

Hanham Methodist Church

Magazine 

November / December 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

Wow! Doesn't time fly when you are having fun?

Its mid-October and I seem to have been here forever. And aren't people good? You will know, my wife Anne is not very well just now; everyone has been so kind to us. The love and the care that has been shown to us tells me a lot about who you are and how much you care for the good people of Hanham.

The witness this has been is just what we are asked to be in our scriptures; in Philippians Paul tells us to live a life worthy of the Gospel.

I don't know about you but for me it's time to think about Christmas, not presents but preparations. Firstly I need to get myself ready and afterwards prepare services and other festivities so that when the time comes, or should I say when He comes, I will be ready and with your help the church will be ready to greet the baby that we know grew to save us all.

So take the time in Advent to prepare yourselves and Christmas will be all the more wondrous and marvellous.

God Bless

*Barry*



## From 'The prophet' to the Prophet of Methodism

For the last nineteen editions of the magazine I have been taking a chapter from a book entitled 'The Prophet' by Kahlil Gibran, quoting a few verses on it and then following it with comments which I hoped would contemporise his thoughts. I have covered a large majority of the chapters but, alas, the remaining few don't stimulate any inspiration for me. So we can close that particular book.

Earlier this year as a steward at the New Room I attended a training course where thanks to the warden, Gary Best, we received an exhaustive summary of early Methodism. The course covered an overview of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the lives of the Wesleys and Whitfield and the forming of societies, particularly, in our case, within Bristol, which with London and Newcastle-on-Tyne formed the three basic centres of John Wesley's operations.

The word 'Methodist' was first used as a nickname for Wesley and friends of like mind who formed a 'Holy Club' at Oxford. Whilst other undergraduates were carousing, this group spent time in prayer, Bible study and good works in the community including visiting the prisons. They were methodical in their pattern of work and behaviour, thus the appellation.

Wesley carried this attitude all through his long life. He seemed to like to make lists, as some of us do today. One of these was a list he called 'The Top Ten Methodist habits'. So, over the coming months we will look at these to see what Wesley said and then reflect on what it means for 21st century Methodists

*Tim Lansdown*

# ADVENT HOUSE GROUPS

Once again we will be using the excellent York Course material for our House Groups during Advent. This year the course is entitled 'Making Room', which is in four sessions on 'Making room for the newcomer, for the stranger, for what really matters and for God.'

The format is slightly different from the Lent courses but it is still based on a conversation on a CD with a booklet that makes suggestions for discussion. David Gamble an ex-President of Conference is the author and contributor.

Each meeting will start at 7.30 p.m. and finish with tea or coffee at 9.00 p.m. The venues will be advised in due course.

The dates are as follows: -

- † Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November
- † Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December
- † Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December
- † Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December

Please let either Rosemary or myself know if you are able to come and put the dates in your diaries

*Tim Lansdown*

Chairman Worship Committee



**Mission Committee** would like to invite you to the following:

**22nd November** - Mission Sunday with a Simple Lunch in aid of Home & Overseas Missions.

**5th December** - Coffee Morning

**Sunday 6th December (am)** - Gift Day. As on previous occasions, we shall be looking for gifts for "Home Start" (gifts & toys for children 0-5 years, gifts for families, biscuits, chocolate, gifts for mums), also blankets & towels for Midland Road and warm hats & scarves for Julian Trust & the Salvation Army.

**Sunday 13th December 4pm** - Christmas Tea, for Christian Aid

**Friday 1st January 2016** - Meditation

A Christmas Card Tree will also be in the vestibule of the church during December; if you would like to send greetings & make a donation to our charities we shall be delighted.



**Chapel Coffee**  
Church, but not as you know it!

Relaxed and informal  
All welcome!

Chapel Coffee Shop Cafe  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November from 5pm till 7pm  
at 103 Bath Road, Longwell Green, BS30 6EF

Tel: 07776 024081 for more details



## Harvest Celebrations 2015

Back in early August I was a little concerned about Harvest celebrations this year; the date had of necessity been forwarded by one week and at this late stage many people had arranged holidays so that it looked as if help would be in short supply. At one point it seemed that Hilary & I might be the only two!

I suppose the words are “Have faith”. A completely new team got together to produce an amazing Harvest lunch (this is not just me, many people have been kind enough to say how much they enjoyed it), we tried several new ideas, which worked, had a stalwart group of clearers up and left the church tired but happy.

I would ask that if we are all to enjoy an occasion such as this in the future, it does need the date put into the diaries well in advance.

Pam B



Is it possible to run out of superlatives when describing the work of the Flower Committee? Probably not, this time their efforts were as tasteful to the eye and as sporting in ingenuity as always.

The theme this year was “Rustic”? There were many earthen ware pots but they were arranged in clever ways, allowing the eye to range around the church and take in one colourful display after another. In some ways the ideas were quite simple but this does not take away any of the hard work involved to achieve the overall outcome.



I marvel at the skills displayed by an augmented team this year (the Flower Arranging Group, ably led by Glen were responsible for the window sills), it almost seemed sacrilege to distribute the flowers on Sunday evening, although I'm sure they were much appreciated by their recipients.

In the Thursday and Friday muddle of greenery, flowers and artefacts it must often appear that it will never come together yet as Pat the Cleaner stated as she leant on her broom doing the final tidying, "It always seems to fit into place!"

Can I also take this opportunity to thank Richard for all his efforts during the Harvest services, playing during the morning Parade, arranging the evening service and taking the time to practise an embryonic choir with such patience.

Pam B





# CHURCH FAIR

10.00am -

*Merry Church Activities*

## Father Christmas

**Many stalls  
including  
recycled  
gifts, and  
face  
painting!**



*Tea & Coffee  
in the Lounge*

**Gift stall**



# 28th NOVEMBER

12.30pm

*Lucky Programme*



**Raffle &  
Quiz**

*Country Fare*



**Bottle  
Stall**



*Lunch*

## **Christmas Fair Saturday 28th November**

Our Annual Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday 28th November opening at 10.00am and closing at 12.30pm.

As well as your time we once again ask for your generous gifts of cakes (for the Country fare and two refreshment outlets), recycled gifts (those thing you have that are in good condition but you don't really want but no bric-a-brac please), pickles and jams, toiletries etc. We cannot accept mains electrical goods.

Stall holders will be contacted. We are also pleased to have people on the day available as cover to help. We will be setting up the stalls at 2.00pm on Friday 27th November when you can bring your donations. We would welcome help setting up as well as dismantling once it is finished. Do come along and enjoy the occasion. You can also meet Father Christmas!

*EVCOG*

## **Y's Men's Club of Hanham – Quiz Night!**

The Y's Men's Club of Hanham will be holding their annual quiz night on **Saturday 7th November**. Come and join us for the usual fun and amazing prizes. Tickets are £7, which includes supper.



## Wives Group Update

The Wives Group started back in the Church in September when we had a talk from Gary Bressington telling us all about the work of the RNLI. This is the Group's chosen Charity for 2015/16.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> September we held our AGM ably chaired by John Liddiard once again.

The 30<sup>th</sup> September was our Harvest Service and produce sale. Before the actual service started Dot Murphy, our President, handed over a cheque for £2,200.00 to Mike Tanner of Dogs for the Disabled. I think you will agree this is a brilliant amount to be raised by such a small Group. Mike brought along Puzzles, a retired dog and told the Group that the charity is changing its name to Dogs for Good from the 15<sup>th</sup> October, as they feel that although their current name has served them well it no longer reflects the work they do or the vision they have for the charity. Mike deals with finding homes for puppies for 1 year so if anyone is interested in having a puppy I have Mike's details. He says he has a way of people getting over the upsetting part of handing back the puppy, he just gives them another one!!!

We have a full programme which can be seen on the Notice Board in the foyer of the Church and if anyone is interested in joining us we will be really pleased to welcome them.

*Pat Webber*

Secretary.





## In memory of Kenny



Kenny had been part of our lives for many years, he was one of the boys who sat in the back row on Sunday mornings, come rain or shine, in the last few years I believe, over twenty, he and his friends were kindly watched over by Maureen and Gladys. It was fitting that Maureen was able to attend his thanksgiving service at Westerly yesterday morning.

Kenny had many difficulties but he was always cheerful and chatty, eager to tell his most recent adventures either at his home Rockleaze or perhaps when he was away on holiday or out on a day trip. On many occasions he sent his Church family a postcard and it was proudly displayed on the notice board.

For many years he was a resident at Hanham Hall and could often be seen out working as a Road sweeper or gardener in the local community.

We know nothing of Kenny's early years nor yet of his family, so it was with trepidation, I think, that Tim agreed to lead his final service and several of us decided to support. We need not have worried, Kenny would have been delighted to see so many of his two families and carers, those at Rockleaze, and Hanham Methodist.

The service was joyful and fitting and all the time it was progressing, a photo of Kenny's smiling face was beaming benignly at us.

Life was never easy for Kenny, yet as Tim stated in his eulogy, all that is now past and he can experience the joys of heaven, a rich reward well deserved.



**Hanham Methodist has recently received this letter of thanks from Christian Aid:**

Many thanks for your kind donation of £225.00 on 24 September 2015 towards the work of Christian Aid. Your response to our emergency appeal is greatly appreciated. Thank you also for forwarding CAF voucher for £50.00 together with the cheque.

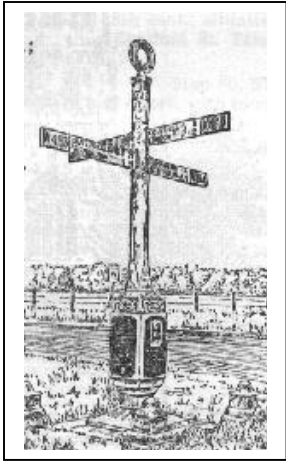
The images of desperate refugees crossing the Mediterranean in unstable boats, or packed illegally into lorries, or protesting 'We are human beings too' in the port of Calais, are a distressing reminder of the shocking refugee crisis that led to the founding of Christian Aid in 1945. Your support is enabling us, through the Act Alliance, to support churches and other agencies in Europe as well as our partners in the Middle East.

In Greece, the International Orthodox Christian Charities are providing food and non-food items, improving conditions at reception centres, and undertaking water, sanitation and hygiene activities on the islands of Chios, Samos, and Kos. Between August 1-24, 300 refugees arrived on Chios each day; 500 refugees arrived on Samos each day and 1,300 refugees arrived on Lesbos each day. Meanwhile in Hungary, Hungarian Interchurch Aid is providing refugees on the border with non-food items, and has helped more than 5,500 people.

We are continuing to support our partners in Syria and Iraq, as well as neighbouring countries, in their work with refugees there. Our partners are providing essential humanitarian supplies such as food, fuel for cooking, hygiene and sanitation kits, water containers and cash assistance, as well as psychological support for those who are suffering because of the conflict. So far, we have reached tens of thousands of people within Syria and in neighbouring Lebanon and Iraq with a combination of food, essentials like blankets to keep warm, cooking sets, health and hygiene kits, and psychosocial support. Your support is enabling our partners in Lebanon and Iraq, and within Syria itself, to continue to respond to the desperate humanitarian needs of some of the most vulnerable displaced communities.

Once again, thank you so much for your continued support of our work with and for the poorest communities on earth. With your continued help, we can make a difference.





## Signposts

Looking out of the window at 4 am, black cloudy sky, no street lights, just blackness. But above the roof of the house opposite was the Hanham Mount Beacon, a light shining in the darkness where John Wesley preached the good news to the miners of Cock Road. The Good News of a loving God whose son died on a cross for the salvation of all who would

come to him. It would be difficult now to stand up in the open and preach the Good News of Jesus as in our multi-cultural society someone might object. Many Christians declaring their belief have found themselves with severe problems. Also on the Mount is a plaque to the early Baptists fleeing and swimming across the Avon.



On visiting Malta and descending into the catacombs we saw the altar erected for worship for those hiding in fear of their lives.

As we approach Christmas, and the celebration of God's son Jesus coming into the world, it is a challenge of how we can witness to our faith and declare the salvation of Jesus overcoming sin and death to a world in such need.

ACW

## And Just To Say...

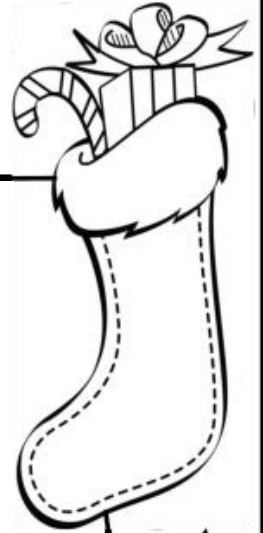
THANKSGIVING for the safe arrival of a baby daughter to Richard and Nicola (nee Wheeler), Matilda Lily, sister to Evie and Poppy. Born Tuesday morning 20th October 7lbs 9ozs. Granddaughter for Martyn and Sue and Great-granddaughter for Hazel and Arnold.

# Christmas Wordsearch!

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

## How Many Can You Find?

Advent – Alleluia – Angelic – Angels – Announcement – Astrologers –  
Baby – Bethlehem – Birth – Camel – Ceremonies – Christ Child – Crèche  
– Donkey – Immanuel – Epiphany – Flocks – Frankincense – Gifts –  
Gloria – Gold – Goodwill – Holy – Incarnation – Inn – Jerusalem – Jesus –  
Joseph – Lord - Magi – Manger – Mary – Miracle – Myrrh – Nativity –  
Pageant – Prince of peace – Proclamation – Prophecy – Sacred –  
Shepherds – Stable – Star – Wise Men



## The True Meaning of Christmas

In today's day and time,  
It's easy to lose sight,  
Of the true meaning of Christmas  
And one special night.  
When we go shopping,  
We say, "How much will it cost?"  
Then the true meaning of Christmas,  
Somehow becomes lost.  
Amidst the tinsel, glitter  
And ribbons of gold,  
We forget about the child,  
Born on a night so cold.  
The children look for Santa  
In his big, red sleigh  
Never thinking of the child  
Whose bed was made of hay.  
In reality,  
When we look into the night sky,  
We don't see a sleigh  
But a star, burning bright and high.  
A faithful reminder,  
Of that night so long ago,  
And of the child we call Jesus,  
Whose love the world would know.



*Brian K Walters*

## Rotas

### Flowers:

Nov	1 <sup>st</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Church</b>	Audrey Dayer	Barbara Lewis	Pam Blackmore	Bill Frost	Vivien Dalton
<b>War Memorial</b>	Audrey Dayer	B Jackson	Pam Blackmore	<i>Free</i>	Vivien Dalton

Dec	6 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Church</b>	Valerie Smith	Hilary Knapp	Christmas	Christmas
<b>War Memorial</b>	<i>Free</i>	<i>Free</i>	Christmas	Christmas

### Doors and books:

Nov	1 <sup>st</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Morn</b>	H Teague B Jones	M Golding R Ticktum	J Angell P Kirby	P Webber J Tippett	M Howe N Howe
<b>Eve</b>	Messy Church	A Angell T Lansdown	M Kenway M Kenway	C Haycock W Stanford	R Ireland B Griffen

Dec	6 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Morn</b>	P Blackmore J Green	M Wilby M Sagar	M Frost W Frost	H Teague B Jones
<b>Eve</b>	Messy Church	M Morgan J Morgan	A Angell T Lansdown	M Kenway M Kenway

## For Your Diary

- 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 6.00pm Rosemary Service, United Church
- 8<sup>th</sup> Nov 10.45am Remembrance Parade Service followed by service at War Memorial 12 noon.
- 14<sup>th</sup> Nov 10.00am Church annual retreat at Chew Stoke Methodist
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov 12.45pm Simple Lunch - Home & Overseas Missions
- 26<sup>th</sup> Nov 7.30pm Advent House Group
- 28<sup>th</sup> Nov 10.00am Christmas Fair
- 29<sup>th</sup> Nov 6.00pm Advent Spiral Service
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 7.30pm Advent House Group
- 6<sup>th</sup> Dec 10.45am Gift Day Parade Service
- 8<sup>th</sup> Dec 7.30pm Advent House Group
- 13<sup>th</sup> Dec 10.45am Youth Church Nativity  
4.00pm Christmas Tea – Christian Aid
- 16<sup>th</sup> Dec 7.30pm Advent House Group
- 20<sup>th</sup> Dec 6.00pm Candlelight Carols
- 24<sup>th</sup> Dec 4.00pm Crib Service  
11.30pm Midnight Communion
- 25<sup>th</sup> Dec 9.30am Christmas Morning Worship
- 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2.00pm New Year Meditation and Music
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan 10.45am Covenant Service

