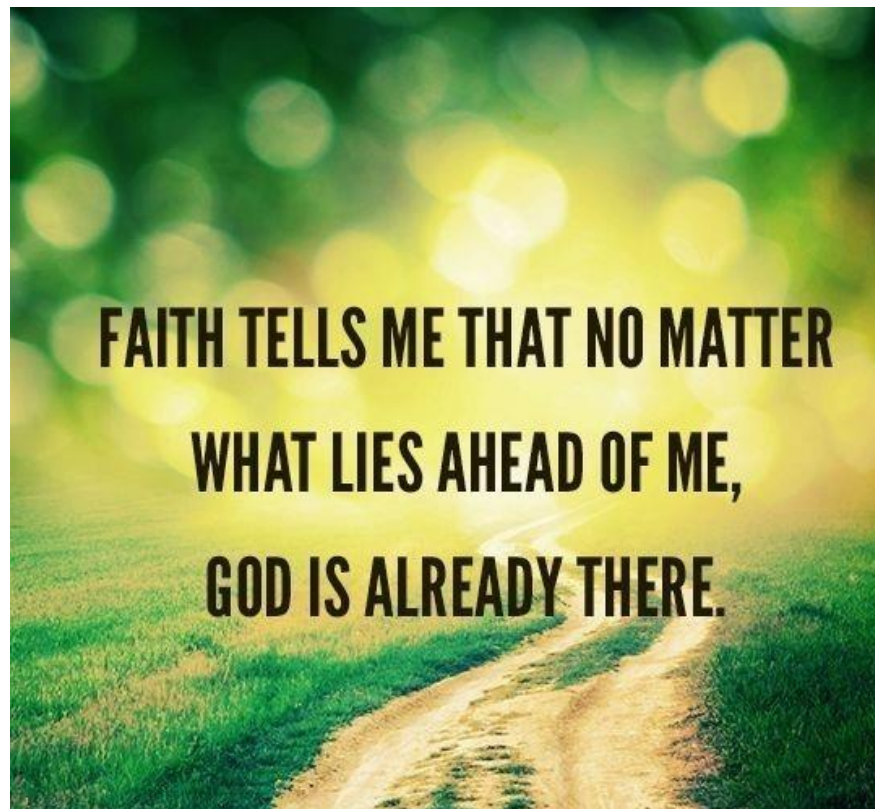
ARGI



## **Signposts**

April? Is it spring or even summer? This month has been very confusing with a great deal happening. 100<sup>th</sup> birthday parties; new people arriving with Hazel at Deerhurst; a trip with the willow trust on the sharpness canal. Also my birthday cropped up! in all of this and the new people we have met shines through the wonderful love of Jesus which was experienced at Easter and celebrated with the lady vicar from Saint Stephen's church. Whatever the future holds we are assured of god's blessing through Jesus, lord and saviour.

ACW



# Planting Seeds

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

GOOD GROUND  
 THORNS  
 SPRANG UP  
 DOCTRINE  
 CONVERTED  
 SCHORCHED  
 DEVoured  
 INCREASED  
 MULTITUDE  
 WITHERED  
 FORGIVEN  
 FOWLS  
 CHOKE  
 YIELD  
 ROOT  
 TEACH  
 GLADNESS  
 WAY SIDE  
 SOWER



## Rotas

### Flowers:

May	6 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Church</b>	Wives	Marjorie Brooks	Vron Jackson	Angela and Martin
<b>War Memorial</b>	Wives	Marjorie Brooks	Free	Angela and Martin

June	3 <sup>rd</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Church</b>	Messy Church	Maurice Bye	Audrey Dayer	Bob Stapleton
<b>War Memorial</b>	Messy Church	Lilian Curnock	John Brown	Pauline Kirby

### Doors and books:

May	6 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Morn</b>	M Golding D Davies	J Angell P Kirby	J Green P Blackmore	M Wilby M Sagar
<b>Eve</b>	Messy Church	M Kenway M Kenway	C Haycock R Ireland	B Griffen W Stamford

June	3 <sup>rd</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Morn</b>	H Teague B Jones	P Webber J Tippett	K Cowie I Cowie	M Golding D Davies
<b>Eve</b>	Messy Church	J Morgan M Morgan	A Angell T Lansdown	M Kenway M Kenway

## For Your Diary

- 6<sup>th</sup> May* 10.45am Wives' Anniversary led by Anne Bishop
- 10<sup>th</sup> May* Ascension Day
- 13<sup>th</sup> May* Christian Aid Week
- 20<sup>th</sup> May* 2.00pm Pentecost Celebration at Badminton Road
- 24<sup>th</sup> May* Wesley Day
- 27<sup>th</sup> May* Trinity Sunday
- 17<sup>th</sup> Jun* Church Anniversary led by Andrew Prout
- 10.45am Parade and All Age Worship
- 6.00pm Communion