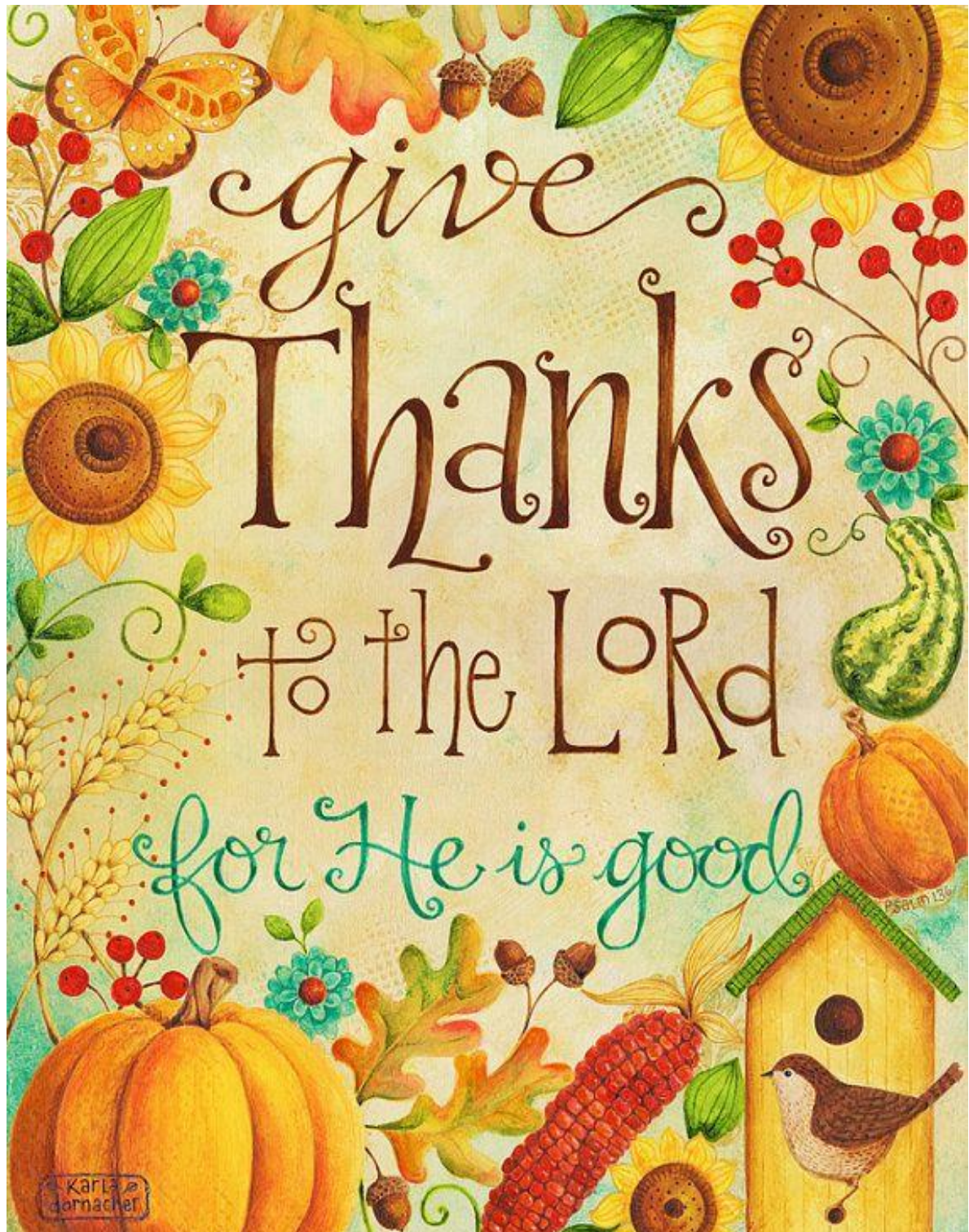


**HANHAM METHODIST  
CHURCH MAGAZINE  
SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER**



# 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. Notices and service sheets are available in larger print.

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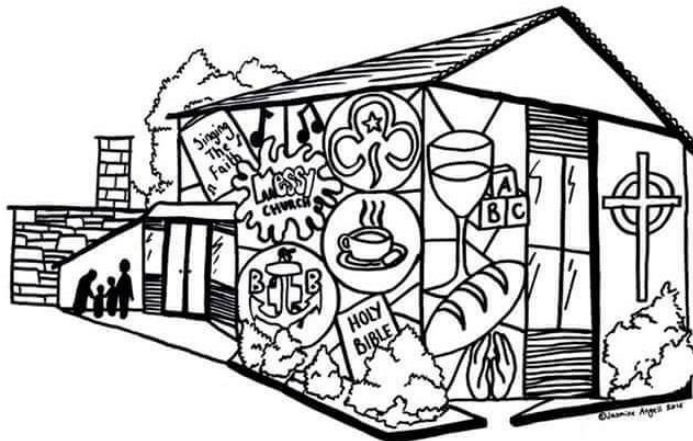
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Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect Church policy. Enquiries should be directed to the Editor.

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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## Timing is Everything

Friends, I am writing this article while on holiday enjoying the cooling air of my parents' garden in the evening of apparently the hottest bank holiday Monday ever. Who needs to go abroad when you can enjoy 33c and not have to worry about a language barrier or exchange rates? This year has not been bad for a 'staycation' as they seem to now be calling it, as long as you have timed it right.

I don't know about you, but for me it feels like it has been an odd kind of summer this year. One minute it's blistering hot and the next cool weather and chucking it down with rain. If you haven't gone away on one of those fortunate sunny weeks you have been able to enjoy the kind of Mediterranean heat they usually have in Southern France or Spain while still in the UK. If you timed it badly though, then you may have got a bit sodden and drenched.

Timing is everything. Every comedian knows it. Holiday planners realise it, and even the Bible says it in numerous places. And this got me thinking, I have no idea why, but a book that I read when I was much younger suddenly popped into my mind.

Author Dan Millman wrote in *Living on Purpose*:

*"I learned that we can do anything, but we can't do everything... at least not at the same time. So think of your priorities not in terms of what activities you do, but when you do them. Timing is everything."*

One criticism that sometimes people say about me is that I am not very organised. I am sure some of you would agree, and you may be right. But personally, I don't see it that way. I believe that there is a timing to things, and I remember when in my mid-teens reading this book and just being so moved by that point. Not because it is the greatest book ever written, because I am sure if I re-read it in its entirety now I'd probably be disappointed. But because there is something truly being described about faith and my own personal experience of how God and others have interacted in it with me.

All through my life it seems time and again rather than becoming attached to my own agenda, that governs the timing of how things should play out in my life, I have had to learn to be open to allowing that place which is seeded in infinite possibilities to govern and instruct. In doing so that not everything happens at once. It would be great if it did, but it often doesn't. Instead we are called and lead on a journey. A journey to discover what really matters in life.

We need to get to know God. Sometimes I worry, because you can talk 'about' God, but we struggle at times to share with each other when we have experienced God. It is important, because when we get to know God (rather than just know "about" God) we begin to anticipate what God would have us do in certain situations. When we understand God's character there are some questions we just don't have to ask.

We have to discipline ourselves to seek God's will. As churches I think we get ourselves into trouble because sometimes we forget that God may have an opinion on what we should do. We forget that God's plan is always the best plan. Have you ever agreed to do something before asking for God's wisdom? I know I have.

Have you ever declined something without seeking His guidance? For example, if you were asked to serve as a teacher, a leader or a helper at the church and immediately said, "No, I'm not good at that!" Why not check with God first?

What if God wants to expand and deepen your abilities? You know most ministers will tell you that they said no at first to their calling to the ministry. I know I did, and several others as well. Don't cut yourself off from His blessing by making decisions without seeking His will.

We must follow faithfully when we are called to take bold action or when we are told to wait. Many times we don't understand. When a door is closed we should watch with eagerness to see what new doors God is going to open. When doors are open we should be willing to step out in faith. Generally, when God opens a door he is giving us an opportunity to grow and to serve Him in new and surprising ways. These are usually scary opportunities. They require faith, but are also very exciting.

So, as we go forward together into a new Connexional year. Let us not just think of the tasks ahead of us, and plough through them. Let us seek God's timing, direction and stirring within us. Rather than sticking to our desired path or destination, to allow God to lead us into new experiences, priorities and realities. That not only grows us as a church and community, but changes us individually to recognise God more fully.

Every blessing,

*David*

Rev. David Willis

## **MOUNTAINS OF THE BIBLE**

### **Mount Sinai - Exodus chapters 19 to 24**

There is an old story claiming that Moses got it all wrong. If he and the children of Israel had turned right instead of left after crossing the Red Sea they would now be selling oil instead of grapefruit.

But this of course is just a joke. Scholars have studied the ancient accounts of the Exodus (bear in mind it is 'accounts' not 'one account') and if you look at a map with their 40 year journeying marked out you will see that they first journeyed south before turning north and then tracking round in a big circle before eventually heading north again to cross the River Jordan into the Promised Land; all of which took a very long time. Mount Sinai was at almost the extreme southern point of this long and arduous journey but it was here that two great events took place. Events that are still important today to Jews and Christians alike: the making of a covenant and the giving of the Ten Commandments.

To confuse us Exodus refers to Mount Horeb as well as Mount Sinai but these are the self-same place. Different accounts use the different name although some scholars claim that Horeb refers to the whole of the mountain and Sinai just to its peak. If you turn to Exodus chapter 3 you will find the well-known story of Moses before the burning bush and that took place on the aforesaid Mount Horeb (v.1). So when, years later Moses, after his return to and escape from Egypt, finds himself gazing up at Sinai it was not a first time glimpse, he had been there before.

Exodus 19 speaks of the mount being covered in thick cloud, with mighty peals of thunder and flashes of lightening, not to mention the sound of a trumpet and smoke rising as from a kiln. This portrays the terrible but glorious holiness of God: today we might think of it as the 'otherness' of God. It does ask a question as to whether we have ignored this side of God's character when we tend to concentrate on portraying him as our friend and father. While it is good and right that we should see God in this intimate way we should not forget the majesty and sheer awe and wonder and mystery that is also a major attribute of the God who created all that we have and are.

It was on Sinai that God makes a covenant with Moses who is acting as priest for the whole people. Sometimes writers refer to Israel's God as the

god the people chose. But the reverse is very much the case: God chose them. But he chose them not because they were his favourites and he would especially care for them. He chose them for a task, to be his people, to be a bridge between God and all the nations. The Latin for bridge is 'pontifex' from which we derive the name priest. The Pope is sometimes referred to as the Pontiff. And we the successors of those ancient people are called to be a bridge between God and the secular world that surrounds us.

In the introduction to the Covenant Service in the Methodist Service Book is found these words:-

“The emphasis of the whole service is on God’s readiness to enfold us in generous love, not dependent on our deserving. Our response, also in love, springs with penitent joy from thankful recognition of God’s grace.”

The next chapters (20-24) set out how the people can be helped to be worthy priests. The Ten Commandments are listed in summary form and then expanded on at great length and in minute detail. The first four commandments deal with the people’s response to God and the remaining six to their attitude and behaviour to others both Jew and Gentile. Jesus says that he came to fulfil the law not to abolish it (Matt.5:17) and summarised the Ten Commandments by saying ‘love God and love your neighbour’ (Mark 12: 30-31). So these ancient decrees apply equally to us Christians. But surely we should be ready to go further. We maybe, for example, never consider stealing from our neighbours but if we ignore them in their need then we do not truly love them.

So Mount Sinai stands as one of the great turning points of the Bible for Moses, for his people waiting for him below and for us today as we are challenged to be his people, the bridge between the world and our all-encompassing God

*‘Moses I know you’re the man’ the Lord said*

*‘You’re going to work out my plan’ the Lord said*

*‘Lead all the Israelites out of slavery and I shall make them*

*A wandering race called the People of God’.*

TJL

## Farewell to The Beeches

The Beeches Residential Care Home on Hanham High Street closed at the end of July.

We had been leading a service on the third Thursday of each month at the home for about 20 years. Over the years many of our members have played a part, reading the Bible, leading the prayers, giving the word or playing a rather temperamental organ. Others have just come along in support to assist the singing. The organ had long since died the death and we then used a CD player for the hymns.

The residents always enjoyed the services. When I was there earlier this year one lady asked why we couldn't come every week! I also remember one gentleman, whose wife was a resident, who would come in especially to share in the service with her.

I would like to thank all those who have supported us in this outreach by coming along and sharing. A special thanks to Rosemary for arranging the rotas. I would ask your prayers for the staff and residents and their families at what must be a difficult time for them.

We held our last service there on 16<sup>th</sup> May. As it was near to 24<sup>th</sup> May I spoke about the life and work of John Wesley and finished with his deathbed quote "The best of all God is with us". That seemed so appropriate for the residents who must be anxious about their future and I was able to say to them that whatever happened in the days ahead God was with them.

*Tim Lansdown*

Worship Committee Chairman





## Early Warning - Changes to Waste Collection at HMC

South Gloucestershire Council have informed us that with effect from 1/10/19 our waste collection will be changed. The change is to encourage as much recycling as possible in line with the policy for households. This will mean separate bins for food waste, non-recyclable waste and further bins for plastics, cans, paper, glass etc; along with a green bin for green waste.

All users of our premises will be contacted with details when they are finalised prior to the implementation date.

The cost of the service has risen considerably, consequently it is important that we do all we can to ensure we comply with the changes wherever we can.

There may be questions, please contact me in the first instance and I will try to give you the answer.

*John Ireland*

On behalf of the Property Committee.



## Spotted in Norfolk!

We were fortunate to be able to spend a few days in Norfolk recently and did a bit of exploring by 'bus and on foot. We saw this welcome notice outside the Methodist Church in the village of Blakeney which we found amusing but pertinent. Unfortunately the church was closed.

### **A Café TMC Welcome**

#### **We extend a special welcome...**

To those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, gay, confused, filthy rich, comfortable, or dirt poor.

#### **We extend a special welcome...**

To wailing babies, muddy dogs, weary walkers, lonely souls, happy couples, not so happy couples, friends reunited, tired bones or anything in the middle.

#### **We extend a special welcome...**

To those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome keep-fit fanatics, sedentarianists, starving artists, tree-huggers, coffee connoisseurs, vegetarians, vegans, flexitarians, junk-food eaters, cake lovers. We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems, are down in the dumps or don't like organized religion (we're not keen on that either!). We welcome those who are full of the joy of spring, bursting with joy and life and filled with happiness. And of course, every thing in-between all of the above.

#### **We extend a special welcome...**

To those who think the earth is flat, believers of nothing, believers of everything, the skeptical, the questioning, the faithful and the fallen. To those who work too hard, don't work, can't spell or got dragged here because of Granny.

#### **We extend a special welcome...**

To those who are inked, pierced, both or neither. To those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down their throats as kids, don't realize this is a church, and to the faithful who've followed all their life.

#### **We extend a special welcome...**

To you.

Coincidentally we saw several posters advertising a lunch time meal, open to everyone, at the local parish church so we headed that way. The building itself was most impressive standing on high ground away from the coast. The place was a hive of activity with several tables set up in the sanctuary, food being cooked and people busily organising seating and chatting. We spent a good 20 minutes walking around taking in the historical importance of the building and the church in the life of the village. To leave we had to walk through the assembled company and guess what? Not one person spoke to us the whole time we were there! It was interesting to note that the church had been awarded an accolade for being the most welcoming church in the Norfolk Diocese previously!!

Needless to say we did find a welcome and lunch in the hostelry in the village.

*Rosemary & John Ireland*

### **Coffee Morning – 7<sup>th</sup> September**

A reminder that we will be holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September with all proceeds to Church Funds. Members of the uniformed groups and Messy Church will have small stands advertising themselves.

Please let me know if you will be able to help and at what time as I would like to do this on a rota basis. I would be very grateful for any cakes which can be provided, if we have too many we will endeavour to sell these on a cake stall.

Many thanks

*Pat Webber*

## **News from The Y's Men's Club of Hanham**

2018-2019 was, under the Presidency of Steve Jaques, ably assisted by The Board of Governors, another successful year for our club.

Although our AGM and Handover is in July and our first Supper Night is in September, we, as usual, in the intervening period, served soup and puddings to the customers of Friendly Table whilst the volunteers of Friendly Table took a well-earned rest.

Our programme, arranged by our secretary, was wide and varied with inspirational talks ranging from "Dementia Awareness" to "The life of an award-winning Victorian Pier" with lots in between. We also had our annual Quiz Night, we enacted a Murder Mystery, The Frampton Cotterell Male Voice Choir entertained us and our visitors in the sanctuary, Kingswood Y,s Men's Club members joined us for Fish and Chips, we sang our hearts out at our Christmas Sing-a-Long, held some Coffee Mornings in the main hall and enjoyed our Christmas Meal at the Bitton Railway Station.

And if that wasn't enough, we did our usual "Hot Dogs on the Common" supporting the Common Fayre where we cooked around 800 items and raised just under £1500.00 for our charities. We also catered for the "Wives Meal" and The Oddfellows Seniors Meal at Summerhill Church. Please note that all our activities are covered by our own Insurance Policy, several of our members hold Hygiene Certificates and we have and adhere to a Documented Procedure for outside catering.

Our constitution calls for the Chairman of the Club, if he or she is agreeable, to be the Minister of Hanham Methodist Church. We are fortunate and grateful that David Willis has taken on this role and thankful that he chaired our AGM and attended our Handover when Steve Jaques handed the Presidency to John Liddiard. He also presided over our service when we gave our charity

donations which amounted to £5,000.00 to our three chosen charities which were Kingswood Community Transport, BAT (Battle Against Tranquillisers) and Above and Beyond (The Bristol Heart Institute).

Which brings us neatly to 2019-2020.

At the time of writing we are in the middle of doing soups and puddings whilst the Friendly Table take a break. It is going very well thanks for the generosity of our members and customers.

Our secretary Carol Jaques has completed our programme and we already know that Graham Thompson will lead our service in July, Ann Bishop will speak at our "Time of Fast" and our Christmas meal will be a carvery cooked and served by a well respected outside caterer. The programme can be seen on the notice board in the Church.

It is 30 years this year since our club was chartered and we will celebrate this momentous milestone during our Supper Night in September with a special meal and between course talks on various subjects.

Our chosen charities for this year are Mary's Meals, Sight Savers and Sparks (Research into Childhood Illnesses). Although we will endeavour to raise as much money as we can for these worthy causes, we must not forget that along the way we should enjoy the camaraderie of our club, be aware of the objectives contained in our constitution, give a service to our immediate and far reaching communities, remembering that we are a part of Y's Men's International.

In conclusion, our thanks to Hanham Methodist Church for allowing us to use its premises and for supporting our activities. We, for our part, will continue to support the church in its activities.

*Pam Liddiard*

## Just to Say...

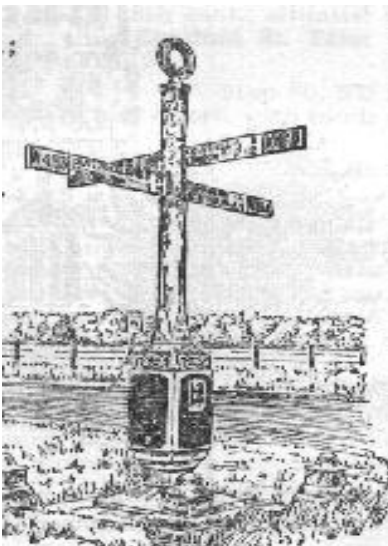
We want to thank everyone for your cards, prayers and messages. This has been a time of both sadness and great joy, following the death of our daughter-in-law Caroline, then news that Daniel and Emma had passed exams, making one a dental surgeon, and the other a solicitor; and our diamond wedding anniversary to end the month of June.

*Pauline, David and all the Sampson family*

## Cream Tea on 7<sup>th</sup> August

Many thanks to everyone who supported the Cream Tea for the Wives Charity, Bristol After Stroke. The sum of £152.22 was raised which was wonderful.

## Signposts



We have enjoyed a very special occasion, being the celebration of Hazel and my 65<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on which we received a letter from the **Queen**. The family joined us, my son Martyn and his wife Sue, granddaughters Rachael, Jo, Nicola, and great-grandchildren Evie, Poppy and Matilda; with Carers from Deerhurst who kindly made an Anniversary cake.

A very enjoyable special day.

ACW

## What's On at The New Room?



❖ **Every Friday** at 1pm there is a short communion service, often followed by a free music recital at 1.30pm.

❖ **Explore the New Room Library** - over 9,000 books, a fascinating record of Bristol Methodist History – stories of the lives of people transformed by God's love for them. Stories of anti-slavery, empowering the individual, campaigning for social justice, and much more...

*Friday and Saturday 13-14 September, 10.30am – 4pm*

❖ **Join a free spotlight talk** (15 minutes)

Hear more about the New Room's transformation over 280 years. Discover fascinating stories behind architectural design, sustainable heritage and interpretation.

- 10.30am, 1.30pm The creation of the New Room Visitor Centre
- 11.30am, 2.30pm Designing an interactive Museum in an eighteenth-century space
- 12.30pm, 3.30pm The oldest Methodist Chapel in the world

*Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 13-15 September, all talks are free, but donations are appreciated.*

## **Random Thoughts – Something More About Prayer**

### **Supplication and Concluding Thoughts**

That our prayers and rituals largely reflect our desires and necessities is evident in the sacramental rites of Baptism, Confirmation and Matrimony where for example the importance of love is reflected.

These three important religious rites are, in part, both a public and private thanksgiving for the commitment between God and humanity in love.

Love, food and drink, life and death figure importantly represented by symbols and rituals in all religions:- consider again the special sense of thanksgiving which belongs to the Holy Communion and concerns our redemption through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

In the last article, we touched on the traditional aspects of prayer including Adoration, Confession and Thanksgiving and we now complete the quartet of 'Traditional Prayers' with just one aspect of **Supplication**. It may be imagined that since God does not seem to answer all our prayers, or as we would wish, then we stand a better chance of our supplications being granted, if these are unselfish and of high moral tone! Although this may seem a valid concept, nevertheless God considers all our requests irrespective of their merit providing they are sincerely and honestly made.

**Towards a conclusion:** So what might we expect to get out of prayer? Such a question is of course self-centred but nevertheless:-

We should desire to improve the virtues we possess and the prayer attributed to St Francis found in the conclusion to this article provides a worthy 'action based' behaviour plan.

If we sincerely ask God to make us kinder, more compassionate, patient and less bad tempered...then we are presumably aware of our shortcomings and may thereby already be on the way to becoming more like the person we desire to be – more like God. If this is God answering prayer then it is the God within us together with the loving care and compassion of others.

Healing the sick is surely worthy of God's spiritual intervention in order to favourably affect the physical illness and situation.

If we request physical healing then on those occasions where an illness does not respond favourably to medical treatment and our earnest prayers seem to go unanswered, it is then that we are reminded that the only certainty in life is its end. So what then is our relationship with God? Some people decide that either God does not exist and carry on with their lives without a consciousness of him, or that their expectancy of God's



physical intervention must be faulty however worthy their desires and needs may still seem to be.

If God exists within us, - or has entered into our entire conscious being, then God shares in the sickness of the ill irrespective of whether one is or is not healed. Thus God does not just observe our pain but enters into it with us; - how else can it be? We suffer pain and anguish but possess courage, patience, tears and anger so that somehow we do endure whilst life endures; - what else can we do except cling to the hope of a tolerable today and better tomorrow?

And in enduring courageously perhaps even cheerfully we may witness to the God in us and become an encouragement to others. When we pray for the sick we likewise, if in a small way, enter into a sharing of someone's pain, when we experience a sense of 'sincere sympathy' for the sick person and should we be a fellow then we are psychologically united with the sick person and can literally feel the pain and anguish even though even though we are in remission. And as a result of prayer our sympathy may extend as far as practical help and comfort and the sick can be helped and cheered by knowing that they are being prayed for. "Spiritual Healing" implies that it is possible to reach an "accommodation" even as we live through a terminal illness and hope for the best realistic future for our remaining imperfect life.

The nature of Prayer is both simple and complex and however creatively we can understand and practise it we need to do so in a spirit of love, humility, hope and honesty. And should we become at times uncertain when wrestling with its complexity, then we are comforted by our Trust in God, and for me the elegant simplicity of St Francis' prayer embraces much up what really matters in living-out our lives.

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow your love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*

**ARGI**

Footnote: I am indebted to, amongst others, Peter Mullin (ex. Anglican minister) for his theological observations on prayer the understanding of which is of course my responsibility.

## Occupancy

I am an empty chair in the sanctuary of a church  
Like the abandoned Bride  
I've been left in the lurch  
I can't say I'm lonely, I'm surrounded by many more  
Looking hopefully, twice on a Sunday, at the open door  
I'd love to bear a person's weight and feel their body's heat  
I don't want to be an empty chair  
I want to be a welcoming seat  
I'm worried about the future, it's not so far away  
I could end up on the scrap heap, or as an item on ebay  
Some say it's my fault, at my age I ought to know  
That no one in their right mind chooses the front row  
Why can't it be like Toy Story, at night, come alive and move  
around  
Well that is wishful thinking, I'm positionally bound  
Like many, I haven't got an answer---how to counter modern life's  
pull  
But I don't want to be an empty chair, I'd far rather be full.

*John Liddiard*



## Flower Rota:

<b>Sept</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>29<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Ch</b>	Anna Wheatley	Pam Liddiard	Shirley Goodenough	Harvest	Vivian Dalton
<b>WM</b>	Free	Pam Liddiard	Shirley Goodenough	Harvest	Vivian Dalton
<b>Oct</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>Ch</b>	Messy Church	Lilian Curnock	Dorothy Blackmore	Barbara Lewis	
<b>WM</b>	Messy Church	Free	Dorothy Blackmore	Barbara Lewis	

## Doors and Books Rota:

<b>Sept</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>29<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Morn</b>	G Roberts M Stoodley	P Kirby	M Wilby M Sagar	J Green P Blackmore	P Webber J Tippett
<b>Eve</b>	Messy Church	M Kenway M Kenway	C Haycock R Ireland	J Morgan M Morgan	W Stanford B Griffen
<b>Oct</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>Morn</b>	H Teague B Jones	K Cowie I Cowie	M Golding P Webber	G Roberts M Stoodley	
<b>Eve</b>	Messy Church	T Lansdown	M Kenway M Kenway	C Haycock R Ireland	

## For Your Diary

Sept 1 <sup>st</sup>	4.00pm Welcome Service for new Ministers, The New Room
Sept 4 <sup>th</sup>	Wives: Charity talk – Butterflies-Haven
Sept 7 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee Morning in aid of the Church Prayer meeting
Sept 18 <sup>th</sup>	Wives: AGM Blood donors
Sept 20 <sup>th</sup>	Y's Men's Supper Night: 30 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration
Sept 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Harvest Festival: Rev. David Willis (morn), Rev P.J. Jackson (eve)
Sept 26 <sup>th</sup>	Shawl Ministry
Sept 28 <sup>th</sup>	Prayer meeting
Oct 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Wives: Harvest Service Blood donors
Oct 5 <sup>th</sup>	Prayer meeting
Oct 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am Boys' Brigade Re-dedication, Rev. David Willis
Oct 16 <sup>th</sup>	Wives: Bristol Street Pastors Blood donors
Oct 17 <sup>th</sup>	Y's Men's Supper Night at Kingswood (tbc)
Oct 26 <sup>th</sup>	Prayer meeting
Oct 30 <sup>th</sup>	Wives: Around the World on a Shoestring
Oct 31 <sup>st</sup>	Shawl ministry