

Dates For Your Diary

Sunday 6 th May	Gift Day (during morning service)
Saturday 19 th May	Christian Aid Event
Sunday 27 th May	Joint service with the Korean Church (10:30am) Whit Sing (2:45pm with Rev. John Simms)
Sunday 3 rd June	Big Lunch for Diamond Jubilee (after morning service)
Friday 8 th June – Sunday 10 th June	Jubilee Flower Festival
Saturday 16 th June	Circuit Prayer Walk
Monday 13 th – Friday 17 th August	Olympic Themed holiday club (weekday mornings)
Sunday 2 nd September	Joint Covenant Service (10:30am at Wesley Hall)
Saturday 29 th September	Harvest Supper (6:30pm at Walkley)
Sunday 30 th September	Harvest Festival (10:30am with Rev. John Simms)
Sunday 14 th October	Pastoral Service (10:30am with Rev. John Simms)
Saturday 27 th October	Church Away Day (location to be confirmed)
Sunday 28 th October	Chapel Anniversary (10:30am with Rev. John Simms)
Sunday 23 rd December	Carol Service (6:00pm)
Monday 24 th December	Holy Communion (6:00pm)
Christmas Day	Family Worship (9:30am with Rev. John Simms)
Tuesday 2 nd – Sunday 7 th April	Spring Harvest 2013 “The Source: Encouraging Jesus Today”

COMING SOON...

❖ Church Council

The next Church Council meeting is on *Monday 30th April* at Wesley Hall.

❖ Spring Fayre

Cruise Bereavement Care Sheffield invite you to their Spring Fayre on *Saturday 5th May* at St. Vincent's Church Hall from 12noon to 3:00pm. There will be a wide variety of stalls as well as refreshments and lots more!

❖ Alpha

Wesley Ebenezer are running an Alpha course at Walkley starting on *Thursday 3rd May*. It will run mainly on Thursday evenings during May and June, and 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.

❖ Mary Tozer

The next service at Mary Tozer will be on *Thursday 3rd May* from 7:00pm to 8:00pm. All are welcome to come and join us.

❖ Gospel Concert

There will be a Gospel Concert by the University of Sheffield Gospel Choir and Band, 'Brighter Day 2012', at Stephen Hill Methodist Church on *Wednesday 9th May* at 7:30pm. Tickets cost £5.00/£3.50 on the door or contact Bob Townrow on [REDACTED]. Proceeds will go to Homestart for Sheffield, Action for Children and the Bible Society

❖ **Christian Aid Week**

Christian Aid Week is from 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.

❖ **Flower Festival**

We are holding a Flower Festival to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee which will be held here at Wesley Hall run from the *Friday 8th to Sunday 10th June* so please keep the date free and come along to support the event. In the meantime, if you would like to make a donation towards flowers, please use the envelopes marked 'Flower Fund' at the back of church. For more information, please see Dorothy White.

❖ **Holiday Club**

We are looking to hold a summer holiday club from the *Monday 13th to Friday 17th August* with an Olympic theme. It will be held on weekday mornings for primary school age children with games, stories, quizzes and craft activities. The main thing that we need is people to volunteer for various roles over the week but anyone who is able to come and lend a hand at any point will be most welcome to do so. For more information, please see Sue Chapman.

SPRING HARVEST...

Many thanks to Carole and Andrew who organised our trip to Spring Harvest. The theme was 'Church: God's brilliant idea' and everyone had a great time and has come back with lots to think about. We are already planning a trip for next year when the theme will be 'The Source: Encountering Jesus Today.'

If you would like to know more about what happens and what we all got up to, please have a chat to anyone who went along (see the photograph below). We hope you will join us in 2013!



CHILDREN & FAMILIES WORKER...

❖ Background to the post

The church has served the community of Crookes through our successful Toddler Group over the years. We now feel called to offer these families something deeper and have been encouraged by the response. We tested the water in November 2011 with a Stay and Play morning comprising of play with craft activities, bouncy castle, hot drinks, cakes and culminating in a puppet show by Saints Alive. Our eyes were opened to the potential for this work and, having familiarised ourselves with Messy Church in a series of midweek pilots, we began a more structured programme with another Stay and Play in February 2012 followed by Messy Church in March and April. This pattern will continue through to the Summer. We see the Stay and Play mornings as a bridge to encourage unchurched families to come along to Messy Church, which has a stronger Christian theme throughout the morning. The Stay and Play / Messy Church programme is still very much in its infancy but we have been amazed by the response. The team of volunteers have been greatly encouraged but will struggle to sustain and grow the work without the time and resources of a dedicated worker.

We do not see Messy Church in isolation, but have also looked at how we can make our other services more accessible for those wanting to explore further. Again with Nel Shallow's guidance, we now hold a monthly reflective alternative worship service – SPACE – aimed at younger adults and those turned off by "traditional" church. We have also introduced monthly all-age worship on Sunday mornings, usually led by a regular team from our minister and worship leaders.

With the right time and expertise, we hope to strengthen and replicate this model of building bridges for the wide range of children and their families with whom we already or potentially have some contact.

❖ Proposed new post

To enable us to fulfil the potential of our vision, we are looking to employ a Christian children and families worker for 20 hours per week, from September 2012.

Funding will initially be secured for three years. We expect this part of our mission to continue to grow during and beyond this period, and will investigate future resources and funding required as the project develops over this initial period.

The job specification will include the following key areas:

- To grow the church's new Saturday morning mission work of Stay and Play and Messy Church
- To play an active role in development and promotion of city X; Site events, currently based at Wesley Hall
- To strengthen existing and build new relationships between the church and local families in the community
- To build new links with local primary schools and uniformed organisations (Brownies, Junior Boys' Brigade) that meet within the building
- To work alongside the existing church Leadership Team to further the development of the children and families programme, mission and strategy
- To co-ordinate, plan and deliver, with continued support of existing volunteers, the church's children and families programme (including All Age Worship, Sunday morning TRIBE, Toddler Group, Holiday Clubs)
- To support and develop the children's work volunteer base

❖ Gift Day

The 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. We ask that you would prayerfully consider how much you are able to give in preparation for our Gift Day on *Sunday 6th May*.

In order to be confident that we are able to support the post across the whole three year period, we will also be asking for pledges to cover the next 2 Gift Days, along with gifts for this year. Pledging is not a binding agreement but just an indication of what you intend to give over the next 2 Gift Days.

The editor for the month of April is Matt. Please place items for the newsletter in the pigeon hole, send an e-mail to newsletter@wesleyhall.org.uk or call Matt on [REDACTED] by Wednesday afternoon