

**HANHAM METHODIST
CHURCH MAGAZINE**



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

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EXTRAORDINARY CHURCH MEETING

Sunday 9th April at 3pm at Hanham Methodist Church

Everyone is invited to this meeting to discuss the future
of our Church.

Letter from the Minister

Dear Friends,

It's been a while since my last letter in the magazine, and yet hasn't it flown by?

The birth of Jesus has come and gone in our calendar and we are now in Lent, and looking forward to the greatest festival for all Christians.

I am thinking about the extravagance of Christ's sacrifice; to give everyone a chance of eternal life He made the most lavish gesture that anyone could make, he died in our place, all of us for all time.

There is no greater thing a person can do. This has led me on to thinking about being grateful for being saved from what I deserve. Who would be the one person who would feel the most gratitude for what Christ did?

Can you guess? Who was going to die but didn't?

Yes! Barabbas! He would have died if Pilate hadn't have substituted him with Jesus.

Because of that even he had a chance of being saved, as we all do, it was that one act of selflessness that gives us hope in faith and in our future.

I am going to look forward to sharing our celebrations together, this Easter, thankful that my name isn't Barabbas and that someone else was willing to die for me.

Happy Easter

Barry



WESLEY'S WISDOM



7. Engaging in Christian Fellowship

John Wesley said 'There is no such thing as solitary religion' and this view is reflected in several of his brother's hymns, which it is claimed John would approve before they were published. None more so than in StF 608 reflects the importance of Christian Fellowship.

*He bids us build each other up
And gathered into one
To our high calling's glorious hope
We hand in hand go on.*

And also in StF 620:-

*Didst thou not make us one
That we might one remain
Together travel on
And share our joy and pain.*

The early Methodists met regularly in classes. This began in the New Room in the Horsefair under one Captain Foy who concerned about the cost of upkeep and expansion to the building suggested to Wesley that that the members be divided into groups of twelve with one appointed leader. They would meet weekly and the leader would collect one penny from each member. Wesley took to the idea but developed it by saying that the group should at the same time engage in prayer, bible study and spiritual discussion.

But Wesley took it further He decreed that for those in 'the higher reaches of the faith' they should meet in smaller groups called 'bands' where they were encouraged to bare their soul on the understanding that what was said was completely confidential.

They were expected to respond to such questions as ‘What sins have you committed since we last met?’ and ‘What temptations have you met with?’

Special events were also held such as lovefeasts and Watchnight services.

Going back only 50 years or so ago there was far more evidence of fellowship within Methodism than we find today. I recall, when we were in the Swindon circuit hearing the then Vice-president telling how in the Durham pit village where he grew up he was ‘down the chapel’ every night of the week.

It seems that we have lost the desire or maybe the trust to engage with each other at the deep levels that Wesley encouraged in his day. Perhaps the intensity and depth of such groups would prove too much for us today. But, in my view, it remains true that the Christian cannot maintain the faith alone. The old adage about taking an ember from a fire and seeing it swiftly die remains true. Again a verse from Charles says it all.

*And if our fellowship below
In Jesus be so sweet
What heights of rapture shall we know
When round his throne we meet* (StF 608)

Tim Lansdown

Chairman, Worship Committee

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|| Pancake Party! ||

|| Everyone is invited to our annual Pancake Party time on ||

|| 28th February 6pm-8pm. £2 for two pancakes & a drink, ||

|| with a treasure hunt & a quiz in the lounge. ||

|| ===== ||



Hanham Methodist Church

invites you to discover

THE REAL EASTER STORY

Saturday 15th April
@4pm

Come along, dress up,
join in and have fun!

Hot X buns Egg hunt
Easter biscuits

(hanhammessychurch@gmail.com)

The Real Easter Story: Saturday 15th April @ 4pm

If you enjoyed the Crib Service, why not come along and take part in our Easter story.

We are going to find out about Jesus as He grows up, becomes a great teacher, performs miracles and eventually dies on the cross, before being raised from the dead to join His heavenly Father.

Come along early if you want to dress up and take part in the greatest story ever told, which has changed the lives of millions of people worldwide. **Everyone welcome!**

There will be an egg hunt and afterwards we will have refreshments with Easter biscuits and Hot cross buns.

More information available from: hanhammessychurch@gmail.com

Lent House Groups

During Lent we will be meeting in House Groups to study a course prepared by Richard Lucas entitled "Shadows". We will follow the same theme in our Sunday Morning Worship.

The dates are listed below and all five meetings will be held at No. 4 Martins Close -

- † Thursday March 9th
- † Thursday March 16th
- † Tuesday March 21st
- † Thursday March 30th
- † Wednesday April 5th

All meetings start at 7.30 and finish at 9.00 with tea or coffee

Tim Lansdown

Chairman, Worship Committee

Inferno Youth Group

Moldova Trip 2017 - YWAM

As you may be aware, our older members of Youth Church meet weekly on a Friday and monthly attend a youth event called UNITE. At UNITE a couple of months ago we heard from Youth With A Mission (YWAM) about an incredible opportunity for the young people. This opportunity was for young people to go to a location abroad to do mission work. The young people felt enthused by this and asked if it would be possible. Over the past three months Rev. Chris Spencer and I have been working to make this possible.



The young people have chosen Moldova as the location they wish to do their outreach work and the opportunities there are rife. We will work closely with established missionaries to support outreach work already in place and hopefully provide fresh ideas for further outreach. The trip itself lasts 17 days. We spend five days at the Harpenden YWAM Centre training in outreach work and working with our team, we then spend ten days in Moldova doing outreach, then a further two days back at the Harpenden Centre to share our experiences.

Whilst in Moldova we will mainly be organising events for young people, providing care packages for the homeless and working with single mothers, whilst also going into local villages and experiencing Moldovan worship. We also have one day where we will be going over the border into Romania to see the beautiful countryside and do a bit of souvenir shopping!

The young people and I are extremely excited about this amazing opportunity. However, of course, there is a cost. We need to raise £4000 to hit our target for this trip. £2000 of that we need to raise ASAP so that we can book flights at their cheapest price.

That is where you all come in. We need your help!

We will be fundraising from now until July when we leave for the trip. We have lots of events in the pipeline and will let you know more details as they happen. Until then, please continue to support us and pray that God will help us.

Many thanks,

Natalie Everson

Youth Church Leader



Holy Habits

Throughout the history of the Church, Christians have grappled with how to live out the Good News of Jesus that the Kingdom of God is both here and yet to come. Paul's response was the concept of 'koinonia' (Christian fellowship or communion, with God or, more commonly, with fellow Christians), while John Wesley spoke of 'social holiness'. What Paul, and Wesley after him, wanted of the followers of Jesus was for us to proclaim the Good News by living "on earth as if in heaven." In other words, every act of love, justice and peace is a taste of how God's world is to be.

From Pentecost 2017 each church is encouraged to engage in "***Holy Habits***", this is not another church programme, but a journey of deepening our discipleship based around the Christian year. At the end of Acts Chapter 2 – vs 42 – 47, we see a passage entitled "The Fellowship of Believers" which talks about the early church and the way it went about living out its ministry. The first three words of Acts Chapter 2:42-47 are "*They devoted themselves...*".

This has been summarised by Rev Andrew Roberts in his book of the same name as the ***10 Holy Habits***.

These are...

Eating Together

Making More Disciples

Breaking of Bread

Fellowship

Biblical Teaching

Prayer

Gladness and Generosity

Service

Worship

Sharing Resources

The most important thing about ***Holy Habits*** is that it challenges the culture of a church by helping us as individuals to think through the ‘habits’ we cultivate in our own lives as well as in our lives as part of a local church community

The ***Holy Habits*** journey will take two years, approximately one Habit per 8-10 weeks.

Those leading worship will take up the themes and the hope is that each church will engage with every habit through its meetings and study groups.

GL

(Adapted from Circuit Bulletin January 2017)



”Open the Book” in Local Primary Schools

“Open the Book” has a vision to bring the Bible to life for every child in every Primary School, and is now active in over 2,000 schools. Teams of volunteers from local Churches across the country use drama, mime, props, costume - and the children to present Bible stories in lively and informative ways in assemblies.

Members from this Church have been part of a team for the past 2+ years that visit Hanham Abbots and Samuel White’s once a fortnight. We are made extremely welcome. The Headmaster is usually present and is very good at our conclusion, on picking up on our message and reinforcing it with the children. We count it a privilege to be allowed to share this vital work.

Bible Society, which oversees this work, informs us that more Head Teachers are requesting teams to visit their Schools. If you feel able to volunteer, then more teams can be formed to visit additional Schools in the area.

We are hoping to share more of this work with you during worship later in the year.

Please pray that this outreach continues to grow so that more children across the U.K. will have the opportunity to hear Stories from the Bible.

Anna, Vron and Rosemary

Coffee at Eastwood Park

You may remember reading in the last magazine that I was hoping to arrange a coffee morning at the Prison. I now have a date, although not until the summer - it was difficult to find a time agreeable to both parties, however it is Wednesday June 14th. It will mean an early start as we need to be at the gates for 9am and you will need a pictorial proof of identity, like a passport or driving licence or bus pass, however we shall learn about prison life and activities available to the ladies.

A little nearer the time I will ask for names, perhaps you can think about it and ask me any questions if you would like to come but are a little apprehensive.

Pam B (Mission)





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

TLC in Hanham.

TLC is now held at Hanham Library on the last Tuesday of each month, from 1pm to 3pm.

Looking Ahead...

Christian Aid Week: 14th to 20th May

14th May - Simple Lunch at 12.15pm

20th May - Coffee Morning

Help will be needed please for collecting on the High Street and for soup and bread lunches during the week. If you can help please contact Pat Saunders.

Retreat Day: October

The Retreat Day this year will be held on Saturday 14th October. Further information and venue to follow.

Happiness and Contentment

Elusive moments of joy may be sought-after and sometimes occur unexpectedly. Contentment is a more durable form of happiness and if in evidence after honest self-reflection is a privilege conscientiously earned.

But according to Henry Drummond, we often seek it in the wrong places, to quote: "in the pursuit of happiness half the world is on the wrong scent. They think it consists of having and getting and in being served by others..."

We can of course experience happiness without it necessarily being a by-product of first serving others. Happiness can be legitimately derived from nature, personal achievement and second hand from the achievements of others. We experience the emotions of wonder and joy when confronted with a golden sunset or the beauty of a cherry tree in full blossom. And also when we create something of artistic merit like moulding a piece of sculpture, decorating a wedding cake, or sublimely playing a musical instrument - it is then that we feel happiness that is especially intense where our creative capability has been extended.

Achievement and happiness may not always materialise even when it is earnestly sought-after, for example when in our imagination that beautiful vase suddenly collapses in our hands on the potter's wheel.

Clearly there are differing intensities of happiness depending on its source and context. To quote Georges Bernanos: "To be able to find joy in another's joy, that is the secret of happiness".

Parke Godwin believes that "The soul that perpetually overflows with kindness and sympathy will always be cheerful".

These two quotations are founded on one principle, namely that joy, contentment and happiness may be experienced when we continue to help, comfort and rejoice with others. Such action may require considerable commitment and sometimes sacrifice. But can such sacrifice really result in self-happiness in the midst of our own need and hardship? And our hardship may not be alleviated by such action - indeed it may become worse.

But from a spiritual viewpoint it is possible to trust that our needs will be met even as we give what little we possess to others in greater need. Such actions amounts to a reversal of the common (but inaccurate) understanding of the saying "charity begins at home". To act in this manner is to live rather dangerously and yet it is possible to unexpectedly experience both the love and peace that we associate with contentment even in the midst of our own hardship.

In this respect the Christian believes that an awareness of God's presence can help us to embrace both the "ups and downs" of life; this awareness is a privilege.

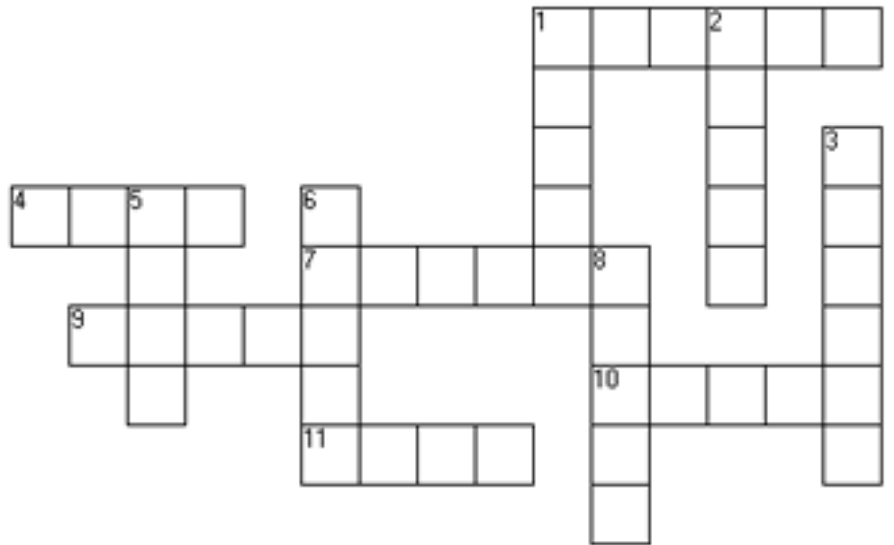
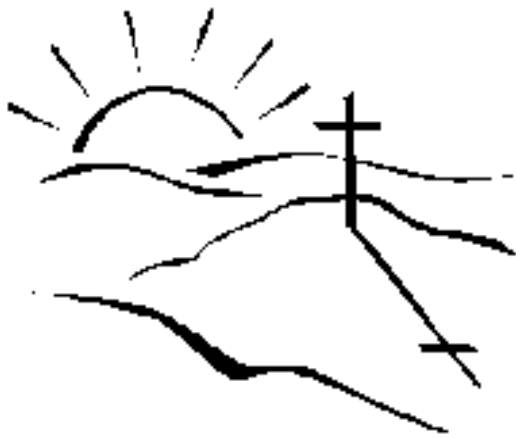
To quote Dorothy Thompson: "And only when we are no longer afraid do we begin to live in every experience, painful or joyous; to live in gratitude for every moment, to live abundantly".

ARGI

*That's contentment—
knowing and believing that
God will provide all you need,
no matter what.*

FIND AS MANY EASTER WORDS AS YOU CAN!!

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



ACROSS

1. The guards were _____ when they saw the empty tomb.
4. A place where the dead body of a human being is deposited; a grave; a sepulcher.
7. The day we celebrate the resurrection is called _____.
9. Jesus was crucified on the _____.
10. When the women came to the tomb, the _____ had been rolled away.
11. The angel's clothes were as white as _____.

DOWN

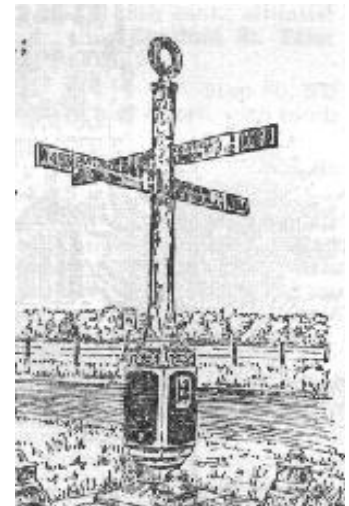
1. Opposite of dead.
2. The tomb was opened by an _____.
3. The angel came down from _____.
5. The name of the two women who came to the tomb.
6. The Savior of the world.
8. "He is not here. He has _____ as he said."

Signposts

Only a couple of months ago wondering what 2017 would bring and after a period of stability new powers in America, North Korea, in the inter continental nuclear race, Putin saying “Prepare for war”. In the UK the Health Service in problems. Home Care lacking financial support. In our local street three houses changing hands and two families with severe health problems. The Church of England in discussion, yet again, over the ‘marriage’ of ‘gay’ people in a Church. On a happier note the days are getting lighter. Daffodils begin along with snowdrops to poke their way to the light. Jesus came as a light in the darkness, a light which cannot be put out. Again the words of Romans 8 remind us that nothing separates us from the love of God.

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any power neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

ACW



And Finally...a thank you from DEC

Mr T Landsdown
Hanham Methodist Church
Chapel Road
Hanham
BS15 8SD

Your DEC Contact Number: DECTQ4461092

~~£134.00 on 9th January 2017~~

Dear Mr Landsdown,

On behalf of everyone affected by the devastating humanitarian crisis in Yemen, we wanted to say Thank You to the congregation of Hanham Methodist Church.

In the midst of conflict, DEC member charities are reaching millions of people across the country with lifesaving aid. While so much more needs to be done, now because of your generosity, we will be able to reach out to those affected and provide much needed vital aid and support.

DEC members have been working in Yemen for decades and will continue to work with people to rebuild lives and restore incomes for years to come. This includes providing clean water, repairing water systems and sharing hygiene information to help prevent the risk of cholera. All of this is made possible because of your support.

Once again, Thank You

Yours sincerely,

Rachael Bramwell

DEC Supporter Care



Disasters Emergency Committee
Ground Floor, 43 Chalton Street
London NW1 1DU

T +44 (0) 20 7387 0200

F +44 (0) 20 7387 2050

E support@dec.org.uk

dec.org.uk

Rotas

Doors and books:

Mar	5 th	12 th	19 th	26 th
a.m.	K Cowie I Cowie	M Golding D Davies	P Kirby J Angell	P Blackmore J Green
p.m.	Messy Church	B Griffen W Stamford	M Morgan J Morgan	T Lansdown A Angell

Apr	2 nd	9 th	16 th	23 rd	30 th
a.m.	M Wilby M Sagar	M Golding J Angell	H. Teague B. Jones	P Webber J Tippet	K Cowie I Cowie
p.m.	Messy Church	M Kenway M Kenway	C Haycock R Ireland	B Griffen W Stamford	M Morgan J Morgan

Flowers:

Mar	5 th	12 th	19 th	26 th
Church	Flower Committee	Bill Frost	Marjorie Brooks	Free
War Memorial		Pat Saunders		Rosemary Ireland

Apr	2 nd	9 th	16 th	23 rd	30 th
Church	Richard Needs	Audrey Dayer	Easter	Edna Needs' daughter	Hilary Lansdown
War Memorial					Free

For Your Diary

- 5th Mar 4.00pm *Messy Church*
- 9th Mar 7.30pm *Lent House Group*
- 11th Mar 9.30am *Prayer Meeting*
- 16th Mar 2.30pm *Service at "The Beeches"*
7.30pm *Lent House Group*
- 21st Mar 7.30pm *Lent House Group*
- 25th Mar 9.30am *Prayer Meeting*
- 28th Mar 1.00pm *TLC at Hanham Library*
- 30th Mar 7.30pm *Lent House Group*
- 2nd Apr 4.00pm *Messy Church*
- 5th Apr 7.30pm *Lent House Group*
- 8th Apr 9.30am *Prayer Meeting*
- 10th Mar 7.30pm *Meditation*
- 11th Apr 7.30pm *"Shadows" a meditation in words and music*
- 12th Apr 7.30pm *Compline Service*
- 13th Apr 7.30pm *Maundy Communion Service*
- 14th Apr 9.45 am *Good Friday Service followed by walk of witness*
- 15th Apr 4.00pm *The Real Easter Story*
- 16th Apr 8.00am *Early Morning Easter Communion*
10.45am *All Age Worship*
- 20th Apr 2.30pm *Service at "The Beeches"*
- 22nd Apr 9.30am *Prayer Meeting*
- 25th Apr 1.00pm *TLC at Hanham Library*