



priced at £5 for adults and £3 for children, for all performances. They are available from Sue Mackley on [REDACTED] (or see Sue Mills).

## COMING SOON...

### ❖ Circuit Service

A Circuit Service will be held on Aldersgate Sunday, *21st May 2017*, at Hillsborough Trinity Methodist Church, Middlewood Road, Sheffield, S6 4HE. Tea and homemade cakes will be served at 5pm with stalls/prayer stations covering various mission links and concerns. The service itself will start at 6pm. Taking John Wesley's famous dictum "I look on the whole world as my parish" the service will focus on World Mission.

## AND FINALLY...

### ❖ Leprosy Mission

A big thank you to everyone who supported Leprosy Sunday and the people with collecting boxes. £139.82p has been sent to Transform Purulia Hospital for leprosy affected patients. God bless, Sue Mills.

### ❖ Flower Rota

The new flower rota is now up at the back of church. If you would like to choose a date to sponsor the church flowers, please add your name to the rota. (Please note, at Sally's request, there will not be any flowers in church during Lent.) Thank you, the Flower Team.

### ❖ CLC Bookshop

Easter & Lent books are now on the shelves for browsing, buying and ordering in bulk... It's time to order the Real Easter Egg from us! At CLC we have many books, CDs and other resources to help in your walk with the Lord! We've picked out a few highlights which we know will be an encouragement for you or if given to the right person at the right time. CLC Bookshops, 103 West Street, SHEFFIELD S1 4EQ

### ❖ Congregational Meeting

Thanks to everyone who came to the congregational meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> February. We squeezed about 40 people into the Emmaus Room to hear about the work of the Wesley Hall and how we are engaging with our local community in various ways. From Toddler Group, Messy Church and the recent Ceilidh, the last Retro Gaming Café (100 people came), Drop Inn and Yeast through to Lunch Club we run a lot of successful events and groups! Attached to this newsletter is a report presented to the meeting about our regular offering at Wesley Hall. This has gone down by about £2,000 since last year and we are very keen to make up and exceed this shortfall to allow us to continue and expand what we do. If you have any questions or are able to increase (or start) giving to Wesley Hall, please see our treasurer Matt Irons (in confidence).

### ❖ News from Sally

#### Local Arrangements

Many of our Local Arrangements are All Age Worship, however, we have two in the next few months that are not set to be All Age, so that gives us a chance to be a bit creative with what we do. The First of these is set for *Sunday 26th February*, so because it is rather short notice my plan is to lead the service on the theme of "What should go into a service!", there will be room for conversation

around the Scriptures, a chance to look at different types of prayers and a bit of thinking around suitable hymns.

The theme for that week is "The Glory of God", the scriptures are taken from The Transfiguration account in Matthew 17: 1-9 and Exodus 24: 12-18.

Please read these before you come along if you can, and think about where you see the glory of God and how it causes you to pray/ praise/ respond.

The second such Local Arrangement is going to be on *23rd April*, the Sunday after Easter, I am hoping that from the experience on the 26th that we might create a team who can lead these types of services.

If you want to know more before the 26th Feb. please feel free to contact me.

### **Bible Study**

The Leadership Team have discussed the need for a daytime Bible Study and it has been decided that we will begin one in Lent, starting on *Monday 6th March*, and lasting for 6 weeks, we will then consider as a group how best to take things forward. I have often found that taking things in 6 week blocks is a good way to do things, the topic of each of the 6 weeks' studies would be advertised in advance, that way people could choose studies/ topics that interest them.

The Topic for the Lent Study will be: "Finding hope in the desert", and will look at desert experiences of characters in both the Old and New Testaments. You don't need to bring anything but yourself a Bible, and a note book if you wish to.

Venue to be confirmed.

### **Membership/ Baptism**

There has been some interest shown in either becoming a member of Wesley Hall Church and / or requests for Baptism, my plan is currently to bring people into Membership either by transfer or for the first time, and to offer Baptism for those requesting it on Easter Sunday. This has traditionally been a day for Baptisms or Confirmations as both are symbolic of resurrection. So far there is one adult and one infant Baptism planned for that day. If you would like to become a member or have never been baptised and feel this would be right for you then please have a chat with me and we will make plans to do just that.

### **Mothering Sunday**

You have probably noticed from the Newsletter that I have asked that during Lent that there won't be flowers in the Church, this is to reflect the desert journey of Christ and to help us to focus on the season of repentance. It will also emphasise the joy of the celebration on Easter Sunday when we can fill the place with flowers if we wish to!

That said the one exception to this is Mothering Sunday, Mothering Sunday is a traditional feast day in Lent, and while there are many explanations as to its origins my favourite is that of refreshment Sunday, when the rules for Lenten fasting were relaxed and young people who were working away from home (in service) would be given a day off to return to their "Mother Church". This brought with it family gatherings and celebrations. Originally, both Old and New Testament lessons on Mothering Sunday made a point of food.

On Mothering Sunday, there will be flowers, and there will also be refreshments as we are going to hold a café style service and will begin rather than end with tea/ coffee, and there will be cake. That means that we will be seated around tables, there will be discussion starters and other things to do,

along with images to pray with. All of this will sit within the context of a worship service with some hymns, and of course Scriptures and prayers.

So, I am asking for your help, it would be good to have some colourful table cloths to help to create a celebratory mood, they don't all need to match one another, so if you have a small but pretty table cloth and are willing to lend it for the day that would be wonderful. We would need these the week before please.

The second thing I am asking for is this, I need photos of someone who has loved and cared for you this may or may not be your mum, I will leave that to you. Or you might like to bring an image that speaks to you of God's care. If you are offering a photograph you might want to photocopy them as I would like to make a celebratory/ thanksgiving banner, that will help us to reflect upon the God who tends his flock like a shepherd: gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; and gently leads those that have young. (Isaiah 40: 11). Photos and pictures can come on the day.

I look forward to celebrating with you.

Sally

For information on all or any of these please contact Sally on 0114 2664637 or at [sally.coleman@methodist.org.uk](mailto:sally.coleman@methodist.org.uk)