

Salem Methodist Church

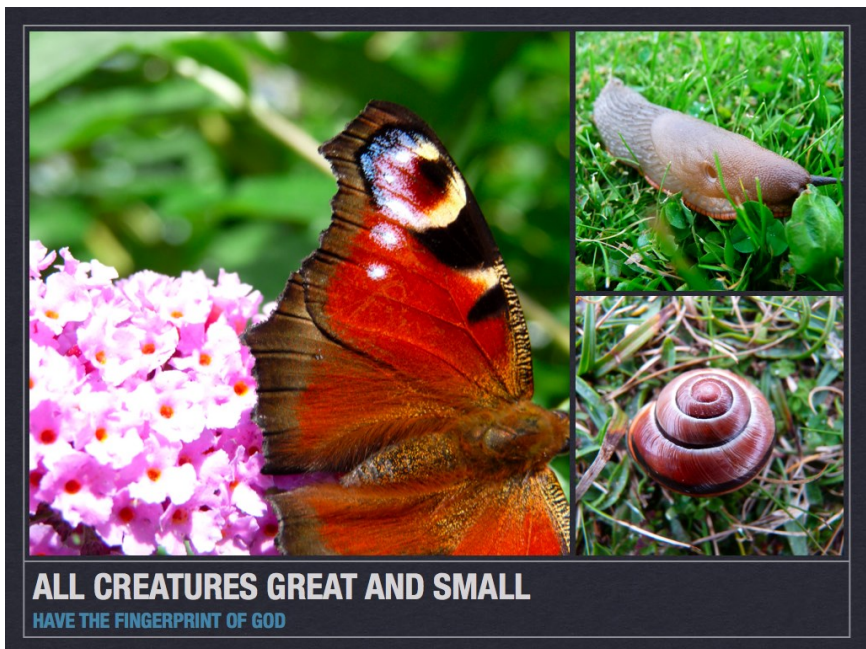
Watley's End

BS36 1QL

SALEM NEWS

www.salemchurch.org.uk

August 2017



‘Summertime and the living is easy.’ George Gershwin’s words could be aptly applied to August, when many of us take holiday. It’s a month to focus on summertime: family time and barbeques; the beach and ice cream; long days with no school! It is time to wind down from the frenetic pace of our normal routines. However, while summer is a season, it is also a state of mind. How can we walk by faith in the summers or good times of our spiritual lives?

Summer Distinctives: When we go through times of sickness, financial pressure, difficult relationships and other problems, we more easily focus on God. In a spiritual summer season, we can subtly find ourselves enjoying the gifts without acknowledging the Giver! The greatest danger in the summertime season of life is to forget who is responsible for the good life that we are enjoying.

Summer Distractions: Our normal routine revolves around clocks and calendars, but we can easily get distracted when we break these disciplined routines. In the spiritual summer seasons of life, there is a temptation to miss out on our regular times with God in Bible reading and prayer! Things that make summer seasons enjoyable can also become big distractions.

Summer Directives: How can we make the most of this summer season and keep focused on God? We need to maintain a gratitude attitude: thankful to God for all His blessings to us. So, stay close and stay grateful to God in this summer season of life!

August Events

Skittles at Community Centre
on Thursday August 10th
at 7.30p.m.

Cost £6
including Ploughman's supper

Outing to
Bourton-on-the-Water
Wednesday August 16th
Leaving Community Centre
at 10 a.m.

Cost of coach £14

Cream Teas
On Saturday August 19th
served from 3.30 p.m.

£5
Proceeds for Christian Aid

ALL ARE WELCOME

The August Coffee Morning
will be on
Wednesday August 2nd from 10 a.m.

Come and enjoy
a coffee, a chat and
fellowship



Grandparents are similar to a piece
of string - handy to have around
and easily wrapped around the
fingers of their grandchildren.

Action for Children

Elizabeth would like to thank all who
supported Action for Children by
donating in envelopes
and by buying goods for sale.

£70 was raised by the Sunday
School on the morning

and

£30 donated from the Coffee
morning sales

and

£85 was donated in envelopes

Holy Habits based on Acts 2 : 42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

At Salem we considered the first of the habits - Eating Together - in this new circuit project. Viv Lear introduced the topic in a Sunday morning service and a group gathered for a weekday meeting. It was good that many felt that this was a good opportunity to consider our response.

Firstly there was the Biblical references to eating together and then how it affected us individually and as a church. It was felt that as a church we have several opportunities for this—it is not just the eating, but the conversations and fellowship that go with it. The tea/coffee after a Sunday service is such a time—even over just a biscuit!! Maybe more of you would consider staying and enjoy a time of chatting with other members of the congregation and getting to know them better.

There are organisations in which volunteers are needed to help those who are lonely—so don't "eat together" - and can get together with others for the occasional meal. The church Council was asked to consider if Salem could be involved in something similar

The next habit for consideration during August and September is "Service" and will be introduced by Rev. Hilary Cooke on August 3rd. It is hoped that more will join in a group to look at this from Salem's point of view. Watch for details on the weekly Notice Sheet

Rev. Lorraine Mellor and Mrs Jill Baker, President and Vice President of Conference have chosen "Day by Day" as their theme for their presidential year. A booklet of the same name has been produced and there are some on the bookcase for you to take. They are FREE. They connect nicely with the theme of Holy Habits, both being based on the passage from Acts 2 . There are also free postcards for you to help yourself

News of Salem Church Family

- ** We offer our condolences to Brian following the death of Maureen. We pray that God will give comfort and strength during these difficult days.
Brian writes
" Thank you for all the cards, phone calls and messages of sympathy.
Your prayers, love and support is much appreciated"
- ** Ross Mackenzie is having further treatment and we offer our prayers for him and Maureen
- ** We ask your prayers for Liz Brookman's mother who is still very unwell .

Publication of 'Mission and Ministry in Covenant'

The Church of England and the Methodist Church in Britain are to consider proposals that would bring them into a new relationship of full communion, after a period of some 200 years of formal separation.

The proposals are presented in Mission and Ministry in Covenant, a joint report from the two churches' Faith and Order bodies. It sets out how the Methodist Church could come to have bishops in the historic episcopate, and how ministers from one church could become eligible to serve in the other.

The report builds on the theological convergence established by An Anglican-Methodist Covenant, signed in 2003, and the subsequent work of the Covenant's Joint Implementation Commission.

In 2014 the General Synod of the Church of England and the Methodist Conference mandated the faith and order bodies to bring forward proposals that would enable the interchangeability of ministries in the two churches.

The report sets out a way by which the Methodist Church would become one of the churches with which the Church of England is officially in communion, alongside other members of the Anglican Communion and Lutheran churches in the Porvoo Communion.

The report has now been released with the aim of enabling a wider discussion in the Methodist Church and in the Church of England, and to allow consultation with other ecumenical partners.

17th Century Nun's Prayer

Lord, thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older
and will some day be old.

Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something
on every subject and on every occasion.

Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs.

Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy.

With my vast store of wisdom it seems a pity not to use it all,
but Thou knowest Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details;
give me wings to get to the point.

Seal my lips on my aches and pains.

They are increasing and love of rehearsing them
is becoming sweeter as the years go by.

I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of other's pains,
but help me to endure them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility
and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the
memories of others.

Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a saint-
-some of them are so hard to live with-
but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the Devil.

Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places
and talents in unexpected people.

And, give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so.

Amen.

Church Calendar

Thursday August 10th	Skittles at Community Centre
Wednesday August 16th	Outing to Bourton-on-the-Water
Saturday August 19th	Cream Teas for Christian Aid
Saturday September 2nd	Circuit Welcome service at Victoria at 3pm
Saturday September 30th	Harvest Lunches
Sunday October 1st	Harvest Thanksgiving services
Sunday October 22nd	230th Church Anniversary
Saturday October 28th	Anniversary meal at Filton Golf Club
Saturday December 2nd	Brass, Wind and Fire Christmas Concert

Sunday August 13th

The morning service is planned as a "Local Arrangement".
It will be led by Margaret with the help of vestry stewards.

It will be a meditative service
based on sites in the Holy Land
and very different from our usual morning service.
However it is hoped that you will give your support and
find it acceptable and interesting

Preachers for August

	10.30 a.m.	6 p.m.	Flowers
6th	Rev H. Cooke (S)	Mr D. King	Mrs A. Laired
13th	Stewards	Mr D. Jones	Mrs M. Streeting
20th	Mrs V. Lamont	Mrs K. Boulton	Mrs M. Johnston
27th	Mr D. Carter	Rev. D. Alderman (S)	Mrs J. Glass

CAR ROTA	Lin,	Ron,
6th	Derek	772590
13th	Kathryn	777820
20th	Jayne	773051
27th	Keith	0117 9049125



Minister

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During Pearl's Sabbatical, if you need the services of a minister, please contact Margaret in the first instance.