

Hanham Methodist Church Magazine

May / June 2016 



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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WESLEY'S WISDOM

2. The Bible

John Wesley thought that the Christian should read the Bible each morning and each evening as a minimum. In his Journal he writes:-



'I want to know one thing, the way to heaven: how to land on that happy shore. God Himself has condescended to teach the way; for this end He came from heaven. He hath written it down in a book. Give me that book! At any price give me the book of God.'

Wesley is often quoted as saying 'I am a man of one book' suggesting, perhaps, that he read nothing else but the Bible. But that is only half the sentence. In full it reads 'I am a man of one book but a student of many'. And early Methodists were indeed encouraged to read books that would help them understand the Bible more. Indeed Wesley wrote books himself and sold them through the New Room.

John didn't take the Bible literally in its entirety. He believed that the texts needed to be studied to reveal their true meaning. *'Unlock the torch, thyself the key, unseal the sacred book'* wrote his brother Charles. (StF 155)

And that phrase 'thyself the key' is a reminder that as sacred and important as the Bible is as the word of God, the bible is not the centre of our worship As Christians we worship the Word made flesh, the logos, made manifest in Jesus.

Tim Lansdown

Chairman, Worship Committee

East Bristol Cluster News

There is a proposal to hold a service on Wesley Day, May 24th at 11am at Hanham. Other churches in the cluster will be invited.

Unity Oldland are at last able to move forward with their building project. Until building work is completed, Sunday activities will take place in North Common Village Hall and weekday activities held either at the United Reformed Church in Oldland or at Longwell Green United Church.

They are holding a series of fund raising events:

14th May 3pm onwards - High Tea with Unity Brass, at Sheila Reed's, Hill House, Barry Road, Oldland Common BS30 6JQ
Tickets £5, children £2.50

11th June 4pm til 6pm - Maritime Bristol with Mike Dean
Guided walk along the harbourside (18th June if wet). There will be an opportunity to share a restaurant meal afterwards.
Tickets £5, children £2.50

2nd July at 7.30 - Oldland Community Choir Concert at United Church Longwell Green. Tickets £5 to include refreshments.

13th August (time to be announced) - **BBQ** at North Common Village Hall

26th November 10.00-2.00pm - Christmas Fair at North Common Village Hall

These events will allow them to continue to raise money for their building fund and it would be good to be able to support them. As far as tickets for these events go, I am sure that you could pay on the day but for those events that include catering, it would be good to have a rough idea of numbers in advance. I am happy to act as link or provide contact details.

Glenys Lewis

All Are Welcome!

Rev Mandy Briggs led our morning service on Sunday 3/4/16 when she focused on the current Circuit Projects which are Lincoln Street (the new location for the Midland Road outreach), The Ark and Faithspace, now located in the previous Redcliffe Methodist premises. During the service we sang a relatively new hymn by Marty Haughan entitled “Let us build a house where love can dwell”. It is a lovely hymn with very special words within the five verses. It also has a rousing chorus: “All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place” and we really sang it with gusto!

Mandy wanted us to leave with a smile on our face so we ended up singing from STF accompanied by actions. This song centres on whether or not we are sad or happy we are all loved by God. We all enjoyed this song and did indeed leave with smiles all round.

Some while later I was in the Potter Room with Tim and Hilary preparing to leave when I noticed a Great Tit furtively moving about in a bush outside the window, it had a piece of twig in its beak so I watched and, surprise surprise, it flew in between a small gap in some brickwork forming the back of the Church store. We all watched for some time as this bird worked hard at building a nest.

This gave us another smile and wonderment at the resourcefulness of this little bird – so you see **All** really **Are Welcome!**



John Ireland

P.S. I have checked and I can't see anything in the store!!



15-21 May

15th May "Simple Lunch"
21st May Coffee Morning

Look out for notices re soup /bread lunches during that week.

More than £150 has already been raised by Youth Church making Easter cards.

If you are able to shake a bucket and help with Christian Aid collections, please contact us!

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

Colin and Pat



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

May 1st The Houses on Sand & Rock

June 5th Moses in the Bulrushes

Knit 1, Purl 1.....

The Shawl Ministry continues to produce an amazing amount of knitted and crocheted garments and blankets for good causes around Bristol. It also provides an opportunity for some housebound knitters to continue an enjoyable activity, whilst having an outlet for their work.



For those of us who meet monthly on a Thursday it is a social event, with lively chatter, up to date “gossip” and a welcome cup of tea!

Today Pam and I transported a boot full of knitteds to a variety of locations. Our first stop was St. George Nursing home at Air Balloon, where we dropped off some beautiful blankets, which will hopefully be enjoyed by the residents. Our second stop was Southmead Hospital and the NICU unit for Prem. Babies, always a difficult drop because of the very limited parking. (I now rely on accosting a friendly parking warden and explaining the reason for the visit!)

Thirdly we approached The Greenway Centre on Doncaster Road, unfortunately the “Home Start” staff were nowhere to be seen, so we left our bags of little pushchair blankets and young children’s jumpers with a friendly neighbour and the promise to email “Home Start” on our return.

Our last stop was the Dogs’ Home off the Feeder, where we deposited some “in between” blankets for our furry friends.

Everywhere we were greeted with friendliness and thankfulness and we left with a promise to come again in the near future.

This is a very worthwhile ministry which proceeds quietly and steadily, many of the knitters are of an advanced age and living alone, yet their contribution is equally valued as the garment or blanket is made with love and care.

Pam Blackmore

Flower arranging 2016 style!

Day One:

You would think that arranging a few flowers tastefully was a straightforward activity and that all that was involved was buying your bunch of blooms, selecting a vase/container, adding water and Bob's your uncle! It couldn't be further from the reality!

I have just spent at least 2 hours, selecting some greenery, cutting to size about a dozen and a half flowers and the rest, considering from all angles where I should put them for best effect. And to cap it all I felt shattered at the end of it. A fellow "arranger" and myself shared several heart felt sighs, as we struggled with the task in hand, she to make sense of flowers exploding from paint can and detergent bottle, I to tastefully arrange butterflies and a spider! The stamina of our team of church arrangers is fantastic! What am I doing arranging flowers for the festival when I am not part of the aforementioned group? Well Mrs Lewis, in her wisdom, had the bright idea that her Flower arranging group, which meets every month, should use "their talents", to decorate the window ledges. I can assure you that I was not the only one to be considering the enormity of the task we had undertaken, especially when the "Real" people make it look so easy. I can only add that help and praise were available in shed loads and yes I did feel proud of my effort and so did my fellow guinea pigs!

But this is only part 1, the real arranging takes place tomorrow when the real flower arrangers get down to the nitty gritty. They have been planning their moves for months and approach the work load like a well-oiled machine. The theme, the planning, the buying, the oasis soaking, the greenery collecting, all these must take place before the actual arranging can begin. So hopefully they are now all at home (it is 7.54pm) and soon will be in bed ready for Day 2.

Day Two:

The day started relatively bright and early and when I arrived about half eleven, there was an aura of calm and organised activity. Several people were deep in conversation about the two stands on the dais (Something to do with matching I think?? And were they wondering if they had bitten off more than they could chew? It all looks so beautiful when viewed by the visitor, they are completely unaware of the traumas that have ensued in the perfecting of the masterpiece). Pat W was considering perspective in Capability Brown's landscapes; Marian was about to construct a mini garden to compliment her colourful display and Marjory was putting the finishing touches to an arrangement entitled "Leisure". So I promptly sat down to take my ease, all thoughts of preparing lunch gone from my mind!

I made my escape just before 2 o'clock, there was still a lot to be done and many little things to accomplish I envisage a late "afternoon"! However I take with me a thought from Marjory, I think that she encapsulated the whole scenario really well when she said, how much she enjoyed the time spent working together, the comraderie, the helpfulness, the sharing, it's impossible to put a price on something like that.



Day Three

A very busy day! The festival opened at 10am - although the arrangements had been checked much earlier - and whilst the Flower Committee was on hand to advise and explain, coffee (and cakes) were available in the big hall.

The endurance of the committee is to be commended, as by 2pm, with no real lunch break, they were ready to greet visitors again. This time Cream teas were on offer and very nice they were too!

It's good to be a fly on the wall on these occasions, or at least keep an ear to the ground, as the comments were all complimentary, regarding the skill and ideas behind the arrangements.

By 4pm things were winding down as people started to wend their way home and the Flower Committee, looking slightly exhausted but jubilant by now, prepared to fulfil final checks, like water, before heading home, some for well-deserved rests.



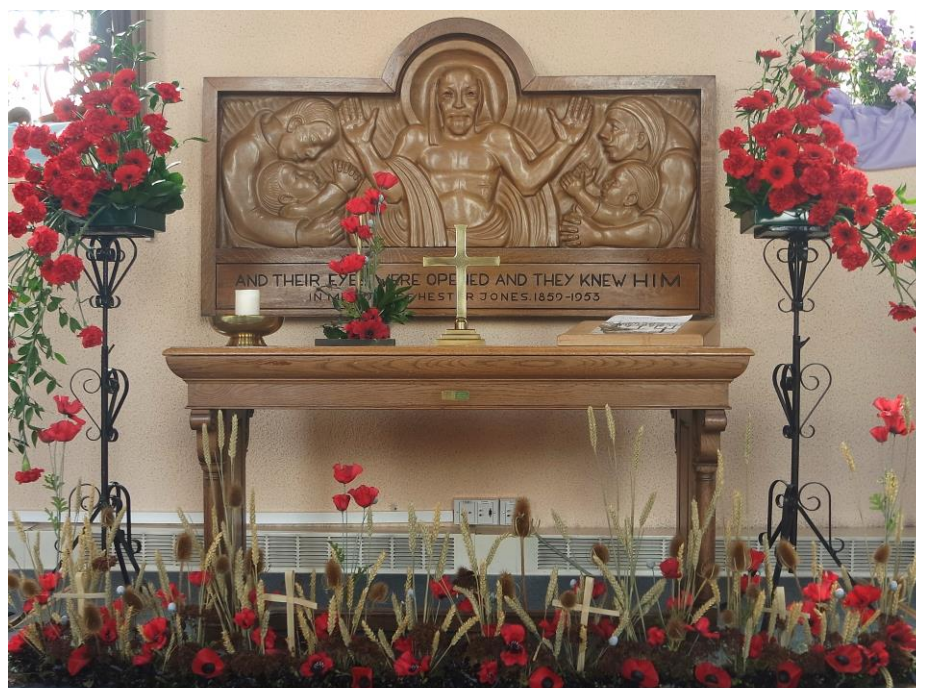
Day Four

The climax of the weekend is the services on Sunday, when worship is conducted amidst the fragrance and glory of the arrangements. Our preachers for the day did not let us down. Morning worship was ably conducted by Gwynneth Dean, and the Youth Church's worship fitted well into the general theme.

Evening worship concentrated on music and poetry and was led by our minister Rev. Barry Bishop. It was refreshing to have sung prayer responses and incorporating the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, several poems and a famous sonnet, "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day".

In conclusion, what can you say after an experience such as we have had over the last few days? "It's the best ever", "We can't beat that", yet they will. Our Flower Committee is really talented, they have honed their skills over the years and have learnt from each other. (I imagine that by tonight they will be well and truly shattered.) They are not a closed shop and are very willing to share their expertise with anyone who takes an interest, they should be justly proud of their efforts, we are - roll on Harvest!!!

Pam Blackmore



And Just to Say...



I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for my lovely Bristol Blue Glass gifts, flowers, photograph cube and cards that I received on leaving Youth Church. It was all very much appreciated. I would like to say that it has been a pleasure to lead the young people on their faith journey over the last ten years. I pray that the seeds sown during this time will help them to a fullness of faith in the years to come.

Joan Brabon-Hibbs

Sale of Drum Kit

Many of you will know that the Church has had a drum kit for several years. Initially it was put to good use but over the past couple of years it has rarely been used. The Church Council recently agreed that it could be disposed of.

I am very pleased to let you know that it has been purchased by Llanelli Community Wind Band. Llanelli has a history of various bands going back to the 1890s, sadly over time they have disbanded leaving a void for those interested in woodwind and brass players who wanted a different experience from a brass band experience.

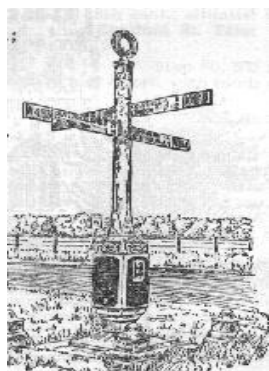
On 2014 a small group started the LCWB, the band rehearse in the Lantern Centre in Hall Street, Llanelli (this is the Methodist Church where Rev Denise Yeadon moved to) and a steady increase in attendees means that the band is now thriving.

The ethos of the group is “placing emphasis on peer learning and using skills of more experienced players, helps support the development and playing experience of others”.

Phil Schingler who leads the band, was delighted with the drums and I am sure they will be put to good use and in so doing help this newly formed band progress. It could be that we arrange a visit in the future!!

John Ireland

Signposts



The only word I can think of at the moment is CONFUSED, the reason being that my Japanese flowering Cherry tree is weeks late this year whilst the daffodils which were very early have mostly gone. A recent Daffodil Fair wasn't a success owing to the shortage of daffodils!

Nature it seems is in a bit of a mix-up. This year a wonderful display of tulips with so much wonderful colour, God's gift of creation. But surely nature is not alone, as shortly we all will be wondering whether to remain in or out of the EU. Again confused as we don't seem to have informed equal debate.

Across the world, others are distressed as thousands of refugees flee from place to place.

As the Pope visits Lesbos to see the individual hardship, we are reminded that Jesus was a refugee, having to flee with Mary and Joseph into Egypt to escape the anger of Herod. A problem splitting the Middle East to Europe.

Meanwhile the cauldron of the Pacific erupts, from an earthquake affecting Japan to South America with a magnitude of 8.9. Having experienced an earthquake of 6.7, it is difficult to imagine the extent of ones of such magnitude.

Who can we trust - politicians, bankers, the clever and the informed or governments of the world?

In God is my Salvation.

*PS 27:1 The LORD is my light and my salvation -
whom shall I fear?*

*The LORD is the stronghold of my life -
of whom shall I be afraid?*

M 28 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

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 Finally,

Are You Really Here God?

Allow an unguarded moment during meditation and the mind just wanders off with a will and determination of its own and you find yourself thinking about something entirely different. Occasionally such moments can bring inspiration but more likely they result in an annoying struggle to redirect your thoughts. When the chapel is open for silent prayer and I experience its calm almost mystical atmosphere, its tangible silence and subdued lighting, I sometimes ask, “Are you really here God?” In the beginning the Christian church preached that the spirit of Christ resided in his followers and not in the temple building, or the god statutes found within.

Perhaps God, far from being an external entity, has been part of my “spiritual being” all along especially when, in meditation, I sometimes feel a soft breeze and a scent of roses - momentarily intense and then suddenly gone - or is this just my imagination?

The “act of faith” of the Christian and that of the atheist is fundamentally no different; it is merely the subject of that faith which differs, namely one believing in God and the other in “no-God”.

The Christian church preaches that to believe in a personal God requires an act of Faith justified by an inner conviction and a sense of a “spiritual guiding presence”. It suggests that in order to personally find and communicate with Jesus we need to understand his nature, context and teaching by reference to the Bible, in prayer and to recognise him in both the Christian and non-Christian. But to take such a step in Faith with some confidence rather than when we are perhaps on an “emotional-high”, required an understanding of the “spiritual dimension” of our very being.

The non-believer rejects that justification for Jesus which is based on the Bible's description of his supernatural birth and resurrection, of being a benevolent father and designer of the Universe, who has now departed leaving it to be largely run by free-will humanity. Even in his rejection the non-believer may exhibit a Christ-like presence in his or her love and compassion for others that is now necessarily diminished by that non-belief.

We all need to consider how our lives are to be lived in Love, Goodness and by opposing Evil rather than debating, inconclusively, the nature and images of God or "no God" and whether humanity will continue to need such a phoneme once society reached a point of economic, scientific and social fulfilment, and the spiritual and emotional aspects of our consciousness have developed into a balanced equilibrium. Such a society would be underpinned by a behaviour code that has developed from all the gods whose teachings were based in Love. This process is happening now even though Evil in every generation has to be neutralised, as humanity continually and unavoidable evolves.

Suddenly in the silence, that is meditation, there is the scent of roses in a soft breeze and in this moment, I am at peace.

Well, so much for my mind wandering off on its own!

ARGI

Rotas

Doors and books:

May	1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th
a.m.	P Webber J Tippett	M Howe N Howe	P Blackmore J Green	M Wilby A Sagar	H. Teague B. Jones
p.m.	Messy Church	T Lansdown A Angell	M Kenway M Kenway	C Haycock R Ireland	B Griffen W Stamford

Jun	5th	12th	19th	26th
a.m.	M Golding R Ticktum	J Angell P Kirby	P Webber J Tippett	M Howe N Howe
p.m.	Messy Church	M Morgan J Morgan	T Lansdown A Angell	M Kenway M Kenway

For Your Diary

- 1st May 10.45am M Etheridge – Holy Communion
4.00pm Messy Church
- 8th May 10.45am Wives Anniversary – Mrs J Clark
6.00pm Mr R Lucas
- 15th May 10.45am B Isherwood
12.00pm Simple Lunch
2.00pm Pentecost Celebration on Hanham Mount
- 21st May 10.00am Christian Aid Coffee Morning
- 22nd May 10.45am J Barnett
6.00pm Rev B Bishop – Food and Fellowship
- 24th May 11.00am Wesley Day service
- 29th May 10.45am Rev B Bishop
6.00pm Mrs V Jackson
- 5th June 10.45am Morning Service
4.00pm Messy Church
- 12th June 10.45am Church Anniversary – Rev H White