

Hamham Methodist Church Magazine

July / August 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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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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WESLEY'S WISDOM

3. Fasting

Unlike our first two 'Methodist Habits', prayer and Bible Study, and the fourth one hymn singing, fasting doesn't sit so easily with 21st century Methodists. If we consider

fasting at all (for spiritual reasons rather than for weight control) then it only comes to the fore when Lent appears on the calendar. And then it rarely goes further than giving up a luxury such as chocolate.

But John and Charles Wesley would fast every Wednesday and Friday, although in later years due to frailty they reduced it to just Fridays. Wesley saw fasting as a time of deep penitence. He writes "a time of devout mourning, of godly sorrow for sin.....laying open before Him all our needs our guiltiness and helplessness".

In the Methodist Recorder recently a lady, new to Methodism, described how this year she decide to give up something for Lent that would really hurt her. I was particularly drawn to her article because she chose to give up coffee as, like me, she is a coffee addict. (For readers who are not coffee addicts please substitute the word tea). I find it difficult even to imagine giving up coffee for a day yet alone six weeks.

I, perhaps, would try to wriggle out of it by going to scripture and quoting from Isaiah 58. Here the prophet suggests undertaking positive action rather than what could be seen as a negative sacrifice. 'Is the fast I require a day of mortification, that a person should use sackcloth and ashes. No the fast I choose is to loose the bonds of injustice.....to share your bread with the hungry... never evading a duty to you kinsfolk'.

I am sure that there is room for both fasting and good works. In our society where many of us have so many material blessings, to go without occasionally would remind us of the truly valuable things of life. At the same time to share our good fortune with those less fortunate will bring blessings to both the giver and receiver.

Tim Lansdown

Chairman, Worship Committee

East Bristol Cluster News

Unity Oldland are holding a series of fund raising events:



2nd July at 7.30pm - 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

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

Transformation at HMC!

It's been a busy few months at HMC, with the redevelopment of the entrance foyer and lounge – newly decorated and with new flooring laid. Still work to do, but what a difference!



How the Hanham/Kingswood area was reformed during the C18th & C19th by the Religious Revival and what it says to us today

At this moment in time the continuation of Youth Church and the religious education of our young people, is in the forefront of our thinking. As we celebrate the work of Joan Braban Hibbs, we should not forget how over the years, many hundreds of children and young people have been influenced by people such as Joan, who gave up their time, originally on Sunday afternoons but then latterly on Sunday mornings, in their endeavour to pass on our Christian heritage and traditions but most of all the love of Jesus for everyone.

It got me thinking about how our lives here in the C21st are intricately entwined with the past centuries and how our Methodist heritage has played such an important part in the transformation of this area into what it is today.

During the latter part of the C18th, what was then the large parish of Bitton (Hanham with Hanham Abbots and much of Cock Road, Warmley and Kingswood) was an area populated by illiterate coalminers and ruffians, who were always on the wrong side of the law.

In the early C18th the exploits of the so-called “Cock Road” gang, drew itself to the attention of the authorities in Bristol, Gloucestershire and Somerset. It was claimed that no other gang in England could match the notoriety of this group. They engaged in burglary, horse stealing and highway robbery, so that many of the members ended up imprisoned, transported or even executed. They were so renowned that a structured payment racket was set up,

which so say afforded the gentry protection. Payment was based on the size of the estate.

In 1786, two of the gang, Joseph Fry and Samuel Ward were executed for robbery, the crimes however continued to increase, including coin counterfeiting. The gang was said to have been led by members of the Caines family, who liked to frequent the Blue Bowl Inn at Hanham. When one member of the gang, Isaac Crib was apprehended and put in the Lock Up at Bitton, the gang tried to free him.

It took the full force of the authorities of Bristol, Gloucestershire and Somerset and the undermining of a way of life, to eventually stop the gang!

The Rev Ellacombe, vicar of Bitton, recalled holding a funeral service for Benjamin Caines after his execution, although twelve other members of his family had been deported, imprisoned or executed.

Meanwhile at the other end of Hanham, in the Jefferies Hill Bottom area, things were little better, it too was an area of lawlessness, where few respectable folk ventured. There was no Church to save the souls or for that matter look after the bodies of these people, the chapel at ease for Bitton was at St Georges, Hanham Court, or there was a small Baptist Chapel on the main street through Hanham. What influence could they have? Very little it seemed. So what happened to turn these two areas around?

To the north in the hamlet of Cock Road efforts were made to improve the education of the people by various societies, including The Bristol Methodist Sunday School Society. It built a house in the Cock Road in 1813, this in turn acted as a school. The religious

education was particularly important in turning around the inhabitants from having a reputation of being lawless ruffians to becoming law abiding citizens, for it was said, "That when the Kingswood miners came to Bristol, even the army hid!" We know that John Wesley had preached several times on the "Mount" during the C18th and had also founded a school for the sons of the coalminers at Kingswood.

In the Jefferies Hill area, a "Tent Methodist" Church was established - a forerunner of our present Church - and in 1843 Christchurch was founded, one of the many Anglican plants during the reign of Victoria, in the expanding suburbs of Bristol.

By the 1840's crime was so low that the inhabitants petitioned against a tax for a rural police force and by the end of the C19th, the same people were described in Braine's "History of the Kingswood Forest", "as poor but contented to have steady perseverance and plodding industrious pursuits"

So what has this to do with the youth of today? Well during the C20th the Sunday school movement thrived and expanded beyond all imaginings. The two Methodist Churches (High Street and Ebenezer) supported a full complement of Beginner/Primary/Senior and Young people's groups, all well-staffed and organised. I believe that this was also true of the other denominations. The 50's 60's and 70's saw the heyday of the Youth work in Hanham with the amalgamation of the two Methodist Churches, combining a very healthy Sunday school and youth groups; since then there has been a steady decline.

But are we prepared to let this important work die? The answer should be NO. It is true that in many respects we lack the

“Manpower” to move forward but perhaps we can find other ways. It has forever been the case that, “the task is great and the workers are few”. I don’t have the answer but my plea is that we really try to do something now, not next year, as then the task will be even greater. Grasp the nettle, work with what we’ve got, continue to do what we do well and pray for insight, which enables us to move forward and not look back. The past has made us what we are, now we must forge the future!

Pam Blackmore

A LIKELY TALE

A strong man in a circus took an orange in one hand and with one motion squeezed the juice from the orange so that there couldn’t be a drop of juice remaining in the mass of pulp. He then challenged anyone in the audience to come forward and extract further juice from the remains of the fruit

After a long pause a small pale looking man of advancing years stepped into the ring. He took the orange, squeezed the pulp and eventually produced a further three drops of juice. The strong man was amazed and asked how he did it. “Easy” said the little man “I’ve been a church treasurer for the last 30 years”

TJL (with feeling)





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

July 3rd then September 2nd

Take your **Messy team** to the next level

GROWING MESSY LEADERS



CPAS team up with the Messy Church Team for a hands-on training day on the practicalities of leading and developing your Messy Church team.

St Christopher's Church, Hampstead Rd, Bristol BS4 3HN

Go to <http://www.bristol.anglican.org/2016/messy-church-leaders/> for bookings

£10 for adults
Book 5 places pay for 4!
9-16s also go free!

26.11.2016 10 am
4 pm



Diocese of Bristol

Come as a team! Bring your leaders young and old!

An inspirational and fun all-age training day

JMA...

† Please return all JMA and Home Mission boxes to Janet Morgan by the end of July for emptying. Thank You

Signposts



This is written before the result of the EU Referendum has been declared.

So many people at this time are struggling with loss of loved ones or the strain of severe illness.

The result of the Referendum is important for the country but can seem secondary to many in their situation especially as the decision of which way to go has been confused by cover ups and misinformation. The violent outbursts by senior politicians has bred mistrust and hatred.

Sadly this has contributed to the death of a loved and hardworking MP and tragedy to her family.

Whatever the result a lot of political soul searching should take place and greater thought given to the consequences of the spoken word.

The only trust I can find is through the guidance of God in Jesus Christ who brought love and gave salvation and showed how to give. How do we respond to Jesus in our lives?

I can only conclude as last year:

Jesus came as the Good Shepherd giving abundant life John 10. V 10. *I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

ACW

A Word of Thanks:



Dear Tim and all at Hanham Methodist Church

Thank you so much for your Good Friday offering donation of £85 to the work of the Bristol Methodist Centre. Thank you too for your ongoing support and prayers for the work. It is greatly appreciated.

We have now been in our new centre for 6 months. Hard to believe at times, in many ways it feels as though we have been here forever. Staff and guests have settled well.

With the sunny days of early May we have been able to get out and work in the garden. It has now all been dug up and is ready to put the lawn down and begin planting flowers, herbs and vegetables. The centre guests are enjoying seeing the daily changes in the garden with some getting involved with the work. A great encouragement to the staff.

With our best wishes, and thanks.


A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elaine".

Revd. Elaine Brightwell
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The **Methodist Church** 

SEEKING GOD – ARE YOU REALLY HERE?

The following meanderings include an imaginary discussion with God: I am glad to have finished praying for those in ill-health, displaced by war and famine, for the Church and for my family, since these prayers can be a bit of a daily grind to which God rarely seems to respond.

Now there is SILENCE.

In the SILENCE I finally ask “Are you here God?” – but the silence is unbroken and my mind begins to wander as it often does:-
God, sometimes I look but fail to find you – so where are you and where do you go on these occasions? And when I am not consciously looking for you, suddenly there you are – perhaps only a glimpse.

I wonder if you find it difficult to contact me God.

Maybe there are times when you seek me only to find that I am elsewhere, preoccupied, and perhaps over-stressed by daily life.

Sometimes I think I glimpse you in another person only to find that person is also looking for you and then I want to find you for both of us!

Sometimes a young child dies of an incurable disease, or is crippled for life or a convicted child molester is released from prison and I wonder if and how you relate to such circumstances and how I should respond to them. **Why does it seem so difficult God?** What with one doubt and another, I don't really understand very much.

In the SILENCE I begin to presume how God might respond:-

You are right to ask these things since it is within your nature to question the parameters of your existence but surely, by now, you know where and who I am!

I am nowhere and everywhere, within you and beyond and I move like the sweet scent of a rose that passes unseen on the breeze.

I reside at the core of your being and yet seemingly, remain beyond your comprehension otherwise I will cease to have meaning for you in much the same way as your early images of me gradually lost their significance to be replaced by others or by none.

Remember how in past ages, you thought of me as, for example a Sun and Fertility Goddess and then in the 4th Century the Christian Church developed a triangular image which linked me with Jesus of Nazareth and the Holy Spirit – but I am none and yet all of these images. For I reside within you on your terms and circumstances in order that your “spiritual being” may grow and be fulfilled in Love.

Although your maturity has grown, many of you still require a demonstration of my existence within a framework of those early

Church doctrines learned in Sunday school. Today many consider those traditional images of me to be irrelevant to their lives and others have formed a more radical understanding of me.

Whatever may be your image of me, this is where I can be found and what I do when:-

+ the child dies *to live again beyond your experience of life and through their sorrow, love and memory I share the bereavement of the relatives and friends, for what else can I do and where else can I be and I am present in those who offer comfort and support.*

+ the crippled child *needs courage to bear its physical and mental handicap as do its relatives in order that new opportunities might be found and encompassed – what else can I do and where else can I be and I am present in those who offer comfort and support.*

+ the released criminal *has completed the punishment required by Caesar. It is by working through the evil of the act towards a genuine feeling of regret and then repentance that forgiveness can be experienced if hatred is to be overcome – for what else can happen and what else can I do and I am present in those who offer comfort, support and forgiveness.*

There is much for you to understand and if, as yet you are unable to comprehend Jesus' spiritual resurrection following his death on the cross, then you may experience only sadness, anguish and dismay at the death of a child and anger at the release of a criminal. *The recognition of repentance and the ability to forgive come from the power to express my Love and Compassion as demonstrated in the life of Jesus. But take heart – my Peace and Understanding will be yours even as you are overwhelmed and then restored to life in the service of others in my Love. Do not concern yourself with my differing images because you will become a reliable image of me as you recognise that my Love resides at the very core of your being and you are free to respond accordingly and then others will begin to recognise me in you!*

God senses my intellectual weariness...SILENCE returns and then, for the moment I am comforted...I arise and continue with the rest of my life.

ARGI

Puzzle Pages!

Can you find these words to put you in the mood for Summer? And maybe a few more bonus words too...

- SUMMER
- FLOWERS
- SUNSHINE
- BEACH
- SEA
- SUNCREAM
- OLYMPICS
- BARBECUE
- HOLIDAY
- BUMBLEBEE
- PICNIC
- SANDCASTLE
- FLIPFLOPS
- WIMBLEDON
- STRAWBERRIES
- ICECREAM

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

Summer Sudoku

Every row, column and mini-grid must contain the letters B U C K E T.
Don't guess - use logic



	T			K	
	U	K	B	C	
T					U
K					C
	B	E	C	T	
	K			U	

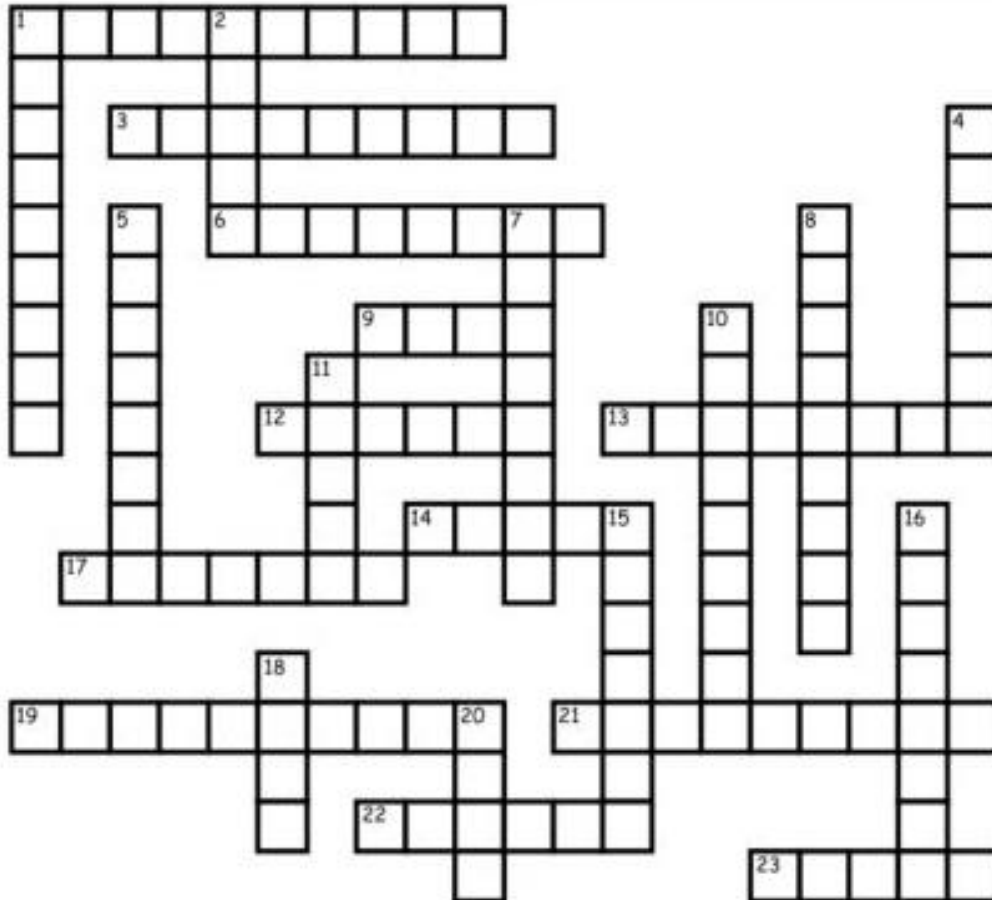


Crossword: Summer Fun at the Beach



Word Bank

seashells	sand	sandcastle	ocean	kite	sunburn	sunscreen	umbrella
pail	seagull	crabs	blanket	flipflops	lemonade	suntan	clams
boardwalk	towel	souvenir	surfboard	sailboat	sunglasses	cooler	icecream

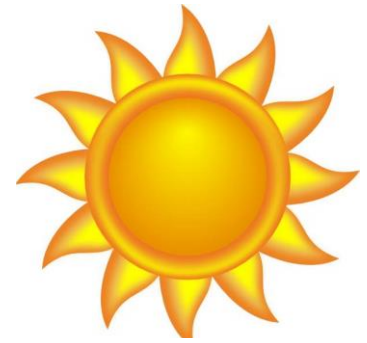


Across

- something you build at the beach
- wood walkway with rides, games, shops and food
- something you buy to remember your trip
- a flying toy that's fun to use at the beach
- place to keep food and drinks cold
- something that floats that uses the wind's power
- small sea creatures with pincher claws
- a type of bird seen at the beach
- worn to protect eyes from the sun's glare
- a lotion that protects your skin from the sun
- you get this by laying in the sun
- salty water with waves

Down

- pretty things you find on the beach
- sea creature, has shell, find by digging for them
- a cloth you can lay on at the beach
- a cool drink for a hot day at the beach
- frozen treat, eat before it melts!
- large object used to ride the waves
- beach shoes
- dries you when you come out of the water
- what you get if you stay in the sun too long
- makes shade for you at the beach
- another name for a bucket
- very tiny tan grains of rocks on the beach



A Summer Blessing

May our loving God
watch over you
and keep alive in your heart
all that you have learned this year.

Keep your mind on God.
Remember to pray often
and to celebrate your faith,
at home with your family,
and at Mass with your faith family.

Keep your faith in God.
Let all the joys of summer
remind you of God's goodness.
Never forget that God
is always with you, no matter what.

May the God of all creation,
who comes to us in Jesus,
and lives among us in the Holy Spirit,
keep you safe, happy, and holy
this summer and always.

Amen.

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Rotas

Doors and books:

July	3rd	10th	17th	24th
a.m.	P Blackmore J Green	M Brooks M Sagar	H. Teague B. Jones	M Golding J Angell
p.m.	Messy Church	C Haycock R Ireland	B Griffen W Stamford	M Morgan J Morgan

Aug	7th	14th	21st	28th
a.m.	M Howe N Howe	P Kirby J Angell	P Blackmore J Green	M Wilby A Sagar
p.m.	M Kenway M Kenway	C Haycock R Ireland	B Griffen W Stamford	M Morgan J Morgan

Flowers:

July	3rd	10th	17th	24th	31st
Church	Barry Churchill	Beryl Stapleton	Glen Lewis	Janet Morgan	Des Davies
War Memorial	Free	Beryl Stapleton	Glen Lewis	Pat Webber	Free

Aug	7th	14th	21st	28th
Church	Andre Wheatley	Ann Houlden	Pauline Sampson	Anna Bakker
War Memorial	Binnie White	Ann Houlden	Pat Webber	Free

Special Dates for Your Diary

3 rd July	10.45am	Service with Youth Church
	4.00pm	Messy Church
10 th July	6.00pm	Y's Men's Annual Service
17 th July	4.00pm	Open air service on Hanham Mount led by Rev David Alderman (at HMC if wet)
31 st July	6.00pm	Taster Service @ Potterswood - New hymns from Singing the Faith
14 th Aug	4.00pm	Visit of Ystrad Mynach for tea followed by worship led by Rev Hilary Cooke
28 th Aug	10.45am	David Speirs - Baptism
22 nd Oct		Retreat Day (more information to follow)
5 th Nov		Day of Prayer (more information to follow)

*Full Calendar details can be found on our website
<http://www.hanhammethodist.org.uk/>*