

Hanham Methodist Church Magazine

May / June 2017



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.

Minister: Rev Barry Bishop

Manse number: 0117 907 9535

Office number: 0117 935 3308

Email: barry.bishop@methodist.org.uk

Editor: Katrina Cowie

Email: ikcowie1996@blueyonder.co.uk

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.

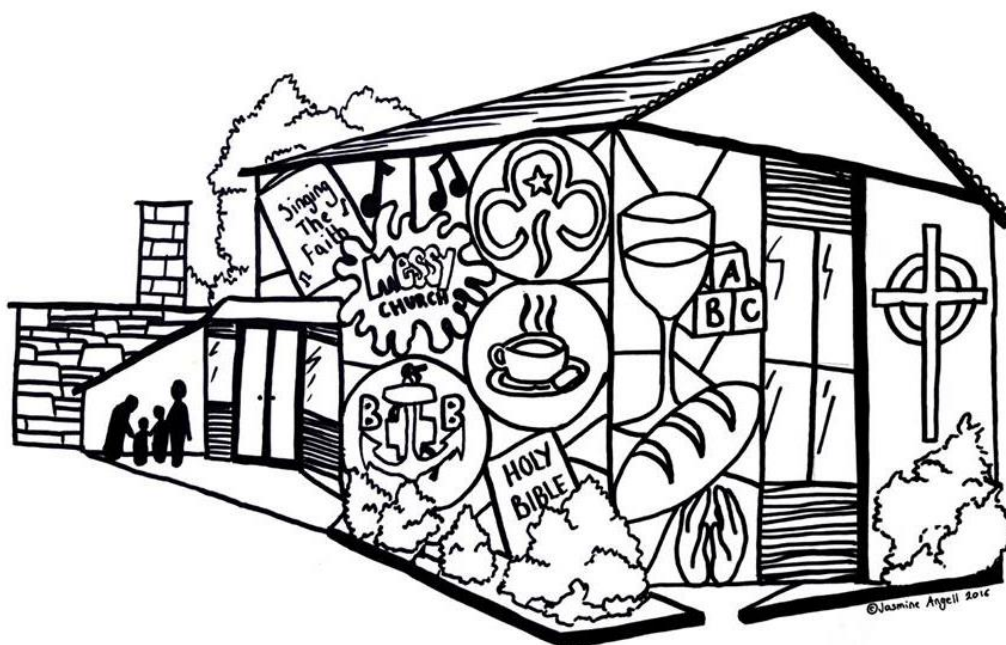
Submissions of all articles should therefore highlight any information you wish to be removed from the online version.

Website: www.hanhammethodist.org.uk

Find us on Facebook: Hanham Methodist Church

Contents

Letter from the Minister.....	4
Wesley's Wisdom.....	5
Visit to Ystrad Mynach.....	7
TLC (Talk, Listen, Care).....	7
Flower Festival.....	8
Christian Aid Week.....	8
The New One Pound Coin.....	9
Messy Church.....	9
Memories and a Question.....	10
Signposts.....	12
Puzzle page.....	13
And Just to Say.....	14
Rotas (Doors and Books, Flowers).....	15
For Your Diary.....	16



Minister's Letter

I came across this hymn in Singing the Faith 638 *'Through all the changing scenes of life, in trouble and in joy, the praises of my God shall still my heart and tongue employ.'*

There is much to be happy about this month of May as a church and nation i.e. Bank Holidays, Pentecost, Trinity Sunday and Ascension just to name a few.

Do you have a celebration this month? The bible tells us about what it means to celebrate, as God's people in the church. Firstly, the word celebrate means to praise God (Lev.19: 24). Secondly, to keep a festival, (Lev. 23:41) and thirdly, to keep and celebrate the Sabbath (Lev. 23:32). These three scriptures speak of a unified national common act, which Israel followed.

Today, in the church, we come together to praise and worship God, and festively celebrate throughout the year and gather together on the Sabbath, following God's formula for the Israel nation.

Our culture is familiar with these celebrations and festivals so let us share in such festivals and have fun and times of relaxation, refreshment and recuperation. No matter what our age is we can utilize these events given by God to look after ourselves, others and our communities' spirituality, physically and socially and learn from God's words to celebrate.

Every blessing

Chris



Wesley's Wisdom

8. Living your faith: helping others at every opportunity

Even before his Aldersgate experience Wesley, as a member of the Holy Club, with his band of brothers did good works in the city of Oxford such as visiting the prison. As Methodist societies were formed post Aldersgate this social work was carried on as one of the prime facets of the new movement. The New Room in Bristol, for example, was not just a preaching house but, ahead of its time, was a multipurpose building used for education, medical care, refuge for the poor and the selling of religious books.

Many societies formed their own 'Stranger's Friend Society' specifically designed to offer help to non-Methodists. The New Room still has such a charity today.

In his autobiography a bookseller named James Leckington says inter-alia "Mr Wesley's people think they cannot love their neighbour as themselves without finding every possible way by which they may be serviceable to the souls and bodies of their fellow creatures. They endeavour to find out poor, distressed objects living in poorhouses, prisons, lodging houses and dirty alleyways to whom they instruct, exhort and pray with.

Happily at HMC we have faithful pastoral visitors who care for the needs of our members. Some of our number visit Eastwood Park prison twice a year; we also take a service at a residential home once a month. Besides this we support the work at the Methodist Centre in Lawrence Hill with donations of foodstuffs, clothing and cash.

I read recently an article which listed about 30 things that made for a happy retirement. On the list were such items as not having to set the alarm clock, regular days out, pottering in the garden, three holidays a year, eating out and not having to travel in the rush hour. All these and indeed the whole list are commendable, but I am sure that Mr Wesley would not approve, for do you notice that all of them are concerned with pleasing self. I would want to add to the list such things as working a half day a week in a charity shop, volunteering as a hospital visitor or driving community transport. Someone once said that true happiness can be found only by denying self and serving others.

I am writing this on Maundy Thursday and the gospel for the day in the Prayer Handbook contains these words: - After Jesus had washed their feet he said to them *“Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord- and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and teacher have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example that you also should do as I have done.* (John 13:12-15).

The chorus of one of the modern hymns in Singing the Faith says this:-

“As God loves us so let us love each other:

With no demands, just open hands and
space to grow” StF 615

TJL



Visit to Ystrad Mynach

Our friends at Lewis Street Methodist Church have again extended an invitation to us to visit them for tea followed by worship on Sunday 13th August. We normally leave Hanham at 2 o'clock and return by about 8.30. For those who haven't been the tea is exceptional

To keep costs to a minimum we need to establish the size of the coach we will need as soon as possible. Please will you therefore give your names to one of us by the end of May at the latest so that we have time to book the most economical transport.

Thank you

Hilary and Tim Lansdown

TLC (Talk, Listen, Care)

It is with regret that I report that our TLC sessions have come to an end. Although we helped a number of people and had good feedback we were unable to attract sufficient numbers to make continuing viable. We know that there is a great deal of unhappiness and stress in our locality but unfortunately we were unable to create the right environment and conditions to bring people in to talk about it.

The positive thing is that our group now know a lot more about the help and services available in our district.

I would like to express my thanks to everyone who helped in this venture, especially the staff at Hanham Library who were incredibly encouraging and helpful.

Pam Liddiard

Flower Festival 13th & 14th May

For our Flower Festival this year we are celebrating famous ladies both past and present, entitled Ladies Day.

We hope you can come along and support us:-

Saturday 13 May 10.00am to 4.00pm

Coffee and cakes 10.00am – 12 noon

Cream teas 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Sunday 14 May 2.00pm – 5.00pm

We look forward to seeing you.



Please pray for Christian Aid as it tries to help people out of poverty worldwide.

Sunday 14th May - Simple Lunch at 12.15pm

Soup and Bread Lunches 12-1.30pm:

Tuesday 16th

Wednesday 17th

Thursday 18th

Saturday 20th May - Coffee morning

Help will be needed please for collecting on the High Street. If you can help in any way please contact Pat Saunders.

Colin and Pat



The New One Pound Coin

I guess that by the time this is published most of you will have seen and handled the new one pound coin. To me, when mixed with a number of the old one pound coins it is difficult to spot especially in artificial light.

The two coins will exist side by side until October 15th after which the old one pound coin will no longer be legal tender, demonetised is the official word. After that date the Banks will continue to take the old coins for deposit into an account for a time. I have asked in the Bank how long that period is but the cashier was not able to give me an answer except that it wouldn't be very long.

As well as looking down your sofa and in the back of drawers if you have any charity boxes for such as JMA could you please make sure that you hand them in to be emptied and counted well before 15th October.

Tim Lansdown

Treasurer



Our Easter story was a great success with 40 children and adults coming along and dressing up!

May 7th at 4pm: Messy Communion and Road to Emmaeus

June 4th at 4pm: Jesus Saves...

Memories and a Question

The philosophical meanderings of previous articles are here superseded by what can best be described as “chit-chat”.

It remains a life-long ritual for me, although less frequently in recent years, to seek out, in seedy backstreets, those second-hand bookshops with their musty smell of decomposing print and paper. Lost in such emporiums, I delight in the organised chaos of their nooks and crannies filled from floor to ceiling with the creations of so many long forgotten authors.

In Boscombe back in the early '90s there was a second-hand bookshop whose craggy-faced elderly owner suffered from an arthritic stoop that bent him almost double, so that upon first acquaintance he seemed as ancient as the old books he catalogued, repaired and occasionally sold.

Every year at our greeting he would tell me how unwell the winter months had been for him. Yet despite his ailments, he retained a sharp intellect and friendly humour and as he wrapped-up my choice from his million or so books, I would wish him well for the year ahead and wonder if we would meet again. And now I am as ancient as he was when we last met some 25 years ago.

A practise of mine has been to mark the purchase date and place in the flyleaf of my books and therefore I know that in 2001 in a back street bookshop in Poole, Beryl spotted John Capion's book “John & Charles Wesley – The Preacher”. It occurs to me now to test your knowledge with the following six clues and one question.

The Question is: Who is being described below?

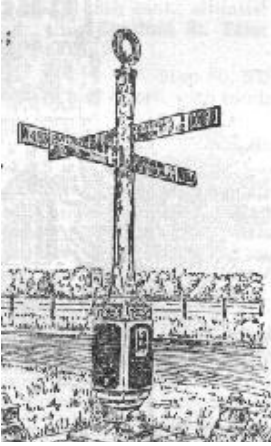
1. Both his grandfather and father were Church of England clergymen ejected from their livings after the restoration of King Charles II.
2. He parted company from his family primarily because he switched his allegiance back to the Church of England despite attending two Dissenting seminars.
3. In 1697 at the age of 34 he was appointed rector of Epworth.
4. During his time as rector he was unpopular because of his aggressive Christianity, his ardent support of the Tory party much hated by the local Fen-people and his rejection of religious Dissenters.
5. Because of his outspoken support for the Tory cause in the local county elections, a friend of the Wig candidate demanded immediate payment of a £30 debt and being unable to pay he was imprisoned in Lincoln jail for a period of 4 months.
6. Susanna his wife was barred from his bed until she agreed to say “Amen” after his prayers for King William III (William of Orange) whom she regarded as a usurper. She never relented and eventually he gave way, which is just as well as otherwise Methodism might never have been born!

Answer: The Rev. Samuel Wesley (1663 – 1736) In lineage he was the grandfather of Methodism – a description he would likely have disowned.

ARGI



SIGNPOSTS



April showers bring forth May flowers a time of new life and thanksgiving. However the last month hasn't been as expected. Suddenly two recent passing of close friends and illness has turned things upside down. Then we also find ourselves in an unexpected 'snap' election, not to mention local elections as well. Recently on St George's Day, talking to a friend, we were remembering that in 1942 it was the Bath 'blitz' when so much of the city was destroyed.

My memories being particularly vivid. Sadly the world seems now in a worst state: war, refugees fleeing across the world.

Only a few weeks ago Easter was celebrated and the events of 2000 years ago remind us that evil is so prevalent in the heart of mankind. Easter to many meant 'Easter Eggs', 'Easter Bunnies', 'Easter Hunts'. The Christian Message of Christ's suffering on a cross for the sin of the world and his rising on Easter Day seems way down the list of so many.

This must be a challenge to all Christians to proclaim the Good News of a Living Risen Lord

And the daily power of the Holy Spirit.

ACW

Puzzle Page!

As we prepare to explore the World in the approaching holiday season, see if you can find these places, mentioned in the Bible:



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

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Antioch | Ephesus | Patmos |
| Babylon | Galilee | Philippi |
| Beersheba | Gath | Ramoth |
| Bethel | Gezer | Samaria |
| Bethlehem | Hebron | Sardis |
| Corinth | Jedea | Shechem |
| Crete | Jericho | Shiloh |
| Cyprus | Jerusalem | Smyrna |
| Damascus | Joppa | Tyre |

And Just to Say...



Dave and I would like to express our grateful thanks, for all the prayers, messages and flowers, during our recent hospital stays. At such stressful times it is a great comfort to have your support. Thank you once again.

Dot & Dave Murphy

Thank you for the cards and best wishes on the occasion of our Golden Wedding Anniversary. We had a lovely weekend.

Colin and Pat Saunders

Inferno Youth Group would like to thank everyone for their ongoing support towards their Mission trip to Moldova. Their Quiz Night was a great success, and with the sale of cards and bacon butties, their fund-raising is well underway.

Events coming up include a sponsored walk around Churches in Hanham and Kingswood, and a party on 5th May. They have also set up an online sponsor page at:

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/HMC-inferno.



Rotas

Doors and books:

May	7 th	14 th	21 st	28 th
a.m.				
p.m.	Messy Church			

Jun	4 th	11 th	18 th	25 th
a.m.				
p.m.	Messy Church			

Flower Rota:

May	7 th	14 th	21 st	28 th
Church	Wives Anniversary	Flower Festival	Wendy Stamford	Angela Sagar
War Memorial	Wives Anniversary	Flower Festival	Free	Angela Sagar

Jun	4 th	11 th	18 th	25 th
Church	Roy Lewis	Maurice Bye	Vron Jackson	Bob Stapleton
War Memorial	Lilian Curnock	Joyce Godwin	Free	Pauline Kirby

For Your Diary

- 5th May 7.30pm Inferno Disco – Whitehall Rugby Club
- 7th May 10.45am Wives Anniversary - Rev. Mandy Briggs
4.00pm Messy Church
- 14th May 10.45am Music and Flowers - Anne Bishop
12.15pm Christian Aid Simple Lunch
6.00pm Music and Flowers - Howard Wilson
- 21st May 10.45am Rev Chris Spencer
6.00pm Circuit Testimonial at Horfield Methodist
- 4th June 10.45am Morning Service
4.00pm Messy Church
4.00pm Holy Habits Circuit Celebration at Mercure Hotel Broad Street
- 18th June 10.45am Church Anniversary – Rev Dr. Jonathan Pye, District Chairman
- 9th July 4.00pm Open Air Service on Hanham Mount