

**HANHAM METHODIST
CHURCH MAGAZINE**



SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER



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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Contents

A Word from our Minister.....	4
Stepping Out and Moving On.....	7
Harvest Celebration.....	8
Christmas Fair	8
Messy Church Fundraising Update.....	9
Wives Group.....	9
Wives Group Programme.....	10
Rivers of the Bible.....	12
Y's Men's Murder Mystery Evening.....	14
More Random Thoughts.....	15
Puzzle Page.....	17
Signposts.....	18
Rotas (Doors and Books, Flowers).....	19
For Your Diary.....	20

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

HARVEST: an opportunity for community

It will soon be that time of year again, when the seasons begin to change, and the leaves begin to fall. The nights start drawing in and we find ourselves gathering all that has been prepared for us and which will sustain us in our journey onwards.

This time of year also gives us an opportunity. A moment when we can pause – take stock – give thanks and celebrate all that God has done in and through our lives this past year. It feels like a moment of real significance for Zoe and myself personally; as Zoe and I give thanks for the first year of our ministry in this amazing place called Bristol, and as we soon approach Ellie’s first birthday at the start of October. It has been a time of firsts; a time of tears, a time of challenges, but also a time of great triumphs, discoveries and joy.

Along these lines of harvest my daily reading was the Parable of the Rich Fool which is found in the Book of Luke (12: 13-21) which says:

The Parable of the Rich Fool

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.”

¹⁴ Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?” ¹⁵ Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”

¹⁶ And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷ He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’

¹⁸ “Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹ And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.””

²⁰ “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’

²¹ “This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”

After reading it, I thought to myself - what if this parable really isn't about money? Or about wealth? Or about the need to give to the church? I know, I know, if that's true, it robs this parable of its value as the fodder of a great stewardship sermon.

Yet I think we move too quickly to assume the issue here is about this farmer's wealth, when rather I think it's about his isolation. Consider the little conversation he has with himself. Except it's not just to himself, it's also about himself...and only himself. There is no evidence that there is anyone else in his life, anyone else he should care about, anyone else who might have contributed to or benefit from this bountiful harvest. Instead, confronted with the blessing of an abundant harvest, all he can think of is what he should do to make sure he gets the most out of it so that he can live comfortably into his old age.

More than this blatant narcissism – or perhaps because of this narcissism – the farmer falls prey to the notion that he can secure his own future. That he needs no one, depends on no one, and can go it alone. Which is why God calls him foolish. In the end, not only is he not immune to death, but he will die alone, and all that he has stored up will not comfort or protect him, nor will it go to others who loved and respected him and can put it to good use, but instead, it will all turn to dust in the wind.

In this light, I wonder how we should read the closing line, “*So it will be with those who store up treasures for themselves and are not rich toward God.*” I know, here's the stewardship connection, right?

Maybe. But how can one be rich toward God without also – and quite frankly, first – being rich toward others? God, to paraphrase Martin Luther, needs neither our good works nor our wealth, but our neighbour does.

So perhaps this parable is really about community, the community in which we find sustenance and comfort and help and hope, and the community in which and through which we experience life with God. Keep in mind, after all, that this whole parable is started by a break in a community, the central and primary community of society, a family. One brother comes seeking Jesus' intervention in a family squabble about an inheritance. And Jesus will have none of it. Recognising that what should have been an occasion for celebration, remembrance, and gratitude – the giving and sharing of an inheritance – has instead been turned into a moment of division. Jesus refuses to get involved directly, but instead tells the story of a man so enraptured with his good fortune that he ends up all alone.

Who was Jesus' addressing, I wonder. The man who brought the complaint? The man's brother? The disciples? The crowds? All of us today? Yes. Yet of all these options, I'm particularly interested in how we hear Jesus' words today. Because there is, right now, a profound and increasingly shared message out and about that we should not and cannot trust each other, that the world is increasingly dangerous, and we should therefore be increasingly afraid.

That kind of fear will not lead us forward. The regular and relentless biblical injunction "*do not be afraid*" is not offered simply to bolster our individual courage but to make it easier for us to turn to one another with our fears and hopes and dreams and needs in order to form a community.

The Bible warns us against fear because it's really hard to care for your neighbour and create a community when you are afraid.

Don't get me wrong. Community is not easy. It means putting up with people who disagree with you and annoy you and even have hurt you. Forgiveness, as well as trust, is vital. But this is God's will, that we "*not be alone.*" And I think this farmer who was rich in possessions but absolutely dirt poor in relationships never got that message.

We all have the responsibility, to tend and nurture a community that gathers around God's word of grace and mercy. This is our important work, challenging work and I'm grateful for your commitment to it as we approach this new church year together.

May we seek to grow our community through openness towards one another, acceptance and love.

Every blessing,

David

Stepping Out and Moving on...

The beginning of a new academic year will hold challenges for all young people and we especially remember those associated with our church family.

Congratulations to Olivia Cowie and Megan Dicks who have done so well in their exams and secured their university place. We wish them well as they make preparations for leaving home and beginning their courses. Congratulations also to Jasmine Angell on gaining a First-Class Degree. As Jasmine, Ella Bakker and Natalie Everson all move forward in their chosen careers, we hold them in our thoughts along with Olivia and Megan.

Harvest Celebration

This year's Harvest Celebration is to be held on Sunday 23rd September. The Flower Committee will be decorating the church from the Friday so you can bring donations, or at the Sunday morning service at 10.45am.



This year our gifts will go to the Methodist Centre. We have been unable to contact the Centre at the present time, so suggest that the usual gifts of pasta, tomatoes, tea/coffee/non-perishables and whatever you can spare would be very acceptable.

Harvest Lunch on Sunday will commence at 12.15pm - a traditional ham salad with new potatoes and apple pie & custard/ice cream, cost £5. Please give names to Janet, Hilary or Pam B.

Christmas Fair

As you may be aware the Events Co-ordinating Committee is very depleted at this time and as a result we would like to invite anyone interested to come to an open meeting to discuss the way forward with the Christmas Fair, i.e. do we hold one and if we don't how are we going to raise the funds to fill the gap? If we do hold one, how do we get more people involved, what stalls should we have etc? We would welcome any fresh ideas.

The meeting will be held on Monday 3rd September, 7.30 p.m. in the Church lounge and we look forward to seeing as many as possible there.

Messy Church Fundraising Update

Messy Church has received thanks for their charitable donations made this year.

From Fairy Bricks:

Thank you for deciding to make a donation to us. Each donation really does make a difference and in no time at all your money will be used to buy sick children LEGO.

And from Hop Skip & Jump:

We have received the cheque, thank you so so much!! We are going to use it to purchase some outdoor play equipment and wood to build some exciting play projects with 😁

Thank you so much for your kind support

Wives Group

On 5th September the Wives start their new programme and a copy is shown giving all the details. Evenings are open to anyone who would like to come along to all or for only one particular evening, we would love to see you, just phone Pat Webber to check nothing has been changed. The programme is organised up to a year in advance and sometimes circumstances change for Speakers and things need to alter at the last moment so it's always best to check.

The Charity for the coming Wives year is a Bristol based group called Bristol After Stroke who do wonderful work and any monies raised will be handed over to them at our Harvest 2019 service.

HANHAM METHODIST WIVES GROUP

PROGRAMME 2018-2019

5th Sept	Charity talk Bristol After Stroke	Emma Collier	
19th Sept	AGM	John Liddiard to chair	Bring & Buy
3rd Oct	Harvest Service	Presentation of cheque to Cruse	Sale of goods
17th Oct	Fashion Show in Main Hall	Pam of Christine Peters	Start 7.00 pm
31st Oct	Poems & Monologues	Paul Evans	
14th Nov	Extend, exercise for everyone	Sue Jefferies	
28th Nov	Sing-a-long	Peter Patch	
12th Dec	Christmas service		Mince Pies
2019			
9th Jan	Beetle Drive or Bingo		Bring & Buy
23rd Jan	Farrago. Life & Times of Flanders & Swann	Lewis & Furneaux	

6th Feb	Meal		
20th Feb	Craft evening	Carol	
6th Mar	Hanham History	Roger Windsor & Roy Crew	
20th Mar	Age UK	Pauline Sandall	
3rd Apr	Tools for Self Reliance	Rodney Stone	
17th Apr	Easter Service		Easter biscuits
1st May	My Life with Music	Geoff Pegler	
5th May	Wives Service		
15th May	Summer Outing		
29th May	Business Evening		Bring & Buy
12th June	Sponsored Evening		

ADOPTED CHARITY: Bristol After Stroke

RIVERS OF THE BIBLE

Psalm 137: 1-4



Once again, the Hebrew people are incarcerated. This time not in Egypt but in Babylon under King Nebuchadnezzar whose army had ransacked Jerusalem, destroyed the Temple and carried off many of the people and their treasures. Under the leadership of prophets like the Second Isaiah and Ezekiel the displaced people tried to maintain the faith and worship. But worship in Jerusalem was centered very much on the Temple and in Babylon there was no such place.

So they found somewhere to worship alongside one of the rivers in Babylon and the opening words of Psalm 137 record the fact.

'By the rivers of Babylon – there we sat down and there we wept when we remembered Zion. Our captors asked us for songs and our tormentors asked us for mirth saying 'Sing us one of the songs of Zion!' How could we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?'

Words that, to those of us of a certain age, will bring to mind the song of Boney M.

This is a Psalm of lament. Many others in the Psalter and some of our hymns fall into the category of 'lament' despite my dictionary defining a hymn as a song of praise. Luther's great hymn based on Psalm 130 'Out of the depths I cry to Thee (StF 433) is an example of a lament and can hardly be called a song of praise.

Like millions across the globe today the Babylonian Jews were a displaced people, living away from their home, their place of worship and the land that they loved. Having been moved a few times because of my work I know how difficult it can be to leave behind a familiar place with people you know and love to settle in a new environment. And for us it wasn't a foreign country to which we were moving. People spoke the same language, there was a welcoming church, convenient schools and a house to make into a home, yet still it was tough for a year or so.

How much harder for migrants who travel thousands of miles, escaping famine or torture and having no known destination, perhaps ending up in tented cities like the Muslims in Bangladesh. We see horrendous pictures on our televisions of young children being separated from their parents at the Mexican/US border.

So, our fourth river is the **river of sadness**. I remember reading an article in the old Local Preachers' Magazine in which the writer, an experienced LP, reminds his readers that there is a broken heart in every congregation. And when I draw together my order of service I try to remember that advice. Although God is always worthy of our praise and it is good to sing songs of adoration be aware that personal circumstances may mean that one cannot always join in uplifting songs, and the shedding of tears in worship is no disgrace.

But even in the darkest moments miracles can and do happen. In 1979 a group of young Cambodians fled the Khmer Rouge seeking refuge in Thailand. They walked through miles of jungle, crossed rivers and climbed mountains many of them in their bare feet. Intense darkness hampered their progress; they could see nothing

at all at times. But at the darkest point hundreds of fireflies swarmed into view and the glow gave enough light for the group to find their way to freedom

One of the girls, Poat, was transferred to a refugee camp and was invited to a Christian meeting. She spotted a picture of Jesus on the wall. It was the first time she had ever seen a picture of him, but she immediately said “I know that man; he is the one who led us and brought us safely to Thailand.

By the rivers of Babylon the refugees never gave up hope and in God’s time they returned to home. Even in our darkest hour God is there for us even if it is not always apparent.

*O joy that seekest met through pain
I cannot close my heart to thee:
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.*

TJL

Y’s Men’s Club of Hanham – Murder Mystery Evening

Please come and join us for our first fund raising evening of our new year, on Saturday 6th October (postponed from April). We have been practicing hard and it promises to be an evening of laughter and fun. Bring your best detective skills with you, no acting will be necessary.

Cost is £8 to include a two-course meal. Start time 7.30pm. Everybody very welcome. Names please to Pam Blackmore (9611754), Pam Liddiard (9670910), or Carol Jaques (9092510).

More Random Thoughts

The Brilliant, Quirky & Unreliable Mind

In life the brain does not entirely shut-down; neither does it take a vacation. When we consciously fail to direct its function, for example during deep sleep or in that twilight zone between sleeping and waking, it continues to operate in accordance with its own agenda. Sometimes the dreams and thoughts created by this largely subconscious process are quite surprising and even scary. Afterwards, we ask ourselves where this crazy dream came from because the linkage between its ideas and context is logically weak with little or no resemblance to our reality. And yet, once in a while and from such ideas as if by magic, a seemingly valid concept materialises.

I regard this mental process as 'intuition' which comes to our rescue when faced with seemingly intractable problem. The Christian will, overnight, consciously transfer to God (in prayer) the intractable problem thereby reducing worry and encouraging a better nights' sleep. In the morning, the problem may well have been transformed into a course of action that leads to its possible resolution. Overnight the brain has processed the 'way forward' unencumbered by the restraints that we subjectively impose on the creative process when fully awake. Sometimes such a resolution may be markedly different from what we expected, hoped, or feared. Given an unwelcome resolution that is regarded as indisputable, we are likely to seek extenuating circumstances (both real and imagined), in order to 'live with ourselves' and to come to terms with the resulting situation which may be long lasting.

And of course, dreams, when considered to be a channel of God's instruction, have and still do guide people's lives as in the narrative of Joseph in the Old Testament. Perhaps more widely accepted is that dreams and nightmares are fundamentally part of the subconscious healing process that reduces our guilt, hang-ups and depression.

With the advancing years our memory becomes quirky and even unreliable and we increasingly rely on past experience, stick to life's routines and note-down reminders of things that need to be done, - all in order to compensate for its' increasing slowness and malfunction. Recently I need to learn the surname 'Alderman' so I associated this name with the Alder tree. In a later conversation I attempted to recall the name and I must have hesitated, because initially I failed to remember the Alder tree and when I did, had doubts about whether the surname was Alderway or Alderman!

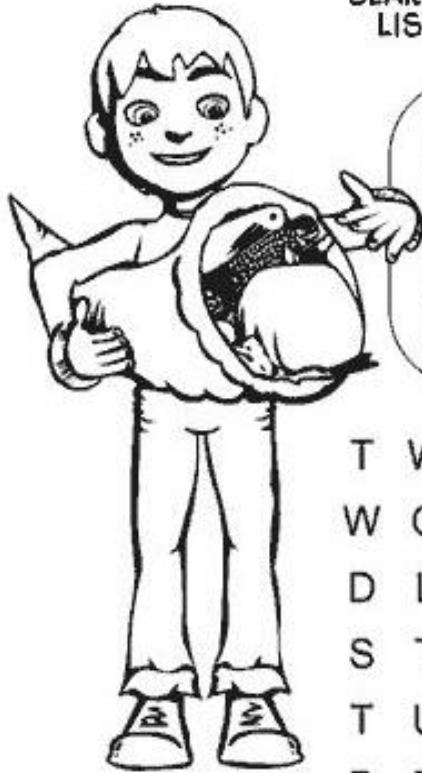
And then there is that uneasy-nagging feeling that I am forgetting something or someone of importance. Such a warning is helpful when it comes in time to rectify my forgetfulness. But it is so annoying when I cannot remember whatever it is I feel I might have forgotten. And when the calendar, diary or smartphone are checked and all seems well, that nagging feeling still persists and I can only wait to see if I have indeed forgotten something or whether this uneasy feeling is just a myth and without substance, - this time.

Do I hear you say, 'Join the club'?

ARGI

Harvest Fruit & Vegetables Search

SEARCH THE PUZZLE TO FIND AND CIRCLE THE WORDS IN THE WORD LIST. WORDS IN THIS PUZZLE ARE HIDDEN ACROSS AND DOWN.

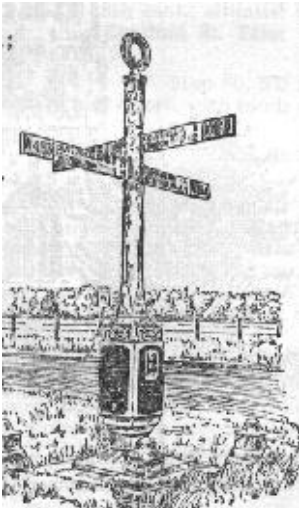


APPLE
BEANS
BEETS
BROCCOLI
CABBAGE
CARROTS
CAULIFLOWER

CELERY
CORN
EGGPLANT
FIGS
GRAPES
ONIONS
PARSNIPS

PEARS
PEPPERS
POTATO
PUMPKIN
SQUASH
TURNIP
YAMS

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

EARTH~FIRE~WATER seem to dominate the news. Earthquakes in Indonesia, drought in Australia and other parts of the world. Fires in California, Spain and even in the UK, terrible floods in India and Japan. People, thousands of them, who have lost everything and only escaped with their lives.

Other news tells of the bridge collapse in Italy or the lady who fell off a cruise ship and was in the water ten hours. We are reminded of 'Dad's Army and Corporal Jones cry 'Don't Panic'

In such circumstances it's easy to panic or even at a personal level to do just that.

Many young people faced with exam results wonder what they will do next?

At some time or another we may have mislaid a purse or house keys and it is at such times that friends and even strangers have shown patience, love and compassion.

Jesus came bringing love into the world and if we can but follow his example then we have followed as we should in his footsteps

ACW

Rotas

Flowers:

Sept	2 nd	9 th	16 th	23 rd	30 th
	Anna Wheatley	Pam Liddiard	Shirley Goodenough	Harvest	Vivien Dalton

Oct	7 th	14 th	21 st	28 th
	Messy Church	Flower Committee	Dorothy Blackmore	Barbara Lewis

Doors and books:

Sept	2 nd	9 th	16 th	23 rd	30 th
Morn	M Wilby M Sagar	H Teague B Jones	P Webber J Tippett	K Cowie I Cowie	M Golding D Davies
Eve	Messy Church	J Morgan M Morgan	T Lansdown	M Kenway M Kenway	C Haycock R Ireland

Oct	7 th	14 th	21 st	28 th
Morn	P Kirby J Angell	J Green P Blackmore	M Wilby M Sagar	H Teague B Jones
Eve	Messy Church	B Griffen W Stamford	J Morgan M Morgan	T Lansdown

For Your Diary

- 2nd Sept 4.00pm *Welcome to new ministers,
St. Andrew's Filton*
- 3rd Sept 7.30pm *Christmas Fair meeting*
- 23rd Sept 10.45am *Harvest Celebration - Deacon Janet Thomas*
12.15pm *Harvest Lunch*
6.00pm *Harvest - Deacon Janet Thomas*
- 6th Oct 7.30pm *Y's Men's Murder Mystery Evening*
- 14th Oct 10.45am *Boys' Brigade Rededication Chris Spencer*

