



Wesley Hall Methodist Church

Minister: Rev. John Simms
www.wesleyhall.org.uk



Sunday 10th January 2010

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 card and 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	10:30 am: Preacher	Rev. John Simms (Holy Communion)
	Worship Leader	Louise Etherington
	The steward on duty today is Dorothy White	

<i>And next week</i>	<i>10:30 am: Preacher</i>	<i>Mrs. Pauline Virgo</i>
<i>17th January</i>	<i>Worship Leader</i>	<i>No Worship Leader</i>
	<i>The steward will be Bernard Newbound</i>	

THIS WEEK...

❖ Dreams & Visions

The idea behind 'Dreams & Visions' is to set aside time to think about the mission and vision of Wesley Hall and invite anyone from the church to attend. We hope that many of you will be able to come along and share any ideas you have or support the discussions. The first 'Dreams & Visions' meeting will be tomorrow, *Monday 11th January* at 7:30pm in the Emmaus Room.

❖ Tapton Prayer Group

The next meeting will be this *Thursday 14th January* at 8.00pm at [REDACTED]. All staff, parents and anyone else with an interest in the school welcome. If you would like us to pray for a particular issue relating to the school, or you would like more details please contact Wendy on [REDACTED].

COMING SOON...

❖ Exploring The Trust Model Of Church

There will be a meeting on *Tuesday 19th January* at 7:30pm in the Emmaus Room where we will be discussing our future as a church at Wesley Hall. A number of us recently visited Rawmarsh Methodist Church who have set up a charitable trust to run the church building thus freeing the congregation from the burdens and responsibilities of doing so themselves. Like us, they have a large building which is costly to run and maintain. Setting up a charitable trust has enabled a significant amount of funding to be brought in through grants and has enabled them to renovate parts of the building. We are also hoping to visit another church which has gone down a similar different route but operates as a faith based organisation.

If we grasp the opportunity of using the time that is freed up from looking after the building we could devote more time to mission. Also, our financial position is very precarious (this year we have made a loss of £9,000 and during the current year we are anticipating a loss of about £6,000) and on top of this we are faced with having to raise money to carry out essential renovations highlighted in our quinquennial report.

This is a really important meeting which could have a significant effect on the future of worship at Wesley Hall so please do your best to attend.

❖ **Breakfast Club**

We start with a cooked breakfast at 9:30am before the children and young people have some games and the adults clear up and at 10:30, those that would like to go the main service go upstairs. The children and young people then have their own activity whilst the adults will be looking at issues facing them and how the church links into that. All are welcome to come along to the next breakfast club is on *Sunday 24th January*.

❖ **Exhibition At Sheffield Cathedral**

There will be an exhibition on 'Poverty and Inequality in Sheffield and the UK' at the Cathedral from *Friday 27th January to Friday 12th February*, organised by Church Action on Poverty in Sheffield. The exhibition is opened by Kate Plant, Director of Faith and Justice for the Anglican Diocese at 2:30pm on *Friday 27th January*, with a brief presentation by Sheffield CAP about the exhibition and its significance. All welcome.

AND FINALLY...

❖ **Letter From Janti**

We have received a further letter from Janti (aged 6 years), our sponsored friend in India.

Dear Sponsor,

Janti sends his heartiest greetings from India. He is fine and thanks you for your love and sponsorship. He is studying standard 1st grade at school. He learns maths, English, drawing and painting at school. He attends Sunday school and learns about Jesus. His parents earn wages. They live in a small cottage with their 3 children.

Janti would like to know about you and your country. Janti's favourite colour is green; his favourite food is rice-daal chicken curry; his favourite game is cricket and he likes devotional songs.

Please pray for his studying and his parents who are not Christians.

Thanking you on behalf of Janti and the project staff.

Thank you to the children and adults who have raised £30 for Janti/Compassion UK by collecting small change. The Sunday school children will be writing to Janti again. If you would like to write a letter yourself or make a donation, please speak to Simone.

NEWS FROM "THE BUZZ"...

❖ Praying For Peace (From Mount Charles Methodist Church, St Austell Circuit)



Hands Up for Peace was the theme for the third commemoration of the United Nations International Day of Prayer for Peace held at Mount Charles Methodist Church, St Austell, Cornwall.

Outside the church a banner was displayed with the letters of 'Hands Up for Peace' made up of cut outs of people's hands with peace prayers and peace messages written on them. Inside the church prayers were said continuously by a constantly changing congregation that included worshippers from at least 15 different local Christian groups. Every hour prayers were briefly led by a representative of one of the local congregations, and local organists played throughout the day.

❖ Eco-Congregation Goes Public (From Baildon Methodist Church, Bradford)

What are Baildon and Bradford doing about climate change? What more could Baildon and Bradford do about climate change? John Anderson, eco-officer at Baildon Methodist Church explains how the church is thinking outside the box and engaging the public.



In November, Baildon Methodist Eco-congregation, Bradford held a public meeting for 100 citizens, which one Roman Catholic present called 'inspirational'.

- Five local speakers explained what Bradford Council and Baildon Parish Council were doing
- The concept of Eco-congregation was explained and advocated
- Two new near-zero-carbon buildings were described
- A Christian Aid speaker outlined how climate change is killing now

The second half of the meeting looked at what more could be done. In particular there was much support for distributed electricity generation from wind turbines, domestic roofs etc. Seven displays were viewed by those attending. One aim was to spawn many other such meetings all across Bradford and indeed the country.

For more information on becoming an Eco-congregation: www.ecocongregation.org

❖ Service In A shoebox! (From Queen's Road Methodist Church, Royston, Cambridge Circuit)



Every Saturday morning Queen's Road Methodist Church holds a 'Coffee Break' when folk can get together, have a chat and enjoy a cup of Fairtrade coffee and biscuits. On the first Saturday in November it was decided to do something different, so a 'Coffee Break Special' was held when, as well as enjoying coffee and biscuits, shoe boxes were decorated and filled, as part of 'Operation Christmas Child'.

There were tables laden with gifts that had been given and were waiting to go into the empty boxes, which a team was decorating with bright Christmas paper. When the boxes had been filled they were piled up ready to go to the collection centre.

While this was going on, church members and friends were bringing in boxes which they had already decorated and filled at home. These, along with some from the 3rd Royston Methodist Guides, were added to the pile and when all the available boxes had been filled it came to a grand total of 68 colourful gifts, destined to bring joy to some of the world's most deprived children.

More information about Operation Christmas Child: www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk

❖ **A Tale Of Two Churches, Two Journeys And Nearly 300 Children** (From the Durham Circuit and the Keswick and Cockermouth Circuit)

A book called The Christmas Journey provided wonderful opportunities for two churches to invite almost 300 local school children to experience the Christmas story in an exciting, innovative and interactive way.

First stop on this journey was in Durham - 150 year 2 children and teachers came from four Durham City schools to North Road Methodist Church. The church was emptied of chairs and filled with gazebos. In the first gazebo the children learned about creation and how people had spoiled God's gift. The Journey then took the children through the gazebos and walkways from Mary's kitchen, the hillside above Bethlehem, the stable, the wise man's abode and ended in a contemporary sitting room decorated for Christmas where they discovered God's plan in sending Jesus.



Anne Offler, circuit children and youth development worker, said: "The Journey was interactive with the children becoming involved. One of the favourite parts was the actual birth of Jesus told by a cow, a sheep, a camel and a donkey puppet as they recalled being disturbed that night by all the events." Next, on to Keswick - The floods might have been reminiscent of the story of Noah, but the water didn't stop volunteers from Churches Together in Keswick and Neighbourhood, some of whom were struggling with the flooding of their own homes, from taking over 140 children on The Christmas Journey. The decision to continue with the event was made exactly a week after the deluge, despite the fact that everyone concerned felt totally unprepared.



Just four days later, Keswick Methodist Church was transformed into the setting for the journey. Over the following two days, groups of Key Stage 1 children from all the primary schools in Keswick and the surrounding area were transported back to the creation story then to Mary's kitchen to witness her encounter with the angel Gabriel, who they then met again on the hillside outside Bethlehem, before entering the stable where the animals told them the story of the birth of Jesus. Next they visited a splendid palace where they talked about the strange gifts of the wise men before arriving back in the present day where, in a living room decorated for Christmas, the children were invited to reflect on how the birth of Jesus offered a new beginning for the world.

The children also made stars to hang on their Christmas trees and took away a booklet so they could share the story told on their journey with their families. Refreshed with home-made cakes and Christmas biscuits, children, and the school staff who accompanied them, returned to school with a new perspective on the nativity plays which many were busy rehearsing.

Jennet McLeod, superintendent minister of the Keswick and Cockermouth Circuit asks: "Was the decision to go ahead with the event worthwhile? Very definitely yes! The children asked some searching questions on their journey and we saw teachers with tears in their eyes as they watched their wide-eyed charges travel through time. One little lad commented 'If my sister knew what she'd missed she'd go bananas!'"

More information about The Christmas Journey from: www.christmasjourney.org.uk

All of the above stories taken from the latest issue of "The Buzz" which can be found online at: http://www.methodist.org.uk/static/html_emails/buzz.htm