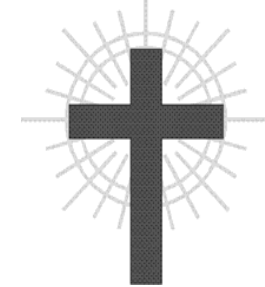


THE MESSENGER

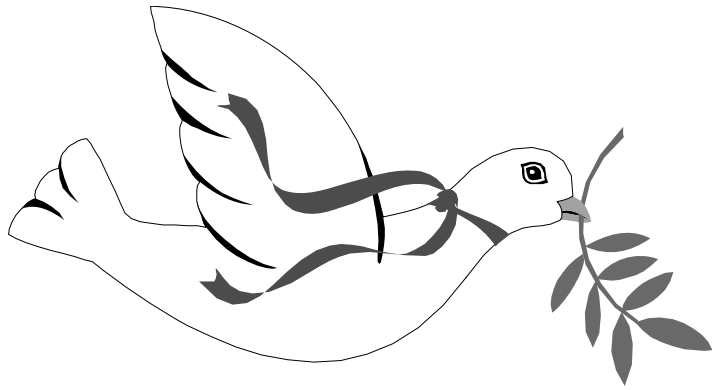


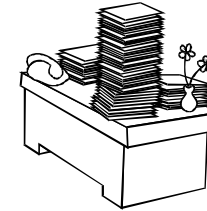
Monmouth

Circuit

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

June/July 2009





From the Minister's Desk

I am writing this on Pentecost Sunday afternoon, the sun is shining and I am reminded of the power of God. It is the power of creation. It is the power that gives life. It is the power that raised Jesus from the dead. God poured that power through His Holy Spirit on the Church at the first Pentecost.

Yet at times the Church seems so powerless. Why? There are those who believe that the Holy Spirit was taken back when the last apostle died. They are singularly misguided. There is no mention in scriptures of the possibility of the Spirit being removed and God is certainly working through the Church today. If not through the Spirit, HOW???

There are those who say the Holy Spirit is not for us, we are not good enough. On the day of Pentecost Peter says ***“Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you, and to your children, and to all who are far off, even as many as the Lord our God will call to himself.”*** We are those afar off. Has God called you? If the answer is yes then the promise of the Holy Spirit is for you.

The problem is not that we don't have the power but that we don't exercise the power. If a person is laid up for any period of time, then their muscles begin to atrophy. It is the same spiritually. If we don't exercise faith in the power available to us through our prayers then we seem to lose that power.

As we exercise more faith we find more power from God. As we find more power from God so we exercise more faith and things happen.

I pray we all go forward with greater faith exercising more of the power God has given us and we will see things happen in the life of our Churches.

God Bless

Barry

Two special dates for your Diary

Sunday 23rd August. There will be an open air service at the North at 6.00 pm to mark the end of the Monmouth Circuit

Sunday 30th August at 3.00 pm at St. Julian's in Newport will be the launch service for the new Circuit. A Coach will be arranged to take people from this Circuit to the service.

Dancing With God

*When I meditated on the word Guidance,
I kept seeing "dance" at the end of the word.
I remember reading that doing God's will is a lot like dancing.
When two people try to lead, nothing feels right.
The movement doesn't flow with the music,
and everything is quite uncomfortable and jerky.
When one person realizes that, and lets the other lead,
both bodies begin to flow with the music.
One gives gentle cues, perhaps with a nudge to the back
or by pressing lightly in one direction or another.
It's as if two become one body, moving beautifully.
The dance takes surrender, willingness,
and attentiveness from one person
and gentle guidance and skill from the other.
My eyes drew back to the word Guidance.
When I saw "G": I thought of God,
Followed by "u" and "i";
"God, "u" and "i" dance";
God, you, and I dance.
As I lowered my head, I became willing to trust
that I would get guidance about my life.
Once again, I became willing to let God lead.*

*My prayer for you today is that God's blessings
and mercies are upon you on this day and everyday.
May you abide in God, as God abides in you.
Dance together with God, trusting God to lead
and to guide you through each season of your life.*

And I Hope You Dance!

ART FOR AFRICA 2009

Catbrook Memorial Hall

Friday 3rd July 6 pm to 9 pm
Saturday 4th July 10 am to 6 pm
Sunday 5th July 10 am to 6 pm

***ART AND CRAFT BY LOCAL ARTISTS,
REFRESHMENTS, CAKES, POTTERY, PLANTS,
BOOKS, TRADCRAFT & MORE!***

Proceeds to a 3-4 year project which will benefit 88,000 people in 16 villages in Burkina Faso - one of the poorest countries in the world. Changing climate and spreading deserts make farming here particularly difficult. The project will provide training in new farming techniques that make the best of land and water resources.

It will pay for wells and irrigation and for seeds for market gardening.

For every £1 raised, the European Union will provide an additional £3 - effectively quadrupling donations!

A warm welcome to all to the 19th Art for Africa!

EASTER OFFERING SERVICE 2009

The Easter Offering Service was held on Sunday 10th May at Monmouth Methodist Church. The service was led by Helen Vosper and the guest speaker was Ann Mills. The service had the theme "The Way" and several readings and stories were used to illustrate this theme. Ann Mills gave an excellent address and dedicated the Easter Offerings from the different churches in the circuit.

The excellent sum of £610 was raised for the Methodist Church Fund for World Mission. Ann Smedley and I would like to thank all those who took part and made it such a meaningful and enjoyable Service.

Helen Vosper

CHURCH SOCIAL & CATERING COMMITTEE

Since our last newsletter we have held a very successful Craft Fair when £500 was raised for Church Funds. The day was a happy, social occasion when about 100 people visited the Church to see the Crafts.

Tea was served to about 45 members of St. Julian's Church on 28th April. Again this was a very happy occasion and much appreciated by the friends from St. Julian's. Again, all profits went to Church Funds.

FUTURE EVENTS

On 13th June, Jean & David Morgan invite you to Dorothea, Llansoy for a Cream Tea and a look around the garden. Please come and enjoy fellowship with others between 3 pm and 5 pm. There will be more details (with map) in the pews before 13th June.

On 4th July, Revs. John and Dorothy Lloyd Williams invite you to their home at Bethel, 20 Wallace Close, Osbaston, between 3 pm and 5 pm to share a cup of tea and fellowship.

During August, Ann and Patrick Mills will be opening their garden for us to visit - more details later.

On all three occasions you can be assured of a warm welcome. We look forward to seeing you there.

Jean Morgan

Water Action Update (part funded by Art for Africa 2007 + 2008)
Since last year's Art for Africa, the work to bring clean water to more than 54,000 people in Ethiopia is progressing well. The community have been volunteering their time and labour to construct an access road to the spring. Nearly all the construction materials have now been bought and the final survey of the area has been carried out. 28 new members of the Water Committees have received water supply management training. The project involves more than simply providing water to an arid part of central Ethiopia. 34 volunteers have received training to become Volunteer Health Workers to combat water borne diseases – more than 15,000 people have now received hygiene education. Water Action will continue to support them as they educate their communities in hygiene and prevention of water borne diseases. 150 refuse pits and 20 pit latrines have been dug and nine health extension workers have received training on HIV/AIDS. 540,000 seedlings have been bought and are being raised on the local government's agricultural plot and 20 female potters were taught how to make fuel saving stoves, with a contract to produce 100 stoves. The work continues and is due for completion in 2010.

I am again sending this letter to all whose details I have. If you know of anyone else who might like to take part, please let me know. If you would like to help in any way, please contact me on 01600 860264 or at prsymes@tiscali.co.uk

Thanks again for faithful, sustained and cheerful support over 19 years! Finally, I am thinking that the 20th exhibition next year would be a superb opportunity to hand over to someone else to refresh, enliven and develop Art for Africa into "more and better." Any offers?

Peter Symes

Art for Africa 2009

Fern Lea

Trellech Cross

Monmouth, NP25 4PX

Tel 01600 860264

Email:prsyms@tiscali.co.uk

Dear Friends

This year's exhibition will be the nineteenth and the fourth to be held in Catbrook Hall. The dates and times are Friday 3rd July, open from 6pm to 9pm, Saturday 4th July and Sunday 5th July, both open from 10am to 6pm. I do hope that you will be able to take part.

As always, all pictures will be hung if possible, but very large pictures cannot be hung. Please send a list (sheet enclosed) of your pictures to me by Wednesday June 24th.

Receipt day for pictures will be Wednesday 1st July from 10am to 12noon and 2 to 6pm. Collection of pictures will be on Monday 6th July *only* between 10am and 12noon and 4pm to 6pm. Please note that pictures must be clearly labelled on the front. Unframed pictures should be labelled and in a browser. There is no hanging or other fee and the amount donated on items sold is left to the artist. It varies from 20% to 100%. The higher the percentage, the more people can be helped. Insurance is the artist's responsibility.

Proceeds this year will go to a Christian Aid project to bring food security to 88,000 people in Burkino Faso. This is another project which is supported by the European Union; every £1 donated by Christian Aid supporters will be matched by £3 by the EU! Full details will be available at the exhibition. I have this excellent news from Aled Jones, Christian Aid Volunteer Development Officer in Cardiff, about the project we have supported for the last two years:

Reverend Margaret Morgan Stanworth 29th January, 1926 - 10th April, 2009

On 20th April a group of people from Monmouth travelled to St. John's Methodist Church in Hereford to celebrate the life of Rev. Margaret Stanworth, Margaret was born in Birmingham and ministered here in Monmouth in the 1970's.

Rev. David Meach, the minister of St. John's Church where Margaret worshipped in her retirement, gave a fitting tribute to Margaret and spoke of her commitment, her loyalty, her love of nature and her care for others. Revd. Bill H. Anderson, Chairman of the Birmingham District, led the prayers and Andrew Berry, Margaret's nephew read this poem.

I thank you, God, that I have lived
In this great world and known its many joys:
The song of birds, the strong sweet scent of hay
And cooling breezes in the secret dusk.
The glorious sunsets at the close of day,
Hills, and the lonely heather-covered moors,
Music at night, and moonlight on the sea,
The beat of waves upon the rocky shore
And wild, white spray, flung high in ecstasy:
The love of family, the fellowship of friends,
And all that makes life dear and beautiful.
I thank you too, that there has come to me
A little sorrow and, sometimes, defeat,
A little heartache and the loneliness
That comes with parting and the word: 'Goodbye'
Dawn breaking after dreary hours of pain
When I discovered that night's gloom must yield
And morning light break through once more.
Because of these and other blessings poured
Unasked upon my wandering head,
Because I know that there is yet to come
An even richer and more glorious life,
And most of all because your only Son
Once sacrificed life's loveliness for me,
I thank you, God, that I have lived.

(Elizabeth Craven).

We send our sincere sympathy to Margaret's sister and nephew.

A Day to Celebrate with Peter and Catherine



On a beautiful May day, approximately 140 people joined to witness the marriage of Peter and Catherine. Vows made, legalities over, the happy couple pause for a moment in the first minutes of their new life together



Posing for about a hundred cameras in the grounds of Drybridge House. Every one wanted to take home their own souvenir picture of this very special day.

Photos by
Val Davies

A lovely day, a beautifully turned out bride and a very smart groom, almost but not quite beaten in the beauty stakes by THE CAR!



*The 'Monmouth Ladies' all dressed up and ready to continue the celebration.
With them, we offer Peter and Catherine our sincere congratulations, and pray that they will enjoy a long and happy life together.*