

❖ Annual Church Meeting

Our Annual Church Meeting (ACM) will be held after our Sunday morning service on *1st March*. It will be an opportunity to hear from a number of different church groups including Lunch Club, the pastoral team and our lay workers. We will also be looking to appoint worship stewards, TRIBE leaders, Church Council and Circuit Meeting representatives as well as the members of Jacque, Sean and Matt's management groups. If you are interested in any of these roles, please see Matt.

❖ 'Left to Their Own Devices'

The internet has revolutionised the way we live our lives. Smartphones, social media and digital technology are now a vital part of how we function day to day and we have opportunities to build connections like never before. Many of our children have grown up in this digital world and it can leave us as parents feeling out of touch; unsure how to best protect them from the potential dangers such as online bullying, pornography and the pressure of the selfie culture. Care for the Family have put together a one evening session called 'Left to their Own Devices' to power up your parenting for the online generation. The Sheffield event is at St Thomas Philadelphia (S6 3BL) on *Wednesday 11th March*, 7:30pm-9:30pm. Tickets are available from Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/left-to-their-own-devices-sheffield-tickets-83307901175> and cost £7.

❖ Heritage Open Day

The Leadership Team were considering running a Heritage Open Day (HOD) when they were approached by a local Crookes-based historian (Anne Marples, 'the Bustle Lady'), offering to help run one! This will take place during the National Heritage Open Days week on the morning of *Saturday 12th September*. However, in order for this to go ahead, someone from the congregation will need to liaise with Anne and organise things on our side, which is likely to be the sale of drinks and cake! If you are interested, or would like to know more, please see Matt.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES...

- ❖ **Messy Church** is on Saturday 15th February, themed "Sharing is Caring" to go alongside the Holy Habits programme. If anyone is able to be there on the day to help kids with crafts, please let Jacque Ryan know. Any families welcome and feel free to bring a friend.
- ❖ The next **Funday** is on Friday 21st February 10am-4pm. If you're able to help on the day (either morning, afternoon, or both) please let Jacque know. If you'd like to book-in your child (5-11yrs old), the booking link is open (but not yet externally advertised): <https://forms.gle/MG4trhgqusFvXZ2m6>
- ❖ A massive thank you to everyone who supports or is involved in the work with families and children in this church, be it a physical presence at an event, collecting supplies, prayer or another way. It wouldn't be the same without you.

PRAYER POINTS...

- ❖ For those of our church family who are ill at the moment, particularly for Louise as she continues her recovery in hospital.
- ❖ For Ken Ruffle, who after his recent illness has made the difficult decision to remain in Cwmbran, close to his daughter Gill and family.
- ❖ For new room hire bookings so that our income will still be on budget. Two regular users have stopped or reduced their sessions at Wesley Hall, leaving us with a shortfall.

If you have any prayer points to include in the newsletter, please pass them on to the editor (see contact details at bottom of page).

FROM SALLY...

Dear Friends,

First, may I wish you all a very Happy New Year, and many blessings as we move into 2020, I realise that I am a little late in doing so, but the sentiment is the same. I do hope that you have all had a mostly enjoyable and peaceful Christmastime, I was sorry not to be with you, but due to personal illness that just wasn't possible.

It was my personal illness that has had a knock on effect going forward, and while we had planned to hold conversations on the God in Love Unites Us report that has been sent out to the whole of the Connexion by the Conference for consultation in January we have not had time to properly prepare for these. Therefore, I am offering two dates on Thursdays the 5th and 12th March, for us to consider the report. It covers all aspects of human relating and asks us to make some responses, which we can do both together if we wish to, and as individuals. Copies of the report will be available after church on Sunday, and can also be found online, along with some more information here:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-church/marriage-and-relationships-2019/the-2019-marriage-and-relationships-report/>

Apologies because it is rather a long web-address. Alongside the report, we also have leaflets from MET (Methodist Evangelicals Together) and from Dignity and Worth (a group who affirm those in the LGBTQI community and their supporters) I would encourage you to read all of the available materials prayerfully and carefully.

The purposes of the consultation are not to change anybody's mind on any of the topics contained in the report, which include, marriage, singleness, cohabitation, divorce, and same-sex partnerships, all of which are treated with compassion and care. The questions we are being asked are about how we might live together as Methodist people with differing opinions and views.

I am very happy to talk to anybody about my own stance on all these areas of human relating, but not with a view to changing your mind, but with the desire to listen to you and respect who and where you are. I believe that this would very much be Jesus' way, and that when he called people to follow him that he was calling them to a transformative journey that would be different for each one. The gospels have no one size fits all blueprint for salvation, beyond the deep call to love and to serve one another.

I do encourage you to come to this consultation meetings which will be held at Wesley Hall on Thursdays 5th March & 12th March: 7:00pm for refreshments; 7:30pm start; finish at 9:30pm.

As we prepare for these meetings, let us hold one another in love and in care.

Peace and blessings

Sally

(Reverend Sally Coleman)

AND FINALLY...

❖ **Children, Families & Community Worker**

Jacque will shortly be going on maternity leave and we're pleased to announce that Claire Eaton will be taking-up the role during that time.

❖ **Flower Rota**

The new flower rota is now up at the back of church. If you feel you could spare £15 (or so) and would like to contribute to the flowers, please put your name at the side of your chosen date and pass the money to Sue Mills or Pat Wright, a couple of weeks before.

❖ **New Offering Envelopes**

The new offering envelopes for 2020 are now available to pick up at the back of church. People give regularly to Wesley Hall either by standing order (bank transfer) or by using the weekly offering envelopes. We are also able to claim Gift Aid on nearly all of the donations we receive, which makes your gift worth 25% more, at no extra cost to you. If you have any questions or would like to start giving to Wesley Hall, please see Matt.

❖ **Photo Board**

We have a photo board at the back of church with pictures of all of our Wesley Hall church family. If you are not on the board and would like to be, please see Andrew Gray or Matt Irons. If you are not sure who they are, take a look at the board!