

**HANHAM METHODIST  
CHURCH MAGAZINE**



**JANUARY / FEBRUARY**

## **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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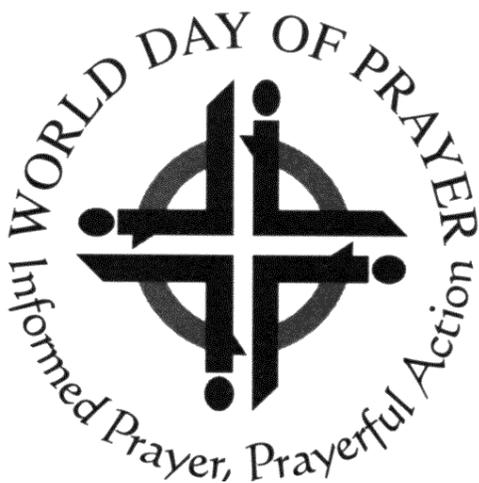
Copies of this magazine are held on the Church website and therefore all articles can be viewed through the internet. Submissions of all articles should therefore highlight any information you wish to be removed from the online version.

Website: [www.hanhammethodist.org.uk](http://www.hanhammethodist.org.uk)

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**World Day of Prayer** will be held in Christ Church, Hanham on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 10.15 am. Everyone is welcome.

*(This was previously called Women's World Day of Prayer)*

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## **RIVERS OF THE BIBLE    Acts 16:11-15**

For our sixth river we move to the Acts of the Apostles and join Paul on his third and final missionary journey. Here we find him at Philippi.

Philippi was founded by Philip, the father of Alexander the Great. Sometime later it became a Roman Colony as it was strategically placed on the famous network of Roman roads. The settlement was populated by veteran Roman soldiers. So, although it was many miles from Rome all things Roman existed there: Roman clothes were worn, the Roman language spoken, and all Roman customs and laws were observed. Hence there was no Jewish synagogue even though there was a Jewish population living there.

When journeying, on arrival at a town, Paul would first look up the Jewish community, normally in the synagogue. So, without a building in Philippi in which to gather, the Jewish population would meet for prayer by the river. And so it was at the riverside where Paul and his travelling companions caught up with the local Jews and talked with them. Before long one of the women Lydia, a wealthy dealer in purple fabric, responded to Paul's teaching, opened her heart Christ and was baptised by Paul in the river.

It is no coincidence, I am sure, that this happened at what was described as a place of prayer (verse 13). For prayer is critical to the life of the Church and the individual Christian. However, prayer does not come easily or naturally to many.

I recall two ministers who served my church when I was in my late teens and early twenties. The first was a most eloquent and

trenchant preacher, a good administrator and a conscientious visitor. But I remember him once saying that by no stretch of the imagination could he be called 'a man of prayer' By contrast the second minister was a very disappointing preacher and had no administrative skills at all yet when he led prayer he could lead you to the very throne of grace. It was a moving and challenging experience to be led by him in prayer

I recall a third minister who had a particular easy manner when leading prayer. It was as if he was sat in his kitchen over a cup of coffee chatting to God across the table. Yet another Methodist minister Neville Ward in his renowned book 'The Use of Praying' has this line:-'Don't be ashamed if you find prayer difficult'

Perhaps therefore it is tempting to many to 'leave the praying to others' and to get on with the more practical side of the faith. But surely the two are inextricably linked. Without prayer our actions for God will be in vain but without action our praying will have little effect.

There is an apocryphal story of two clergy who served in the same Scottish town. There was the Catholic priest, six-foot-tall and twenty stone, Father McHuge and his friend the Presbyterian minister, small of stature, the Rev Dr. Little. It was their day off, so being good weather they decided to hire a boatman to row them across the loch where they would take afternoon tea. All went well until the return journey when, as can happen in the Highlands, a sudden storm blew up and the boat began to pitch and toss. Fearing for their lives Dr. Little suggested that Father McHuge might like to

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offer a prayer. At that the boatman butted in: 'Och noo' he said, 'let the wee fellow say a prayer and let the big fellow take an oar'.

Desmond Tutu was a very busy man, constantly under pressure, always in meetings with people. South Africa was on the brink of civil war and his spiritual advisor told him that he needed to withdraw from the world for a while as he was becoming a celebrity. He followed the reasoning of his advisor but replied that with violence escalating he could not sit quietly by.

He was facing a dilemma for the craving for silence was contradicted by the life-force within him for action against the injustice that was all around him. He came to realise that it wasn't a choice between prayer and social action but that prayer drove you off your knees and sustained you in the actions you felt compelled to undertake.

We live in very challenging times, as a church, as a nation and for many of us as individuals. Let us practise prayer regularly and may it become the life force that drives us on in our Christian journey in these difficult days.

*Pray, without ceasing, pray, your captain gives the word*

*His summons cheerfully obey, and call upon the Lord:*

*To God your every want in instant prayer display*

*Pray, always: pray and never faint:*

*Pray without ceasing pray!*

StF 528

TJL



## Prison 2018

Being incarcerated at any time of year must be difficult but at Christmas and in a ladies' prison it is doubly so, as there are children to be considered. After over a decade of visits to Eastwood Park at Falfield we have come to recognise the signs that for whatever reason the ladies are in prison, the festive season is particularly harrowing for mothers with small children and separation is uppermost in their minds.

This year eight Church members made the annual Christmas visit and we had at least forty ladies from the various wings. They entered the chapel quite noisily as is usual, as during "free flow", they meet up with friends and enjoy a gossip. The controlling chaplain Lesley, settled everyone and then explained the morning. For us it was disappointing to recognise a few prisoners, which means that they had been at Eastwood Park for over a year- think what you have done during the year- time must go very slowly.

John L had arranged suitable music and we set off, through a series of readings, short talks and carols to retell the story from Advent to Twelfth Night. The ladies were very appreciative and respectful and joined in with the singing (as usual using two hymn book versions, we had some interesting scenarios with words) but it helped to relax everyone. Chris very ably gave a short talk about the relevance of the Gifts and after a Christmas blessing, John played our final music and that was when we nearly had a riot! John had intended "O come all ye faithful" but somehow we managed Bob Dylan's, "Christmas Island". The ladies took advantage to "sway" to the music, the chaplain joined in and so did

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one of the prison officers! However all was not lost as the morning ended on a high note and showed that we can mingle serious with enjoyment.

The visit was particularly poignant as although Jennifer joined the group, we were missing Albert. From the early days of Don's chaplaincy, our visits have evolved and Albert had very much been a part of them.

I also took one of the "Hanham Angels", explained its significance and it is hanging proudly on the Christmas tree in the chapel.

Visiting the prison is a very worthwhile activity but it is draining, so we then took ourselves off for the wind down, first a coffee at the local Garden Centre, followed by a meal together at the pub in Rangeworthy, where we were also greeted as old friends by the landlady.

All part of a Christmas ritual?? Yes, but one which we now consider a very worthwhile use of our time and energies.

Pam B



## **In Place of the Christmas Fayre**

At our Autumn Church Council a decision was made not to hold a Christmas Fayre in 2018. It was felt that it had run its course and was proving exorbitantly hard work for fewer and fewer people.

The question then was, how we replace the monies we make each year from the Fayre. Well praise be the EVCOG team who came up with some suggestions and organised their implementation. We had a Church Coffee Morning with one or two stalls and we had a Church Christmas Lunch where around eighty of us enjoyed a splendid 3 course meal. Tombola was part of the entertainment. Income from these sources means that we are 88% of the way (or £200 short) to equal the profit from the 2017 Church Fayre. I understand that a further Coffee Morning is planned in the coming months.

So a big thank you to the EVCOG team and all the helpers they seconded for such a wonderful effort.

*Tim Lansdown*

Honorary Treasurer

## **Y's Men's Club of Hanham**

Date for your diary - on Saturday 23rd March we have the Frampton Cotterell Male Voice Choir coming to perform a concert for us. This will include a section by The Shanty Men. Hopefully you will be able to join us, full details will be published in the notices.

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Bourne Christian Centre  
Waters Rd  
Bristol BS15 8BE

26<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Hanham Methodist Church

Dear Donor,

### **KINGSWOOD FOOD BANK**

We are writing to say thank you very much for your donations to the Kingswood Foodbank.

Your donations have helped us feed, so far this year (to 19<sup>th</sup> November), 1183 people of which 492 have been children. Over the corresponding period last year we fed 963 people of which 390 were children. You can see that the demand for our support, and yours, continues to grow quite considerably. Fortunately our supporters have continued to be generous too and the amount of donations has also increased considerably so we have been able to meet this increase in demand. But we need to maintain this level of support.

This will be the 5<sup>th</sup> Christmas since we opened and experience tells us it will be our busiest time of the year. Last year we fed 207 people over the 3 Mondays we were open in December with 118 alone on the last Monday before Christmas Day, our biggest ever single day figure. We have no reason to suppose this year will be any different.

Should you wish, you can keep up to date with what is happening with the Foodbank via the Kingswood Foodbank Facebook page: this is normally updated every Monday afternoon.

An early very merry Christmas and a happy new year to you.

The Kingswood Foodbank Team

## **MORE RANDOM THOUGHTS: 'ONCE UPON A TIME'**

Which location is associated with the following 'once upon a time' people and events?

+*The 17<sup>th</sup> century Baptist Church was so persecuted that it left Bristol and relocated in the Crews Hole area.*

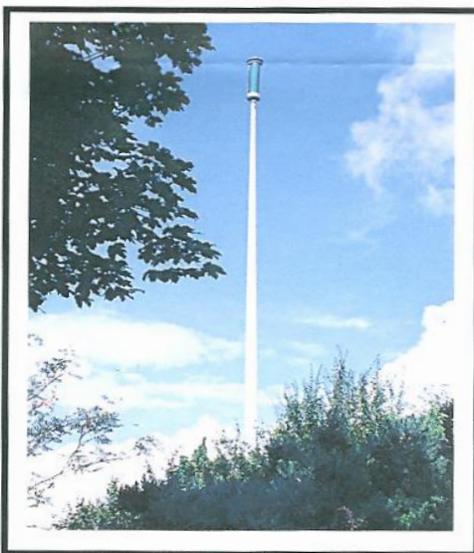
+*Once upon a time this location was just a field with an old cottage and a large Sycamore tree under which John Kennick preached in the 1740s.*

+*In 1739 two Anglican preachers, later to become rather famous, led an open-area evangelistic campaign serving a large mining community. The eventual 'knock-on' effect of this campaign led to the foundation of the social reforming Methodist Church.*

+*In the 1951 Festival of Britain year the then Kingswood District Council transformed this field into a formalised landscape to celebrate those religious people and events associated with Kingswood and Hanham during the late 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.*

+In 1996 this location was designated as a World Methodist Heritage Site.

+In the same year 1996 a voluntary organisation was founded.



The location in question is of course, Hanham Mount where every year the Hanham Methodist Church holds an open air service in celebration of the historical significance of this site. The Anglican preachers were George Whitfield who began the 1739 evangelistic campaign in Hanham primarily because he was denied preaching access to the Bristol Anglican churches, (which is another story) and John Wesley who at The Marsh in Bristol and on Hanham Mount began his lifetime of outdoor evangelism. By the 1740s John Kennick had become the first master at the Kingswood School founded by John Wesley to serve the mining community. *The voluntary organisation associated with The Mount was of course The Friends of Hanham, - founded in 1996 and terminated at the Society's AGM on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2018 because there was no one from an age and declining membership to replace the four retiring officers.*

**The Society's legacy** is evident everywhere on The Mount and is best appreciated by simply walking through this 'little gem' of a landscape, with its outward and inward vistas and small scale views and commemorative plaques located throughout the site. This landscape is the result of collaboration between the South Gloucestershire Council (the site owner and financial provider) and the Society and includes the major site installations listed below. The Society's role in this collaboration usually consisted of initiating a site development idea, providing most of the design input and seeking financial grants.

*+In 2000 the last major landscape remodelling retained the three main features of the original 1951 scheme and incorporated the 1996 adjoining public open space*

*which came into existence as part of the housing development in Gunning Close.*

*+Replacement of the original beacon in 2007(photo)*

*+Tarmacadam surfacing of the public footpath together with metal railings and cycle barrier, - the latter incorporating the Society's logo.*

*+Installation of public footpath lighting.*

*+Installation of electrical services and a public address facility located at the pennant stone terrace area.*

*+Replacement of the vandalised timber pulpit with a contemporary brass symbol of the cross set in the railings protecting the pennant stone terrace area.*

*+ The provision of stone retaining walls, terrace area and steps.*

*+In 2018 the Society financed the replacement of damaged paving slabs to the Mount Hill Road forecourt area; - work still to be carried out.*

*In addition the Society shared a web-site with Hanham Methodist church, produced a 'History of Hanham Mount' in folded leaflet format and a PowerPoint study/lecture pack on the 'Significance of The Mount', - together with a membership newsletter which ran to 49 issues. The Society also tour guides and information leaflets for site visitors.*

*Once upon a time there was a voluntary organisation by the name of the Friends of Hanham Mount but now it is merely a memory. The Hanham Mount legacy achieved from the collaboration of the South Gloucestershire Council and The Society is real enough and on a more optimistic note the Methodist Church has promised to undertake certain of the Society's activities in order to ensure the future well-being of this World Methodist Heritage Site.*

ARGI

## **Thank you...**

It doesn't seem long since I last sent a message through this magazine, it was in Spring in fact. Well it's much the same I'm afraid. Nevertheless, it is sent sincerely to all of you for everything you have done for Angela and me. It was a few hard weeks for us both with two major heart operations for me, just 4 weeks apart, after a similar session 6 months earlier.

To those of our community who visited me, helped us with loving care and transport and all important prayers whilst in hospital and recovering, may we say God bless and thank you all.

*Martín Sagar*

## **Did you know?**

Do you know the origins of the stained-glass window, depicting the Cross, which now is in pride of place on the wall of our sanctuary?

We need to go back 70 years, when Hubert Hale was organist, here at Hanham, then Ebenezer, he was also Head Teacher at Hanham Road Secondary Boys' School, (the present day Beacon Rise) With the help of Ernest Sampson (David's father), a window was designed and fitted into one of the old existing window spaces on the end wall facing the road, above the then entry into the church. David helped with the fitting. The Sampson Stained Glass workshop was very close to the Old Engine House (Auction Rooms) on Memorial Road.

After the Redevelopment and reopening of the Hanham Methodist Church in 1978, the Cross became a feature on the end wall.

## Signposts

*'Christmas is coming the geese are getting fat – a time of rejoicing and thanksgiving. Families coming together from distant places. The joy of children.*

JESUS was born in Bethlehem, Immanuel, God with Us,  
JESUS lived and taught and healed,

JESUS died on the cross, crucified, dying for the sin in the world.

JESUS ascended into heaven.

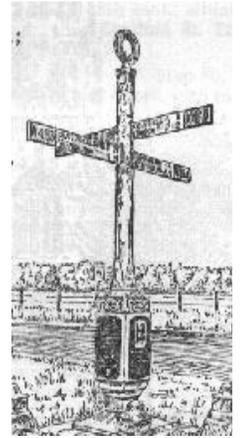
JESUS came to show that GOD LOVES.

LOVES us, you and me and that love can change a difficult, awkward and stubborn world.

So celebrate, join with family, friends and neighbours, give thanks for Christmas and the knowledge that God is with us in all our situations of life, in joy, in hardship and also in sorrow.

That also into the new year we will find the promise that God is with us continues and sustains us as we journey on into the unknown but in faith and hope.

ACW



## Flower Rota:

Jan	6 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>
	Messy Church	Nesta Hogg Rosemary Ireland	Ann Houlden	Audrey Dayer
Feb	3 <sup>rd</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>
	Messy Church	Joan Brabon-Hicks Tom Herival Pat Webber	Joyce Godwin Carol Haydock	Barbara Lewis

