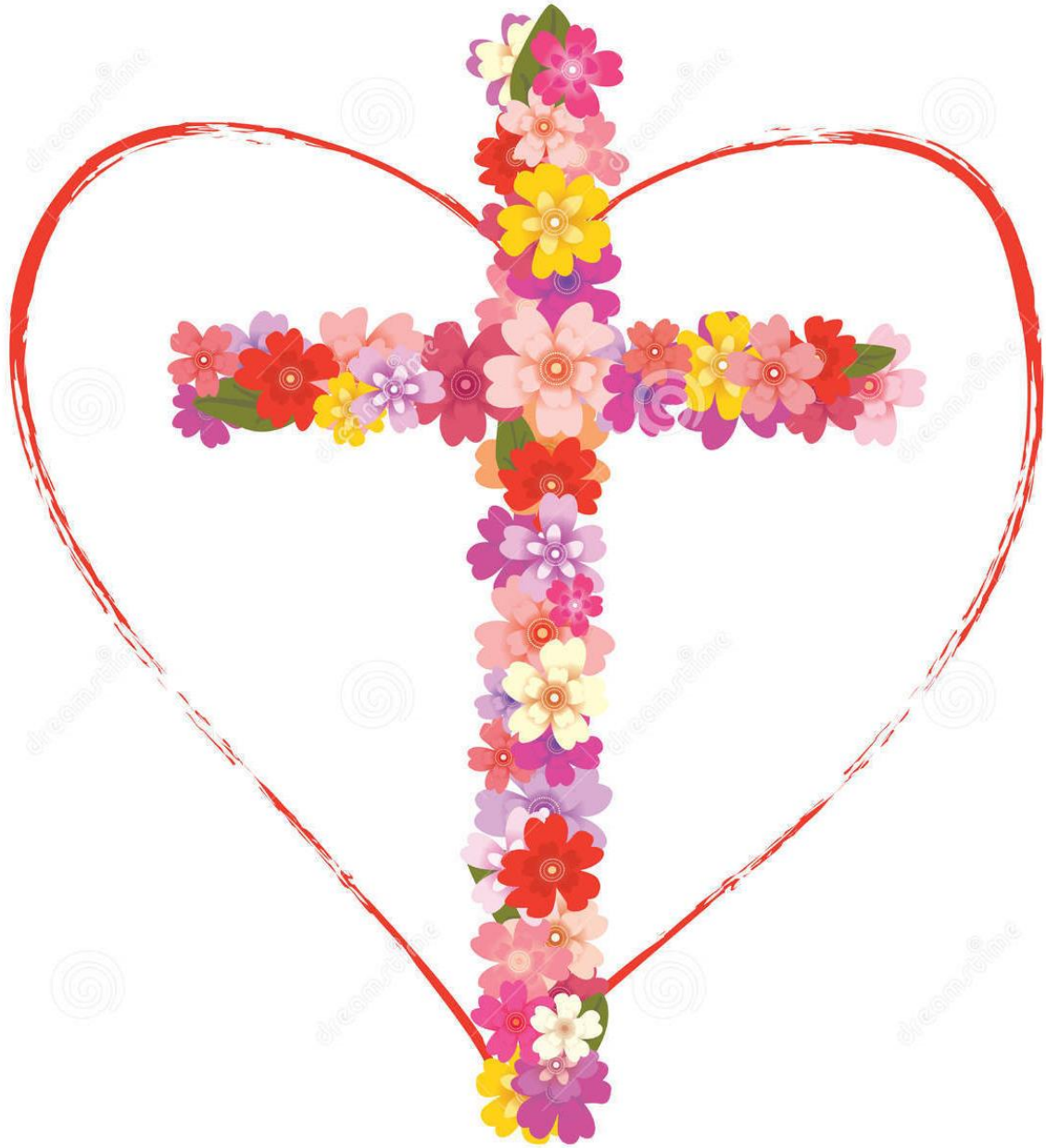


# HANHAM METHODIST CHURCH MAGAZINE



**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. 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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## From the River to the Mountain

Now that the series of 'Rivers of the Bible' has ended I was left wondering what, if anything, I could follow it with. Listening to Classic FM in the car recently I heard a piece called 'The Land of the Mountain and the Flood' by Hamish MacCunn.



It reminded me that it is the rain that falls heaviest on the mountains that fills our rivers. This led me to consider that, just as rivers do, hills and mountains play a significant part in the Bible stories from Noah's flood right through to the closing verses of Revelation.

Hills, mounts and mountains are mentioned over 500 times in the Bible sometimes as the dwelling place of Satan but usually as a place where God is found. This is hardly surprising, as Palestine is a very mountainous country with Jerusalem teetering on a hill. It is often on mountains or hilltops where people in scripture encounter God and we will look at the more significant of these in the forthcoming series. Mountains too were used as a symbol for God's presence particularly when the peaks were shrouded in mist, suggesting the mysteriousness of God.

I wonder if we have lost that feeling of the mystery of God. You don't hear mention today of individuals describing themselves as 'God-fearing people'. Do we focus, understandably, on the God who is our ever-near friend and companion that we tend to forget the otherness of God?

Malcolm Muggeridge tells of making a film in an old Hindu temple in Calcutta, where Mother Theresa cared for the destitute. The lighting was so poor the cameraman thought it would be impossible to film.

But Muggeridge persuaded him to take a few inside shots. When the film was processed, to everyone's amazement the pictures were bathed in a wonderful soft light. The cameraman said that this could not be accounted for in earthly terms.

Muggeridge said of the incident that he had no doubt that the camera found a luminosity without which the film would have come out totally black. Muggeridge's explanation was that this luminous light was due to a divine holiness, an expression of life beyond our understanding.

Yes, we should rediscover and acknowledge the mystery and wonder of God. A hymn expressing this is found at StF 53:

*How great a being Lord, is thine, which does all beings keep  
Thy knowledge is the only line to sound so vast a deep  
Thou art a sea without a shore a sun without a sphere  
Thy time is now and ever more thy place is everywhere.*

But we thank God that he doesn't remain hidden on the mountaintop but descends among us to be as one of us.

Charles Wesley sums it up far better than I ever could: -

*He deigns in fleas to appear, widest extremes to join;  
To bring our vileness near and make us all divine  
And we the life of God shall know for God is manifest below.*

So, in the next edition of the magazine we will begin to reflect in the impact that hills and mountains had on the people of the Bible.

**TJL**

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## **Visit to Ystrad Mynach**

Our good friends at Ystrad Mynach Methodist Church have again invited us for afternoon tea followed by evening worship. Those who have been in past years know how royally we are fed and the worship usually has some good Welsh hymns for us to sing. Depending on the response will determine whether we travel by Kingswood Community Transport or whether we go in a number of cars.

If you are interested, please give your names to Hilary or myself by the end of June at the latest.

Thank you

**Tim Lansdown**

Worship Committee



## **Two Thousand Years On:**

Sitting in the garden enjoying the sun, interspersed with a bit of real gardening, I wondered about how different the Holy week which we have just experienced is to the one two thousand years ago, beginning with Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey; am I here in the twenty-first century in the privileged position or were they? Jesus' friends and the crowds flocking into Jerusalem for Passover?

My first response is they were, as they would have had firsthand experience of the events, and even met with Jesus, yet after the first Good Friday, what of the despair, fear and rejection? Whereas I know that there is an Easter Sunday and even though the week even in 2019 becomes steadily more dramatic as we relive the happenings, I still know that the sorrow will pass and that Jesus will rise again.

This year our Cluster spread Holy week around the churches. On Monday we sang more joyful songs as we remembered Jesus at the home of Martha, Mary and Lazarus and the pouring of the precious perfume on Jesus' feet; an outrageous waste according to some, yet for Mary, the least and only thing which she could do for her Lord.

On Tuesday through symbols, art and poetry, we reflected on how the week gradually became darker, the music more somber and telling.

On Wednesday, we viewed through the eyes and actions of children, how the week came together. I found it really quite poignant, with a well done to those who had taken the time to work with them to produce such a memorable forty minutes.

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Maundy Thursday took us back to the Passover Feast which Jesus celebrated with his disciples. For them an annual event taking them back to their ancestors' time in the wilderness after their escape from Pharaoh in Egypt. It is of course at this last meal that Jesus really bids farewell to his friends but gives them a means of remembering him, through bread and wine.

Then we come to Good Friday. The mood is sombre, we know that pain and suffering are the order of the day and that it will end in crucifixion. Two thousand years ago it must, for many, have really seemed that it was the end of their dreams for a better world. We are told that the sky turned black and the sun refused to shine, the temple curtain was rent in twain, such agony, such despair.

Yet today, Good Friday 2019, the sun shone, several of us remarked that, although we are used to cold and rain, the sun and its warmth were a welcome change. It lifted our spirits, we were a cheerful group that walked the streets of Hanham and later shared in Hot Crossed Buns. We did not forget the reason for our walk and marked it, as earlier pilgrims, with hymns and prayers but we also walked in the knowledge that every Good Friday has an Easter Sunday.

So have I come to a conclusion to my earlier question? I'm afraid the jury is still out, I would love to have been there, yet would I have been brave enough to stand by Jesus? I somewhat doubt it - I think that I am thankful, that I know, that in three days my Saviour would rise again!

*Pam B*



## Random Thoughts – Something More About Prayer

Thinking about Prayer may begin simplistically enough but will rapidly increase in its complexity. A simple definition of Prayer is if one prays to God, God will understand and respond. And if in prayer we seek guidance and insight then our request will be granted. Providing it is an appropriate request, - and already our thinking is increasing in complexity and honesty and self-discipline will emerge as important characteristics. But we begin with a familiar story and a question:-

*A young monk when he first started contemplative prayer began to have visions and so he consulted Father Abbot:-*

*“Father, I have received a vision of St Paul”*

*“What were you doing at the time?” asked Father Abbot*

*“Why praying of course” said the young monk avidly.*

*The next morning the young monk said “Father I have now seen the Virgin Mary”.*

*“Were you praying at the time?”*

*“Oh yes Father” replied the monk.*

*After a third night the young monk said “Now the Lord himself has visited me”*

*“Well my son” said the Father Abbot, “we must do something about these visions – they seem to be taking your mind off your prayers!”*

And the question is, - if I pray alone to God and God does not seem to answer and if unlike the young monk, I experience no visions, how can I know that my request has been received and will be answered? The gospel for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Easter says – “Ask and ye shall receive” which sounds really very promising. But past experience suggests that this Biblical promise, taken at face value, is not all embracing of my every request. So is this problem to do with the Biblical promise, or my understanding of it, or the nature of

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my request or all three? The usual explanations when there is no apparent answer to Prayer include:- God always hears what we ask and always answers with a “Yes”, “No”, or “Wait and see” and the silence of God’s response can be deafening! And yet it is often as we patiently and expectantly embrace the silences which occur in prayer that the answers and revelations we seek begin to emerge. One positive response to God’s apparent silence is to pray aloud in your presence and since I know that you believe in God and can hear me, then you may feel the desire to answer my prayer thereby helping me in the name of God. Clearly of significance to the granting of a request are the nature, suitability and value of that request.

The Biblical promise is not obviously inclusive of our “physical world”; - e.g. natural disasters happen seemingly without a hint of a god-like intervention at the physical level. Sometimes our requests can be rather childlike especially if we seek a direct physical intervention from God rather than being granted the privilege of a “spiritual awakening” to the potential for good of our request and situation. Peter Mullen (Anglican minister) recounts that one church he attended some years ago would regularly pray for parking places for themselves at the local shopping mall. And since sufficient parking spaces were found on a regular basis the congregation presumably thought that God was answering their prayers! Our thoughts and prayer patterns often follow our necessities and desires; i.e. to express grief, longing, ecstasy and to seek healing and the meaning of our existence. This search (for meaning, understanding, love, rest, joy, healing...) is surely the beginning of prayer and is far removed from the desire to avoid the inconvenience of not finding a parking space.

ARGI

## Cancer Research UK Marathon Challenge!

On Sunday I took part in the London Marathon as part of the Cancer Research UK team.

It was an incredible experience and I'm so proud to say that I crossed the finish line, raising over £3000 in the process!



Thank you so much to everyone who has supported me with kind messages, prayers and sponsorship.

*Katrina*

## Can You Help?

Do you have a spare collapsible high chair, for when we have small children at meals? At the moment we are borrowing from Summerhill. If so, please let Pam B know.

Thanks



# All We Can Methodist Relief & Development



Dear Mr Lansdown,

Thank you for your very generous donation of £250.00 which you sent on behalf of Hanham Methodist Church to All We Can's Malawi Floods Appeal. Your donation is being put straight into action helping to improve conditions for families who have had their homes and livelihoods destroyed by devastating flooding.

As I write to you, the local organisations that All We Can work with in Malawi are helping to deliver the help that families need, including emergency food provisions. As the true extent of this flooding reveals itself in the coming days and weeks, together we will continue to stand alongside those who are in great need at this time.

## **Deepen your roots this Harvest!**

Inspire your church and young people groups with how hope is taking root and lives are flourishing even in the hardest of situations. Use the enclosed flier to order a DVD-ROM pack of resources (including service materials – prayers, talk, interactive activities; an inspiring short film, children, youth and school materials, and a fundraising pack), posters and giving envelopes for your Harvest celebrations. Alternatively visit, [allwecan.org.uk/harvest](http://allwecan.org.uk/harvest).

Thank you again for your compassion and generosity for the people of Malawi during this crisis. To find out more about our ongoing response and to read further updates please visit [allwecan.org.uk/floods](http://allwecan.org.uk/floods).

With heartfelt thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Claire Welch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Claire Welch  
Head of Fundraising and Marketing

Receipt No: 149931

Total Gift Amount: £250.00 from Hanham Methodist Church

# Books of the New Testament

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

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

Acts

Romans

Corinthians

Galatians

Ephesians

Philippians

Colossians

Thessalonians

Timothy

Titus

Philemon

Hebrews

James

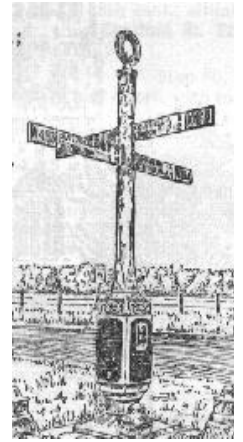
Peter

Jude

Revelation

## Signposts

The gardens are full of colour not like some years covered in snow, although the wind has blown much of the Japanese cherry tree blossom all over the place. Primroses and tulips red and yellow look wonderful and we thank God for wonderful creation.



The last two years my wife Hazel has been in Deerhurst Brunel Care Home where she is resident along with some who are there for rehab after hospital, others suffering from Dementia. Last Sunday, Palm Sunday, my son Martyn and Sue his wife visited with the grandchildren and great grandchildren. Poppy, five years old, got up early and with the rest of the family asleep went to the kitchen and on her own baked me a birthday cake so we had a nice celebration. Hazel watched Songs of Praise from Jerusalem which we visited with Pat and Colin Saunders years ago. The Salvation Army also came and took a Palm Sunday Service.

Sadly, Hazel is in a lot of pain and has a pain patch once a week and morphine injections. Our prayers are for the dedicated staff at Deerhurst some who have personal problems of their own. We give thanks for the love of Christ our lord who came and suffered death on the cross at Easter and rose again in glory, thanks be to God.

ACW

## Flower Rota:

May	5 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Ch</b>	Wives Anniversary	Marjorie Brooks	Vron Jackson	Angela & Martin
<b>WM</b>	Wives Anniversary	Marjorie Brooks	Free	Angela & Martin

Jun	2 <sup>nd</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Ch</b>	Messy Church	Maurice Bye	Audrey Dayer	Bob Stapleton	Beryl Stapleton
<b>WM</b>	Messy Church	Lilian Curnock	John Brown	Pauline Kirby	Beryl Stapleton

## Doors and books rota:

May	5 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>
<b>am</b>	M Golding D Davies	G Roberts M Stoodley	J Angell P Kirby	J Green P Blackmore
<b>pm</b>	Messy Church	J Morgan M Morgan	T Lansdown	M Kenway M Kenway

Jun	2 <sup>nd</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup>
<b>am</b>	M Wilby M Sagar	H Teague B Jones	P Webber J Tippet	K Cowie I Cowie	M Golding D Davies
<b>pm</b>	Messy Church	C Haycock R Ireland	W Stamford B Griffen	J Morgan M Morgan	T Lansdown



## For Your Diary

- 5<sup>th</sup> May 10.45am Wives' Anniversary - Vron Jackson  
4.00pm Messy Church
- 12<sup>th</sup> May 12.15pm "Simple Lunch" in aid of Christian Aid
- 2<sup>nd</sup> June 4.00pm Messy Church
- 16<sup>th</sup> June 10.45am Church Anniversary - Rev Graham Thompson  
All Age Worship/Parade  
6.00pm Church Anniversary – Holy Communion
- 14<sup>th</sup> July Cluster Open air service on Hanham Mount  
Preacher Rev. Anthony Hick

