



Wesley Hall

Crookes, Sheffield



www.wesleyhall.org.uk Wesley Hall is part of Wesley Ebenezer Methodist Church (charity no. 1150284)

Sunday 18th May 2014

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 services **10:30am** **Mr David Humphreys**
The steward on duty today is Jenny Jones

Sunday 25th May *10.30am* *Rev John Simms (Holy Communion)* *6.00pm Stay and Pray*
Sunday 1st June *10.30am* *Miss Karen James (All Age Worship)*
Sunday 8th June *10.30am* *Rev J.Simms/Rev J Grayson (Holy Communion)* *6.00pm Prayer Service*

THIS WEEK...

❖ Congregational Meeting

At our last Congregational Meeting in November, we started exploring two of the four themes discussed in our Vision for Mission document. The Vision for Mission came from the Leadership Team after they spent time thinking about how we can continue to fulfil our mission statement: Loving all People, Building Community, Sharing our Christian Faith. At this meeting we looked at Worship & Disciple and then Ecumenical & Multisite. Everyone is invited to a Congregational Meeting which will be after the morning service next Sunday 25th May. We will be exploring Building & Community and thinking about how we can use our building to engage with the local community while at the same time sharing Jesus with all those who come here. The meeting will be held in the Emmaus Room, soon after the service has finished (please feel free to bring your tea and coffee in with you), and will last no more than one hour so there will still be time to get home for lunch afterwards! It would be great to see as many people as possible at this important meeting.

❖ Crèche Relaunch

The Crèche is now repainted and the caterpillar has moved in! We still have some work left to do on the room but are waiting on contractors before we can finish. In the meantime, please feel free to use the space and explore the new toys and bean bags. We will be putting together a rota over the next few weeks so if you are interested in helping to staff the Crèche, please give your available dates for the next plan (June to August) to Liz.

COMING SOON...

❖ The Biggest Birthday Party Ever

The Church across the country is preparing to let its hair down with a week-long party to celebrate Pentecost – the Birthday of the Church – kicking off with four huge launch events in Sheffield, Birmingham,

Loving all People

Building Community

Sharing our Christian Faith

London and Merseyside featuring music and dance. On the bill are the musicians/artists Ben Cantelon and Luke Hellebronth plus the Worship Central band, who have just issued a new 'live' album. Singer/songwriter Philippa Hanna, will also be on stage, and the Rebirth Dance Network is creating a special performance and dance piece to represent the Pentecost theme, together with local acts. The event in Sheffield is on Thursday 29th May at Victoria Methodist Hall, Norfolk St, Sheffield, South Yorkshire S1 2JB. Doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. For more information about the launch events, entry or venues and to register/buy tickets go to www.sharejesusinternational.com/launch or call: 020 8944 5678

❖ **Big Lunch 2014**

The Big Lunch this year will be on Sunday 1st June from 12:30pm and we will again be putting on a free BBQ at Wesley Hall. The Big Lunch was started by the Eden Project to encourage people to get together with their neighbours for one day in the summer and build new friendships that can be enjoyed for the rest of the year. Everyone is welcome so please take some flyers and invite your friends and neighbours to come along. Please also pray for the event: that we would buy the right amount of food; and that everyone would chat to someone new and have a good time!

❖ **Christians and Sheffield Schools...**

...(in association with Scripture Union) are hosting an event called 'Taking Light into Schools' on Saturday 7th June at 9.45am-3.00pm (coffee from 9.15am). This will be led by Nick Harding who is a Diocesan Children's Advisor, parent, magistrate, Spring Harvest speaker and writer. Nick is a passionate, amusing and encouraging speaker with a wealth of experience. The day will include various workshops, Sheffield short stories and testimonies, a prayer space, lunch (provided), Q&A and a resource marketplace. The event will take place at the Wilson Carlile Centre, 50 Cavendish Street, Sheffield S3 7RZ. Booking is essential so please visit www.cass-su.org.uk.

AND FINALLY...

❖ **A Message from John Simms...**

Judith, the boys and I have been in Sheffield for coming up to 10 years and my extended appointment is due to expire next year. This means that we are approaching the time for decisions to be made about our future and by 2015 we will have been here for 11 years. After much prayerful consideration, I have decided that I will be looking for a new appointment from September 2015 and therefore a new minister will be needed for Wesley Ebenezer.

Finding the right minister is always a challenge for both the churches and those charged by the circuit for facilitating the process – the Circuit Stewards. Securing some idea of where we as a church see ourselves going, will be a great help in seeking to match us with the right person to see that vision through. There will be opportunities for further and wider discussions to take place so that a common mind can be found, and I hope that as many of you as possible will feel able to share in those discussions.

❖ **Can You Help?**

Tea and coffee after the Sunday morning service is appreciated by many people and we are grateful for the volunteers who prepare the refreshments for us. Two of our teams of volunteers have now decided to step down and we pass on our thanks for all they've done. This means that if we still want to continue having tea and coffee after our Sunday morning services we need to recruit more volunteers. Can you help? The more teams of volunteers we have the less of a commitment it is for us all. Please do think about it and if you are able to help please have a word with Steve Wright. If we don't get more people to help it may mean we will have to stop having refreshments after the service or at least not have them every week.

❖ **Thank you**

Thank you everyone for all your prayers, get well cards, gifts of food and visits following my recent hip operation. God bless you all. Sue Mills.

❖ **Anne and Neil's Wedding**

Anne and Neil would like to invite people from Wesley Hall to their Wedding Service at St. John's Church Deepcar (near Stocksbridge) at 1pm on 12th July.

❖ **MRDF Mali Project**

A big thank you to those who attended the Mali Evening last Saturday, and especially to Louise and Liz who planned and prepared for it. We enjoyed some tasty and interesting food, had good fun and collected £65 towards our target. Also thank you very much to everyone who collected money during lent in the MRDF boxes or donated at the Easter Day service. The total raised was £250 which will go towards the work of MRDF (now called 'All We Can') in Mali. Thank you also to those who completed a Gift Aid envelope which will allow MRDF to claim an additional £50 on top of the £250 we raised.

❖ **A Message from Roy Bellamy**

Roy, his children (Anne, Jane and Margaret) and their close friends, would like to express thanks for the amazing outpouring of love and support they have received after the sudden death of Audrey on 16th March. A congregation of approximately 200 people packed Wesley Hall on Saturday 5th April to remember and give thanks for her Christian witness and lifelong dedication. The words and cards of sympathy were overwhelming. The willing assistance of so many, given in so many ways, was most impressive. A particular surprise was from the people of the Crookes community and from so many people from beyond Sheffield who found themselves compelled to be present. Thank you is all I can say. Thank you for all you have given to help us in our distress.

❖ **Youth programme**

Do you enjoy chatting with teenagers? If so, please speak to Neil Harland. (Yes, he has noticed that he is no longer a teenager!)

❖ **Church Building**

Since 2007, Mencap have rented office space at Wesley Hall and for the last 2 years, have also rented the Brice Hall. They recently gave notice and will be leaving at the end of July to merge with their office in Rotherham. We are proud to have provided a home to Mencap for 7 years and wish Linda and the team well in their new location. The rent from Mencap is £13,500 per year plus utility payments, so until this is replaced it will leave a sizable hole in our property income. However, we already have two groups interested in renting the Brice Hall and are exploring ways of renting the offices out individually to smaller voluntary groups and charities. Please could you pray for this process: that new tenants can be found quickly; that talks with interested parties are fruitful; and that it may be an opportunity to expand the community hub that is Wesley Hall.

If you know of anyone who is looking for office or hall space in Crookes, please ask them to contact our Building Manager, Matt Irons.

❖ **Gift Day 2014**

We have committed our Gift Days for 2012, 2013 and 2014 to supporting the employment of a Children and Families Worker at Wesley Hall. From October 2012, this post has been filled by Liz Harding who continues to do a great job building up our children's programme and the number of kids involved in Wesley Hall.

Our Gift Day this year will be on 25th May. If you have completed a pledge form in previous years and are not sure what you wrote on it, please see our treasurer, Matt Irons, who will give you a copy of your form.

If you have any questions about Gift Day or pledging, please see Matt.

❖ Tim Bradshaw

Tim's last service will be on Sunday 27th July at Nethergreen (6.30pm). He will be presented with a gift after the service so if anyone would like to contribute towards that, please see Andrew Gray.

❖ Church Offering

The new Sheffield Circuit has put together the budget for next year (2014/2015). This has been a difficult task since it has involved merging the administration of eight Circuits into one. Each of the eight Circuits had their own policy for calculating assessment (the amount that each individual church pays towards the running of the Circuit) and for how this money is spent. An overriding policy of the new Circuit is to further mission across the city. As part of this, it has been agreed that Model Trust Funds (the Circuit savings) are only to be used for specific mission projects and not for the general running of the Circuit, which some Circuits had previously been doing. Other costs have gone up and there was no increase in assessment for this year (2013/2014).

As a result of this, the assessment for Wesley Ebenezer is to increase by 8%, to £40,500. As discussed at the AGM, Wesley Hall already needs to find an additional £1,500 to match income and expenditure for the church. This means that from September, with the £2,000 increase in assessment and the current £1,500 deficit, we will need to find an additional £3,500 per year.

We are therefore asking that people prayerfully review their regular offering to the church with a view to increasing it, if possible. We are very aware of the generosity of the congregation especially during the 20 in 12 Challenge and ongoing commitment to funding Liz, our Children and Families worker. As the number of lives we touch continues to grow we fully understand that this may not be possible for everyone. Any other fundraising ideas will be gratefully received!

If you do not currently give regularly and would like to start, popular methods are standing order or weekly offering envelope. If you are a UK taxpayer, your gift can be increased by 25% at no extra cost to yourself using Gift Aid. If you have any questions about giving to church, please see our treasurer, Matt Irons.

❖ Cliff College Festival - Friday 23rd to Monday 26th May 2014

The theme this year is "Sharper - God's word for today's world". There will be a packed programme including bible study, celebrations and seminars. The speaking team includes John Grayston from Scripture Union, who will be leading the Bible Study for the adults, and Lindsay Bruce for the youth. As well as this there will be a new and innovative style of Bible engagement, led by friends from Walk Thru the Bible ministries. In terms of Big Tent speakers, there will be Stephen Skuce, Gavin Calver, Helen Cameron and Kate Coleman. Music and laughter will be provided by the Sheffield Gospel Community Choir, Tony Vino, Sounds of Salvation, Pete James, DJ Kubiks and Benny Lee. The event will also feature Riding Lights, Adventure Plus and the Methodist Youth Brass Band. There will be worship experiences from as far apart as Spring Harvest and Taize, a Funky Sunday All Age celebration and a marketplace that brings together some fantastic resources for your own life and witness where you live. The programme is flexible, so there are those who will camp or caravan for the whole weekend. Or some will come just for the day or even a couple of hours. Day passes are available at a cost of £10 per day per adult, or £20 for the whole weekend. Under-18s are free. The children's programme is for those aged 3 and upwards. A crèche is also available on a first come, first served basis. For those only going to the evening worship, there is no charge at all (though you will be given an opportunity to give in support of the work). More information can be found to the left of the serving hatch in church, on Cliff College's website, or have a word with Neil Harland or Emma Irons (who have both been before).

❖ Summer flowers

Emma Irons has been thinking for a while now, that it would be lovely to have some hanging baskets / window boxes / receptacles to fill with flowers for the Summer, to bring some colour to the exterior of the building. Emma has very little expertise in gardening so was wondering if anyone would be interested in helping her plan what to do and where, and then with the planting itself. Please see Emma if you're interested.