



# Wesley Hall

## Crookes, Sheffield



www.wesleyhall.org.uk

Wesley Hall Methodist Church is a registered charity number 1150284

## Easter Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2025

We hope you find a warm welcome, particularly if you are with us for the first time. All song words are projected onto the wall at the front or can be found in the books provided. Large print hymn books are available at the back of church along with separate printed sheets for songs that are not in the books.

**Today's service**                      **10:30am**      **Rev. Michelle Deans (Holy Communion)**

The steward on duty is Jenny Jones

*Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April*    10:30am    *Rev. Carla Quenet*

*Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May*    10:30am    *Tim Jansen (Local Arrangement focusing on Mental Health)*

*Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May*    10:30am    *Rev. Ian Bell*

## THIS WEEK

### ❖ Photo Board

It is time to update our photo board! If you are not on there and would like to be, or you want to update your photo (especially the children who have done a lot of growing since their photos) then please see Jo Owens TODAY! She will be delighted to take your new picture.

### ❖ Circuit Prayer Gathering

The Circuit Prayer Gathering will be taking place as usual *this Wednesday* from 8pm to 9pm via Zoom and all are welcome:

<https://zoom.us/j/94411865948?pwd=R200cHBZSk1kNmErcTZRcWZXRmdVUT09>

Meeting ID: 944 1186 5948    Passcode: 999757

(Telephone connection: 020 3481 5237)

### ❖ Next Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April: Morning Worship

Next Sunday morning, our preacher will be Rev Carla Quenet and this will be her first time preaching at Wesley Hall. She is employed as a learning and development officer of the Methodist Church. Her theme for the service is going to be doors!! She would like us to have a think over the next week, about times in our lives when opportunities have opened for us/ metaphorical doors have been opened, and we've taken those opportunities and stepped over the threshold.

## COMING SOON

### ❖ Leadership Team

The Wesley Hall Leadership Team meet monthly to pray, share ideas and plan/review church events and their next meeting is on *Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April*. Please pray for the meeting and let a member of the team know if there is anything that you would like to be discussed.

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Minister Michelle Deans 0114 229 4707  
Centre Manager Matt Irons 0114 267 9040

Families Jacque Ryan 07412 124 310  
Youth Jason Colley 07865 778 319

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### ❖ **Coffee Morning**

Our coffee mornings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month so the next one is this *Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April*. They are an informal drop-in, open to all, and are held in the Sanctuary. Please pop into Wesley Hall for a coffee/tea if you're around between 10:00am and 11:30am, and why not bring a friend?

## **CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

- ❖ Stay & Play is this *Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April* from 10am to 12pm, aimed mostly at preschool and primary-aged families, but all families are welcome. We're highlighting this now as it tends to be a very busy event, and we need all-hands-on-deck! If you're able to help on the day (the main things are helping in the kitchen and just talking to people) please let Jacque know.
- ❖ Date for the diary - Messy Church is on *Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May* from 10am to 12pm.

## **AND FINALLY...**

### ❖ **The Connexion Magazine**

The new edition of The Connexion is out! It is free and there are copies for you to take home on the heater at the back of church. It is full of inspiring stories from around the Methodist Church and a good way to keep up with what our fellow Methodists around the country are up to.

### ❖ **Youth Day 2025**

Eighty young people and their leaders came together for our district Youth Day at Hesley Wood Scout Activity Centre in Chapelton, Sheffield last weekend, including 11 that Jason took from Wesley Hall and Hillsborough. This year's theme was exploring how to be a justice seeking church and the young people shared in worship together, took part in workshops, crafting, team building activities and had lots of fun.

Find out more and watch our highlights video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7QzeL0geySc>.

### ❖ **Save the date – Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May – Church prayer morning**

Everyone is welcome to join us for a prayer meeting at 11:00am on *Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May* in the Sanctuary, followed by a bring and share lunch starting at about 12:15pm. More details to follow after Easter, but for now please put the date in your diary!

### ❖ **New Church Bibles**

As some of you may have gathered, we have moved towards reading from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible in our services. We have now purchased a number of copies for use by the congregation. If you wish to follow along with the readings, then please take one from the bookshelf at the back of church. They are on the second row down, under Singing the Faith.

## **HAPPY EASTER!**

### ❖ **A Message from the President of Conference, Rev. Helen Cameron**

I want to begin this message at Eastertide by inviting you to reflect that creation and resurrection (we are made, and we are yet more wonderfully re-made) are mirror images of each other. They are held together by the will and loving purposes of God.

Put at its simplest we know that God is our Life-giver. Such knowledge has endless implications and ramifications for us, all of them glorious.

In our life with God, there are no dead ends, a new door can open in what seemed to be a brick wall; in God there is endless patience and resourcefulness that cannot be defeated by even the worst of our sinfulness.

We should rejoice that the cross and the empty tomb have been present in the heart of God since the very foundation of the world.

It is notable that the account of the resurrection begins in darkness and despair. The women friends of Jesus creep out to give the dead body of Jesus the proper care that was not possible as his body was removed from the cross in a hurry.

None of the 12 disciples are present at this dawn moment. Perhaps their despair overwhelmed them. Perhaps they are frightened for their own safety. Perhaps their grief has paralysed them.

It is a group of brave women who go and are the first witnesses to the resurrection. No-one believes them. They have gone with spices and oils to anoint a dead body but find, instead, an empty tomb and receive a message that Jesus is risen.

Only Peter, last heard of weeping bitterly at his denial and betrayal of Jesus, goes to the tomb to check up on their story which they struggle to articulate.

Does Peter go with the first fledgling beginnings of wild and desperate hope?

Does he go, suddenly remembering the strange things Jesus predicted?

Does he go sensing in his body and his soul that strange, living, powerful presence of God that had been such a strong part of the time in Jesus' company?

Does he go because he is outraged that someone has stolen the dead and tortured body of his friend?

Peter is given a chance to start again. His betrayal of Jesus is not the end of their friendship, as Peter expected and deserved, but the beginning of Peter's new life, in which Jesus entrusts his gospel to Peter and the friends who abandoned him in the garden and at the cross.

The joy of Easter Day is not about a happy ending, after all, to the story of Jesus but rather and more importantly it is good news that we are all, like Peter, forgiven people and healed of our memories of injury, guilt or failure. the power and love and grace of God."

We are, the Church, a community of genuinely forgiven people called to show plainly to others that we are a community of forgiving people and a forgiving Church. The resurrection of Jesus is the remaking of creation itself.

The resurrection of Jesus is the word of God speaking in the heart of darkness to bring life out of nothing and to bring the human race into existence as the bearers of his image and likeness.

When I was welcomed into the Northampton District as Chair the Order of Service had an image of an Icon of the Resurrection on the front cover.

It showed the resurrection of Jesus in a particular way. The image shows Jesus rising from death and smashing the grave stone as he strode powerfully into new life and the new creation.

He is not pictured alone. He is holding the hands of two people, Adam and Eve. They are pictured as old people, with lined faces, as people who have known pain and distress, suffering and heart ache.

In the icon they are pictured being re-made and entering a new creation.

I share the description of this icon with you because resurrection is not just something experienced by Jesus but something which encompasses us now in all we are and do as forgiven and redeemed people.

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| <b>Minister</b>       | Michelle Deans | 0114 229 4707 | <b>Families</b> | Jacque Ryan  | 07412 124 310 |
| <b>Centre Manager</b> | Matt Irons     | 0114 267 9040 | <b>Youth</b>    | Jason Colley | 07865 778 319 |

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Then when we die we merely recognise a country we have already entered and somewhere whose light and warmth we have already experienced. Dying then, is going home.

God is in the resurrection is re-making us, moulding and filling us. God is holding us by the hand and leading us onwards into renewed and redeemed life.

This Easter we rise with Christ, we are a new creation called to be a faithful witnessing community filled with the power and love and grace of God. Each of us is called to remember and to understand that God forgives and God calls us into new life – to live to God's praise and glory.

I am always glad to remember that the poet Gerard Manley Hopkins speaks of God "eastering in us".

In God our life begins afresh day by day, because God is and always will be, God with us.

## **PRAYER POINTS**

- ❖ Please pray for Wesley Hall Youth (WHY), that more young people might be led to attend
- ❖ For more volunteers to help at Drop Inn
- ❖ For the sunflower seeds given as an Easter gift to members of Slimming World on Tuesday
- ❖ For new users to boost our room hire income and help meet our running costs this year
- ❖ For the continued exploration of how we can use our building and location to reach out and serve the people of Crookes.
- ❖ Please pray that the dry rot works will be successful and the dry rot will not return