

⊕ The
Messenger

Wallingford Methodist Church June 2018 Issue 365



A Message from our Minister

Dear Friends,

During my five years here, I've been going into a primary school to lead occasional assemblies. This week I was asked to lead an assembly based on the story of Pentecost and linked to the theme of "being reflective", as this was the school "theme of the week".

I began by blowing up a balloon and we talked about how you can't see air but you can see the effect it has, such as when a balloon inflates. This point was well made because it was a windy day and we could see and hear the effect of the wind - it was rattling the vertical blinds at the open windows as I was speaking.

I then told the Biblical story of the disciples gathered in a house in Jerusalem, praying and reflecting, waiting and wondering what would happen next after Jesus had gone from their sight. Jesus told them to wait and then they would receive the Holy Spirit, a gift from God to give them power and courage to speak for him. And that is what happened. On that day at Pentecost, those first believers found they had confidence to share their new faith and they could speak other languages and understand each other! As I told the story of the Holy Spirit coming like a strong wind and tongues of fire to Jesus' friends, the whole school sat very still listening, while the wind rattled the blinds. It was very atmospheric!

As I was going home, I wondered what the children had understood about this story. Balloons, wind, fire, languages, power, courage, new faith, the beginning of the church.....what kind of connections had they made with any of this?

Well I can only guess. I often wonder what people receive when they hear a sermon too. I'm aware that different people can hear different messages from the same sermon. God's Holy Spirit works like that, prompting various kinds of connections for different people.

In our church at the moment, we are thinking how we can increase opportunities for conversations about faith and make connections between our Christian faith and our everyday lives. This idea was well supported in our discussions relating to the church growth plan. So in the next few weeks, we plan to start holding some informal conversations at one or two of the



tables at the Thursday coffee mornings and perhaps on some Sundays during refreshments after worship. Do come along and join in the conversations. It will be a chance to discuss some of life's questions and may help you and others to learn more and grow in confidence in your faith.

Every blessing,
Katherine

Pentecost by Malcolm Guite

Today we feel the wind beneath our wings
Today the hidden fountain flows and plays
Today the church draws breath at last and sings
As every flame becomes a Tongue of praise.
This is the feast of fire, air, and water
Poured out and breathed and kindled into earth.
The earth herself awakens to her maker
And is translated out of death to birth.
The right words come today in their right order
And every word spells freedom and release
Today the gospel crosses every border
All tongues are loosened by the Prince of Peace
Today the lost are found in His translation.
Whose mother-tongue is Love, in every nation.



Our house group attempt at a church service.

Our group now meets at Marten's house. We have been studying James's letters to the 12 tribes scattered among the nations, Maggie has been our guide and leader for several weeks now. At one of our meetings she put forward the idea that we might think about taking on one of the Sunday morning services.

Well we had mixed feelings among us but generally we thought it would be a good idea. Then came the questions, what subject, what would we have to do?

There was plenty of food for thought. Well it was suggested, James was fresh in our minds, and not often used in church. Why not? We as a group had learnt a great deal so we should share it. During our studies, we had some time thinking about words, our poor ability to listen and how a tiny word, could cause distress to another person. So it was decided to base our "service" around James 1:19-27 and James 3:1-12. Then next came the decision on which hymns to choose. Wow! Do our preachers have to do this every week? What with the problem of choosing appropriate ones, and a tune that everyone knows it wasn't so easy, but soon we got it sorted. I might mention at this point that it didn't happen all at one meeting it took several. Then the fun began, we started to seek volunteers to take on different rolls, with a bit of cajoling. Sue could not attend the next meeting, but offered to help, maybe not such a good idea, she ended up playing Jesus or was it God. Well said I "you're good at prayers, Pat" I'm not sure" was the reply. But she offered to lead the prayers of thanksgiving. Then said Maggie "I need two people to read this out, please." So then Gwyneth and Alex, asked to read it though first. This caused lots of laughter firstly trying to pronounce " eschatological" and then Alex saying rabbit instead of rabbi! What does it mean anyway? If you want to know it I'm still confused. I offered to do the prayers of intercession; this meant watching the news regularly, my goodness so much bad news. So we had put it all together more or less, and Alex had offered to print it all out. We needed to be at church early for a dummy run and then, all set to go.

Well why not have a go? It was fun and very revealing, and probably my closest chance to be a disciple.

Maggie, Pat, Gwen, Sue, Val and other helpful people.

Church Anniversary Sunday June 17th

10.30am Guest Speaker: Rev Josie Midwinter

Josie is an Anglican vicar (supposedly now retired but still very active!) who began the pioneering work at the new housing estate at Great Western Park in Didcot. She was involved from the start in visiting and welcoming new people as they moved in and has continued to be committed to new Christian initiatives on the estate, including encouraging Sarah Ifill and Libby Hawkness-Smith, the two community chaplains who are supported by this Methodist circuit.

The morning service will be followed by an anniversary lunch. Please sign up on the list in the atrium if you want to come. Everyone is invited!

6.30pm Holy Communion Rev Katherine Pickering



Sunday Lunch 17th June

Following the Church Anniversary service on Sunday 17th June we will be cooking a meal to which all are welcome. Roast Lamb with all the trimmings and a choice of pudding for £10 to be served at 12.30pm. Any profit will go to church funds. Please see the list in the atrium and let me know

if you would prefer something other than lamb. *Joan Oscroft*

Don't forget!!! Fund Raising ideas needed

It's time to put your thinking caps on and come up with some interesting fund raising ideas.

The fund raising and publicity group would like to invite anyone who has any suggestions to an open meeting on Monday June 25th.

New fund raising ideas - for our charities and the church - will be the only item on the agenda. Coming to the meeting, in the Long Room at church from 8pm, does not commit you to joining the group - unless you would like to. New members are always welcome as the majority of us have been fund raising for many years and would appreciate some both some new helpers and fresh ideas.

If you are unable to attend, please give your suggestions to one of the group members whose names are listed in red in the atrium. Thanks, *Nicky Lidstone*



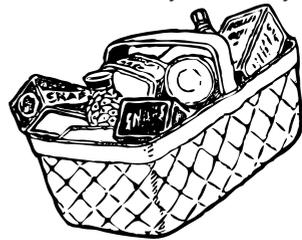
Food Bank analysis for April 2018

We are already one third of the way through the year but the demand on the Food Bank has not let up at all. This last month we gave food enough to feed 131 people for three days - 75 adults and 56 children. We have had a lot of single people asking for food this month and quite a few people that we haven't seen before. Thursdays are really busy at the moment and indeed have been for the past few weeks, it has needed all four volunteers to be on duty and there has not been much time to interact with the clients, however I'm pleased to say that we have always had enough food for each person to take away with them and this is down to you - thank you.

Eileen and I were asked to go and speak to Brightwell Brownies at the end of the month and we had a great time with them. There were probably a dozen of them and they listened very intently to what we had to say. As usual, at the end, we asked if they had any questions and every single one of them had something they wanted to ask and all the questions were well thought out and very good. We were told by 'Brown Owl' that she was very moved by what we had spoken about and it made us realise that there are still quite a number of people who are unaware of exactly what a Food Bank is. As an aside, one little girl asked if we deliver food and if we did could her granny have some. We said yes we did take some food in our cars but it was probably a bit too far to take to her granny, who lives in Somerset!

We had our Trustees meeting last week and, like many other organisations, are having to deal with the question of Data Protection and a Safeguarding Policy. We would value your prayers in these matters as to exactly how they should be put into practice.

Thank you all once more for your interest both practically and prayerfully, both are gratefully received. *Jean Burt*



Double issue of the Messenger !!!

Deadline for the July/August issue of the newsletter is
Friday 22nd June

Please forward any items to paulineainley@btinternet.com

Daphne Sharp by Barbara Kershaw

In a lifespan of well over 90 years there are almost bound to be several different stages and we here at Wallingford Methodist Church only got to know Daphne at the final stage of her life, when she moved to Wallingford about 11 years ago to be nearer to her family.

I don't know if all her life Daphne had thrown herself in at the deep end but when she arrived here about eleven years ago that is exactly what she did! She could have crept in quietly and discreetly and sat at the back but that wasn't really Daphne's style. She wanted to be involved right from the start. And she certainly was!

The word that always came to mind when thinking of Daphne as she was when she first joined us here. was positive. She joined in; she expected to enjoy herself and enjoy herself she did.

She was a regular at the Tuesday lunches when she always sat at table number 8 with Anne, and if Anne was going to be late for any reason Daphne would always have her lunch organised and paid for so that it was ready by the time she arrived. I think she rather liked organising Anne!

She also enjoyed the Friendship Group meetings and was a regular on their outings. Daphne enjoyed her food and joined in any of the celebration meals we had here, like harvest suppers and anniversary lunches.

Although she took part in and enjoyed the various social activities of the church, at the very heart of what we do here is worship, and Daphne was also a faithful and very regular worshipper here. She sat in the same seat and very rarely missed a Sunday morning service unless she was unwell.

She very quickly became a valued member of our church family and I know, because Jean has told me, how important the church was to her and how grateful the family are for the friendship and support she received here.

Of course friendship works both ways. And lots of her friends were very pleased to be invited to her 90th birthday party in Jean and John's lovely garden - I remember it well and those of you here who also remember it will recall how Daphne was in her element - she really enjoyed being the star of the show for the day!

Then as Daphne's memory gradually declined she moved to live in Cleeve Lodge in Goring and although this must have been a huge change for her, as it would be for anyone in their 90s, she seemed to take to it like the proverbial duck to water.

Every time I saw her there she was her usual smiley self and whatever was going on in her mind she always made me feel really welcome - even on those occasions when it was obvious that she wasn't quite sure who I was.

She was touchingly proud of Cleeve Lodge: just as she had been proud of

her lovely sunny flat in Wallingford. She was so pleased with her new home that on my first visit she absolutely insisted on showing me round and taking me to her room – and here I sensed a little steel in Daphne - she didn't take no for an answer! I had to go on the tour of the house!.

Daphne enjoyed her food and every time I visited Cleeve Lodge she pointed out the menu written up in the dining room - lest I should think that she wasn't well fed! My impression is that she was very happy living there and I know that the family fully appreciate the staff at Cleeve Lodge for their care of Daphne.

My last and lovely memory of Daphne is when I went to see her on the Monday that she died. I didn't stay long because she was very frail and she hadn't been able to say very much but as I took her hand to say goodbye, she lifted her head, smiled again, and said very clearly, "you drive carefully." It left a lump in my throat as I drove home - very carefully as instructed!

Collecting Change for Charity



Over the last four and a half years when we have been supporting an overseas charity and a local charity we have had displays which encourage us to give our loose change to the overseas charity we are supporting. These displays have been produced by members of our Junior Church.

Initially we had the toilet bowl which acted as a clear indication of the work of All We Can in providing clean water and sanitation in Uganda. Over the two year

period we raised £603.43 from coppers down the loo. At times it was difficult to retrieve them from round the bend.

When we were contributing to the work of Karibuni Children in supporting children through their education in Kenya we had the blackboard with the coin run. Over this period we raised £214.88

Since the beginning of the year we have been supporting Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF).

The bandaged doll and the medical supplies display has so far encouraged the giving of £92.31 in change.

The displays put together by Hilary and the young people have significantly contributed to the amounts collected for these charities.

Philip Burns



Friendship Guild

(Alternate Tuesdays at 2.30pm)

June 12th

Friendship Guild Garden Party

June 26th

Wallingford Food Bank - Jean Burt

Weekday Activities

Weekday Activities

Tuesday

Lunches 12.30 - 1.30pm

Friendship Guild Group 2.30pm (Alternate Tuesdays)

Exploring Christianity Group (ECG) (7.30pm (Alternate Tuesdays))

Wednesday

Tots Time 9.30 - 11am weekly (term time)

Unison Bible Group - Vestry 10.30am (Alternate weeks)

BLOC Brazilia Bible Group 10 - 12noon (Alternate weeks)

Loving Hands - Crafty knitters 2 - 4pm

BB&GA Anchors 6pm

Juniors 6.45pm

Company & Seniors 7.30pm

Shillingford House Group 8pm (Alternate weeks)

Thursday

Coffee Morning and chat 10.30 - 12noon

Borough Bible Group Alternate weeks 2pm

Choir Practice 8pm (Special occasions only)

Friday

Prayer Meeting - Church 7.30pm - 8pm

A prayer - Wendy Moorin

When we pray we offer to God our innermost thoughts and desires. We offer him praise and thanks, confession and petition. Do we expect to hear God's response when we ask him for things? The answer might be more complex than we expect.....

I asked God to take away my pain.

God said

"No. It is not for me to take it away, but for you to give it up"

I asked God to make my handicapped child whole.

God said

"No. Her spirit is whole, her body is only temporary"

I asked God to grant me patience.

God said

"No. Patience is a by product of tribulation; it isn't granted, it is learned."

I asked God to give me happiness.

God said

" No. I give you blessings. Happiness is up to you."

I asked God to spare me pain.

God said

"No. Suffering draws you apart from the worldly cares and brings you closer to me."

I asked God to make my spirit grow.

God said

"No. You must grow on your own, but I will prune you to make you fruitful."

I asked God for all things that I might enjoy life.

God said "No. I will give you life so that you may enjoy all things."

I asked God to help me Love others as much as He loves me.

God said

"Ah, finally you have the idea."

Wallingford Street Pastors

Newsletter April 2018



My wife and I had a week or so on holiday in Florence, which I would love to tell you about, but that is not the purpose of this newsletter.

I heard that we missed the summer in England, terminating with a spectacular thunderstorm. It means I will rely on the reports of other members of the team.

On the whole things have remained fairly quiet on Friday nights except for a couple of minor fights that broke out on separate evenings. They soon calmed down but one had resulted in a man cracking his head on the ground, needing care for a while.

We pour quite a lot of alcohol down the drains as people leave half full bottles of wine, beer and even spirits, lying around. We deal with these because we don't want them to get broken and cause a danger to folk walking around, or used as weapons in the heat of a dispute. If we do find broken ones we sweep them up. For information this amounted to 14 bottles and 2 broken ones in April, about par for the course.

This is as nothing compared to what our colleagues face in some areas of London. You will probably be aware of the news that knife crime and violent crime generally have greatly increased recently in our major cities. Spare a thought and a prayer for the Street Pastors who go out on the streets to listen, care and provide help and try and calm things down. They have a lot of success but do face a certain amount of danger themselves. We normally finish our patrols by about 1:30 am when the majority of people have gone home and most of the pubs are shut. In the big cities it is more likely to be 4 am.

I am pleased to say that we have had another person thinking of joining us, which would mean 5 recruits going through training. There are two main requirements, being a member of a local church for at least a year, and being over 18. There is no upper age limit, indeed older people often make the best Street Pastors. Even inebriated angry men will rarely lash out at a grandmother figure. The training is not trivial and can easily take a year or more to complete. If you are wondering if it is something you might get involved in do please make contact.

We also have Prayer Pastors who don't go out on patrol but who man/woman the base and pray for the patrols while they are out. Again, please contact us if you are interested in this aspect.

Next month we have been invited to speak to the 6th Form Assembly, not only about Street Pastors but encouraging them to think about what they want for their futures.

Neville Burt

Sunday Worship

	10.30am	6.30pm
June 3rd	Libby Bolton	Rev Katherine Pickering
June 10th	Rev Katherine Pickering S	Daphne Savage
June 17th	Rev Josie Midwinter C	Rev Katherine Pickering CS
June 24th	Local Arrangement	Alan Smith

A - All Age Worship, P - Parade, S - Communion Service

Lectionary Readings

June 3rd	Deuteronomy 5:12-15 2 Corinthians 4:5-12	Psalm 81 Mark 2:23-3:6
June 10th	Genesis 3:8-15 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1	Psalm 130 Mark 3:20-35
June 17th	Ezekial 17:22-24 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17	Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15 Mark 4:26-34
June 24th	Job 38:1-11 2 Corinthians 6:1-13	Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32 Mark 4:35-41

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katherine.pickering@methodist.org.uk

www.wallingfordmethodistchurch.org.uk
Registered Charity X65308

Church Stewards

June 3rd	D Savage
June 10th	B Kaur
June 17th	C Hill
June 24th	M Swift

Door Stewards

	10.30am	6.30pm
June 3rd	S & D Shepperson	S Scrivener
June 10th	P Maskrey/H Brown	B Calcutt
June 17th	I & S Scrivener	R Atkinson
June 24th	A & A Lowe	B Calcutt

Organists

	10.30am	6.30p
June 3rd	Gill Hall	Gill Hall
June 10th	Libby Bolton	Libby Bolton
June 17th	Libby Bolton	Libby Bolton
June 24th	Gill Hall	Libby Bolton

PA Operatives

	10.30am	6.30pm
June 3rd	Ian Scrivener	Ian Scrivener
June 10th	Iain Revell	Alec Goldsmith
June 17th	Alec Goldsmith	Norman Atkinson
June 24th	Edward Swift	Iain Revell

Coffee Rota (Sunday Morning)

June 3rd	Angela/Belinda
June 10th	PaulineA/Shirley
June 17th	Pauline/Joan
June 24th	Sue/Mary

