



Wesley Hall

Crookes, Sheffield



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

Sunday 25th 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	Preacher	Rev John Simms (Holy Communion)
		Worship Leader	Louise Etherington
	6:00pm to 7:00pm		Stay and Pray

The steward on duty today is Judith Simms

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

Sunday 15th June 10.30am Deacon Meredith Evans

THIS WEEK...

❖ 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 is doing a great job working with the children as well as running and raising the profile of our various family friendly events.

Our Gift Day this year is today, Sunday 25th May, and special envelopes are available in which to make your gift. If you completed a pledge form last year 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 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, please complete the Gift Aid declaration on the envelope.

We are very happy to accept gifts by cash, cheque, bank transfer or standing order. Gifts are welcome as a one off on or around 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.

❖ 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 **today**. 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

Loving all People

Building Community

Sharing our Christian Faith

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.

❖ **Stay and Pray**

To complement our Prayer Service on the second Sunday of each month, we hold our Stay & Pray on the fourth Sunday of the month. The idea is that people spend some time between 6:00pm and 7:00pm praying at home. Although we will not be meeting together face to face, we will be praying together in our homes.

❖ **Coffee and Crafts**

A group of ladies meet in the Sanctuary for a craft afternoon, fortnightly on Tuesdays from 2:00pm to 3:30pm. As part of the craft work they are producing banners for the Sanctuary. All are welcome and there is a charge of £1.50 to cover refreshments and materials. The next meeting is this **Tuesday 27th May**.

❖ **Wednesday Group**

The Wednesday Group is meeting here at Wesley Hall this **Wednesday 28th May** at 7:30pm for an evening of Holy Beetle.

❖ **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, 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!

❖ **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.

❖ **Christian Aid**

So far £1,455 has been raised for Christian Aid and there is still some monies coming through. Many thanks to all involved, especially the street collectors but also to all of you who helped in the kitchen, with the

counting, baking and selling of cakes. The sale of cakes by itself has made £200 which is great although perhaps not so good for our waistlines. We have raised almost £300 more than last year which is very encouraging especially as Christian Aid does such great work helping those suffering from poverty oppression and injustice. As always a great team effort which is greatly appreciated, Andrea

COMING SOON...

❖ Sooper Troopers Open Days at Wesley Hall

Sooper Troopers are a drama and animation group for people with a disability. They are holding open days at Wesley Hall to demonstrate their work and the latest in real-time 3D and stop-motion animation they are carrying out with sponsorship from Santander. There will also be displays by the Sooper Troopers drama groups. The open days will be held from 10:30am to 2:00pm on **Tuesday 3rd June** and **Saturday 7th June**, tea and coffee will be available on both days. Contact Lily Taylor on [REDACTED] for more details.

❖ 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.

❖ Flower Festival at Walkley

Our sister Church at Walkley Ebenezer is holding a Flower Festival on **Saturday 28th June** from 10:00am to 4:00pm and on **Sunday 29th June** from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. The theme is "Wheels in Walkley". The Festival is part of the Walkley Festival and it will also be very close to the Tour de France. Anyone from Wesley Hall who would like to take part and submit an arrangement would be very welcome. The Church will be open on the afternoon of **Friday 27th June** and if you would like to take part or would like more details please speak to Freda at Walkley. There is a £10 allowance towards the flowers and if you wish Freda is willing to purchase the flowers from the market. Refreshments will also be available both days. Also given the theme of the festival Freda is appealing for any spare wheels you may have, please let her know. Thank you, Pat Wright.

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

The editor next week is Steve Wright. Please place items for the newsletter in the pigeon hole, send an e-mail to newsletter@wesleyhall.org.uk or call Steve on [REDACTED] by Wednesday evening.

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**.

❖ **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!)

❖ **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.