

Wesley Services – May 2010

	2nd	9th	16th	23rd	30th Pentecost	6th June
10-30 am	Mrs N Williams	Miss A Wheeler	Rev F Randall (HC)	Mrs N Williams	Rev P Barnett	Miss A Wheeler
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.				Rev F Randall (HC)

vestry
 2nd May Margaret Birch
 p.m. Joan Edwards
 9th Hilary Gould
 16th Chris Randall
 23rd May Margaret Birch
 30th Angela Vooght
 6th Hilary Gould
 p.m. Joan Edwards
 13th Chris Randall

Door
 2nd May Sue and Roger
 p.m. Graham Edwards
 9th Peter Sharp
 16th Nick
 23rd Janet Griffiths
 30th Hope Ackrill
 6th Sue and Roger
 p.m. Graham Edwards
 13th Marjorie Hinson

Pentecost / Whit Sunday

Pentecost, also known as Whitsunday, celebrates the birthday of the Christian Church, when the Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles in the Book of Acts. Pentecost is celebrated 50 days after Easter.

Pentecost is also the Greek name for Jewish Feast of Weeks (Shavuot), falling on the 50th day of Passover. It was during the Feast of Weeks that the first fruits of the grain harvest were presented (see Deuteronomy 16:9).

Pentecost is also known as Whitsunday. The origin of this name is unclear, but may derive from the Old English word for "White Sunday," referring to the practice of baptizing converts clothed in white robes on the Sunday of Pentecost. In the English tradition, new converts were baptized on Easter, Pentecost, and All Saints Day, primarily for pragmatic purposes: people went to church these days. Alternatively, the name Whitsunday may have originally meant "Wisdom Sunday," since the Holy Spirit is traditionally viewed as the Wisdom of God



Wesley Methodist Church, Carmarthen May 2010



Just a thought....

Once again I continue looking at distinctive features of Methodism and this month I am going to discuss the role of singing in worship. Methodists are known the world over to be enthusiastic about their singing and it has been said that we sing our theology. I guess if one has been born and bred a Methodist then this is something that is noticed less than if you join the Methodist Church from another denomination later in life. This fact was brought home to me when a Roman Catholic who had just joined a Methodist congregation commented in surprise that all the hymns and songs we sing in worship followed the theme of the service and indeed, for us Methodist preachers part of the role of the singing is to reinforce what is being preached so I'm glad he noticed!

The importance of what we sing was also brought home to me last year at college when being part of an ecumenical community we'd sing from the hymn books of different denominations in the weekly worship time. So many of our well known hymns were truncated, so there would often be no more than three verses printed. Being a Methodist through and through I didn't like this one bit as inevitably some of my favourite verses would be missing!

Not unexpectedly in a denomination which is 'born in song' we have an official hymn book called Hymns and Psalms which contains mainly old hymns. However Methodist worship today is not just about the old hymns, although they are important, but typically congregations sing contemporary songs as well. The Methodist Church have noted this explosion of new songs over the last twenty years and are in the process of producing an updated hymnbook to

encompass this, although last time I heard they were undecided as to whether this would be produced in hard or electronic form.

John and Charles Wesley first realised the power of singing to strengthen faith when they were travelling across the Atlantic to Georgia in May 1735. There was a terrible storm at sea, but a group of German Moravian Christians inspired the brothers with their confidence in God. They preached and sang hymns together and the Wesley brothers realised their own faith was much weaker. Three years later, back in London, both John and Charles experienced a kind of conversion in which they felt a deep assurance that they personally had received salvation. And it would seem it their conversion all began with singing. No wonder it meant so much to them.

Charles wrote in all about 6000 hymns in all, most of them containing profound biblical ideas and theology and many of them still sung and loved today. Yes, we sing our theology but I cannot finish without mentioning the ultimate reason for singing which is for the glory of God. I leave you with the words of a more modern hymn writer Brian Hoare.

Born in song!
 God's people have always been singing.
 Born in song!
 Hearts and voices raised.
 So today we worship together;
 God alone is worthy to be praised.
 (H&P 486)

Blessings,
 Felicity

(Felicity's day off is Saturday)

Sponsors wanted!

Alys Randall has sent this message, "Please would you like to sponsor me for the Race For Life which I am running on the 9th May at 9.30 am. I am running to 'beat cancer' for my grandma Jane who died last year and I will be running/jogging/walking 5km for Cancer Research. From Alys"

Please support Alys, and add you name to the sponsor form in the church foyer

Homes and Gardens

The new programme for Homes and Gardens will be available in May, and starts in June this year, with events planned until the middle of September. Please support these events as they are not only great fellowship but also help toward supporting the Ministry in our circuit.

Christian Aid Week 9-15th May

Carmarthen raised a great total of £4000 for the Haiti appeal earlier in the year, but the crises this year have eaten into the budgets of charities.

The ongoing development work, which really helps people make a living and get out of poverty, is being squeezed, so we need to work harder than ever to raise funds.

We have some roads to collect around the church, and help is needed for the street collection on Sat. 15th May 10-3pm from Wesley. Please talk to Felicity or Hilary if you can help.

Circuit Away Day

Last year a large group from the circuit went to Nicholaston House on the Gower for a most enjoyable 'Away Day' As well as being good fellowship, and enjoying a nice meal together, there were various activities to try our hand at, a good time of worship and some stunning views of the coastline.

This year we're there again, and hoping that even more will join us for a great day out—the theme is 'Let all things praise the Lord!'

The date is July 10th but Pauline Barnett needs to know names by 1st June. There is a small charge of £10 adults and £5 children.

Do pick up a leaflet at church or ask John & Margaret Birch if you can't find one!

April Coffee Mornings

Well, spring is here and the customers have returned for their coffee, greeting cards and marmalade and Mills and Boon! The figures look good.

April 7 th	£65.65
April 14 th	66.11
April 21 st	75.25
April 28 th	64.00
Total	£271.01

This gives an average of £67.75. Thank you to everyone who has helped.

Circuit Business Meeting

The next circuit business meeting in May 13th 7.15pm at Kidwelly

10 Reasons why English is difficult

- 1) The bandage was wound around the wound.
- 2) The farm was used to produce produce.
- 3) The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
- 4) We must polish the Polish furniture.
- 5) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
- 6) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
- 7) I did not object to the object.
- 8) The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
- 9) To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.
- 10) The wind was too strong to wind the sail.



Focus on Christian Aid Week

Peru

Christian Aid is currently involved in several disaster appeals. Since February, torrential rains have been affecting most regions of Peru including those of Cuzco, Puno and Apurimac where Christian Aid partners are active. More than 100,000 people have been affected, 40 people have died and more than 40,000 people have lost their homes. The rains have caused landslides, overflowing rivers, destroyed thousands of hectares of crops and have left many communities isolated as many roads are impassable.

Christian Aid is responding to the floods by supporting the relief efforts of our partner IMAGEN.

Haiti

Christian Aid partners are providing medical assistance, cash, food, daily meals, basic shelter, hygiene supplies, blankets and medical supplies to the survivors of the quake.

The earthquake has posed exceptional challenges to aid agencies, and the main concern now is the arrival of the rainy season in May. Without proper shelter and adequate sanitation, there is every



possibility that disease will break out in overcrowded settlements.

Zimbabwe

Around 2.5 million people needed food aid earlier this year as Zimbabweans

continue to be caught in a cycle of food shortages. Drought, a ruined infrastructure and an economy in collapse mean people simply can't grow enough food to survive. But if we act now, we can help avert the crisis for thousands next year too.

Sri Lanka

Christian Aid urgently needs your support for the post-conflict humanitarian crisis in northeast Sri Lanka. Nearly 250,000 people are living in overcrowded transit camps where conditions are cramped and facilities stretched.

On average, 12 people are living in tents meant to house four people. This overcrowding, along with the pending monsoon rains, means that there is now a serious risk of outbreaks of diseases such as cholera, typhoid and dysentery.

In addition, these transit camps are not set up to withstand monsoon rains and so it is all the more important that those displaced by the conflict are able to return home as soon as before the rainy season begins.

