

**Salem Methodist Church**

**Watley's End**

**BS36 1QL**

# **SALEM NEWS**

**[www.salemchurch.org.uk](http://www.salemchurch.org.uk)**

**May 2019**

**'Behold the lilies  
of the field...'**



## The Truth of the Ascension

***‘While He was blessing them, Jesus left them and was taken up into heaven.’(Luke 24:51).***

The Ascension is a hugely neglected festival, which deserves to have a bigger place in our church life. How do we understand it?

*The Ascension tells us that Jesus is in control: ‘Jesus has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand’ (1 Peter 3:22).* Jesus occupies the top spot in the universe; the control of our world is in the safe, scarred hands of Jesus. We can offer Him our worship and allegiance, knowing that His plans are better than those of any Prime Minister or President.

*The Ascension tells us that God is committed to His world: ‘And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus’(Ephesians 2:6).* Jesus did not leave His humanity behind when He ascended, for we are raised with Christ to heaven. Therefore, God is bound to His world and we can trust Him to fulfil His purpose for our lives and world.

*The Ascension gives us a job to do: ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations’ (Matthew 28:18,19).* God’s primary means of working in the world is now through us. He commissions for this task at Ascension and equips us at Pentecost. We are called to make disciples, starting in our workplace, family and community.

***‘Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which He looks com-***

The **Methodist** Church   
Bristol & South Gloucestershire Circuit

# North East Cluster

Summer Praise and Prayer



Saturday 1 June 2019

4.00pm-6.00pm

*Praise & Prayer 4.00pm, refreshments and  
fellowship 5.30pm, come and go as you are able.*

Yate Methodist Church,  
Moorlands Road, BS37 4BZ

## **Christian Aid Week (12 – 18 May): ‘All mums should live’**

Sierra Leone is the world’s most dangerous place to become a mum. Every day 10 women die from giving birth. In Sawula district, the community struggle with a clinic which has no electricity and only two delivery beds.

Jebbeh is heavily pregnant but as her baby grows, it’s not joy that fills her heart, but fear. When Jebbeh’s sister Fatmata went in to labour, there were so few ambulances that Fatmata had no choice but to walk for three hours under the baking sun, to the nearest hospital. The journey was long and with every step Fatmata struggled to keep walking. Jebbeh told us: ‘My sister was crying out with hunger. She died on the side of the road. She never gave birth.’

This Christian Aid Week, together, we can make childbirth safe for mums and babies. Through our gifts and prayers, we can help give the world’s poorest mums a chance to live.

This Christian Aid Week, 12-18 May, Christian Aid envelopes will be in the pews on May 12th for your donations. Please give as generously as you are able

Christian Aid Coffee Morning at 40 High Street on Thursday May 14th from 10 a.m. Please give your support

Donations for Christian Aid at the Maundy Thursday Communion meal amounted to £155. Thank you to all who contributed

Methodist Women in Britain



Bristol District



# Quiet Day

*Boots, Bible, Bread - experiencing Emmaus*

Led by Anne Browse - former MWiB President

at Churchdown Methodist Church,

Gloucester GL3 2ET

on Saturday May 18th

10 a.m.—3.30p.m.

*There is a small car park at the church  
and a public car park is within walking distance*

Please bring your own lunch - Drinks will be provided

The day is "gender friendly" Gentlemen very welcome

There is no charge for the day  
but donations would be welcomed

Please email [mj.winterbourne@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mj.winterbourne@hotmail.co.uk) if you would like to attend

*I can recommend this event.*

*Anne Browse is an amazing leader*

*Please join me in Gloucester*

## **MAF or Mission Aviation Fellowship**

Thank you to everyone who donated postcards to the MAF collection box in the hall. The contents have been picked-up by a local MAF speaker who expressed her appreciation and requested that we continue to collect postcards which are sold at postcard fairs to raise funds. MAF uses small planes with experienced and brave pilots to access remote airstrips in order to spread the gospel and also to ferry people to hospital, who are in urgent need of medical/surgical care.

*(This is the MWiB District project for the year beginning in September - so you'll be hearing more about it from me — Margaret)*

## **Concert by the Clifton Choir on Sunday 23rd June at Salem**

Nick Barlow, who is the conductor of the choir, has asked to give a concert of secular music at Salem. In the past, when the Salem choir (together with other local singers) presented Easter cantatas, Nick used to be the tenor soloist. The concert will take place on a Sunday afternoon and will be followed by a strawberry tea.

## **A Busy Time at Salem during the Easter Break**

If you enjoy volunteering there are opportunities to suit all tastes at Salem. On Tuesday 16th April the church hosted a morning of Easter themed craft activities for Primary and Preschool children and their grown-ups. I took Isabel along and she chose to make five of the fifteen activities available, which ranged from a donkey with clothes peg legs, to a nest with little birds, to a cupcake decorated with mini eggs. The children gathered on the carpet to listen to Elizabeth telling the Easter story. After completing more craft items the children enjoyed watching Tom and Jerry cartoons which made the adults laugh too.

On Maundy Thursday the church hosted a supper of homemade soup with bread and cheese, which was attended by friends from St. Michael's and Bethesda (Winterbourne Down Methodist). The meal was followed by communion, when bread and wine was passed around the table. Then the people left quietly and donations for Christian Aid were placed in a basket.

The service on Good Friday morning was led by the superintendent minister Rev. David Alderman. It was solemn and reflective as we remembered the agony which Christ suffered on the cross. This short service was followed by welcome cups of tea/coffee and hot cross buns.

Easter Sunday was a joyous day with the morning service being led by Rev. David Alderman, who brought Easter Eggs for everyone. The congregation decorated a large cross with fresh flowers and the children made a miniature Easter garden. The service concluded Holy Communion. The evening service took the form of a Songs of Praise with the singing of hymns which had been requested and Bible readings and reflections. Many people had a role to play during this service.

I should like to pay tribute to the Senior Steward Margaret Johnston, who has been responsible for the smooth running of services and activities at Salem with the assistance of a team of valiant volunteers. Well done everyone and thank you.

Heather Hunt

## **Women's Fellowship Programme for May**

<b>7th</b>	Mr David Carter
<b>14th</b>	tbc
<b>21st</b>	Easter Offering Dedication Service at Salem
<b>28th</b>	AGM

### **Cyclone Idai Appeal**

Up to three million people have been affected by Cyclone Idai in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe. Nearly 1000 are known to be dead, and hundreds of thousands homeless, with the people are in desperate need of food, water, clothing, shelter and medicine.

Thank you to those who donated to our retiring collection.

To those who have been collecting "Jars of change" for Water Aid  
- Thank you

Can you please bring in your jars  
so that the money can be counted and sent off

### **Staple Hill Methodist Church**

**Flower Festival : Theme—"I am...."**

**Sat. May 25th, Sun. 26th, Mon. 27th**

**Saturday and Monday - open 10a.m.—4 p.m.**

*Refreshments available*

**Sunday open 2.30—5.30 p.m.**

*with cream teas and followed by Songs of praise at 6 p.m.*

## What's in your name?

This Spring, millions of people will be curious to know what Meghan and Prince Harry name their first baby. Journalists will fill columns of newsprint, speculating on why they chose that name, how it will fit in with the rest of the royal names, and how 'fashionable' it may become.

But we all have a name. It's perhaps the only thing that we'll possess throughout our entire lives. It's often the first thing strangers ask about us, and although we have the power to change it, few of us do. There's often a story behind why we have that name, and many people have strong feelings – whether positive or negative – towards it.

Whether we like it or not, our names define us. Although this is certainly less the case now than it has been in the past, names tell us a lot about a person – from gender to race to socioeconomic background and more. Our name can even have the power to shape our self-esteem and influence how we're seen and treated by others.

Names are particularly significant in the Bible – bound up with identity, origin, birth circumstances, or even the 'divine purpose' of that person. Right from the start of Genesis, we see the importance of names. The name 'Adam' provides a pun on the word for 'ground', from which he is formed. Abram, 'exalted father' becomes Abraham, 'father of many nations'. Samuel, the longed-for child of Hannah, means 'God hears'.

Our names form a part of our faith, too. In Isaiah 43:1, it is said that God has "summoned you by name"; a declaration that is reflected in the Anglican confirmation Service: 'God has called you by name and made you His own'.

In Ephesians 3 Paul begins his prayer for the Ephesians with these powerful words: "For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name."

Whether we love, hate, or are completely ambivalent towards our given names, this verse reminds us that, ultimately, they pale in significance to our family name – that which is given to us when we become adopted heirs of God in Christ. Belonging, community, and family ultimately goes back to God himself, and are reflected most truly in relationship with Him.



The **Methodist Church**   
Bristol & South Gloucestershire Circuit

# Bristol District Testimony Service

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**You are invited  
to come and hear**

**Deacon  
Corinne Brown**

**sharing her faith journey as  
she goes forward for  
ordination.**

**Preacher**

**Rev Dr Jonathan Pye  
Chair of District**

**St Peter's  
Church**

**Brislington,  
Bristol**

**170 Allison Rd,  
BS4 4NZ  
Car Park**

**7pm**

**Wednesday  
23<sup>rd</sup> May  
2019**



# Calendar

Wed.	May 1st	10 a.m.	Coffee morning
Sunday	May 12th	3 p.m.	Annual Church Meeting
		6 p.m.	United Christian Aid service
Monday	May 13th	2.30p.m.	David Alderman will meet with Pastoral visitors
Saturday	May 18th	10—3p.m	District Quiet Day at Churchdown, Gloucester
Tuesday	May 21st	2.30p.m.	Easter Offering Service at Salem
Thursday	May 23rd	7.30p.m.	Testimony service for Deacon Corrine Brown at Brislington
Sa/Su/Mon	May 25/26/27th		Flower Festival—Staple Hill
Tuesday	June 4th	9.30a.m.	Outing to Sidmouth
Saturday	June 1st	4 p.m.	Praise and Prayer service at Yate
Wed.	June 19th	7.30p.m.	Church Council
Sunday	June 23rd	3p.m.	Concert - Clifton Singers

\*\* Best wishes to Janet and Geoff Tremlin who celebrate their golden wedding on May 29th. Congratulations to you both

## Coffee morning

Wednesday May 1st

From 10 a.m. to  
11.30 a.m.

Come and enjoy a  
coffee and chat with



**Tuesday June 4th**

## OUTING TO SIDMOUTH

Leaves Community Centre at  
9.30a.m.

Coach fare - £20

Please sign list on bookcase

