

**HANHAM METHODIST
CHURCH MAGAZINE
NOVEMBER – DECEMBER**



Welcome to the magazine of Hanham Methodist Church, a member of the Bristol and South Gloucestershire Circuit.

Our services are open to all, whether or not you are a Church member. Notices and service sheets are available in larger print.

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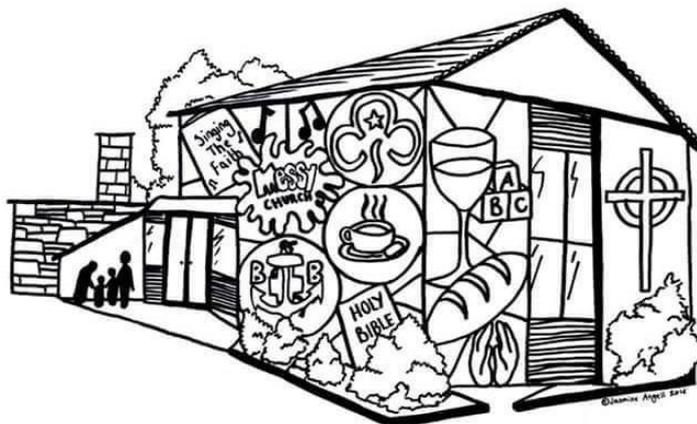
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Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect Church policy. Enquiries should be directed to the Editor.

Copies of this magazine are held on the Church website and therefore all articles can be viewed through the internet. Submissions of all articles should therefore highlight any information you wish to be removed from the online version.

Website: www.hanhammethodist.org.uk

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MOUNTAINS OF THE BIBLE

Mount Carmel 1 Kings chapters 18 & 19.

Back in September parliament had been prorogued, legal action was underway against the Prime Minister, the monarch was becoming involved and there were protests in Westminster and further afield. One Sunday morning during all this we sang a hymn 'Have you heard God's voice' (StF 662). The final verse runs as follows; -

*Will you watch the news with eyes of faith
And believe it could be different.*

How prophetic that seemed, how those words became my prayer as over subsequent weeks I listened to Huw Edwards, Laura Kuenssberg and others tell us more and more worrying news.

But was it ever that different? The story of Elijah and King Ahab and his wife Jezebel suggest not. Ahab was the 7th King of Israel and historians judge him to be one of the worst of all the Kings of that country. His troubles began when he married Jezebel who persuaded him to forsake the God of Abraham and embrace Baal worship. Sadly the people of Israel acquiesced and followed Ahab much to the displeasure of the Living God.

So in his anger God sent a prophet named Elijah to the King to say that there would be no rain in the land of Israel for three years unless Ahab repented. But Ahab, encouraged by Jezebel refused to heed Elijah's warning and this led to a dramatic confrontation on Mount Carmel between the prophets of Baal and Elijah. Elijah made sure that this would be a final showdown. Mt. Carmel was to Elijah enemy territory. For it was here that pagan worship was regularly practised. But Elijah was brave enough to venture there. "*How long will you go limping with two different opinions*" he asks of the crowd.

He then challenges the prophets of Baal to sacrifice a bull and he, as God's prophet, would do the same. He invited the prophets of Baal to call on their God to bring down fire on their sacrificial animal. They tried this for the whole morning, they cried out loud and cut themselves but all to no avail. Then it was Elijah's turn and he made it difficult for himself. He dug a trench around his bull and filled it with water and poured more water all over the carcass, which he did twice more. He then called upon the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob

and the fire fell from the heavens and consumed the bull “*The Lord indeed is God*” he said to the astonished assembly.

How we long for an Elijah figure today: someone to boldly proclaim God’s word in our troubled and godless times; someone to face up to and confront those who deny the truth of the gospel. We hear the shouts of the world all too clearly, shouts like the prophets of Baal delivered on Mount Carmel promoting a lifestyle of self-satisfaction and indulgence. But Elijah waited for his fire to come from heaven and we too must pray that God will send His Spirit to set our hearts ablaze.

But a strange development follows Elijah’s great victory. Jezebel learned from Ahab about Elijah’s victory and so she sends a message to the prophet threatening to get even with him. You would imagine that on a high from his great victory on Carmel Elijah would have every confidence that the God who protected him on the mountaintop would protect him now. But no, he falls into what seems to be a depression and pleads with God to allow him to die.

Perhaps this is not so unusual. Oftentimes we can hit a peak and then find ourselves wondering what we can now do next. You hear of people retiring from a life of work but after all the plaudits from colleagues have faded they find themselves not knowing how to handle the spare time that is now theirs. I recall a story of a famous film star who was asked by a young fan to give her a kiss. He concurred but jokingly warned her that the rest of her life would be an anti-climax. How we so quickly descend from on high into the depths. But God would not let Elijah die. He sends an angel to feed him and sends him on his way offering support when most needed. He finds his way to another mountain, Mount Horeb from where Moses received the Ten Commandments. And here on the mountain Elijah once again encounters God not quite as he expected. For surely God would speak to him through the great wind or through the earthquake or through a fire that had broken out- for wasn’t this where the voice of God was always heard. But then in a still small voice God finally speaks re-assures the prophet and sends him on his way to continue preaching his message.

We are sometimes told we live in the end times and that Jesus will return in great splendour and all will fall down before him but our story reminds us that God can come to us in quieter, less dramatic ways. Elijah would have expected God to speak to him in some sensational way: through wind, fire or earthquake. But no, it was in the calm of that “still small voice” that Elijah heard God’s word.

We can become frustrated in our life of faith because God doesn’t appear to be speaking to us. But are we listening for the wrong voice? We may not be subject to a clarion call from on high but we may meet God through that faint whisper of that voice that speaks to conscience, illuminates the minds and strengthens the will.

John Pritchard, former Bishop of Oxford, writes that we should not expect God only in spectacular experiences or in unusual moments. He tells us that we should recognise God in the warp and weft of everyday life. Surely, he writes, God will be encountered much more in the ordinary than in the spectacular simply because there is so much more of it.

Let us seek to see God in the everyday, in the smile of a stranger, in the kindly word of a friend or simply in the gift of a new day.

Breathe through the heat of our desire

Thy coolness and thy balm;

Let sense be dumb let flesh retire;

Speak through the earthquake, wind and fire

O still small voice of calm

StF 495

TJL

Mission Committee News

Harvest goods have been taken to the Bristol Methodist Centre, and knitted articles from Shawl Ministry have been taken to the NICU centre at Southmead, Home Start, two Care homes and the Dogs’ Home.

See the “For Your Diary” page for all Mission Committee events.

Sunday Evening Services

The October Church Council has, with sadness, ratified the Worship Committee's recommendation that Sunday Evening Worship will cease from January 2020. Over the last few years and certainly in recent months the numbers attending evening worship has fallen to the point where we barely achieve double figures; it was felt that it was preferable we should draw the line now rather than try to struggle on. Rather we should concentrate our efforts towards uniting to build up our morning worship.

The truth is that Sundays have changed beyond recognition since the 1950's when Sunday evening worship was the main service of the day. But now it is very different. Families tend to live further away from each other; there are numerous sporting attractions and other various forms of entertainment with which we have to compete. A glance at the Circuit Plan will tell you that most of the churches in the Circuit now only meet for Sunday worship in the mornings.

We are however able to offer some alternative forms of worship. Firstly Messy Church will continue to meet on the first Sunday of each month, starting at 4 o'clock with craft followed by a short act of worship around 5 o'clock and then tea. All ages are welcomed to this. On the second Sunday of the month there is 'Casual Worship' at our Summerhill Church and on the third Sunday Kevin and Ruth Marshall will lead a similar form of worship in the lounge. We will also be hosting a midweek contemporary worship which will be for all the cluster churches.

Perhaps the saddest part of this decision is saying our farewells to our organist Philip. He has served us faithfully for quite a few years now and we do thank him for all he has contributed to our worship. We will from time to time hold special services on a Sunday evening such as Cluster and Circuit services and Philip has indicated that he will come back to play if he is free.

So finally I ask your prayers for the few who will miss the traditional Sunday services and for those who are offering new forms of worship. And may we all endeavour to support our morning worship as a united congregation

Tim Lansdown

One Hundred Not Out!

On 25 September many of us were privileged to share a birthday tea with Audrey Dayer. As news of this special tea spread, more and more people were asking if they could come, just to wish a very special lady a happy one hundredth birthday. The catering team reckon that at least a hundred friends and family were present. Audrey, as always, was in fine form with her witty quips and appeared to thoroughly enjoy the day.

She received special greetings from The Queen, as well as a birthday poem from her dear friends Ron and Peggy in New Zealand. Ron's poems have become something of a tradition on Audrey's birthday.

Instead of birthday gifts, Audrey had asked that donations be made to Macmillan Nurses if people so wished. The sum of £450 has been sent in Audrey's name to the fund and Audrey has received a letter of thanks from them.

Audrey would like to thank everyone who made her birthday so special and for their generous donations to Macmillan.

Glen Lewis



Boys Brigade

The start of a new Boys' Brigade session is always a busy time of the year, and this year is no exception. Our numbers continue to be good but there is always space for more. We started the session with twelve anchor boys, four juniors, and seven Company Section boys. This year for the first time in a long while, two of our seniors have now become warrant officers and will start their leadership training soon. This will help with our staffing numbers and ensuring we can cover all groups.

Over the week-end of the 12th and 13th October we had our sleepover and Company Enrolment that was led by our new Chaplain the Rev David Willis. I was pleased that there was a good turn out to enjoy an excellent service.

The following Sunday we attended our Founders day parade at Yate. This was led by their new minister the Rev Leigh Maydew who also holds the role of not only being the 1st Yate's Chaplain but also Brigade's Chaplain. At this parade they award the Gilmore Carter Cup and the Margaret Chappell Cup. These awards are made to Company Sections and Junior Sections in the Avon Battalion for their overall achievements throughout the previous year. Our Junior Section came 2nd in the Margaret Chappell Cup, and our Company Section for the first time won the Gilmore Carter Cup. Well done to the boys as this is recognition of all their efforts during the last session.

The bar has now been set and I challenge the boys to continue their good work and together enjoy what we do.

Hopefully it's not too early, from all the boys and officers we wish all Church members a Merry Christmas.

Regards

Mike Vernon, Captain 10th Bristol





CHRISTMAS

COFFEE MORNING



Raising funds for the Church

Cakes



Christmas stall

Teas, Coffees



We would be very grateful for any cakes, any size - we will sell the larger ones whole, and the smaller ones will accompany the tea and coffee.

SATURDAY 23rd NOVEMBER

9am – 12 noon

Can you donate any items for the Tombola? Chocolate, biscuits, sweets, toiletries, tins of food, bottles (non- alcoholic), unused gifts etc. A box for donations will be placed in the lounge on a Sunday.



Can you help us with setting up tables, serving teas and coffees, or clearing up at the end? If so, please let Pat Webber know so that a rota can be created.

Many thanks, EVCOG

Wives Group

The Group's Charity for the past year has been Bristol After Stroke and we have very successfully fundraised for this: at our Harvest service in September we were able to hand over a cheque for £1,800.00. We also gave the Church a cheque for £250.00.

Our programme consisted of a couple of musical evenings, talks from Hanham History stalwarts Roger and Roy, an informative evening about the work of Age U.K, a talk about the work of Tools for Self-Reliance, a talk by Andy Stowe of East Bristol Auctions, and our usual favourite Paul Evans with his poems and monologues.

As something different this year we held a Fashion Show by Pam of Christine Peters which was successful, and instead of doing a summer Coffee evening I held an afternoon Cream Tea which was very well supported.

The Group once again enjoyed their annual meal catered for by the Y's men, as usual a beautiful meal.

Our summer outing was to Cheddar Garden Centre by Community Transport for a cream tea (with Audrey enjoying her fish and chips, she doesn't like cream teas!)

Unfortunately there were not enough able members to do the annual sponsored walk, so several of us did our own thing. Marion was sponsored to do a talk about her father's bakery which everyone found really interesting. My thanks must also go to Pam Liddiard and Glen Lewis for not only accompanying me on my walk but also getting themselves sponsored and both raising a large sum. I think they should be made honorary members of the Group.

It has been decided that going forward as a Group we will not meet during December, January and February but we will hold our Christmas Service in the afternoon of the 11th December to which all are welcome. Come along and join us (we do supply mince pies!)

If anyone is interested in seeing our coming Programme there is a copy on the Church Notice Board or please ask me for a copy. The coming Group year will be different for us but we all have to change and evolve so that we can keep going, hopefully reaching our 60 years as a Group in three years' time.

Pat Webber, Secretary

EVCOG Events:

Christmas Tree Display in the Church – 7th December

Saturday 7th December is the Hanham Christmas Street Party and from 9.00 to 12.00 noon and 2.30 – 6.00pm the Church will be open for members of the public to come in to see a display of Christmas Trees. There will also be activities run by Messy Church and community Carol Singing during the afternoon. Please come along to support this and let all your friends know, it would be lovely to see the Church full to capacity.

The Greatest Story Ever Told - 4th Dec

On Wednesday 4th December we have booked a duo called Lewis & Furneaux who will be giving us a Musical Nativity Story in the Church. This will commence at 2.30 pm and will be followed by tea, coffee and a mince pie. Come along, we would love to see you.

Tickets are £3.50 and can be obtained from Pat Webber, Tel: 9490928

More Random Thoughts: 'Quotations'

The past three articles that ideally should be read as one, considered the complexity of Prayer and now, by way of light relief I offer 15 quotations for your dilatation – but why quotations, you may ask. Over 45 years ago, I was published in book-form, but I did not aspire to become an author by profession and decided to concentrate on another career if only because the correctness of the 'written word' has always been something of a mystery. Even so, over the years I continued to periodically dabble often experiencing 'writer's block' which regularly occurred when writing articles for this magazine during the 1990s and again as editor of the Friends of Hanham Mount Society's newsletter for all of its 49 issues. When thus confronted, I would sometimes resort, as I do now, to my well-thumbed 'Collin's Book of Quotations' and consequently I invite you to contemplate the wisdom or otherwise of the following section, - so please, theologically relax and enjoy.

1. Abraham Lincoln (1809 – 1865) said *"I leave you, hoping that the lamp of liberty will burn in your bosoms, until there shall no longer be a doubt that all men are created free and equal"* (July 1858). Which of the following quotations are also attributed to Abraham Lincoln?
 - (a) *"When you have got an elephant by the hind leg, and he is trying to run away, it is best to let him run"*
 - (b) *"Better to be silent and be thought a fool than to speak out and remove all doubt"*
 - (c) *"I believe this government cannot endure permanently half-slave and half-free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved but I do expect it will cease to be divided"*

(d) *“You can fool some of the people all of the time, and all the people some of the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time”.*

2. Oscar Wilde (1854 – 1900):- *“...to lose one parent is unfortunate but to lose both parents is nothing short of carelessness”* (Play – ‘The Importance of Being Earnest’ as spoken by the character Lady Bracknell). Which of the following quotations are also attributed to Oscar Wilde?

- (a) *“We are each our own devil, and we make this world our hell”*
- (b) *“Education is an admirable thing, but it is well to remember from time to time that nothing that is worth knowing can be taught”*
- (c) *“Morality is simply the attitude we adopt towards people whom we personally dislike”*
- (d) *“To love one-self is the beginning of a life-long romance”*

3. William Wordsworth (1770 – 1850) wrote:- *“I wandered lonely as a cloud, That floats on high o’er vales and hills, When all at once I saw a crowd, A host of golden daffodils... (Poem ‘Daffodils’)*. Which of the following quotations are also attributed to William Wordsworth?

- (a) *“Wisdom is often nearest when we stoop than when we soar”*
- (b) *“The wiser mind mourns less for what an age takes away than what it leaves behind”*
- (c) *“The Child is the father of the man”*
- (d) *“The music in my heart I bore, Long after it was heard no more”*

All of the above quotations are correctly attributed as you may have guessed. **ARGI**

Y's Men's Club of Hanham



SATURDAY 9th NOVEMBER

7 PM

HANHAM METHODIST CHURCH

Quiz night

£7.50 PER PERSON TO INCLUDE SUPPER

Family Reductions

MAXIMUM OF SIX PEOPLE PER TEAM.

NOT ENOUGH FOR A TEAM?

COME ANYWAY AND MAKE A TEAM WITH OTHERS!

For tickets please contact:

Pam Liddiard 9670910

Pam Blackmore 9611754

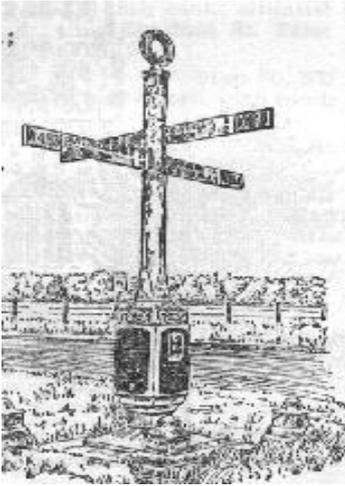
Charities for the year:

Mary's Meals

Sight Savers

SPARKS – Children's Medical Research

Signposts



Hazel Wheeler, my wonderful wife passed away October 4th, the previous Saturday she sang Sunday School hymns, grandchildren and great-grandchildren visited, Sue and myself held her hand as she slipped away.

Thank you for the many cards received, and to all those who provided refreshments and helped after the service of thanksgiving to Hazel.

A day to be remembered as a day very much of Thanksgiving.

Arnold, Martyn and Sue Wheeler

Just to Say...

Janet Green and Ian Ross would like to thank you for the cards, condolences and prayers at the time of Mum's death. Thank you also to those who were able to attend the memorial service which reflected her long life. Your caring was very much appreciated. A donation of £204.00 donation has been sent to Parkinson's UK.

Panto Time!

The Cowies are involved in Bath Unity Players production of "Aladdin", at Kingswood School in Bath, from 18th – 22nd Dec.

The group's chosen charity this year is Cots for Tots, the special care baby charity raising money for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at St Michael's Hospital Bristol; a proportion of the money taken during the show is donated to this fantastic charity.

There are discounts for any youth groups – 1 leader free with every 5 children – and the bonus of Ian playing Widow Twankey!

All details are on www.ticketsource.co.uk/unity and on our Facebook page (Bath Unity Players 1944 – 2019).

Oh yes they are!

Puzzle Page!



Christmas Decorating

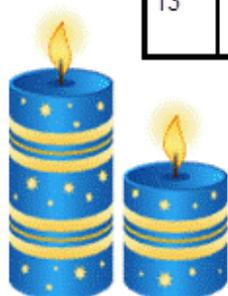
ACROSS

- Used to wrap a present
- Decoration for a banister
- Striped and sweet
- Used to open a walnut
- Door decoration
- Many times these are strung together
- Glitter for the tree



DOWN

- Decorative spheres
- Another word for decorations
- Christmas tree fruit
- Might light the dinner table
- Place where greetings are found
- Hung by the chimney
- Might be cedar, fir or pine



Flower Rota:

Nov	3rd	10th	17th	24th	
Ch	Messy Church	Pam Blackmore	Philip Biggs	Free	
WM	Messy Church	Pam Blackmore	Free	Free	
Dec	1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th
Ch	Messy Church	Free	Christmas		
WM	Messy Church	Free	Christmas		

Doors and Books Rota:

Nov	3rd	10th	17th	24th	
Morn	J Angell P Kirby	J Green P Blackmore	M Wilby M Sagar	P Webber J Tippett	
Eve	Messy Church	W Stanford B Griffen	J Morgan M Morgan	T Lansdown	
Dec	1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th
Morn	H Teague B Jones	K Cowie I Cowie	M Golding P Webber	G Roberts M Stoodley	J Angell P Kirby
Eve	Messy Church	M Kenway M Kenway	C Haycock R Ireland	W Stanford B Griffen	

For Your Diary

Nov 3 rd	Messy Church – The Story of Joseph
Nov 10 th	Remembrance Service @ 9.45 a.m. Note earlier time
Nov 17 th	Mission Sunday Morning service led by Rev David Willis Simple Lunch Evening service led by Susan Hatton
Dec 1 st	Gift Day Service (morning), Dr Christine Jones - all gifts to Home Start. Messy Church (4pm) - Christingle A Christmas card tree will be in place from this date
Dec 15 th	Cluster Candlelight Carol Service
Dec 17 th	Christmas at Eastwood park (to be confirmed)
Dec 22 nd	Christian Aid Tea Candlelight Carol Service
Dec 24 th	Crib Service at 4pm Midnight Communion at 11.15pm
Dec 25 th	Christmas Morning Worship at 10am
Jan 1 st	New Year Vigil followed by tea & biscuits 2-3.30pm
Jan 19 th	Covenant Service (morning)