

Wesley Services – August 2008

	3rd	10th	17th	24th	31st	7th Sept
10-30 am	Rev S Oliver	United at English Cong (11 am)	United at Zion Presby (10-30)	United at Wesley Rev S Oliver (HC)	United at Wesley led by Eng. Baptists	Mr J Birch
6-00 pm	Mrs N Williams	Mr S Runnett	Rev S Oliver	Rev S Oliver	Rev P Barnett	Rev S Oliver (HC)

Vestry

3 rd August	a.m. p.m.	Angela Vooght Brian Aylward
10 th August	p.m.	Hilary Gould
17 th	p.m.	Brian Aylward
24 th	a.m. p.m.	Hilary Gould Lorette Hinson
31 st	p.m.	Hilary Gould
7 th Sept	a.m. p.m.	Angela Vooght Joan Edwards
14 th Sept	a.m. p.m.	Lorette Hinson Brian Aylward

We were saddened recently to hear news of the death of Eileen Linley who was a faithful member of our fellowship for many years with husband Don. A letter from her daughter Judith is on the church notice board.

Friday Morning Pause for Thought

Every Friday 9.30 - 1200
the Church will be open

Womens Fellowship

Many thanks to Janet and all who have helped with this over the years - there will not be a Womens Fellowship meeting until further notice.

After a very long and boring sermon the parishioners filed out of the church saying nothing to the preacher. Towards the end of the line was a thoughtful person who always commented on the sermons. "Pastor, today your sermon reminded me of the peace and love of God."

The pastor was thrilled. "Nobody has ever said anything like that about my preaching before. Tell me why."
"Because it endured forever."

Door

3 rd August	a.m. p.m.	Hope Ackrill Jean Lawler
10 th	p.m.	Frank and Sandra
17 th	p.m.	Janet Aylward
24 th	a.m. p.m.	Sue and Roger Marjorie Hinson
31 st	p.m.	Jean Lawler
7 th Sept	a.m. p.m.	Sue and Roger Graham Edwards
14 th	a.m. p.m.	Sue and Roger Janet Aylward



Wesley Methodist Church, Carmarthen August 2008

Just a thought.....

Last Sunday (27th July) Jill and I went to our nephew's wedding in Windsor. In the weeks leading up to the wedding we were sent beautiful invitations, offered hotel rooms, and were told that the reception would be in Ascot. All this information led us to have an expectation of what was to come – and to be honest we were not disappointed.

And when you think about it isn't there an expectation in everything we do; when we go shopping, visiting, go on holidays, watch the television; we expect something from what we do and see and hear.

But have we any expectation when it comes to being a Christian and being a part of God's church. Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to the disciples, he promised that when it came they would be witnesses to him, and things would change. Have we as Christians, as the church universal lost that wonder of expectation, lost that excitement at what the Holy Spirit can do? Perhaps under the pressure of an ever strengthening secular society we can become jaded, disillusioned even. But if we can still believe that the Spirit is still able to surprise us that all can be different through the power of Jesus Christ then we as the church will live to become the witness that Jesus promised to his disciples over two thousand years ago.

any point in Jesus praying if he did not expect the things he asked for to happen; of course not and it is the same for us. Each time we come to praying for others or even ourselves do we really believe something will happen or do we expect little from God at those moments. Whenever Jesus prayed; whenever anyone throughout the bible prayed they expected change, they expected God to make things happen; do we have that expectation?

Where would the lives of countless millions of people in the world be if they did not have an expectation of something better than they have now; where will peace come unless there is an expectation that hearts and minds can be changed; how can we as Christians continue to believe in a risen Christ without the expectation of change throughout the world.

We in this Church must continue to have an expectation, an expectation of growth; an expectation of the Holy Spirit to encourage, to transform, to inspire. Without expectation nothing will change, but if we believe the unexpected can happen then things will change for ever.

Steve

Steve's day off is Thursday

This year's Conference, held in Scarborough from 3-10 July, inducted Revd Stephen Poxon as president of the Conference, Mr David

Walton as vice president, and ordained 55 new Methodist ministers.

For the first time, live video of Conference proceedings was broadcast via the Conference website and live audio was broadcast in partnership with Premier Christian Radio. These proved to be very popular facilities as people watched and listened around the world.

Young people

Investment in young people aged 16-23 was high on the Conference agenda and over £4 million will be spent over the next five years on a Youth Participation Strategy aimed at increasing the involvement of young people in running the Church. Conference also gave its support to a new Pioneer Ministries scheme in which the Church will invest £4 million to establish new congregations across the country, aimed especially at young adults and those with no prior contact with church.

Ecumenism

The Church continues to work ecumenically and renewed its commitment to working with the Church of England for another five years on the joint Fresh Expressions scheme, which supports and encourages new and innovative ways of being 'church'. Conference affirmed the covenant with the Church of England, signed in 2003, and supported the appointment of a body to continue the work of implementing it. This body will include representation from the Church in Wales and the Scottish Episcopal Church. The United Reformed Church will also be invited to continue to participate.

Conference reports

Major reports included one on early human life which examined sensitive issues such as stem cell research, fertility treatments and abortion, and Conference voted to review the Church's current stance on abortion.

A major challenge to eliminate discrimination in the Church was received in a report on equalities and diversity which charts the journey that the Church is making in striving to become fully inclusive. The report identified further work and commended Equally different? a new online resource designed to help everyone engage with this important issue.

Conference also addressed many other contemporary concerns including knife crime, pressures on young people and the situations in Burma and Zimbabwe. The UK Government was condemned for its failure to care for Zimbabwean refugees and urged to stop all deportations to Zimbabwe and grant indefinite 'right to remain'.

Defining Worship

'Throughout history the definition of worship has been a much-debated question. Recently I've been trying to find a simple way of defining worship. To capture a phrase that expresses worship as a response affecting the whole of our lives but also communicates the wonder and splendour of who God is. In one sense there will never be enough words in

our vocabulary to adequately accomplish this. After many drafts here's my attempt at a simple definition of worship.

"Worship is the total alignment of our heart, soul, mind and strength with the will of God. It is our whole-hearted response to God's extravagant love and mercy."

Tim Hughes - International Worship Leader and Song Writer

Coffee Mornings

The coffee morning on July 16th must be a record for a normal Wednesday morning!

July 2 nd	£93.85
July 9 th	59.05
July 16 th	123.40
July 23 rd	78.34
July 30 th	<u>78.14</u>
Total	432.78

This gives a weekly average of £86.56. The coffee morning on July 23rd was after expenses of £22.21, but it rained on July 9th. So we had another very good month.

Chris Gould

Christians in Algeria

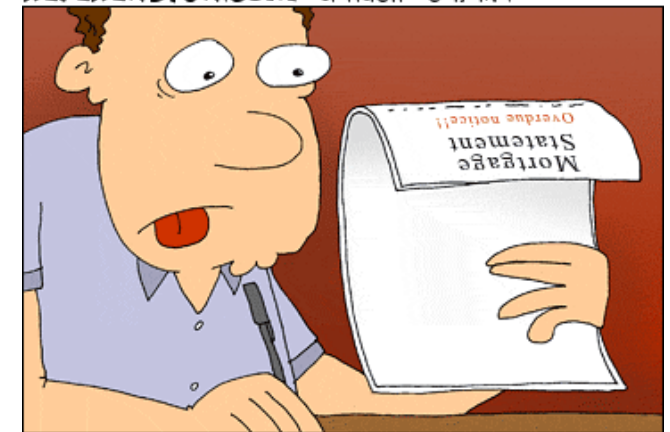
Algeria is a Muslim-majority country with a secular government. The Algerian Church has been growing rapidly from a few hundred national believers in the early 1980s to around 30,000 now, mostly in Protestant/

evangelical churches affiliated to the Eglise Protestant d'Algerie (Protestant Churches Association EPA). Over recent months, opposition to Christian evangelistic activities has been on the increase, and Islamic extremists are complaining about the government's "lenient" approach towards Christian churches. There are plans to create a "Commission to Fight against Christianisation"; one of its aims is to lobby the president and government to encourage them "not to be weak in the face of the crusades". Neighbouring governments have also voiced concerns about the steady growth of Christianity in Algeria.

These developments and the anti-Christian attitude of the Algerian government and Islamic extremists are very disconcerting, especially in light of the fact that Algeria has signed the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966).

(from Barnabas Fund)

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"Do all the good you can by all the means you can in all the places you can at all the times you can to all the people you can as long as ever you can."

John Wesley

"The Church is the one institution that exists for those outside it."

William Tyndale

Thanks to Mikel Rice (See Matthew 6:19-20) 06-27-2008

BUT STORE UP FOR YOURSELVES TREASURES IN HEAVEN, WHERE MOTH AND RUST AND SUB-PRIME MORTGAGE CRISIS DO NOT DESTROY

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