

Wesley Services – April 2010

	4th	11th	18st	25th	May 2nd
10-30 am	Mr J Birch	Rev P Barnett	Rev F Randall (HC)	Rev F Randall	Mrs N Williams
6-00 pm	Rev F Randall (HC)	n.b. Please note that there is only an evening service on the first Sunday in every month.			

VESTRY

4th April a.m. Hilary Gould
 p.m. Joan Edwards
 11th a.m. Angela Vooght
 18th a.m. Margaret Birch
 25th a.m. Hilary Gould
 2nd May a.m. Margaret Birch
 p.m. Joan Edwards
 9th May a.m. Hilary Gould

DOOR

4th April a.m. Sue and Roger
 p.m. Graham Edwards
 11th a.m. Hope Ackrill
 18th a.m. Peter Sharp
 25th a.m. Marjorie Hinson
 2nd May a.m. Sue and Roger
 p.m. Graham Edwards
 9th a.m. Peter Sharp

Prayers for Easter from Christian Aid

God of power,
 show us the transforming power of your love,
 change our weakness and apathy into strength and courage.
 God of justice,
 open our eyes to see those crucified in the world,
 and work through us to bring your resurrection.
 God of hope,
 your love triumphs over death.
 Help us to live your Easter faith,
 And bring life to your world.

Risen Jesus,
 As you greet your disciples 'Peace be with you',
 give us your peace,
 the peace that brings calm and courage,
 that reconciles us one to one another.
 Living in your peace,
 Give us the strength to move beyond our locked doors,
 To throw our caution to the wind,
 And make known your truth
 That will not stand quiet in the face of oppression
 and injustice.



Wesley Methodist Church, Carmarthen April 2010

Just a thought....

I write this letter early on a Sunday morning when the sun is shining brightly outside and it looks like Carmarthen is bursting into life. I can see the daffodils which are just about to emerge and some of the crocus which already have. The grass is beginning to grow again and the tiniest of buds are beginning to form on the cherry blossom trees up the street.

Early on this Sunday morning and with all these signs of new life it's beginning to dawn on me that Spring is just around the corner and after what has been a particularly cold and lengthy winter that is something to celebrate.

Whenever I ponder on the Easter Morning story, particularly in John's Gospel (which I much confess is my favourite), the idea of 'dawning realisations' seems an important theme, particularly with Mary Magdalene.

Imagine the scene on that Easter morning. Mary left weeping at the tomb after two other disciples have come to have a look and then left. As she peers into the tomb her thoughts are not on a risen Jesus. Instead she just can't believe that one more indignity has occurred after the events of the past few days. How could someone have stolen the body? And the grave clothes were left with some of them neatly folded. No wonder she was crying. It made no sense. Who would take the body and leave the clothes and to boot, fold some of them before they left?

As she looks inside the tomb she sees not only folded grave clothes but two heavenly figures. The angels ask her why she is crying, which if you think about it rather makes sense from heavenly point of view because if there's one time and one place where tears are inappropriate it's the empty tomb of Jesus on Easter Morning! Mary answers that they have taken her Lord away. Realisation that Jesus is alive still hasn't dawned on Mary.

Jesus speaks to Mary and to begin with she does not recognise him, thinking he is the gardener. It is only when Jesus, in a delightful personal encounter calls her name that her world is changed. Realisation dawns. Jesus is risen! Mourning is turned into joy, despair to hope and disbelief to all consuming faith. This is the defining moment and she replies to him Rabboni, 'my own dear teacher!' Her Lord is there, risen standing before her.

So what about us? What does this story mean to us? For many reading this letter, realisation that Jesus is alive and lives today dawned on us a long time ago and we live as Easter people. But there are many who are searching for a truth, for whom realisation has not dawned; people whose motto may as well be (as Bono once sang) 'I still haven't found what I'm looking for.'

(continued overleaf...)

So we as Easter People have the duty and privilege to offer a searching generation resurrection hope through our relationships and more specifically our witness to those whom we live, work and socialise with. It is up to each and every one of us by what we say and how we live our lives to convince others that there is a relationship to be had with God, beyond all other worldly challenges, that is solid, secure and utterly, utterly life changing.

Happy Easter everyone!

Felicity

(Felicity's day off is Saturday)

Bob Delbridge

The treasurer would like to thank Vi and everyone else who generously gave money in memory of Bob Delbridge. A total of £235 was received for church funds.

March Coffee Mornings

Here are the figures for a rather cold and wet March.

March 3 rd	£50.20
March 10 th	68.70
March 17 th	32.22
March 24 th	61.00
March 31 st	<u>50.77</u>
Total	£262.89

This gives an average of £52.58.

There were expenses of £32.22 on March 17th. I have worked out that we have raised over £2000 for our church and for charity since September 1st last year.

Chris Gould

Homes & Gardens Visits

A last call for anyone who is willing to host a Homes & gardens event for this year—we could do with a few more on the programme! Speak to John and Margaret Birch or pick up a form in the church.

Easter Offering Service

Wednesday April 28th, 2pm at Pontarddulais.

One for the diary!

Those who enjoyed last year's Circuit Day Out at Nicholaston House on the Gower last year (lots of fellowship, activities and a great meal!) will be pleased to know that another one is planned for this year, on Saturday 10th July. Please make a note in your diary and look out for further details in due course.

Your Help Needed

We really need more to volunteer to either do Vestry duty or welcome folk on the door. The more we have to help with this the less it puts on the few. Please think about it. It is our A.G.M. on the 25th April, and it would be wonderful to see a few hands raised on the morning to offer their services. Or if you can't wait that long to volunteer, tell Flis right now.

Easter Quotes

We live and die;
Christ died and lived!
~John Stott

And he departed from our sight that we might return to our heart, and there find Him. For He departed, and behold, He is here.
~St Augustine

A Christian Aid reflection for Easter based on John 13:1-17, 31-35



The act of foot-washing changes the perspective through which the disciples view the Messiah. Jesus willingly puts himself into a position where he will be looked down upon. In so doing, he inverts normal

power structures and what the world means by having authority.

Having been shown the power of love, at the end of the meal we are invited to conspire with Christ, to move into the shadows of the world, follow love into its darkest moment, and to make our move against injustice.

Demonstrating solidarity

Christian Aid partner EAPPI was co-founded by Christian Aid in 2002. Ecumenical accompaniers are stationed at a number of checkpoints and conflict points throughout the West Bank and East Jerusalem to try to facilitate movement and monitor human rights abuses.

They stand in solidarity with Israeli non-violent anti-occupation activists as well as the thousands of Palestinians from the West Bank who pass through checkpoints or the separation barrier to go about their daily lives.

Rasheed Mohamed spends two hours commuting between Bethlehem and

Jerusalem every day - despite the fact that the distance is only a few kilometres. There are frequent instances of people being denied their freedom of movement at checkpoints, ranging from denying access to people in need of urgent medical treatment to intimidating or physically assaulting those trying to pass.

In this dark corner of the world, the powers of death and violence may seem to triumph. But these powers do not have the final word. Love holds a strange authority. Rasheed sees the Ecumenical Accompaniers at the Bethlehem checkpoint most days and says: 'I think the soldiers are better when they are there.'

Prayer

We call this week holy, and yet this week has little to do with the holiness of ritual, of earnest prayers, of carefully constructed rhyme and liturgy. Rather it is a week of unsanitised and terrifying holiness, of struggle and searching, of a refusal to choose a life of safety and expediency, of overturning the status quo, and whistle-blowing on all the systems that protect the rich and harm the poor. It is a holiness that calls us to face the powers of the world with the terrible and vulnerable love of heaven

