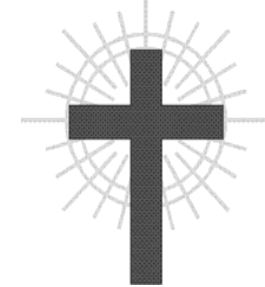
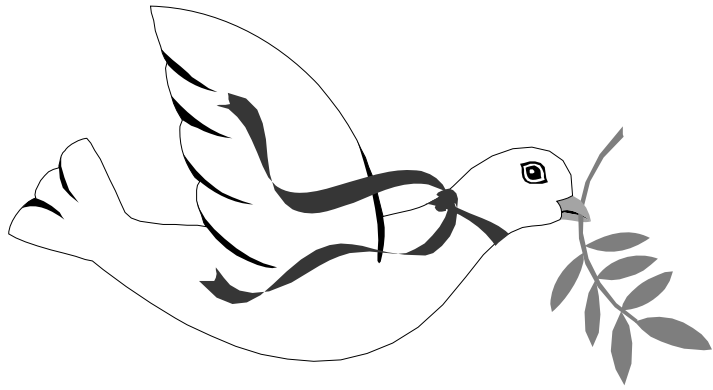


THE MESSENGER



**Monmouth
Trellech
Broad Oak
Gwern-y-Saint
Llancloudy**

July/August 2010



5. Homes and livelihoods

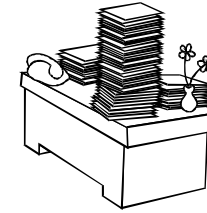
You are also helping to fund the construction of houses for some of the most vulnerable families in the earthquake-hit regions. Where possible, local masons and carpenters will provide the skilled labour for rebuilding work. Many families lost their source of income. Donations to our appeal are helping to provide some of them with seeds and tools to plant crops for the next harvest, as well as cows, goats and chickens to help them generate an income.

6. Looking forward

One of our Programme Managers will be meeting with representatives of the Methodist Church in Haiti later this month to discuss possible long-term rehabilitation projects. Please continue to check our website at www.mrdf.org.uk for further updates.

Thank you again for your generosity.”

Sent by John Lloyd Williams



From the Minister's Desk

July and August are times for holidays for so many people. When I was young a rhyme which seemed to sum up holidays went, “ teachers rest, mothers pest, fathers wages going west”.

Holidays were originally Holy Days. God ordained a Sabbath or day of rest each week. This was originally in Judaism the last day of the week but, as the church lost it's Jewish roots, Sunday (The Lord's Day) became the Holy Day or day free from work.

Other special Holy days like Good Friday and Christmas day also became days free from work.

Now most people have four, five or more weeks holidays written into their contracts of employment.

God meant Holy Days as times for rest and relaxation from work. Today holidays are seen as times to go elsewhere, visit new places, see new things. They are not always restful, but some people suggest “a change is as good as a rest”.

Around the time of Vicky's operation I will be taking some holiday and although we probably won't be going away I won't be available for work.

I hope those who are going away or having a break will find a time of relaxation and renewal.

Enjoy your holidays and may they be Holy days for you

God Bless

Barry

Please pray for

Rev Kim Kerchal and family(Kim is in US as his father is dying)
Rev Louise Gough heart attack
Mr Brian Ham (Local preacher) had a stroke
Fay and Les Rowlands Les is not well and there have been problems with the young people.

Dates for diary

July Sun 4th Sectional Service Llancloudy 6.00p.m.
Sun 18th Farewell to Andy Walker Bishpool
Sun 25th Farewell to Maree Farrimond Caldicot

Aug. Sun 1st Sectional service Gwern-Y-Saint 6.30p.m.
Thurs. 26th Welcome Ann Ellis Shaftsbury 7.30 p.m.
Sun 29th Sectional Service, Open Air The Narth 6.15 p.m.

Words from the Wise

"You cannot make yourself feel what you do not feel, but you can make yourself do what is right in spite of your feelings." - *Pearl Buck*

"Aspire not to have more, but to be more." - *Oscar Romero*

"Love is not blind - it sees more, not less. But because it sees more, it is willing to see less." - *Rabbi Julins Gordon*

"Teach us to sit still ..." *T.S. Eliot (from the poem 'Ash Wednesday')*
And perhaps the following quotations from Desmond Tutu and G.K. Chesterton illustrate how our deep-seated beliefs and convictions benefit from challenge as well as affirmation if they are not to become rigid and unyielding.

provided 10,000 homeless Haitians with crystal clear drinking water – the first clean water many of them had had since the earthquake. You also helped to fund the construction of public toilet blocks and public shower blocks, along with providing water purification tablets, wells and septic systems for controlling waste – all vitally important in trying to prevent the spread of diseases. Our appeal also helped to provide tools to local committees for cleaning and repairing toilets.

3. Medical care and supplies

At a malnutrition clinic in Port-au-Prince, hundreds of children were given enriched milk, spinach, beans and rice to ensure they survived the earthquake. The most severely malnourished children had meals of 'plumpy nuts', a special protein-based paste full of vitamins and minerals. Their mothers were also looked after, all thanks to donations to our appeal.

You also helped to provide emergency medical care and supplies to hundreds of survivors who made it to an emergency clinic in Port-au-Prince. Although overcrowded and with surgery going around the clock, it was a vital lifeline for patients like six-year old Kevine, who needed surgery on an injured foot after being buried under a wall. He was able to wriggle free after the earthquake, but couldn't walk because of his injury. He managed to crawl into the middle of the street where he cried for help until someone brought him to the clinic. Doctors at the clinic saw many cases of bone fractures and a lot of amputations, but were able to treat people in very difficult circumstances because of your generosity.

4. Counselling support

The repercussions of the Haiti earthquake will be felt for many years, and we believe that psychological and emotional support is also an important part in helping communities to recover. Donations to our appeal helped to enable counselling services to be set up to support aid workers and teachers, and provide trauma counselling to those affected by the earthquake.

MRDF's Haiti appeal – three months on

People gave very generously to the appeal for funds in the aftermath of the terrible earthquake in Haiti earlier in the year. The Methodist Relief and Development Fund has issued the following update on how some of the donated money is being used.

“Thank you for giving to our Haiti appeal. As you may know, we try to channel our funds to areas where the needs are greatest. Many of the people we supported were from high-risk groups, including children, the disabled, the elderly and people not receiving assistance from other agencies. Although a lot of our emergency work is happening in Port-au-Prince, we are also supporting relief and rebuilding work in areas such as Leogane, 25 miles from the epicentre, where 80% of the buildings were destroyed.

Your gift has helped to support a number of initiatives in Haiti, which include:

1. Food and shelter

You helped to provide food supplies and regular meals to thousands of people in the aftermath of the earthquake. These included food buckets for families who had cooking facilities and meal stations in the temporary settlement areas. Donations to our appeal also paid for tents and tarpaulin and ropes for people to build emergency shelters, as well as blankets.

2. Clean water and better sanitation

Clean water is a crucial commodity at any time, but particularly after a disaster when people are living in crowded areas without access to proper sanitation facilities. Waterborne diseases, such as typhoid, cholera and dysentery thrive in these conditions. Just after the earthquake, the number of diarrhoea cases started to rise. Gifts to our appeal helped to fund a water purification system with pipes, filters and pumps in the Belair neighbourhood of Port-au-Prince. It

“If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality.” - *Desmond Tutu*

“The whole modern world has divided itself into Conservatives and Progressives. The business of Progressives is to go on making mistakes. The business of the Conservatives is to prevent the mistakes from being corrected.” - *G. K. Chesterton*

And finally.....

Sally was driving home from one of her business trips in Northern Arizona when she saw an elderly Navajo woman walking on the side of the road.

As the trip was a long and quiet one, she stopped the car and asked the Navajo woman if she would like a ride.

With a silent nod of thanks, the woman got into the car.

Resuming the journey, Sally tried in vain to make a bit of small talk with the Navajo woman. The old woman just sat silently, looking intently at everything she saw, studying every little detail, until she noticed a brown bag on the seat next to Sally. ‘*What in bag?*’ asked the old woman.

Sally looked down at the brown bag and said, ‘*It's a bottle of wine. I got it for my husband.*’

The Navajo woman was silent for another moment or two; then speaking with the quiet wisdom of an elder, she said:

‘Good trade ‘

John Lloyd Williams

Les Rowlands Remembers

Tina was born in Manchester but from an early age she was assaulted by her father. She never complained to anyone until he started treating her younger sister in the same way. When she reported him to the Local Authority, he became very angry and she discovered that he was planning to have a terrible revenge on her. So, she left home and lived on the streets in London, sleeping in shop doorways.

Eventually someone found her and put her in touch with Teen Challenge and they received her into their rehabilitation centre in South Wales. Unfortunately, because she failed to keep their rules, she was expelled, but a young couple who worked at Teen Challenge tried to find a home for her and through a chain of contacts, they brought her here to live with us.

She was a very talented girl, a trumpet player, artist and she was very good at everything she did. She got a job at a nearby home for the elderly and a little car to get to work.

Tina was normally cheerful but had occasional bouts of depression, so severe on one occasion that her doctor arranged for her to have a stay in the Psychiatric Ward in Hereford Hospital, but she found that living alongside many others in much worse state than hers was making her feel worse, so one evening she escaped and asked me to bring her home.

But her depression continued until one day Elgin Crewe came to see her. Tina was sitting gazing into the fire, so he prayed with and for her and soon the depression lifted from her. Soon after she went to live with the couple who had brought her here, who by then were living near Brighton. However the farming bug had bitten her and she went on a course at Plumpton Agricultural College and then began working for the Ministry of Agriculture as an animal health inspector.

The next thing she told us was that she had married the Principal of the Agricultural College. They now have four little boys and best of all they are both Christians and regularly attend their local chapel.

Memories – a poem by Vic Hicks

Happy memories of days gone by,
Long summer nights and azure skies.
The wondrous seasons come and go,
Blossoms in spring and deep winter snow.
The summer flowers and autumn mist,
These are some of the things I miss.
The steamy days and sultry nights,
All of these things now seem out of sight.
The walks in the country without a care,
Most of which now are all laid bare.
Leave your door open and go off for the day,
If you do that now you will be made to pay.
The churches were full and everyone came,
Now they would rather stay home and play their games.
To walk the streets free of odious yobs,
Then people were happy and all had jobs.
Easter to many just means an egg,
Do they not know He rose from the dead?
Christmas was special and you were sure of snow,
Now the Christmas message many youngsters don't know.
Computers and laptops are now all the craze
Oh to return to those halcyon days.

Methodist Heritage

ART FOR AFRICA 2010

Catbrook Memorial Hall

Friday 16th July 6 pm to 9 pm
Saturday 17th July 10 am to 6 pm
Sunday 18th July 10 am to 6 pm

ART AND CRAFT BY LOCAL ARTISTS, REFRESHMENTS, CAKES, TRAIDCRAFT

“Food Security in Zimbabwe”

Proceeds this year will go to a Christian Aid partner project in Zimbabwe which is pioneering conservation agriculture, providing support to farmers in the drought-prone Matabeleland South region. “Reports indicate that the methods double or even treble the harvest, and there are fantastic stories about the remarkable difference the use of these farming techniques has had on numerous families, despite the troubles in Zimbabwe.” Full details available at the exhibition. Matched funding by the EU; for every £1 raised the EU puts in £3!

A warm welcome to all to the 20th Art for Africa!

A new free, full-colour Methodist Heritage Guide is now available from Methodist Church House.

The free full-colour handbook offers readers a guide to visiting 100 historic sites, including the Old Rectory at Epworth in Lincolnshire, which was the childhood home of John and Charles Wesley, and the first ever Methodist building at the New Room in Bristol. The New Room was built by John Wesley as a place for preaching and education, a dispensary and also as a lodging for himself and his itinerant preachers. John Wesley travelled around 250,000 miles on his nationwide preaching tours. Many of the sites included in the booklet are linked to this journey and to the development of Methodism in the 19th Century.

"All our sites are linked by one story and by a shared history and inspiration. This is not only the story of the growth of a worldwide Christian movement; it also illustrates the relationship and relevance of faith to spiritual, social and economic development over the past 300 years, today and for the future," said Jo Hibbard, Methodist Heritage Officer. "Through promoting Methodist Heritage, we are refocusing on the story of the Methodist Church in the past to support the mission of the Church in the future."

To obtain your free copy of the handbook, please fill in the online form where you can also sign up to receive a twice-yearly Methodist Heritage newsletter.

(John Lloyd Williams has a copy of the Handbook if anyone is interested to see it)

For enquiries relating to Methodist Heritage contact:

Jo Hibbard,
Heritage Officer,
The Methodist Church,
Methodist Church House,
25 Marylebone Road,
London NW1 5JR.

Tel: 020 7467 5257
hibbardj@methodistchurch.org.uk
or
Methodist Helpdesk
Tel: 020 7486 5502
enquiries@methodistchurch.org.uk

SOCIAL COMMITTEE NEWS

It was a bright, but blustery afternoon and, after spending a few minutes braving the wind in the garden, my visitors moved indoors. After we decided the garden was too cold (even in June!), we all moved indoors and enjoyed food and fellowship together. The Social Committee are organising a function every month for the benefit of the Church and other charitable organisations and this month's donations from the tea at Llansoy will be divided between the Alzheimers Society and the Social Committee for outreach in the Church. Due to the generous donations of those present £120 was collected. Many thanks to you all who came. David and I enjoyed having you!!

On 10th July between 3 and 5 p.m. we are invited to Brook Cottage where Ann and Patrick Mills will be welcoming us to their garden. This has become an annual event and again this year, you are invited to donate to the Chemo Bus and the Church.

At the time of writing there are no names on the list for the visit to Sudeley Castle on August 3rd. Time is running out to organise this as we will need to book a coach if numbers are sufficient.

In the Autumn we will be starting a monthly Coffee Morning. This is in response to a request following our coffee morning in May. If this is to become a fixture, we will need your support.

Preparations are well under way for our Craft Fair on November 13th. This will replace the usual Christmas Fair but there will be a "special" coffee morning to celebrate the beginning of Advent and the decoration of the Church. We will need lots of help for the Craft Fair, home-made cakes,, stewards etc. Please keep this date free - we will need your help!!

Finally, we would welcome suggestions from you as to anything you would like to see happening in our Church. Please talk to Jennifer Copestake or one of the committee with your suggestions.
Jean Morgan

My song of praise

I do give thanks in the morning
For each new day
I'm glad if I can get up
And face what is ahead
But, most of all, the thing that I love
Is getting ready for bed.
The routine that soothes
The familiar things that settle and
Conclude, an ending of satisfaction.
I set my morning tea tray with an old maid precision,
The china cup, the special spoon.
This is the promise of another day ahead.
I check the door locks, a sign of safety and protection
And think that my surety is in God alone.
I climb the stairs: thank you Lord that I still can.
I place all, with exactness, on my 'thing of purpose', an odd
piece of furniture that holds my tea tray, my books, my
necessary specs, my shed clothes and slippers.
The pills are taken and placed for the morning,
A reminder of the wonder of medicine that gives the helping
hand,
And then, the marvellous moment of sliding into a warm bed.
Thank you Lord for my comfortable bed,
The ease for bones.
My grateful heart overflows with gratitude for all I have been
given.

Marian Foskett

(Market Harborough Methodist Church)
(reprinted with her permission)

Sent by John Lloyd Williams

Saints Alive

Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make the Roger Jones' Musical so successful. Some of us became a little exasperated along the way with the phrase "It'll be alright on the night" – but it was. Everyone played their parts brilliantly, the choir and soloist sang like angels, the orchestra led by the pianist, provided all the right sounds and rhythms, and the actors acted like professionals. The audience/congregation clearly enjoyed themselves and many joined in with great enthusiasm. What more could anyone ask for?

Perhaps the most important point to make is that the evening may have given some of us new insights, thoughts and feelings into the amazing and wonderful events of Pentecost – and remind us of the power that is available to everyone who believes – and asks.

What's next? Well when we've all got our breath back, I'm sure there will be something!

Ann and Jennifer

Trellech's Strawberry Tea

Congratulations to the Trellech folk who not only provided a lovely strawberry tea in Pam's beautiful garden, but also had interesting stalls, wonderful cakes and scones, and last but not least raised £540 towards the cost of their new windows. An added attraction for many was Pam's wild flower meadow full (naturally) of many different wild flowers including orchids, which in their turn attracted clouds of butterflies.

Thanks Trellech for a truly glorious afternoon.

Ann Mills

Wits' End Corner

Are you standing at "Wits' End Corner," Christian, with troubled brow?

Are you thinking of what is before you, and all you are bearing now?

Does all the world seem against you, and you in the battle alone?
Remember – at "Wits' End Corner" is just where God's power is shown.

Are you standing at "Wits' End Corner," blinded with wearying pain,

Feeling you cannot endure it, you cannot bear the strain,
Bruised through the constant suffering, dizzy, and dazed, and numb?

Remember – to "Wits' End Corner," is where Jesus loves to come!

Are you standing at "Wits' End Corner?" Then you're just in the very spot

To learn the wondrous resources of Him who faileth not!
No doubt to a brighter pathway your footsteps will soon be moved
But only at "Wits' End Corner" is the 'God who is able' proved!

A.Wilson

Sent in by Mrs May Smith and taken from a book of poems selected for recitations

And some more words of wisdom from May

Boys flying kites, haul in their white birds.

You can't do that when you're flying words

A thought unexpressed, may sometimes seem as dead,

But God himself can't kill them –

WHEN ONCE THEY'RE SAID.

SHOPPING EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS

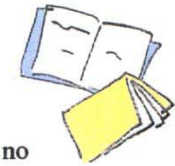


Have you heard of “**Christmas Shoe Boxes**”? It is a splendid way of giving a little pleasure to millions of children at the festive season and co-incidentally spreading the Word about Christian Love and Joy. The organization which runs this charity is **Samaritan’s Purse**; volunteers run the local drop-off centres, collect the shoe boxes and take them to the regional centres, from where they are loaded onto container lorries for distribution to local churches in Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Here, the local churches distribute them amongst impoverished communities proclaiming and demonstrating the love of God.

Monmouth Methodist Church is a **DROP OFF CENTRE** and we hope 2010 will increase the number of shoeboxes **DROPPED OFF**. Now is the time to do some serious preparation for this exciting event:



- 1 Save as many adult shoeboxes as possible. (someone will always need one extra)
- 2 Decide which gender and age group you are buying for, eg boy/girl, 2-4, 5-9, 10-14
- 3 **All shoeboxes need:** wrapped soap, flannel, boxed toothbrush, toothpaste (non-whitening), comb or brush; toys and games appropriate to age and gender; hat, scarf and gloves; writing materials, etc.; boiled sweets (no chocolate)
- 4 The full list is available on the leaflets which we hope to have ready for distribution during August.



- 5 There are some items which are **UNACCEPTABLE**: no glass, liquids, anything to do with war, sharp objects, nothing religious or political, reading material (picture books are OK)
- 6 With each shoebox Samaritan’s Purse require a **donation of £2.50**. This is to pay for transport costs mainly outside the UK and is **MOST IMPORTANT** otherwise these costs have to be met out of funds

This is the 20th Anniversary of the charity and during those 20 years the charity’s development work has provided long-term solutions for water and sanitation, HIV and AIDS and sustainable livelihoods.

If you would like to donate a shoebox, or share this good news with some friends, or interest another group in this charity, please contact Mary on 01600 714821 or e-mail chesney.britton@btinternet.com or contact Margaret on 01600 716816 for leaflets and posters.

Completed shoeboxes can be dropped off at Monmouth Methodist Church between **1 to 17 November 2010** between **10 am and 2 pm (Mon to Fri inc)** or collection can be arranged by calling Mary or Margaret, providing there are at least 9 boxes. (or thereabouts)

