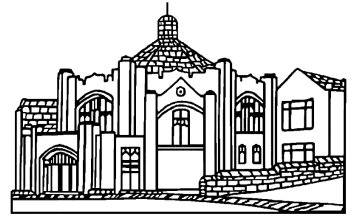




Wesley Hall

Part of Wesley Ebenezer Methodist Church

Minister: Rev. John Simms
Office: (0114) 267 9040



Sunday 6th May 2012

We Welcome You To Worship Today

We hope you find a warm welcome, particularly if you are with us for the first time. If we don't manage to speak to you personally and you would like more information, please pick up a welcome leaflet. All song words are projected onto the wall above the dais or can be found in the books provided. Separate song sheets are available at the back of church for any songs that are not in the hymn books. Recordings of our Sunday morning services are usually available, please see Matt Irons.

Today's service	10:30am	Preacher	Rev. John Simms
		The steward on duty is Dorothy White	

<i>And next week</i>	<i>10:30am</i>	<i>Preacher</i>	<i>Mr Neil Craig</i>
		<i>Worship Leader</i>	<i>Louise Etherington</i>
		<i>The steward on duty will be Pat Singleton</i>	

THIS WEEK...

❖ Bible Basics

Join us for Bible Basics, a new and informal gathering where we study and discuss key passages through the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation. We meet on Wednesdays at [REDACTED] starting at 7:30pm and finishing by 9:30pm. If you're interested, or want to know more, please talk to John or Judith Simms (266 0010), Louise Etherington or just come along.

❖ Alpha

Wesley Ebenezer are running an Alpha course at Walkley. It will run mainly on Thursday evenings during May and June, the next session being this Thursday at 6.30pm. This is an opportunity for us to talk to others, and to ourselves, about what's important to us about the Christian faith. The course is designed so that we eat together, listen together, talk together and pray together as we explore the basics of our beliefs: who was Jesus and why did he die?; why is it important to pray and read the Bible?; how does the Holy Spirit help us to be followers of Jesus? The course is being run for two groups of people: those within the life of the church who want to know more about Jesus or to refresh themselves in the core beliefs and values of Christianity; and those who aren't yet a part of the church – our neighbours, friends or colleagues, whom we could invite to join us. Now is the time to start thinking about who you could invite along and to start praying for them. The good news of Jesus isn't just for the church: "The promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far off—for all that the Lord our God will call." (Acts 2:39). If there is someone you would like to invite, please pick up a flyer for them from the back of church giving details and dates.

❖ Students – coffee at the manse tonight 6th May – respite from revision/ writing up blues

Students from Wesley Hall and our sister church the Beacon at Broomhill are invited to pop round to [REDACTED] any time from 8pm this evening for coffee & cakes. Speak to Neil Harland or ring Cat Harland on 07597 673106 for details/directions.

❖ Coffee & Crafts

A group of ladies meet in the Church Hall for a craft afternoon, fortnightly on Tuesdays from 2:00pm to 3:30pm. As part of the craft work they are looking to produce banners for the Sanctuary. All are welcome and there is a charge of £1.50 to cover refreshments and materials. The next meeting is this *Tuesday 8th May*.

❖ Men's Breakfast

A group of us continue to meet for a chat over a bacon and egg sandwich from 8:30 to 9:30am downstairs in the hall. Please join us for our next meeting on *Saturday 12th May*. If you have any queries, speak to Jim.

❖ Gospel Concert

There will be a Gospel Concert by the University of Sheffield Gospel Choir and Band, 'Brighter Day 2012', at Stephen Hill Methodist Church on *Wednesday 9th May* at 7:30pm. Tickets cost £5.00/£3.50 on the door or contact Bob Townrow on [REDACTED]. Proceeds will go to Homestart for Sheffield, Action for Children and the Bible Society

COMING SOON...

❖ Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid Week is from 13th to 19th May. On *Saturday 19th May* we will be counting the monies raised from the door to door street collection at church and there will be refreshments and lunches (home-made soup and jacket potatoes) plus a cake stall. Margaret Gray & Pat Wright would really welcome cakes, buns, etc for the cake stall. Many thanks, Andrea.

❖ Testimony & Ordination Services

Daniel Pratt Morris-Chapman's testimony service will be held on Thursday 31st May at 7:30pm at Stanwood and all are welcome to come along. His ordination is on Sunday 1st July at Newton Abbot at 5:00pm. Tickets for the ordination are free and are available by contacting Trevor Williams on willardsheff@gmail.com.

Dates For Your Diary

Sunday 6 th May	Gift Day (during morning service)
Saturday 19 th May	Christian Aid Event
Sunday 27 th May	Joint service with the Korean Church (10:30am) Whit Sing (2:45pm with Rev. John Simms)
Sunday 3 rd June	Big Lunch for Diamond Jubilee (after morning service)
Friday 8 th June – Sunday 10 th June	Jubilee Flower Festival
Saturday 16 th June	Circuit Prayer Walk
Monday 13 th – Friday 17 th August	Olympic Themed holiday club (weekday mornings)
Sunday 2 nd September	Joint Covenant Service (10:30am at Wesley Hall)
Saturday 29 th September	Harvest Supper (6:30pm at Walkley)
Sunday 30 th September	Harvest Festival (10:30am with Rev. John Simms)
Sunday 14 th October	Pastoral Service (10:30am with Rev. John Simms)
Saturday 27 th October	Church Away Day (location to be confirmed)
Sunday 28 th October	Chapel Anniversary (10:30am with Rev. John Simms)
Sunday 23 rd December	Carol Service (6:00pm)
Monday 24 th December	Holy Communion (6:00pm)
Christmas Day	Family Worship (9:30am with Rev. John Simms)
Tuesday 2 nd – Sunday 7 th April	Spring Harvest 2013 "The Source: Encountering Jesus Today"

CHILDREN & FAMILIES WORKER...

❖ Background to the post

The church has served the community of Crookes through our successful Toddler Group over the years. We now feel called to offer these families something deeper and have been encouraged by the response. We tested the water in November 2011 with a Stay and Play morning comprising of play with craft activities, bouncy castle, hot drinks and cakes, culminating in a puppet show by Saints Alive. Our eyes were opened to the potential for this work and, having familiarised ourselves with Messy Church in a series of midweek pilots, we began a more structured programme with another Stay and Play in February 2012 followed by Messy Church in March and April. This pattern will continue through to the Summer. We see the Stay and Play mornings as a bridge to encourage unchurched families to come along to Messy Church, which has a stronger Christian theme throughout the morning. The Stay and Play / Messy Church programme is still very much in its infancy but we have been amazed by the response. The team of volunteers have been greatly encouraged but will struggle to sustain and grow the work without the time and resources of a dedicated worker.

We do not see Messy Church in isolation but have also looked at how we can make our other services more accessible for those wanting to explore further. Again, with Nel Shallow's guidance, we now hold a monthly reflective alternative worship service – SPACE – aimed at younger adults and those turned off by "traditional" church. We have also introduced monthly all-age worship on Sunday mornings, usually led by a regular team from our minister and worship leaders.

With the right time and expertise, we hope to strengthen and replicate this model of building bridges for the wide range of children and their families with whom we already or potentially have some contact.

❖ Proposed new post

To enable us to fulfil the potential of our vision, we are looking to employ a Christian children and families worker for 20 hours per week, from September 2012.

Funding will initially be secured for three years. We expect this part of our mission to continue to grow during and beyond this period, and will investigate future resources and funding required as the project develops over this initial period.

The job specification will include the following key areas:

- To grow the church's new Saturday morning mission work of Stay and Play and Messy Church
- To play an active role in development and promotion of city X; Site events, currently based at Wesley Hall
- To strengthen existing and build new relationships between the church and local families in the community
- To build new links with local primary schools and uniformed organisations (Brownies, Junior Boys' Brigade) that meet within the building
- To work alongside the existing church Leadership Team to further the development of the children and families programme, mission and strategy
- To co-ordinate, plan and deliver, with continued support of existing volunteers, the church's children and families programme (including All Age Worship, Sunday morning TRIBE, Toddler Group, Holiday Clubs)
- To support and develop the children's work volunteer base.

❖ Gift Day

The post will be for an initial 3 year period and will cost around £14,500 per year. Our proposal is that around half of the cost will come from grants from the Circuit, District and other local charitable organisations. The other half, £7,000 per year, will be met by the congregation through Gift Days. This means that our Gift Days for the next 3 years will all be used to fund this post. As an indication, this breaks down to an average cost of £100 per member per year or £2 per week. Some people will not be in a position to give this amount, while some will be in a position to give more.

Today is our Gift Day and all gifts will be put towards the employment of a children and families worker. In order to be confident that we are able to support the post across the whole three year period, we are asking for pledges to cover the next two Gift Days, along with gifts for this year.

As you came in, you should have received a pledge form in an envelope. The pledge form can be used to indicate what you intend to give this year and on the Gift Days in 2013 and 2014. Pledging is not a binding agreement but just an indication of what you intend to give.

Please seal completed pledge forms in their envelope and put them in the collection during any Sunday service. The details of this form will be kept confidential and all forms will be held by the treasurer, Matt Irons. Completed forms are welcome on any Sunday morning and not just on Gift Day.

You are welcome to include your gift for 2012 along with your completed pledge form. If you do this and have previously signed a Gift Aid declaration, please include the date and your Gift Aid number on the outside of the envelope. If you are a UK taxpayer and have not completed a Gift Aid declaration, or have completed a declaration but do not know your Gift Aid number, please see Matt Irons.

We are very happy to accept gifts by cash, cheque, bank transfer or standing order. Gifts are welcome on the Gift Days or spread-over the year on a quarterly, monthly or weekly basis. If you have any questions about Gift Day or pledging, please see Matt Irons.

❖ 20 in 12 Challenge

The money raised during our Gift Day last year went towards the 20 in 12 Challenge and the total so far is £20,595.85. We would like to thank everyone who has given or been involved in raising money for all they have done over the last year. The challenge was officially launched on Sunday 22nd May 2011 ahead of our Gift Day on Sunday 12th June. Meeting the £20,000 challenge is an amazing achievement, especially since it was done in under a year. But we are not finished yet! There are still more events planned so it is hoped that we can continue to add to the total.

AND FINALLY...

❖ Action For Children Boxes

If you have any Action For Children collection boxes, please bring them to me as soon as possible. Many thanks for your continued support. Dorothy.

❖ Spring Harvest 2013

A group of us will be going to Spring Harvest at Butlins, Skegness again next year (Tuesday 2 April to Sunday 7 April). The theme will be 'The Source – Encountering Jesus Today', focusing on what Jesus being the Good News means in today's world. If you're interested in joining us, please speak to Carole or Andrew Gray as soon as possible, as we will need to book soon.

The editor for the month of May is Andrew. Please place items for the newsletter in the pigeon hole, send an e-mail to newsletter@wesleyhall.org.uk or call Andrew on [REDACTED] by Wednesday afternoon