

# Hanham Methodist Church Magazine

May / June 2015



## **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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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)

Find us on Facebook: Hanham Methodist Church

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*Full details of all Church activities can be found on our website together with information on Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Boys Brigade.*

## Word from the Minister - Happy Birth Day!

All around us we observe a pregnant creation.  
The difficult times of pain throughout the world are  
simply birth pangs.

But it's not only around us; it's *within* us.  
The Spirit of God is arousing us within.

We're also feeling the birth pangs.

These sterile and barren bodies of ours are yearning  
for full deliverance.

*Romans 8: 22 - 23 (The Message)*



Crisis! Inflation! No jobs!  
I think I am going to stay here.

A pregnant woman wanted her child blessed so went to see the minister who asked what particular gift the woman wanted her child to have. The woman asked for her child to be the most polite child that ever lived. So the minister blessed her pregnant stomach. The woman came to 9 months and no child appeared. This went on for 11, 12, 13 months... for 2, 3, 5, 10 years. Eventually the woman died and still she had not given birth. When they did the autopsy they opened her up to find she was expecting twins and in her womb were 2 old men politely inviting each other to go first, each saying 'After you'.

In this time after Easter we do celebrate new birth. We also prepare for Pentecost, the birth of the Church, not to mention a new royal baby being expected. So in this period of waiting, of expectation, we reflect upon what we are waiting for....

In the book of Isaiah (chapter 28) the prophet says the people wait but just give birth to wind. As a woman of a certain age I do sometimes wonder if the Church is going through a spiritual menopause. What are we producing?

There is definitely a lot of hot air and empty wind around in the election campaigns at present. But what is the Church promising and producing? Are we even producing eggs, the opportunities, environment and atmosphere to enable new life to be possible? Where are our eggs of prayer, welcome, engaging with people, bible study, love, pastoral care, fights for justice - to enable new life to be fertilized by God's life?

The Church is going through a time of change, of pain - but what will the outcome be - wind or new life? What are you waiting for and expecting? Many are happy for the Church to continue as it is, it's ok and will meet our needs until we die, give us enough comfort. But if that is all we are hoping for then are we not just like those twins, growing old in a comfortable womb and failing to be really born and have life? May we expect much and be ready to deliver it as we celebrate how the Spirit of God comes to renew us and the world.

May the Spirit lead you into life, life in all its fullness.

Blessings

*Rev Dee Yeadon*

**A parable from the Hungarian writer  
Útmutató a Léleknek:**

In a mother's womb were two babies. One asked the other: "Do you believe in life after delivery?" The other replied, "Why, of course. There has to be something after delivery. Maybe we are here to prepare ourselves for what we will be later."



“Nonsense” said the first. “There is no life after delivery. What kind of life would that be?”

The second said, “I don’t know, but there will be more light than here. Maybe we will walk with our legs and eat from our mouths. Maybe we will have other senses that we can’t understand now.”

The first replied, “That is absurd. Walking is impossible. And eating with our mouths? Ridiculous! The umbilical cord supplies nutrition and everything we need. But the umbilical cord is so short. Life after delivery is to be logically excluded.”

The second insisted, “Well I think there is something and maybe it’s different than it is here. Maybe we won’t need this physical cord anymore.”

The first replied, “Nonsense. And moreover if there is life, then why has no-one has ever come back from there? Delivery is the end of life, and in the after-delivery there is nothing but darkness and silence and oblivion. It takes us nowhere.”

“Well, I don’t know,” said the second, “but certainly we will meet Mother and she will take care of us.”

The first replied “Mother? You actually believe in Mother? That’s laughable. If Mother exists then where is She now?”

The second said, “She is all around us. We are surrounded by Her. We are of Her. It is in Her that we live. Without Her this world would not and could not exist.”

Said the first: “Well I don’t see Her, so it is only logical that She doesn’t exist.”

To which the second replied, “Sometimes, when you’re in silence and you focus and you really listen, you can perceive Her presence, and you can hear Her loving voice, calling down from above.”



10-16 May

**Christian Aid is a Christian organisation that insists the world can and must be swiftly changed to one where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty.**

They work globally for profound change that eradicates the causes of poverty, striving to achieve equality, dignity and freedom for all, regardless of faith or nationality. They provide urgent, practical and effective assistance where need is great, tackling the effects of poverty as well as its root causes.

Christian Aid is an agency of our churches in Britain and Ireland, whose work is founded on Christian faith, inspired by hope and acts to change an unjust world through charity – a practical love and care for our neighbours.

In Christian Aid week volunteers will be raising money in a variety of ways, including carrying out house-to-house collections.

One collector was trudging round a very expensive estate, up and down long drives, getting hot and tired and not having much joy.

She got to the top of one drive and found a man polishing his Jaguar, who apologised that he'd lost the envelope. 'I have some spares,' she smiled. 'I'm sorry,' he said, 'but I don't have any change on me.'

But that was an excuse too far. She looked him in the eye and said: 'Change? Do you think I came all the way up this drive for change?'

He was a little taken aback, then smiled, and said: 'You're quite right, of course. I'll get my chequebook!'

**Anyone willing to collect for a short session outside the shops, please contact Pat Saunders.**

**POVERTY  
LET'S END IT**

# The Prophet

## ON LAWS

*You delight in laying down laws*

*Yet you delight more in breaking them.*

*Like children playing by the ocean who build sandcastles with constancy*

*And then destroy them with laughter.*

*But while you build your sandcastles the ocean brings more sand to the shore,*

*And when you destroy them the ocean laughs with you.*

*Verily the ocean always laughs with the innocent.*

As the years go by, we seem to be beset by more and more legislation: Health and Safety, Food Hygiene and Safeguarding, to name but three, all driven perhaps by the litigious society we have become. The government, local authorities, big business and charities have to take great care lest they are sued for large amounts of compensation. Whoever forms the next government we can be confident that a raft of new legislation will be prepared for the Statute Book.

As Christians we are often accused of being petty law enforcers and it is pointed out that eight of the Ten Commandments are negative. But what did Jesus have to say: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest commandment. The second is like it. Love your neighbour as yourself.' (Matthew 22:37-39).

Follow that teaching and all the rest falls into place.

*Tim Lansdown*



## **Bristol & South Gloucestershire Circuit News**

The New Room (John Wesley's Chapel) has been awarded a Heritage Lottery grant to develop its premises. The 276-year-old Grade 1 listed building in The Horsefair, is known as "the cradle of Methodism"; in 1739, John Wesley bought the plot of land to build a meeting room for those who were responding to his message of faith and social justice.

Trustees are planning to create a three-storey building, with a shop and café for visitors, a large multi-media lecture and education room, an extensive resource library on Methodist history and an Archives room. The existing museum will be completely revamped to reflect John Wesley's work in Bristol, in 18th century Britain, and around the world. Find out more at [www.newroombristol.org.uk](http://www.newroombristol.org.uk)

## **East Bristol Cluster News**

Representatives from all eight churches within the cluster have met twice since the cluster came into being in September. It has been a "getting to know you" time, finding out what individual churches do, and what they would like to do had they the necessary resources. Additional help to support individual events has been readily offered.

Cluster services, for example the Sunday after Christmas, have been well supported. It is recognised that the Presbyter/Church ratio is not going to increase in the future and more cluster events, such as cluster communion services, will be arranged.

One initiative for the future - representatives will be looking at house groups using the same materials for Advent and Lent to see if dates, times etc can be published well in advance to give greater flexibility to those wishing to attend these courses.

The Methodist Church in East Bristol has served the area well in the past and by working together, supporting each other, has the potential to be a strong witness in the area in the future.

## **Visit to Ystrad Mynach - August 16<sup>th</sup>**

Our friends at Lewis Street Methodist Church have invited us to join them for tea and evening worship on 16<sup>th</sup> August. We normally leave HMC at 2 o'clock and arrive back in Hanham about 9 o'clock.

If you would like to come would you please give your name(s) to Hilary or me as soon as possible, and no later than 10<sup>th</sup> May so that the transport may be arranged.

*Tim Lansdown*

*Chairman, Worship Committee*

## **Mission Committee Charities for 2014/15**

This year Mission Committee is supporting two charities: "The Genesis Trust", which supports homeless families in Bath, and "Médecins Sans Frontières", which you will recognise as the organisation which supports disasters and areas of conflict in the world without regard to race or religion. No one can fail to be touched by starving, homeless or displaced persons trying to exist in war zones. It is impossible to choose the "right" cause, so the Committee decided that by supporting the latter charity our money would get to where it is most needed. Coffee mornings & events are organised throughout the year, we appreciate your presence or support at any of these.

The recent "Not So Simple Lunch" raised more than £300 for these causes.

A "Chocolate Evening" is to be organised later in the year.

*Pam Blackmore*

*Mission Chairman*



Messy Church meets at 4pm on the first Sunday of the month and all families are welcome. Come and get messy!

May 3<sup>rd</sup> – Theme of Ascension

June 7<sup>th</sup> – Messy Communion

July 5<sup>th</sup> – Picnic!

## Youth Church

Older members of Youth Church have been busy making Easter Cards again this year and have raised an amazing amount of £200 from their sales. They are also planning to sell cakes after one of the services in May. All the money raised will go to Christian Aid. On 17th May Youth Church will be taking the service, looking at some of the work of Christian Aid.

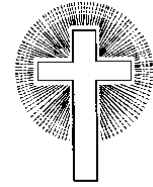
A few of our young people are following a course looking at the possibility of confirmation. In July our older members will be leading a Family Communion. Everyone is looking forward to July when we have our end of year party.

We would love to see more children join, so if you know a child who would like to come and find out what we do, please bring them along between 10.30 and 10.40 on a Sunday morning.

*Joan Brabon-Hibbs*

## Bright Hour

Meets every Monday at 2.30pm



## Friendly Table

Meets every Monday from 10.00am – 3.00pm

## Girls Night In



We meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm, and have had an interesting year with some delicious puddings at the end of the evening. Everybody cooked part of a meal and brought it along for a fantastic Christmas meal. As good Methodists we enjoy food and are going out for a meal in May. We have also enjoyed a film, some craft activities and a Quiz. It is very relaxing and we always have a good chat together over a cup of tea/coffee. If you would like to join us please contact me.

*Joan Brabon-Hibbs*

## Shawl Ministry

This continues to meet on the last Thursday in the month and anyone is welcome to attend. We enjoy a natter, pleasant company, helpful hints on how to knit & crochet, as well as a welcome cup of tea & biscuit.



Recently we took a large sack of hats & scarves to The Salvation Army in Wade Street, just off Old Market/Lawfords Gate. It was appreciated and will be a warm reminder to the clients that some people do care. We have also taken knee or shoulder blankets to “The Gables” and “St. Georges” Nursing home, again they were much appreciated.

Please feel free to join us at 2.15pm on the last Thursday of the month.

*Pam Blackmore*

## **Wives Group**

On 19<sup>th</sup> March a group of us visited Fonthill Garden Centre and were greeted by Matt the Manager and Luke the Assistant Manager. We were given a hot drink with a delicious shortbread biscuit, and then a demonstration of planting up ceramic pots (a hedgehog and a pair of welly boots) and also a hanging basket using small plug plants. The basket will be on display with our Group's name on it so that when we visit in the future we can follow its progress. We were given lots of gardening tips and advice and Matt and Luke were more than happy to answer our questions.

The evening was finished off by the Group being able to purchase items with a 10% discount. We all had a great time and we hope to follow this up with a further visit in the future.

On 1<sup>st</sup> April we held our Easter Service, followed by Easter biscuits, and on 15<sup>th</sup> April Glen gave us a flower demonstration, followed two weeks later by a photo session set to music by Sue Winkworth.

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May in the morning is the Wives Service with Gwynneth Dean presiding.

On 16<sup>th</sup> May we are holding a Coffee Morning with proceeds going to our charity for 2014/15 - Dogs for the Disabled, a very worthwhile charity.

13<sup>th</sup> May sees us visiting Paul's Place for a Cream Tea. Paul's Place was the Wives Charity for 2013/14 and Cath Adlams extended an invitation for us to visit them, so that's where we are off to for our Summer Outing, courtesy of Kingswood Community Transport.

On 10<sup>th</sup> June we will be doing a Sponsored Walk - watch out, members will be looking for Sponsors!

After that we will be meeting in members' homes until we start back in September. As you can see, we are a very busy group, and we would welcome anyone who would like to come along any evening, just turn up, we start at 7.30pm on alternate Wednesdays. A copy of our Programme is on the Notice Board but please feel free to contact me if you need any more information.

*Pat Webber*

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



Meets third Friday of the month at 7.30pm

What have we done this year? Our “year” runs from September to July, however, we will continue to provide soups and puddings on Mondays in the summer while the Friendly Table team takes a well-earned rest, and also run one or two coffee mornings.

So, what have we done since last September? We have had our usual monthly supper nights with excellent food and entertaining talks on a wide range of topics. In October we celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary when Chris Skidmore joined us for our meal and spoke about his experiences as a “new boy” in the Houses of Parliament. A well-attended Quiz Night was held in November and a friendly Sing-along took place in December.

Every year we have a joint supper night with our Brother Club (The Kingswood Y's Men's Club) and we invited them to join us for Fish and Chips in February.

In March we enjoyed two events worthy of accolades, firstly our most enjoyable and successful concert with The Rock of Life Band and Mount Zion Choir, and secondly our **Time of Fast** when we have a simple meal of soup and a roll instead of the usual three courses but still pay the same amount, with proceeds going to projects agreed by Y's Men International, our umbrella organisation. Our TOF speaker was Reverend Andrew Sails and his talk entitled "Is the Bible True?" was very thought provoking and appreciated by all in attendance.

What's next? It's **HOT DOGS ON THE COMMON** when we cook hundreds of sausages and burgers for Hanham Fayre on 16<sup>th</sup> May. We are very proud that members of our club hold Food Hygiene and Safety Certificates and our events are covered by insurance. We'd love to see you at our stall, you will be most welcome.

Our May supper night has a "cheese" theme, and our summer outing on 6<sup>th</sup> June is to Poole, with a tour of the RNLI headquarters. The year ends with our AGM and Handover on the 4<sup>th</sup> July, and our service on the morning of the 5<sup>th</sup> when we will present cheques to representatives of this year's charities: Christians Against Poverty, Jemima's Gift, and The Scoliosis Association.

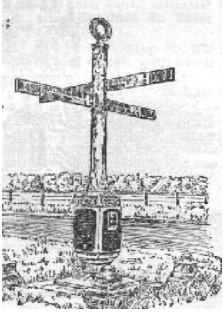
Our "special relationship" with Hanham Methodist Church holds good and we thank the Church and its members for accommodating and supporting us.

Should you require further details about our club, please do not hesitate to contact me (0117 9670910), our secretary Carol Jaques (0117 9092510), or any club member.

*John Liddiard – Club President*

*Hanham Common Fayre Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 12 noon–4pm*  
*[www.hanhamabbotspc.org.uk](http://www.hanhamabbotspc.org.uk)*

## Signposts



Difficult to realise that a third of the year has already gone, Easter and the celebration of a Living Saviour Jesus – has also gone by. So much has changed quite quickly, it doesn't seem long ago to me that photographs were taken on black and white film, developed and printed in the bathroom. Then “digital”, not even a camera, a phone will do. The church magazine typed by Hazel on an old typewriter, the skin mounted on an inked drum (the contraption in the corner of the stage) and the handle turned. Progress when a new machine arrived, bits stuck on card and printed, it jammed frequently. Now dial in the number required (although still watch it as after twenty or so it will jam as they come out!). Change and progress, although the world and society seem much the same, poverty, hatred, war and terrorism, materialism and greed.

But in all this, looking out of the window and seeing the amazing blossom on my white cherry tree, which over many years has come into blossom on the 13th of April (my mother's birthday). Glistening sometimes even in short-lived snow or bright sunshine. Masses of primroses and daffodils, the reminder of God's creation and bounty.

In a changing world the love of God surrounds us at all times, the coming of Jesus into our lives, lives which are such a mixture of joy, celebration, pain and sorrow but knowing that nothing can separate us from the love of God (Romans 8).

ACW







## And Finally: Hints for Christian Gardeners

Plant five rows of P's:

**P**resence,  
**P**romptness,  
**P**reparation,  
**P**erseverance,  
**P**urity.



Three rows of squash:

**S**quash gossip,  
**S**quash criticism,  
**S**quash indifferences.

Four rows of lettuce:

**L**et us be faithful to the work,  
**L**et us be unselfish in our service,  
**L**et us be true to our obligations,  
**L**et us be obedient to the rules of the world.

Remember that no garden is complete without turnips:

**T**urn up for meetings,  
**T**urn up with a smile,  
**T**urn up with a prepared heart,  
**T**urn up with a willingness to serve,  
**T**urn up on time.

These plants can be sown at any time, but for best results they should be carefully cultivated all the time.

**Anagram answers:** Numbers, Zechariah, Judges, Leviticus,  
Malachi, Ruth, Jeremiah, Esther, Chronicles, Genesis, Ecclesiastes,  
Deuteronomy, Exodus, Lamentations, Song of Solomon

## Rotas

### Doors and books:

May	3rd	10 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>	31 <sup>st</sup>
<b>Morn</b>	N Hogg P Webber	M Frost W Frost	H Teague B Jones	S Brown J Hurfurt	M Golding R Titcktum
<b>Eve</b>	Messy Church	W Stamford B Griffen	J Morgan M Morgan	A Angell T Lansdown	M Kenway M Kenway

June	7 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Morn</b>	P Webber J Tippett	M Howe N Howe	P Blackmore J Green	M Wilby N Hogg
<b>Eve</b>	Messy Church	T Lansdown A Angell	M Kenway M Kenway	R Ireland C Haycock

### Flowers:

May	3rd	10 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>	31 <sup>st</sup>
<b>Church</b>	Hilary Lansdown	Wives Anniversary	E Need's daughter	Wendy Stamford	Angela Sagar
<b>War Memorial</b>		Wives Anniversary	E Need's daughter		Angela Sagar

June	7 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Church</b>	Roy Lewis	Catherine Garland	Vron Jackson	Bob Stapleton
<b>War Memorial</b>	Lilian Curnock	Joyce Godwin		Pauline Kirby

## For Your Diary

3 <sup>rd</sup> May	10.45am 4.00pm	Rev Denise Yeadon – Holy Communion Messy Church
6 <sup>th</sup> May	1.30pm – 7.15pm	Blood Donors (1.30pm–3.30pm, 4.30pm–7.15pm)
9 <sup>th</sup> May	10.00am	Coffee Morning for Christian Aid
10 <sup>th</sup> May	10.45am 12.15pm 6.00pm	Mrs G Dean – Wives Anniversary Simple Lunch for Christian Aid Rev C Spencer
12 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> May	12.00 – 1.30pm	Soup and bread lunches for Christian Aid
14 <sup>th</sup> May	7.30pm	Ascension Day Service (Church of Ascension)
17 <sup>th</sup> May	10.45am 6.00pm	Youth Church Service Food & Fellowship
24 <sup>th</sup> May	10.45am 6.00pm	Pentecost Rev Denise Yeadon – Holy Communion
31 <sup>st</sup> May	10.45am 6.00pm	Rev J Crane / Mr T Lansdown Mrs H Gray
7 <sup>th</sup> June	10.45am 4.00pm	Rev Barry Bishop – Holy Communion Messy Church
14 <sup>th</sup> June	10.45am 6.00pm	Church Anniversary Philip Warrey – Parade Service Philip Warrey
21 <sup>st</sup> June	10.45am 6.00pm	Rev Denise Yeadon Mr D Jones
28 <sup>th</sup> June	10.45am 6.00pm	Mr A Dixon Mr I MacGillvray