

❖ Messy Church

Our next Messy Church is this **Saturday 16th May** 10 to 11.30am it is all about the Holy Spirit and what happened at Pentecost. For further details please speak to Liz.

COMING SOON...

❖ Christian Aid Dusk to Dawn Trek

This year is the 50th anniversary of Christian Aid's May Day Trek. This year's trek was on Monday 4th May but for those wanting a more challenging walk, there is the 17 mile dusk-to-dawn walk on **Saturday 28th June** which goes out to Hathersage via Padley Gorge and returns via Stanage. An application form for the trek can be obtained by contacting Bridget Kellett on [REDACTED] or maydaywalk@gmail.com or can be found on www.sheffieldmaydaytrek.org.uk where you can also register for the walk.

❖ Big Plant Sale at Walkley Ebenezer

Our friends at Walkley Ebenezer are holding a plant sale from **10am to 1pm on Saturday 23rd May**. The sale is open to anyone who wants to sell their own plants at a small charge per table or bring them along to be sold to raise money for church funds. Tea and coffee will be served during the morning.

❖ Noah

Last year at Spring Harvest, some of the group from Wesley Ebenezer saw a short performance taken from the touring production of Noah, a musical for all the family by Doug Horley and the Saltmine Theatre Company. Last year's tour dates didn't include a visit to Sheffield but this year they are at the Montgomery Theatre **on 22nd May at 7pm**. Tickets are £14 for adults, £10 for children or £40 for a family ticket (2 adults + 2 children). If anyone is interested in going, please see Carole Gray or text/call her on [REDACTED] and she will get tickets.

❖ Wesley Hall Festival

At the General Church Meeting last year we agreed to organise a 'mini-festival' at Wesley Hall, with the Bible Society's "Creation: A Celebration" exhibition panels as the centrepiece. This will take place in June this year, with the exhibition open 10.00am-4.00pm, every Wednesday-Saturday, from **10th to 27th June**. Running alongside this will be several afternoon craft workshops and evening concerts. Judith Simms is doing most of the organising of the events but, as requested at the meeting last year, we will need volunteers to help during the event. Each day is divided into two 3-hour sessions: 10.00am-1.00pm and 1.00-4.00pm. We need 2 or 3 people to be here for each session to welcome visitors, chat, serve refreshments (drinks and cake), and to generally keep an eye on things. If you can offer your time in this way, please sign-up on the sheet at the back of church for as many sessions as you feel able to offer. We would also appreciate fresh home-made cakes to serve, so if that's your skill, there's room to sign up for that too. If you need any further information, please talk to Judith at church, or on the phone - 266 0010.

❖ Whitsun Celebration (Whit Sing) - Sunday 24th May 2015

This year the West Branch has decided to have an outdoor gathering at Hampton View Church instead of our usual service at Wesley Hall. The reason for this change is because the very first Pentecost started in an upper room but then after the Church had received the Holy Spirit they went outside and preached the gospel to those who had gathered; people from all over the known world, who heard the Gospel in their own tongues. We feel the current format of the Whit Sing, although enjoyable to us, has become just another service, inside another building, serving people who already go to church. The original Whit Sings were held outside in a park, involving many Sunday school children and uniformed organisations. Then in the afternoon they met for games and picnics around the S6 area. So if anything,

we want to return back to our original roots. We are exploring the opportunity of inviting Hillsborough Tabernacle and Langsett Road Salvation Army. If it rains we are hoping to go indoors at St Barts Church on Primrose Hill. For future years, if this experiment works well, we would like to explore other possible places to meet, nearer to the other churches in the fellowship.

What will happen and when? (a very rough guide): 12.30pm Start; 1.00pm Picnic; 1.30pm Games and Crafts; 2.45pm Singing and Devotion.

❖ **The Big Lunch**

Following the success of previous years, we will be hosting our 2015 Big Lunch after our All Age Worship on **Sunday 7th June from 12 noon**. The Big Lunch is an Eden Project initiative partnered by the Halifax. The aim is to get as many people as possible across the whole of the UK to have lunch with their neighbours annually on the first Sunday in June, in a simple act of community, friendship and fun. Here at Wesley Hall, we will be providing a free Big Lunch barbecue. In addition, Avril Clark and her colleague Alice Jacobs from the Halifax will be fundraising for the Sheffield S6 Foodbank. Stalls in our foyer will include a tombola and a nail-painting stand. Please can you dig out any unwanted Christmas presents, toiletry sets, chocolates, etc. that could be used as prizes for the tombola stall and pass these to Avril or Matt between now and the start of June. Thanks.

❖ **Dates for your diaries**

- 6pm Sunday 19th July at Stephen Hill Methodist Church-Circuit Farewell Service for Rev John Simms, Deacon Jan Miles and Rev Devadas Matcha
- 6pm Sunday 26th July -Rev John Simms final service at Wesley Hall

AND FINALLY...

❖ **Children, Families & Youth Update**

Our Gift Days for this and the next two years are for Liz's successor as Children and Families Worker and a new part-time post of Pre-teen & Youth Development Worker. Thank you to all from Wesley Hall and Walkley who have already given or pledged money. We have already received gifts and pledges totalling £10,700 for this year and £8,900 for the next two years! If you have not yet done so, it's still not too late. Pledge forms are available at the back of the church or speak to our treasurer, Matt Irons, in confidence for further details. We have now submitted applications to four funding bodies, including Sheffield Circuit and Sheffield Methodist District. Please pray for clarity of thought for those reading our applications and for those who will read and respond to the job advertisements we expect to publish around June. We wish Liz every success in her Master's degree, which will start in September, and celebrate the foundations which have been built over the last three years.

❖ **Tea and Coffee Rota-Volunteer Required**

Judith Simms will be stepping down from the tea and coffee rota and we thank her for all she has done. This means that Andrea will be without a partner to help serve tea and coffee after morning worship. Refreshments after the service and the opportunity for a chat are important to many people. If you would be willing to help please speak to Andrea or Steve Wright.

❖ **Church Offering for April**

Wesley Ebenezer Methodist Church is a registered charity number 1150284. As a registered charity, we are publishing the amount given to Wesley Hall on Sunday morning, at events, by standing order or via any other method. The amount given in April was £1,831.18; thank you for your generosity.