

**Salem Methodist Church**

**Watley's End**

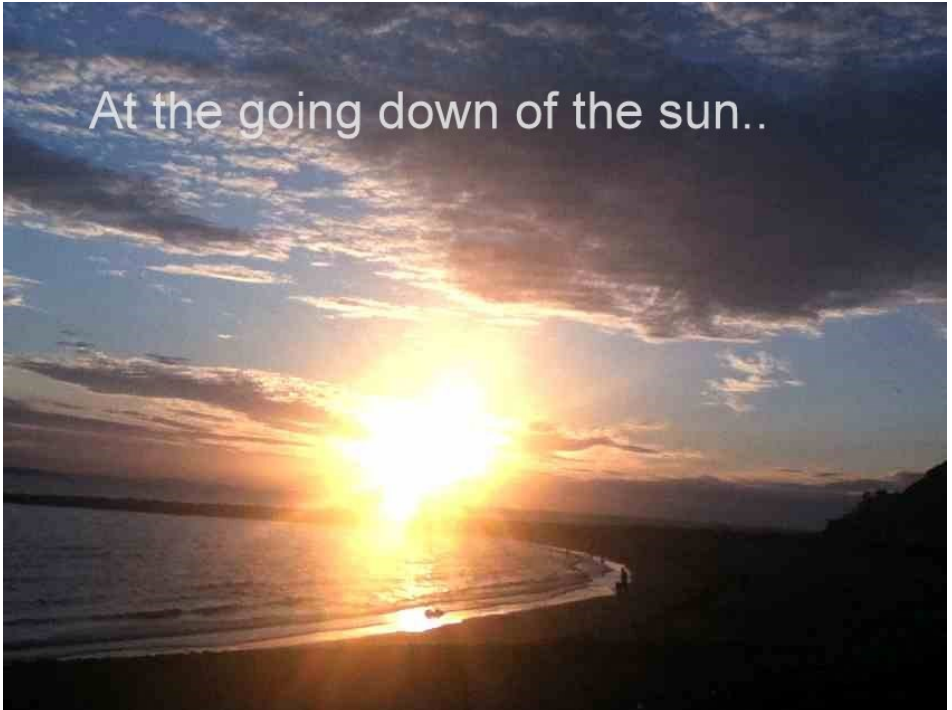
**BS36 1QL**

# **SALEM NEWS**

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

**November 2017**

At the going down of the sun..



## **New life in our ecumenical relationships**

I am so pleased that since I returned from my sabbatical in early September there have been a series of meetings between Methodists, URCs and Anglicans across the Fromeside area. Three of these I was at, and in the same week. We started meetings to review our relationships early in the year of course and these things have been reported on. Now I find that more joint events are happening and have happened!

Looking forward, we are seeking to arrange and have arranged a number of dates and events for the next year, both in 2018 and sooner. Knowing diaries we are also beginning to look ahead to early 2019. We are proposing a range of events at different levels. So that some will be very local, with churches we have the closest relationship with, 'partnerships' and 'covenants', as we call them and also across the Fromeside a few times per year.

The bigger area is sometimes referred to informally as the 'spaghetti bowl'. This reflects the complex and different levels of inter-relationship that exist and that the bowl encompasses this as well as respecting those local initiatives that have worked and will continue to work and to enable or encourage more. At the same time it is seeking to do some things differently and new. We certainly want to avoid the formality of a tight constitution that becomes a burden in itself.

The biggest of the three meetings decided we would like to have a Fromeside – Spaghetti Bowl meeting at least twice a year and we should propose the name 'Together 4 Fromeside' (Fromeside Council of Churches). Other details are to follow for local church councils or equivalent to agree we hope.

In addition, St Michael's Church, Winterbourne and Salem Methodist Church, Watleys End lay leaders also met, with myself and Malcolm, in relation to the partnership between the two churches and it was a good meeting, with some new ideas and some old, but which we hope to revive.

This is an exciting time and we hope all the churches across the area will be able to show to all the Fromeside villages that we do work together and we share one faith, one Lord, Jesus.

*Pearl Luxon*

**Key dates:**

**23<sup>rd</sup> December morning** – Carol singing in Flaxpits Lane

**21<sup>st</sup> January 2018** – a joint family communion service at 10.30am at Salem for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – other events will be happening that week too, including prayers each morning at 9.30.

**March 2<sup>nd</sup>** - Women's World Day of Prayer (Service at All Saints) – theme of Creation from Suriname in South America.

**May 13<sup>th</sup>** 2018 evening - Christian Aid and Rogation Service at Iron Acton

More dates and details to follow.

## News of friends and family

- \*\* We rejoice that both Derek Craven and Bryan Lowe have recovered well from their surgery. We offer our continued prayerful support.
- \*\* We offer our condolences to Michael and Hazel Phillips following the death of Walter this last week after a long stay in hospital. May God comfort them in their grief
- \*\* Jean Stalker has been in hospital. She is now home but in need of regular care.. We remember her in our prayers
- \*\* It was good to see Bert and Barbara Griffin at worship again after they had both been having treatment. Barbara also had a stay in hospital following a fall.
- \*\* Nancy Maggs is also home from hospital and we continue our prayers for her and for Henry
- \*\* We remember the family of Janet Warren (nee Howes) who died last week in Barnstable hospice.

### COFFEE MORNING

Come and join us for friendship and chat on

Wednesday November 1st  
from 10 a.m.

ALL ARE WELCOME



### Shoebboxes

Shoebox Sunday  
service is on

NOVEMBER 19TH at 10.30 a.m.

The service will be led by  
Adam Biddlestone

Please can you fill your box and return  
it on or before that date.



# HARVEST WEEKEND

Many thanks to Jayne Glass and Elizabeth Rogers for preparing and presenting a delicious Harvest Lunch on Saturday 30th September. They sold out of tickets and raised £200 for the current church charity Regenerate. In addition a small donation was made to Salem funds.

People arrived with groceries and garden produce which they deposited in the chapel where Dawn Forsey was making a display around the communion table. Maggie Barclay, Jackie Faithful, Jean Drew and others unseen were putting the finishing touches to the window displays of colourful foliage, wild berries and small apples.

On Sunday 1st October the morning service was led by Revd. John Emmett and in the evening the Revd. Pearl Luxon led the Songs of Praise when we sang old favourites and new hymns.

It is wonderful to have Pearl back looking so well.

On Monday 2nd October John Lewis and Bryan Lowe delivered all the harvest gifts to the Methodist Centre in Lincoln Street.

That is not quite the end of the story because on Monday 9th October I went to Salem to collect the flowers as usual and I came upon Maggie and Jackie removing the spent window arrangements and cleaning the church.

Well done everyone and thank you to those whose names I have missed.

Heather Hunt

## **Guild**

A good start was made to our new session

On October 11th we heard about “Regenerate” (see heather’s report) and then on 25th it was “Channel Island Cricket”!!!! This was new to most of us —but great FUN. It is good to laugh together!

In November we have 2 speakers. Alan Freke will tell us about the hidden history of Frenchay hospital on 8th. Alan is curator of the Frenchay village museum and is an accomplished speaker.

On 22nd we are assured of an interesting talk by Sarah Harris. Her talk is called “Marie Antionette’s guide to farming” ., but you may be surprised

## Reopening and re-dedication of Badminton Road Methodist Church on Sunday 15th October

The church was packed with people from the local community and the Methodist Churches in the area. The service was led by the Revd David Alderman the Superintendent Minister and the Revd. Pearl Luxon, who cut the ribbon with Revd. Ann Owen. The service was followed by a buffet tea and people took the opportunity to view the premises and to have a good chat over tea and cake!

Earlier in the day the Revd. Ann Owen had led the morning service at Salem which included Holy Communion. Following the service Ann and her husband Andrew joined a group for lunch in the Hall where we were able to hear their news. Thank you Jayne and Elizabeth for preparing and serving lunch and to everyone who assisted with the tidying afterwards.

Heather Hunt

### **Holy Habits Film Club**

**Every month, watch and discuss a film in the Holy Habits series. Held in the New Room's Horsefair Room – big screen, chairs and tables, refreshments and popcorn!**

**Afternoon and evening screenings  
at 2pm and 7pm every month.**

**Friday November 3<sup>rd</sup> – *The Way (12A)* – a father embarks on a pilgrimage along 'the way' to Santiago de Compostela after the death of his son.  
(Making More Disciples)**

**Film showings are FREE**

# REGENERATE

Regenerate is the charity chosen by members of Salem for the period Sept. 2017 to August 2018. Consequently Les Fry, who is the charity's only paid employee, was invited to speak to the Salem Guild on Wednesday 11th October about his work. We learned that with the support of volunteers - and these include Elizabeth Rogers, Les arranges Christian assemblies in 18 primary schools in Yate, Chipping Sodbury and Hawksbury Upton. Regenerate also hosts craft groups for vulnerable pupils to attend in lunch hour sessions and other groups for year 6 pupils who are considered vulnerable when they transfer to senior school. Mike and Joy Phillpotts joined the meeting to give Les support because they have been involved with Regenerate since it was established over 20 years ago and they continue to participate in the school assemblies. Margaret Johnston presented Les with a cheque for £200 which had been raised from the Harvest Lunch. He was delighted!

Heather Hunt

## Holy Habits

The current "habit" is Making Disciples. Rev. John Emmett introduced this at our Harvest service, and the follow up Bible Study will be on

Tuesday November 21st at 7.30p.m.

Please join us as we seek to become a church more like the 1st century church, following the teachings of Jesus

## Carols and Steam

Saturday December 2nd  
from Bitton Station  
6.46 for 7 p.m.



Booking essential

Tickets £7

Children under 16      £3.50

Children under 3 FREE

Music by Unity Brass Band

## **Remembrance Sunday**

Poppies, crosses and the donations box are on the bookshelves. Named crosses for each person on the Rolls of Honour 1914-1918, 1939-1945 will be placed in a designated area of the graveyard as part of the service. Crosses for others loved ones are available. Please put donations in the box.

Anyone wishing to sponsor a particular named cross please ask John Lewis or Bryan Lowe to reserve it for you.

## **Two Minutes Silence**

In the month, when we think about those who have given their lives in war, the two minutes silence is a familiar act of remembrance. We can use the silence to reflect on those who have suffered in war or on what it means to work for a peaceful world. Or do we end up thinking about lunch or panic that we haven't switched our phone off?

Victor Frankl, a victim of Auschwitz, suggested that the most intolerable of all human conditions is not imprisonment or hunger, but lack of meaning. The two minutes silence enables us to connect with Jesus' message, which offers true meaning to our lives and world. He spoke of giving ourselves in love for each other and the world, 'Love your enemies and pray for those that persecute you' (Matthew 5:44). He also demonstrated such love in sacrificing His own life, 'Greater love has no-one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends' (John 15:13). In observing the silence, let's use it to reflect on this sacrificial love, as we remember all those who have experienced pain and conflict.

Of course, we should be serious about silence and stillness in the whole of our lives, not just for two minutes at an act of Remembrance. In busy lives where so much is clamouring for our attention, silence enables us to reassess our priorities and rediscover true meaning in our lives. Jesus made a habit of withdrawing to experience silence. He did this before choosing his disciples, after He heard of John's beheading, after feeding the 5000, after healing a leper, at the Transfiguration and to prepare for His death. 'The seeking out of solitary places was a regular practice for Jesus. So it should be for us.' (Richard Foster).



# Visit to John Wesley's Chapel aka The New Room

A group of Salem Guild members assembled in the new courtyard cafe on Wednesday 20th September and after downing coffees and teas made their own way around the extension and the chapel. Keith and I chose the stairs rather than the lift and on the first floor we visited the new library and archive room which has those bookcases on rails which move apart at the turn of a handle. The volunteers who were cataloguing the books made us welcome and told us about the thousands of historical items in the collection. We went up to the second floor where we paid admission to the new museum. This is housed in the many small rooms where the preachers used to stay and there is something for the visitor to explore in each area. There are drawers to open, slides to pull out, and flaps to lift. There are period dressing up clothes too. We could not do it justice in the time we were there and a return visit is needed to cover the fascinating history. We finished our tour in the 18th century chapel and I climbed into the double decker pulpit which had featured on TV in a Poldark courtroom scene. I learned that the preachers had used the top tier while the lower tier was used for bible readings. If you have not visited then I encourage you to go along. It opens at 10.30am and the entrance is opposite Primark and a few doors away from the Arcade.

Heather Hunt

## **Women's Fellowship**

All Ladies are welcome to join us on a Tuesday afternoon at 2.30p.m.

## **November programme**

7th	Viv Lear - Greenland DVD
14th	Margaret
21st	Musical afternoon with Aylwyn
28th	Tea at "Gingerbread man" by invitation of Kaye Fairbanks

## **Macmillan Coffee**

### **Morning**

A very big thank you to all who helped, donated or supported the

Macmillan Coffee Morning.  
It was a great success raising a total  
of £325 30p.

*The Ven John Barton considers WW2 in the light of contemporary terrorism*

## **Remembering: looking back and looking forward**

In World War 2 the civilian population in Britain knew what to do when an air raid was imminent. A piercing alarm would sound across the housetops and that was a signal to head for shelter. Underground stations in London, basements and reinforced rooms, makeshift bunkers in gardens: all provided temporary refuge. One could usually reach them in time because of the warning.

Today's enemies are less predictable. We call them terrorists because they strike terror at any time, anywhere and without notice. Holidaymakers in Nice, sightseers in Barcelona, concertgoers in Manchester, are fair game to the perpetrators. This is war, though we are not sure why. All we know is that they are idealists, believing they are serving a higher cause, with a vision of a different world which can be established only through violence. They strike without warning.

Idealistic terrorists are willing, even eager, to give their own lives for the cause, so no punishment is likely to deter them. It is a sobering thought that democracy, freedom of choice, a welfare state and whatever passes for today's Western ideals, have been dismissed by terrorists. They reckon they are on to something better.

Terrorists aren't new. In NT times the Sicarii were a splinter group of Jewish terrorists, fiercely opposed to the Roman overlords. They hid small daggers (called sicae) in their cloaks and stabbed both the Romans and Jewish sympathisers with them. Some have conjectured that Judas Iscariot may have been one of them. Another disciple, Simon the Zealot, could have belonged to another extreme group. Yet it became evident to them that Christ's message of God's

# Church Calendar

Saturday December 2nd	Brass, Wind and Fire Christmas Concert
Sunday December 17th	a.m. Nativity Service pm Carol service
Friday December 22nd	7.30p.m. Carol Service at St. Michael's
Saturday December 23rd	10.30 a.m. Carol Singing in Flaxpits Lane
Sunday December 24th	Christmas Songs of Praise at 6 p.m.
Monday December 25th	9.15 a.m. Christmas morning Service
Friday March 16th 2018	Barry Walsh Band Concert
Saturday May 12th 2018	Miscellany (Ladies choir) at 3p.m.

## **SATURDAY 2nd DECEMBER CONCERT OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC BY BRASS, WIND & FIRE**

The Avon Fire & Rescue Training Band is playing a selection of Christmas music and other popular tunes in Salem Methodist Church at 7.30 pm on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. The provisional programme will include White Christmas, When a Child Is Born, Christmas Swings, Our Winter Wonderland, A Christmas Festival, Hallelujah, Marches by John Williams, Disney Film favourites, It Don't Mean a Thing, and even more when the list is finalised!

Tickets £5 (which includes tea/coffee and biscuits)  
from Heather Hunt (tel. no. 0117 9049125),  
Margaret Johnston and Jayne Glass.

# Preachers for November

	10.30 a.m.	6 p.m.	Flowers
5th	Rev. C. Carter	Mrs R. Sledge	Mr & Mrs A. Dewar
12th	<b>Remembrance Sunday</b> Rev. P Luxon	Mr D. Carter	Mrs K. Fairbanks
19th	<b>Shoebox Sunday</b> Mr A. Biddlestone	Mr D. King	Miss E. Rogers
26th	Mr. C. Leese	Rev. P. Luxon	Mr & Mrs B. Harwood

CAR ROTA	Ron,	
5th	Jayne	773051
12th	Linda and John	775768
19th	Ruth	771929
26th	Margaret	773626



## Minister

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