



Wesley Hall

Part of Wesley Ebenezer Methodist Church

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



Sunday 13th 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 services	10:30am	Preacher	Mr Neil Craig
		Worship Leader	Louise Etherington
	6:00pm	Preacher	Rev John Simms (Prayer Service)

The steward on duty is Pat Singleton

<i>And next week</i>	<i>10:30am</i>	<i>Preacher</i>	<i>Rev Daniel Pratt Morris-Chapman</i>
		<i>(Holy Communion)</i>	

The steward on duty will be Andrew Gray

THIS WEEK...

❖ Bible Basics

Join us for Bible Basics, an 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.

❖ Men's Breakfast

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

❖ **Christian Aid Week**

Christian Aid Week is this week, 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.

❖ **Wednesday Group**

This week, *16th May*, the Towns Women's Guild Choir will be performing.

❖ **Flower Festival**

There will be a meeting this Thursday, *17th May*, at 2:00pm (after Lunch Club) for anyone interested in helping with the Flower Festival in June.

COMING SOON...

❖ **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.

❖ **Big Jubilee Lunch**

We are holding a Big Jubilee Lunch on *Sunday 3rd June* to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. It will take place in the church car park (weather permitting) at 12:30pm and we would like to invite our neighbours from the Crookes community to join us. The idea of the Big Jubilee Lunch is to get as many people as possible to sit down and have lunch together on the first Sunday in June. The Big Lunch is all about community, friendship and fun! We have also got some commemorative Diamond Jubilee New Testaments which we will be giving out to those who come along. We are looking for people to deliver invitations to the roads listed at the back of church. If you are able to do this, please put your name next to the road you can deliver to and pop into church on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday to collect the invitations (not all of them got printed last week). This way we can invite as many people as possible to come and celebrate with us. Thank you for your help.

AND FINALLY...

❖ **Birthday Thanks**

Pat and Jim would like to thank all who gave donations to the 20 in 12 Challenge at their party last Saturday which totalled £116. Jim would like to add, "I would like to thank so many of you for cards and presents for my 70th birthday. I had a super time, one I shall remember in the years to come."

❖ **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.

❖ Gift Day and Children & Families Worker

The Children & Families Worker 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.

All our Gift Day money 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 (if you weren't here last week to receive one). 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.

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.