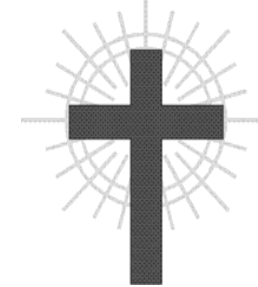
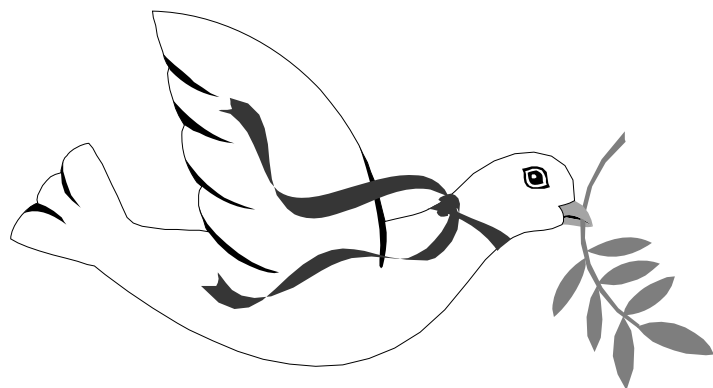


THE MESSENGER



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

September/October 2010



Her sister, Martha, burdened with chores perhaps mumbled "*In My Housewifely Opinion*, can't someone help!"

The feeding of the 5000 may have awakened the personal response that "*In My Hungry Opinion*, Jesus performs miracles".

The Chief Priests and Scribes had many opposing remarks - each and all of them sure to feel "*In My High Opinion* this man Jesus is an impostor".

Pilate replied to the people "*In My Hand-washing Opinion*, take this man away and see to the outcome yourselves".

The penitent thief beside our Lord voiced his special acknowledgement "*In My Horribly Hurting Opinion* He does not deserve what I deserve".

The Angel explained the Empty Tomb to Mary and the disciples with her. Each knew "*In My Hallelujah Opinion* - He is risen, He is risen indeed".

Paul and the other epistle authors could sincerely sign off "*In My Handwritten Opinion*."

As Revelation is so baffling and difficult, should John confess "*In My Haphazard Opinion?*"

Assuredly Jesus is certain to be relied on for HIS Life, HIS Death and HIS Resurrection. All His Wonderful examples and advice, His Way, His Truth and His Power are revealed; without question each time he spoke it was "*In My Holy Opinion* ", and that's the best opinion of all.

A quote from a Negro Spiritual.

O you gotta get a glory in the work you do

A hallelujah chorus in the heart of you

Paint or tell a story,

Sing or shovel coal

But you gotta get a glory or the job lacks soul.

Marie Murphy

Acronyms are fascinating - my favourite is WYSIWYG, 'what you see is what you get'.

There is an acronym *IMHO*, it stands for *In My Humble Opinion*; the following thoughts change the H each time and are offered just for interest.

The early books of the Old Testament explain to us what happened in early times - these writers were able to say *In My Historic Opinion*.

Whoever penned Proverbs could express all the guidance therein as *In My Helpful Opinion*.

David, who experienced many emotions - ups and downs - whilst compiling Psalms, may have thought *In My Heartfelt Opinion*.

No doubt Daniel's thinking was along the line of *In My Heroic Opinion*, yes, throw me to the lions but I will not denounce the Lord.

Gideon had much the same outlook. We are few but, with God's great Plan to surprise the Enemy - *In My Heroic Opinion*, we will overcome.

Samuel ran to Eli in the temple, "You called me - *In My Hearing Opinion - you did call me*".

Sarah laughed sardonically at the Lord's news of a son, "*In My Humourless Opinion*, it must be a joke".

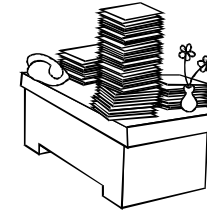
Naomi, who wished the best future for Ruth, advised her "*In My Harvesting Opinion*, go and glean in the fields of Boaz".

Saul, in his worry and fretfulness decided that "*In My Haunted Opinion*, I will seek out the Witch of Endor".

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John wished us to have the true good news of Jesus and could attest "*In My Honest Opinion*".

The Angels signalling Jesus' Birth to the Shepherds in the fields knew all this was *In My Heraldic Opinion*.

Mary, His Mother, had rejoiced "*In My Handmaiden's Opinion*, so be it when Gabriel spoke to her. Another Mary, saddened by the loss of Lazarus, told Jesus "*In My Heartbroken Opinion* this would not have occurred if You had been here".



From the Minister's Desk

One year of the Newport and Lower Wye Circuit is complete and the Circuit is now registered with the Charity Commission. July and August saw the departures of Andy Walker and Maree Farrimond to new appointments and we have welcomed Anne Ellis as a probationer to serve in Bishpool and Shaftsbury. Anne is a very talented person and will be a great asset to the Circuit. The first opportunity for people this end to see her will be Sunday 12th Sept. when she takes the harvest festival at Trellech.

Sadly there is no replacement for Maree in Caldicot. This means that myself, Richard Gillion, Andrew Webster and Joe Rooney will have to cover that section for twelve months

On of the things I hope the Circuit will be noting is that 2011 marks the 400th Anniversary of the King James Bible. Biblefresh Initiative is a major ecumenical response to encourage people to read the Bible. The Methodist Conference has designated 2011 as the Year of the Bible. The Circuit meeting will be looking at a response from the Circuit to this initiative. Therefore more later.

But remember,

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.”

2 Timothy 3:16-17

I wish you all a happy new Methodist Year

God bless

Barry

Dates for the Diary

September

Thurs. 8th. 7.30 p.m. Local preacher's meeting at Langstone

Thurs. 16th. 7.30 p.m. Circuit Meeting Dan-Y-Graig

Sun. 19th. 3.00p.m. Sectional Service Broad Oak Harvest

FRIDAY 24TH. SEPT. AT 7.30.P.M.

AT

CALDICOT METHODIST CHURCH
AN EVENING WITH

PAUL POWERS

AN ILLUSIONIST WHO HAS A WONDERFUL TESTIMONY TO THE CHANGING POWER OF GOD

ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE
MARGARET FISHBACK POWERS

WRITER, POET AND AUTHOR OF THE POEM
" FOOTPRINTS"

TOGETHER THEY HAVE LED THOUSANDS OF
YOUNG PEOPLE TO KNOW JESUS

INVITE NON CHRISTIAN FRIENDS TO HEAR THIS
REMARKABLE STORY

From the Pulpit

Before beginning his sermon, a clergyman told a joke which made the congregation laugh. Two friends were arguing about who makes better coffee -men or women. "My husband makes the best coffee in the world and that's the way it should be"one of them insisted, and there's a book in the Bible which backs me up. What book could that be? her friend asked in astonishment. "He-brews" the women replied.

Ann Smed

Why be a Methodist?

Research from Manchester University shows that the life expectancy of Methodists is far higher than that of anyone else! Their source is figures from the Office for National Statistics. Methodist men live, on average, to the age of 84, seven years longer than the national average of 77. Methodist women live, on average, to the age of 91, nine years longer than the national average of 82.

Dr. Richard Vautrey, the ex-Vice President of the Methodist Conference, is quoted as saying it was probably down to "moderation in all things"!

John Lloyd Williams

Women's Fellowship

The Monmouth Methodist W/F will resume their meetings on Tuesday September 7th 2010 at 1.30.p.m. The first meeting will be one of Holy Communion led by Reverend Barry Smith, and on Sept 14th Mr Mark Walton will talk about the history of Drybridge house and 'Bridges'. Each meeting ends with tea, biscuits and a 'chat' and it would be good to welcome new members. People are also welcome to join us on any Tuesday afternoon if there is something that appeals to them. Our meetings commence at 1.30 p.m.

September

7th Rev.B Smith: Holy Communion
14th Mr.M Walton: History of Drybridge House & Bridges
21st Rev.Joan Wakeling
28th Harvest Afternoon

October

5th Pastor Mark James: More than a carpenter
12th Mrs Ann Mills: Autumn Poetry
19th Dr.McPherson: Monmouth Aid
26th Members Afternoon and Bring and Buy

Ann Smed

*Please note that the next edition of
The Messenger
will be for December/January*

Haiti

We all remember with horror, the news of the huge earthquake which hit the land of Haiti in January, killing 200,000 people and leaving over a million homeless.

People from many countries, including ours, have contributed generously towards the relief work, but the Methodist relief and Development Fund is still appealing for help for the homeless people and they estimate that it will take ten years to rebuild the country – over 90% of the buildings in Port au Prince, the capital, were destroyed.

We have read the very informative article from the Rev.John Lloyd Williams in our July-August magazine and the matter was discussed at the General Church Meeting, when it was agreed to hold an appeal at the Harvest Festival on 26th September.

Perhaps all our members could keep this in mind, and once again give generously to help these poor, deprived people.

Eileen Walsh

Church Social Responsibility Secretary

Art for Africa 2010

The last Art for Africa in its present form was held in Catbrook Hall from 16th 18th July. The numbers attending and the amount raised were both down on previous years, confirming the view that the time has come for something new. But even so, £2,146.38 is a good total and well worth putting on the exhibition for! Thank you again to all artists, helpers and supporters. A full report will be produced later with a summary of the whole twenty years. We are still looking for someone or a group to take it on, develop it, renew it for the next twenty years!

Peter Symes

MONMOUTH SOCIAL COMMITTEE NEWS

At the time of writing these notes it seems that summer has suddenly turned to Autumn, it's cold and wet!!

However, we have much to look forward to. Harvest Thanksgiving will be celebrated on September 25th and 26th. We look forward to receiving your gifts of fruit, vegetables and flowers to decorate the Church on Saturday morning and we will be holding our Harvest Supper on Saturday evening. This year it will be a fish and chip supper and some entertainment. Please look out for more details.

We are hoping to start a monthly coffee morning in October and we will be organising this at our next Social Committee Meeting on 13th September.

Our Craft Fair on 13th November will have at least a dozen different crafts on show and there will be a Fair Trade stall and a cake stall. There will also be a draw. Please put this date in your diary.

We are already talking about Christmas!! The church will be decorated for Advent Sunday and, as we have the Craft Fair in place of a Christmas Fair, we will be holding a special coffee morning in December to celebrate Advent and to view the decorations.

Jean Morgan

Take Time

Take time to think - it is the source of power
Take time to play - it is the secret of perpetual growth
Take time to pray - it is the greatest power on earth
Take time to love and be loved - It is a God given privilege
Take time to be friendly - it is the road to happiness
Take time to laugh - it is the music of the soul
Take time to give - it is too short a day to be selfish
Take time to work - it is the price of success

donations to MRDF's appeal are helping to provide food packages to families in the Swat Valley and Kohistan Districts, some of the worst affected by the flooding. The packages include flour, rice, cooking oil and pulses. We are also helping to provide winterised tents and plastic sheets.

Vulnerable families in the Swat Valley and Mansehra Districts will also be able to access medical attention, thanks in part to MRDF's appeal. Three mobile health clinics have been set up in these areas. MRDF is working through its emergency partner in the region, Action by Church Together (ACT) International.

MRDF Director Kirsty Smith said: 'Our emergency fund gives us - and the people who have donated to it - the opportunity to provide swift and tangible assistance to people in the midst of this crisis. It looks likely to affect even more people in the long-term than those affected by the Asian tsunami. We are very grateful to everyone who has given, and we intend to support as many people as we can in the immediate and longer-term.'

[www.mrdf.org.uk/http://www.mrdf.org.uk/](http://www.mrdf.org.uk/)

John Lloyd Williams

**“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can,
in all the ways you can, at all the times you can, to
all the people you can, as long as ever you can”.**

John Wesley

**Methodist Relief and Development Fund:
Pakistan appeal update**

Heavy rains and landslides are causing further devastation in Pakistan after the worst floods in the country for 80 years. Donations to MRDF's emergency fund are helping to provide food, shelter and medical attention to some of the country's survivors.

Over 1,600 people have now died and 14 million people are affected by severe flooding in three provinces in north-west Pakistan - Khyber Paktunkhwa, the Punjab and Balochistan. Authorities are evacuating people from Sindh province in the south after waters rose to dangerous levels, but there are already reports of hundreds of people missing and 2,000 villages washed away.

Relief efforts have been hampered in some areas as flood waters washed away roads and bridges and areas of forests have begun to slide down into villages, isolating thousands of people who are fast running out of food. Soldiers and aid workers struggled to reach them as helicopters were grounded and had to use donkeys to deliver vital aid to some regions.

With thousands of people with nothing to eat and living in the open,

What more can you ask

*God's love endureth forever -
What a wonderful thing to know
When the tides of life run against you
And your spirit is downcast and low...*

*God's kindness is ever around you,
Always ready to freely impart
Strength to your faltering spirit,
Cheer to your lonely heart...*

*God's presence is ever beside you,
As near as the reach of your hand,
You have but to tell Him your troubles,
There is nothing He won't understand...*

*And knowing God's love is unfailing,
And His mercy unending and great,
You have but to trust in His promise -
"God comes not too soon or too late"...*

*So wait with a heart that is patient
For the goodness of God to prevail -
For never do prayers go unanswered,
And His mercy and love never fail.*

Taken from "Loving Promises" by Helen Steiner Rice.

Jean Morgan

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY:

“GO GREEN TO SAVE YOUR SOUL”

Going green is good for the soul, according to the Archbishop of Canterbury, who has called on church-goers to make "small changes" to save the world like recycling more, flying less and growing your own fruit and vegetables.

In a lecture at Southwark Cathedral, Dr Rowan Williams said the Christian response to climate change is to immediately minimise any impact on the environment.

He cited examples of switching off appliances, taking holidays at home and growing your own food in an allotment. He said It would not only reduce an individual's carbon footprint but through "re-connecting" with nature help people to get back in touch with the human soul.

Dr Williams said even seemingly insignificant changes in lifestyle could make a difference.

"If I ask what's the point of my undertaking a modest amount of recycling my rubbish or scaling down my air travel, the answer is not that this will unquestionably save the world within six months, but in the first place that it's a step towards liberation from a cycle of behaviour that is keeping me, indeed most of us, in a dangerous state - dangerous, that is, to our human dignity and self-respect," he said.

Using the story of Noah's Ark to demonstrate the importance of protecting the environment from floods, he said people need to start living in a way that "honours rather than endangers the life of the planet".



Words to the Wise

There was once a very stingy man with a terminal illness. He was determined to prove wrong the old saying, "You can't take it with you." After much thought he finally figured out how to take at least some of his money with him when he died.

He filled two pillowcases with money and left them in the attic of his home. When he passed away, he planned to reach out and grab the bags as he floated up to heaven.

Several weeks after the funeral, the deceased man's wife was up in the attic cleaning when she saw the two pillowcases stuffed with cash. "Oh, that old fool," she exclaimed. "I knew he should have put the money in the basement."

The road to hell is paved with stinginess - not because there is some place that all stingy people get imprisoned in, like an eternal remand centre for misers, but because if you live in a stingy way you end up in a stingy world. You create your own hell on earth.

* * * * *

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin 5, and Ryan 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson.

"If Jesus were sitting here, he would say, "Let my brother have the first pancake. I can wait". Kevin turned to his youngest brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!"

John Lloyd Williams