

## Wesley Services – November 2009

	1st	8th	15th	22nd	6th Dec
<b>10-30 am</b>	Members Service	Rev F Randall (HC)	Miss A Wheeler	Rev P Barnett	Mr J Birch
<b>6-00 pm</b>	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)

### Stewards

#### Vestry

1st November	a.m.	Lorette Hinson
1st November	p.m.	Lorette Hinson
8th November		Angela Vooght
15th November		Margaret Birch
22th November		Hilary Gould
29th November		Angela Vooght
6th December	a.m.	Lorette Hinson
6th December	p.m.	Joan Edwards

#### Door

1st November	a.m.	Marjorie Hinson
1st November	p.m.	Marjorie Hinson
8th November		Hope Ackrill
15th November		Peter Sharp
22th November		Sue and Roger
29th November		Hope Ackrill
6th December	a.m.	Marjorie Hinson
6th December	p.m.	Graham Edwards

#### Communion

1st November	Lorette Hinson
8th November	Brian Aylward
6th December	Lorette Hinson

### Explaining God - by Danny, aged 8

One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grown-ups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way, He doesn't have to take up His valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.

You should always go to Church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God. Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong! And, besides, the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway.



November 2009

### *Just a thought....*

Last week I heard the story of a young child at a local primary school who came into class on Monday morning announcing that he had seen 'God' over the weekend. The teacher was most surprised to hear this and went on to question the child further as to where this sighting had taken place, only to discover that 'God' had been spotted Carmarthen town centre. After further enquiry the mystery was solved. 'God' turned out to be a local vicar who visited the school regularly and just so happened to be a man in possession of a white beard.

What is our view of God? Now whilst I doubt any of us still hold to the friendly-chap-who-looks-a-bit-like-Father-Christmas-sat-on-a-passing-cloud-who-is-basically-there-to-say-yes-when-we-ask-for-things version of God, none of us in truth could give a detailed description of what God is *actually* like.

But hang on a moment, I hear you say, doesn't the Bible tell us rather a lot about what God is like? Well yes the Bible definitely does that. For example God is described as being loving, forgiving and just but at the same time he's described as being angry, jealous and even wrathful.

There are recurring metaphors such as God being like a rock or like the wind, like a dove or like a lion. Perhaps we might focus on some of the physical attributes of God that

the Bible mentions such as the fact that humans were made in God's image or more specific features such as God's face or arms or 'the finger of God' (Exodus 31:18 - just in case you were wondering!)

But hang on a minute doesn't it say somewhere that God is invisible? Add to this some very tricky concepts such as God as a Community or Trinity!

The problem is that actually, it is extremely difficult to talk about or describe God because as humans we are limited by our words which will always fall short of what we really want to say.

But one thing we can say with confidence is this; our God who is beyond words, time, space or even understanding actually wants each one of us to be in relationship with Him. Now I think that's amazing and definitely something worth telling the teacher about on a Monday morning!

Every blessing,  
Felicity

(Felicity's study day is Tuesday and her day off is Saturday)

## Christmas Cards

It was agreed at our recent Council meeting, that an opportunity would be given for anyone that may wish to give to charity rather than send Christmas cards to each other within the Church.

If you wish to take part, then from November a poster will be placed within Church for you to sign and leave any Christmas message.

The charity will be Christian Aid, and when all monies have been received at Christmas we will send a gift via Present Aid. A catalogue will also be available for you to see.

Please put your donation in an envelope marked 'Christmas card donation' and place in offertory bag any Sunday during November and December.

Thank you.

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## Collection Envelopes

The new collection envelopes are now ready. If you haven't got yours yet they are waiting for you in the church. If you would like to join the scheme please see Chris Gould.

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## Harvest Supper

The harvest supper raised £208.93 for MRDF (Methodist Relief and Development Fund). The coffee morning on October 7th raised a further £100.41 which will also be sent on to MRDF.

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## A prayer for our homes:

Bless this house and those within  
Bless our giving and receiving  
Bless our words and conversation  
Bless our hands and recreation  
Bless our sowing and our growing  
Bless our coming and our going  
Bless all who enter and depart  
Bless this house, your peace impart

JB

## News from MRDF (Methodist Relief and Development Fund).



Disaster struck Sumatra, in western Indonesia, and many other islands on 30 September when an earthquake measuring 7.6 on the Richter Scale killed over 1,000 people. Landslides buried entire villages, left 1,000 people missing and many more homeless. The relief efforts, particularly to remote communities, have been hampered by blocked roads and bad weather, but getting clean water and food to the survivors is absolutely essential to prevent the spread of disease.

Further south, people are burying their dead and trying to rebuild their lives after four tsunamis and an aftershock struck Samoa, American Samoa and Tonga on 29 September. Over 150 people died and 32,000 people are homeless.

MRDF Director Kirsty Smith said: 'The disasters have caused huge devastation to these countries. We may not be able to comprehend the great sense of loss - of family members, friends and community - but in our giving we can help to bring some hope to people in very desperate situations.'

Through its emergency partner in Indonesia, MRDF will help to provide food, water and medical assistance to some of the most vulnerable people. MRDF is working with the Methodist Church to provide vital support to those affected by the crisis in Samoa and Tonga

## Apostles and Apprentices

*As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 'Come, follow me,' Jesus said, 'and I will send you out to fish for people.' At once they left their nets and followed him. Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. Matthew 4:18-20*

Luke tells us that Jesus spent a night praying on a mountainside before he named the twelve men who were to be his special disciples or apostles. He had called them to be with him for the three years or so of his public ministry. He called twelve, and the gospel writers carefully record their names (Matthew 10:3; Mark 3:14; Luke 6:14). These twelve men, recalling the twelve tribes of Israel, would be the messengers of the kingdom to the world, the apostle planters of the church, the new Israel. In his vision of the new creation John sees their names on the twelve foundations of the wall of the new Jerusalem, the Holy City, just as the names of the twelve tribes of Israel are written on the gates (Revelation 21:12, 14).

Jesus taught them, involving them in his ministry and sending them out to preach the news of the Kingdom. But the powerful symbolism of the number twelve does not mean that these men were the only disciples. Jesus once sent out seventy to preach the Kingdom. Some of the twelve hardly figure at all in the narrative. Of the ones we do follow, we see them as they learn from him, sometimes doubting and misunderstanding him, sometimes questioning his decisions. But we also see

them realising the amazing unimaginable truth about the Lord who had called them.

From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. 'You do not want to leave too, do you?' Jesus asked the Twelve. Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.' John 6:66-68

'You will be my witnesses', Jesus told them, just before his ascension. Through the power of the Holy Spirit they were to go to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. As we read Acts, and their letters, we see them laying the foundations of the church by their teaching and preaching, and are ourselves grafted into the body of Christ, his church, through their teaching.

Margaret Killingray  
London Institute for Contemporary Christianity

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"We are the Bibles the world is reading;  
We are the creeds the world is needing;  
We are the sermons the world is heeding." - Billy Graham

