

**HANHAM METHODIST  
CHURCH MAGAZINE**



**JULY / AUGUST**



## **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)

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*Full details of all Church activities can be found on our website.*

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# RIVERS OF THE BIBLE

## II Kings 5:1-14

This is my favourite Old Testament story. Here we have a man, Naaman, who had everything. As a victorious general he was feted by his people, had the ear of the King and lived a luxurious lifestyle. But he was to discover that wealth, fame and being well connected didn't exempt him from the ills of the world. He contracted a skin disease for which no-one in his native Syria could find a cure, despite the wealth he could no doubt offer



But I love this story because it turns on the input of two individuals who to say the least were very ordinary, unnamed and never to be mentioned in scripture again. Firstly, a little Hebrew girl, probably captured when Naaman's army defeated Israel and now working as a maid to Naaman's wife, has the courage to speak up. She suggests that her master should go to Elisha the prophet in Israel who she is confident will heal him. A young girl, let alone a slave, would not be expected to offer an opinion in such a society.

So Naaman, in desperation, goes to Israel and visits the King who sends him on to Elisha's house out in the backwoods. But the prophet himself doesn't even bother to come to greet him but simply sends his servant with a message to wash in the River Jordan seven times and tells him that he will be healed.

This is a step too far for Naaman so he blows his top as he feels he is being messed about. After all, he says, there are better, cleaner rivers in Syria.

So, step forward our second unknown hero. One of Naaman's servants came and reasoned with him suggesting that if the prophet had told him to do some great or difficult thing he would have done it. So, persuaded, he does as suggested and is healed.

So, two individuals who had no right to speak up, and in the second instance one who was putting his life at risk by challenging his master, prove to be the catalyst that brings healing to Naaman

We think today of healing being at the hands of a surgeon or some effective drug prescribed by a clinician but sometimes healing can come through more ordinary channels. I remember visiting one of our members long since gone to his glory and he told me how the hour I had spent with him had made him feel so much better. Here we are differentiating between healing and cure. Jesus in many of his healings talks about the need for forgiveness and wholeness. In Luke 5: 17-26 we find the well-known story of the paralysed man being brought to Jesus by four friends and being let down through the roof. Jesus's first word to the man was 'Your sins are forgiven' indicating that wholeness of mind came before the curing of his disability.

I recall a man, Colin, who attended our church when we lived in Somerset. He lived in a home for the deaf and blind because he had extremely limited sight and hearing, added to which he was almost doubled up with a spinal problem. Yet he never complained about his lot, he loved to sing praises to God and was always

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pressing the minister to pick his favourite hymn, one of praise. One day the manager of the home came to a function at church and spoke of how Colin was loved by all the residents and was an inspiration to them by the way he lived and coped with his many infirmities, an example of the healing power of the Spirit of God, despite there being no cure for him.

Can we, filled by the Spirit of Jesus, bring healing to people and situations by adopting a loving and hopeful attitude?

*God grant us words to speak  
When words are all we bear  
To ease the pain that others feel  
And show our loving care*

StF 647

TJL

## **Vision Day 21<sup>st</sup> July 2018**

**The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ, and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.**



Here, in our church, we have reached a point in our journey when maintaining the 'status quo' is no longer an option and we need to move forward on our journey to discern what God is calling us to be and to do as a Christian community in Hanham.

As a church family we are from different backgrounds and we accept that on the whole we are an ageing congregation, but we are a church where everyone matters, whether they are church members or those who use our premises through lettings and clubs, or by participation in church run activities such as Boys Brigade, Friendly Table and Messy Church. Everyone has something to bring that will add colour and creativity to the church family.

We adopted our Mission Statement, **Connecting people to God and one another**, some years ago and we need to find the ways to develop this into a vision to secure a future for our church.

Our Lead Minister from September is the Rev David Willis, who comes to us with fresh eyes and some ideas of how we might begin to capture a sense of who we are and where we feel God is leading us as a church. To this end he proposes that we meet, as a **whole church**, on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> July from 10.30 -12.00 when under his guidance we will begin to look at the direction our journey might take over the next few years. We are calling this a Vision Day – nothing to do with a visit to Specsavers – but an opportunity to secure a vision, a future for our church, supported by everyone regardless of age or ability.

This an opportunity for us all to enable our church to grow. Please make every effort to attend, and also make it a focus for prayer in the coming weeks.

***The Stewards***

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**HANHAM METHODIST CHURCH**

**will be holding a**

**RETREAT DAY**

**at**

**SUMMERHILL METHODIST CHURCH**

**on Saturday 13th October 2018**

**10.00 am – 3.30 pm**

**The theme for the day will be**

***REACHING OUT***



**The cost is £10 - this includes a buffet lunch and the cost of the hall.**

**Booking is essential by the 30<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER**

**Please let Joan Brabon-Hibbs 9042235 know as soon as possible if you wish to attend.**



## This is your “HANHAM”

April saw the Flower festival at Hanham Methodist Church, which was to be the “Swan Song” for the Flower Committee. Over the years they have delighted us with arrangements around a variety of themes, each one it would seem more glorious than the last! And now they are calling it a day? Well not quite, there are still Harvests & Christmases, when there will be opportunities for their collective talents to be employed but for the moment it is only fair to say that arranging a festival, such as we have just enjoyed, is no mean thing!



To begin with, there are the ideas and planning, later comes the nitty gritty of physically ordering and collecting the artefacts and flowers and this year the added extra of conversing with High Street traders or groups who are a vital part of the life of Hanham; the soaking of the oasis, then the 2 days of preparation, 2 days of overseeing the actual Festival and finally taking the arrangements down and distributing flowers to worthy homes. Not a lot!!

Our Flower Committee have given generously of their time and talents for more years than I care to remember, in former days there have been more members to assist, this year the group was augmented by Elizabeth from Salem, Winterbourne, Barry from Summerhill. The flower arranging group also played their not insignificant part (trained and overseen by Glen of course).

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So, what of the actual Festival? It was a celebration of all that is good and praiseworthy in Hanham. You will have been delighted by the balloons which greeted you in the entrance, tastefully arranged around hoops or the Venus School of Dance exhibit in the Foyer, with top hat, ballet shoes and a saxophone.

The bicycle, donated by John Woods, looking as if the rider was out exploring the countryside with all its floral tributes, whilst for Pzazz, flowers were tastefully arranged within large greetings cards, from whence do these ideas come?

In the church itself were to be found more really stunning displays, Hanham History Society was represented by a child with a hoop and books of Hanham's past, whilst A.S. Golding was displayed with chicken wire, brushes and a toolbox.

Hanham Folk Centre was alive with the groups which meet on its premises, the Art Club which also meets there displayed a palate made up of flowers of the rainbow. Where do they get their ideas?

I must make special mention of the Hanham Toddlers Pre-school display, it sported a see-saw, balancing flowers and surrounded by toys. Two large sunflowers peeped over the back, do you remember the Flower Pot Men & Little Weed? The reason I mention it particularly is because Chris, my usual partner-in-flower-arranging had been elevated to the task of completing this arrangement; usually, we of the Flower arranging group are relegated to the window displays. I think this means that she "has finally made it!!!"

Joking apart, the Flower arranging group decorated the windows and though I say it myself made a very good job, under the watchful eye of our leader Glen.

Hanham Photographic Society had displayed a series of photographs ranging from sepia, through black & white to colour, the display was then enhanced with flowers that mirrored the colour theme. Spectacular!

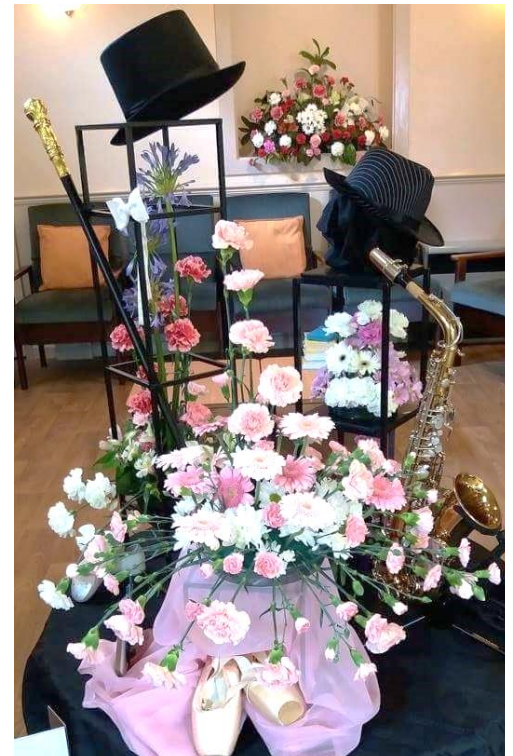
It cheers the soul to look on colour and beauty given by God, yet enhanced by the skills of man/woman. Three cheers for the Flower Committee I say!!! And long may they use their talents in the ministry of flowers within our Church.

*Pam B*

### ***Just to say...***

My sincere and heart felt thanks to all for their messages, cards, prayers and visits during and after my recent visit to the Bristol Heart Institute. Also to those who helped Angela so kindly with transport to and from the hospital. I'm happy to report that my recovery is pretty well complete and for that my praise and thanks are due to the magnificent surgeons, nursing staff and personnel at BHI. Thanks again to all involved.

*Martin Sagar*



## **Saying Goodbye to Barry and Anne**

Our Minister, Rev Barry Bishop will be leaving us in July when he and Anne move to Gloucester to begin another phase in their lives – retirement! We wish them well as they move on and begin to prioritise the many plans they have made.

During the time Barry has been with us as our lead minister, he has become a familiar figure at Friendly Table, donning his apron and dashing from table to table with apple sauce, or answering pleas for more gravy. The people who come to Friendly Table week by week will miss his cheery banter.

Both Barry and Anne have involved themselves in as many activities at Hanham as their time will allow. Being responsible for three other churches has been somewhat restricting for Barry, but we are pleased that Anne chose to transfer her membership to Hanham, which has allowed us to get to know her as an individual, and not as “the minister’s wife”. During her time with us, Anne has been a Pastoral Visitor as well as leading worship in her role as a Local Preacher.

On Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> July, Barry and Anne will lead our worship at 6pm. In order that we can say “goodbye” rather more informally, a tea has been arranged beginning at 4pm which we hope will be attended by as many people from HMC as possible. An invitation to tea and the service will be extended to members of Barry’s other churches.

In addition, there is the Circuit Farewell service for all staff who are leaving the Circuit the previous week, July 15<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

*Glenys Lewis, Senior Steward*

## **More Random Thoughts**

## Forgive & Forget

During the wedding service, we were kneeling at the altar to receive a blessing and I had unknowingly stood on the edge of Beryl's wedding dress in my size 10 shoes. After the blessing and unable to rise fully, Beryl urgently whispered "Get off my dress." She forgave me long ago for this misdemeanour, but will occasionally mention it during family discussions; in other words she has never forgotten the incident and its retelling means that I cannot forget it either.

I instinctively feel that forgiveness, granted or received, is not wholly accomplished until the circumstances and the personal emotions are forgotten and the damaged relationships have become normalised and similar to their former state. But this is illogical and the "forgetting" of an incident where it is personally significant, is not within our human capacity and perhaps we should not expect it to be so.

We should not strive to "forget" so much as to face the unavoidable "remembering" and bravely strive to accommodate it, however painful, within our daily lives; within the "forgiveness" and the redefinition of personal relationships and commitments that flow from this act of love. The status-quo is rarely a viable option.

Another instinctive feeling I have, is that the degree of forgiveness is conditional on the offender providing appropriate penance; but that is not necessarily so, for example: the parent who is able to forgive the murderer of his or her child even though that murderer shows neither remorse nor seeks forgiveness. It is said that "Time softens and heals" (but not always, although it often permits distortion and change), for example: perhaps the "hurt" to oneself or inflicted on others, is too deep to allow forgiveness for now, and I knew I had forgiven someone some time ago, but never quite managed to tell that person and now it is too late to do so, and I feel guilty.

Christian teaching suggests that forgiveness requires genuine sorrow for having sinned, a resolution not to reoffend and the intention to rectify the situation as far as is possible and thereafter to live according to Christian

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principles; principles which are founded in Jesus “Love for ones neighbour” and taught in the Beatitudes. Of course there are those who suffer from illness, addiction, with an inability to feel sorrow or to offer retribution which probably makes their intention not to reoffend impossible.

Then there is the matter of the Biblical reference for the need to “*Forgive (ones’ brother) seventy times seven*”, from which one might be excused for concluding that there is a given’ right’ for one to be forgiven (and to forgive oneself) for every “reoffending”. This assumption may well make it easier to forgive oneself and also weaken ones resolve not to reoffend. Continual reoffending can prove to be beyond an individual’s capacity to continue to forgive either themselves or others.

At the corporate level, a society cannot tolerate a “regime of reoffending”, and still maintain its well-being through the application of laws and moral principles by which the membership is both manipulated and protected.

We instinctively use the contextual circumstances as an excuse for our actions thereby wishing to more readily be forgiven, to reduce our punishment and forget our embarrassment; I like to partially blame the length of Beryl’s wedding dress and my size 10 shoes for my minor misdemeanour. But if we are to overcome our guilt, then we need to forgive ourselves and be forgiven by those against whom we have sinned and Society; only then it is possible for life to become fully reenergised. In the Bible, Peter was empowered to become the rock on which the early Christian Church was founded only when he experienced the overwhelming forgiveness of Jesus and was then able to forgive himself.

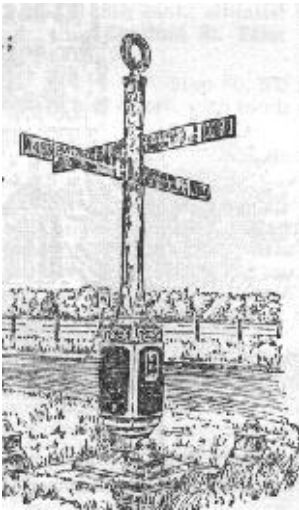
The interrelationship between judgement, retribution and forgiveness is of course a complex and varied subject and must be placed in context (when moral principles often become compromised), in order to reach a consensus of agreement.

Finally, I invite you to consider this question; what is the nature of “forgiveness” where an action, taken for the best of motives, proves ill-advised and has serious consequences? ARGI

## **JMA, Network and Home Missions boxes**

Can you please return all the above boxes to Janet Morgan for end of year accounts by the end of July. Thank you for you continued support.

*Janet*



### **Signposts**

Last weekend I went to a Summer Fair with all the different stalls and things to buy.

One of the organisers spoke to me later telling me arrangements were being made for the Christmas Celebration and Pantomime. So soon another year was disappearing with 100-mile winds in Scotland, terrible fire in Glasgow, earthquake in Grimsby.

Also reminded of Mary and Joseph with the young baby Jesus fleeing into Egypt as refugees, as in the news we learn of boatloads of refugees picked up from the sea. Also, world news tells of the huge refugee camps in so many places caused by war.

Through all this we see hope in Korea and the far East, our hope is founded in God our Father and the salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord and saviour who died on a cross for the sins of the world.

ACW

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# Summer Search

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

August

beach

bikini

boat

camping

fan

fishing



hat

hot

ice cream

July

June

lotion

mosquito

shorts

sunburn

sunglasses

sun tan

swimming

tent

vacation





## 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	

## Summer Sudoku

Every row, column and mini-grid must contain the letters S U N B A T H E R.  
Don't guess - use logic.



		T	H	E	N	R		
	E	U	R		B	H	T	
		E		N		U		
B	T	H		U		S	R	N
		A		S		B		
	H	S	A		T	N	U	
		R	N	B	S	E		

## Hanham High Street

We used to have a High Street, full of local stores  
But along came supermarkets, our small shops closed their doors  
Hanham was not unusual, it was the same throughout the land  
Where personal service, local goods, were always in demand  
Our High Street was no different, just butchers numbered five  
Bread baked inside the baker's shop, a custom now revived.

Greengrocery, fish and rabbit and grocers, maybe nine  
Where everything was weighed and bagged, which took a little time  
Boots and shoes and fashions, ladies and men of course  
Hardware, oil and paraffin delivered by a horse  
Newspapers, bicycles and furniture as well,  
Barbers, florist, café and I'm sure there's more to tell  
I miss the fish and chip shops, drycleaners, cobblers too  
And I'll add the doctors, chemist and perhaps a pub or two  
No Indian, Kebab or Pizza takeaways  
Phones, balloons or cartridge inks, not needed in those days  
But maybe things are better now, we shop by car or bus  
And as everything is help yourself, is it a lot less fuss?  
No more shopping in the rain, holding up a brolly  
But fight your way through a superstore, just filling up your trolley.

RFW

## Rotas

### Flowers:

July	1 <sup>st</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Church</b>	Messy Church	Beryl Stapleton	Glen & Roy	Janet Morgan	Barry Churchill
<b>War Memorial</b>	Messy Church	Beryl Stapleton	Glen & Roy	Pat Webber	Rosemary Ireland

August	5 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Church</b>	Messy Church	Andre Wheatley	Pauline Sampson	Des Davies
<b>War Memorial</b>	Messy Church	Free	Pat Webber	Binnie White

### Doors and books:

July	1 <sup>st</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Morn</b>	M Wilby	J Green P Blackmore	P Kirby M Sagar	H Teague B Jones	P Webber J Tippett
<b>Eve</b>	Messy Church	Hanham Mount	C Haycock R Ireland	B Griffen W Stamford	J Morgan M Morgan

August	5 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Morn</b>	K Cowie I Cowie	M Golding D Davies	P Kirby	J Green P Blackmore
<b>Eve</b>	T Lansdown	M Kenway M Kenway	C Haycock R Ireland	B Griffen W Stamford

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## For Your Diary

8<sup>th</sup> July 4.00pm Open Air Service on Hanham Mount

15<sup>th</sup> July 6.00pm Circuit Service at HMC.  
Farewell to ministers leaving

22<sup>nd</sup> July 6.00pm Farewell for Barry, with tea at 4.00 p.m.

12<sup>th</sup> Aug 6.00pm Visit of Ystrad Mynach, with tea at 4.00 pm

