

Wesley Services – February 2008

	3rd	10th	17th	24th	2nd Mar
10-30 am	Mr J Birch	Mrs N Williams	Rev S Oliver (HC)	Rev P Barnett	Mr J Birch
6-00 pm	Miss A Wheeler	Rev P Barnett	Miss A Wheeler	Rev S Oliver (HC)	Rev P Barnett

Vestry

Feb 3rd a.m. Margaret Birch
p.m. Peter Sharp

10th a.m. Hilary Gould
p.m. Brian Aylward

17th a.m. Angela Vooght
p.m. Hilary Gould

24th a.m. Margaret Birch
p.m. Joan Edwards

2nd Mar a.m. Margaret Birch
p.m. Brian Aylward

Door

3rd Feb a.m. Sue and Roger
p.m. Jean Lawler

10th Feb a.m. Jill Oliver
p.m. Janet Aylward

17th a.m. Hope Ackrill
p.m. Frank and Sandra

24th a.m. Marjorie Hinson
p.m. Graham Edwards

2nd Mar a.m. Sue and Roger
p.m. Jean Lawler

Friday Morning Pause for Thought

Every Friday 9.30 - 1200
the Church will be open

Womens Fellowship

Meeting every other Wednesday at 2.15pm
in Wesley Chapel – See Janet Aylward for details.

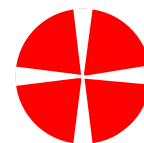
Diary dates:-

Tuesday 5th February at 7pm -
Wholeness and healing service in Wesley

Monday 11th February at 7pm - Church
council meeting

Monday 18th February at 7pm - Lent
study begins for five weeks in Wesley

Tuesday 19th February at 7.15pm -
Open circuit meeting in Trinity Kidwelly
(subject - mission in our churches)



In Touch

Wesley Methodist Church, Carmarthen February 2008

Just a thought.....

As I write this I am very conscious that the season of Lent is getting ever closer and the amount of time for preparation getting ever shorter, and it is with that in mind that I write this particular Just a Thought.

It seems to me that sometimes we forget what we should be undertaking during Lent. It is of course, for many, a time to give up some particular food or activity and to keep that going for the whole period. This is a great discipline, but nye on impossible if my efforts have anything to go by. But Lent must be more than this; if it is to have any meaning at all then it must involve reflection on our part. Over the past few months now I, together with the Mission and Worship team have been reflecting about where our church should be heading both in its mission to our communities and our growth as the body of Christ on a journey of faith and discovery; and to be very honest it is not proving easy. This is not because we have nothing to offer as a church but because we have so much.

There have been some interesting and searching suggestions which need much prayer and further discussion, so I would ask in your Lent reflection that you hold us in your hearts as we continue to listen for that still small voice which will lead us to where we should be.

As I said Lent is about reflection and I believe this year is about all of us looking at ourselves and asking what does God want of us and where our gifts can be used best for His purposes. The church is now ready for a new vision and a new outlook on the direction we should travel together.

My first thoughts have been to open up our church more often in the week. I have now committed myself to opening one afternoon a week as well as the normal Friday morning; it is a beginning but it needs more. Are you able to be available for other mornings or afternoons? Please consider this as you reflect over the next few weeks. As usual, we will be holding a Lent study group in the church beginning 18th February at 7.00pm. This year it is very much about taking time to consider where our life in Christ is leading us. If you have time, please come along as I am sure it will give you pause for thought as we journey into Lent together.

Below is a poem by William Henry Davies which appears on the front of our Lent course for this year. Please read it and as you do give yourself time to reflect on the things of God.

Steve

LEISURE

What is life if, full of care,
we have no time to stand and stare? -
no time to stand beneath the boughs,
and stare as long as sheep and cows;
no time to see, when woods we pass,
where squirrels hide their nuts in grass;
no time to see, in broad daylight,
streams full of stars, like skies at night;
no time to turn at beauty's glance,
and watch her feet, how they can dance;
no time to wait till her mouth can,
enrich that smile her eyes began?
A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.
(William Henry Davies 1871 – 1940)

From the Lent resources off Methodist Development & Relief Fund comes:

The Prodigal Generation (From Luke 15)

There was a man who had two sons

There was a God who, over thousands and millions of years, made a great creation, with a whole of host of creatures upon an earth. And there came a time when one of those creatures came to understand themselves to be special in the eyes of God.

And the younger of them said to his father, Father give me my share of the inheritance that is due to me. And he divided his living between them.

And the humans said to God give us our inheritance, and they plundered the earth with mines and drills and rigs, sucking out the black treasure, consuming it in their machines and spewing the gas into the sky..

Not many days later the younger son gathered all that he had and went on a journey to a far country, and there he squandered his inheritance in loose living

A great economic system arose fuelled by deep level passions, based on conspicuous consumption and using the black treasure. The people travelled everywhere and nowhere. Forests were destroyed. It was party time. The air was filled with (pause) laughter. But the clouds were gathering.

And when it had all gone, a great famine arose in the land and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. And he would gladly have ate from pigs trough, but no one gave him anything.

It was the climate you see. They hadn't thought of that. And once they had, it was too ate. The animals and plants began just to disappear. The desert spread. The wells grew deeper. Water. (pause) Anxious people. (pause) Angry people. (pause) Violent people. The rich built castles. The poor made battering rams.

And then he realised, he said, Why even my father's hired servants have bread enough to spare but I perish here with hunger. I will arise and go to my Father and say, Father I have done wrong against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son, treat me as one of your hired servants.

And a few began to dream of a home, they saw a vision of God surrounded by the creatures of the earth, they dreamt of living at peace with God and the creation and they set out to make that real.

And he arose and set out for his father. And when he was far off his father saw him and had compassion and ran and embraced him.

And I will leave you to fill in the rest of the story.

January Coffee Mornings

The customers continue to pour into the church on Wednesday mornings, despite the wind and rain.

January 2 nd	£71.60
January 9 th	62.90
January 16 th	73.52
January 23 rd	86.30
January 30 th	<u>88.19</u>
Total	382.51

This gives an average figure of £76.50. We sent a cheque for £62.90, being the proceeds of the January 9th coffee morning, to MRDF – the Methodist Relief and Development Fund.

Therefore... get on with it!

Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy. 1 Peter 1:8

Moments of joy, moments of satisfaction and achievement often have a 'therefore' tag. I suppose one of the most telling for most women is the moment a baby is born. Whatever the degree of joy, pretty soon it is more than matched by the irrevocable 'therefore' of responsibility, anxiety and loss of personal choice and comfort. Similarly a promotion or a new job brings a sense of anticipation and achievement, as well as a weighty 'therefore' on the first Monday morning.

So Peter praises God for all the inexpressible and glorious joy in being newly born into a living hope, with an inheritance that can never perish. And then comes the 'therefore'.

'Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; as obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.'
1 Peter 1:13

On a bedrock of glorious joy, we are called day by day to work out what it means to follow Christ. To be able to live out that calling in every part of our lives we have to prepare our minds – understanding what the bible says, thinking things through with others who journey with us, listening to the world around us with intelligence and sympathy.

On a bedrock of glorious joy, we have to learn to know ourselves, so that we can exercise self-control. Control over our desires – malice, irritation, temper, weak compromise - and our addictions. Control over our lifestyles so that everything begins to conform to God's will for us and to demonstrate his character.

'As obedient children'? It's not exactly how I'd want to describe myself, but it helps me to see that along with the assurance of glorious joy, comes the need for humility and the need for obedience. Face up to the 'therefores' and rejoice with joy!

by Margaret Killingray London Institute for Contemporary Christianity.

