

Salem Methodist Church
Watley's End BS36 1QL

SALEM NEWS

www.salemchurch.org.uk



September 2021

Sunday September 19th
10.30 a.m. Mr David Carter
4 p.m. Afternoon tea
6 p.m. Songs of Praise
Revd. Leigh Maydew

Minister's letter

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As Methodist's 1st September marks the start of a new Connexional Year, a time when we restart our accounts and welcome new office holders, amongst other things.

In this Circuit we welcome The Revd Samuel Uwimana who will have pastoral charge of our neighbours at Badminton Road and Winterbourne Down alongside working at St Chad's and the new housing development on the Filton runway. We also welcome The Revd Novette Headley who will be with us as our Superintendent for a year before heading off to become Chair of the Birmingham District.

We also acknowledge changes within our church too, we thank those stepping down from roles and those stepping into them. We thank John Lewis for 50+ years as a Property Steward, Ruth Cowell who has been our treasurer and Heather Hunt who has been our safeguarding officer. We thank Alison Green who is taking over from Ruth caring for our finances.

At present the role of Safeguarding Officer has not been filled. This is a vital role in the life of the church and one that MUST be filled according to our rules. Please could you consider if you might be called to serve the church in this way and perhaps have a chat with Heather or myself about the role.

Yesterday (22nd August) it was wonderful to welcome the family and friends of Clara into church as we welcomed Clara into God's family. I encourage you to continue to pray for Clara, Caitlin and Dan.

In recent weeks if you've been to church, you'll have noticed that COVID signs have started to disappear and pews 'reopened'. There is still an encourage to wear masks if you are able and to maintain social distancing, so please be considerate to those around you when you choose where to sit and how to engage with others. And of course, if you're not feeling well, especially if you have COVID symptoms, please don't come to church but instead look after yourself and make sure you are well.

At the Baptism yesterday the congregation were asked:

'Will you so maintain the Church's life of worship and service that Clara may grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord?'

Thankfully there was a loud response of 'With God's help we will'.

It may have felt over the last 18 months or so that we have stalled in the Church's life of worship and service. In the coming months we hope and pray that society and life will become more 'normal' (whatever normal might mean) and the life of worship and service of this church will begin to re-emerge from darkness we have been journeying through.

Leigh

**As restrictions are eased,
so we can cautiously resume some of our activities.**

As from 5th September coffee/tea and biscuits will be served after the morning service. However this can only happen if we have volunteers to prepare and serve the refreshments. It cannot be left to just one or two people. Is this something that you can offer?

Harvest services are on Sunday September 19th.

Details are on the front cover.

You are invited to bring your harvest gifts on Saturday 18th between 10 and 11 a.m..

An afternoon tea will be served in the Hall at 4 p.m. (there is no charge, but there will be a basket for donations) In order to help with the catering you are asked to sign the list in the church, or phone Elizabeth (778756) or Margaret (773626) This will be followed at 6 p.m. by a "Songs of Praise" led by Leigh

Monthly Coffee Mornings will begin on Wednesday September 1st.

It will be good to meet together and share friendship and fellowship.

Do come along and give your support .

Sadly Women's Fellowship cannot continue as before. Numbers have reduced drastically, but we will meet once a month for a cup of tea and chat and just be together. Any ladies who are free on a Tuesday afternoon will be very welcome.

Sheep's Tale (Luke 15:1-7)

I didn't know I was lost,
Just thought I'd try a new path,
Walk a different way for a while.
After all, the rest of the flock
Seemed so comfortable, so sure of themselves.
I'd sometimes felt alone
Even with the ninety-nine all around me.
Then there was my voice – always one bleat behind,
And just because I sat behind that particular bush
Where the ewes always congregate,
I got pushed to the edge of the flock.
So, yes, I'd strayed a bit,
But I wouldn't say I was lost exactly,
Just wandering.

That was until night fell,
And I fell
Deep into danger,
Far from the flock,
Lonely and yes, lost now
And wanting so much to go home,
Not knowing how,
Needing help,
And the night so dark.

Then out of darkness
His voice of light,
Searching,
His arms of rescue,
Saving,

His heart of love,
Rejoicing
Because He found me,
My Shepherd.

He came to look
For *me*.

By Daphne Kitching

September Prayer

Dear Lord,
September – the month of new beginnings for many, as summer fades and school and college terms start.
After such a strange time of restrictions, hopes of freedom, with warnings to be cautious, it is hard to know what to expect this September.
We can't know what lies ahead, Lord, but *we can* trust you to see us through whatever it turns out to be.
Thank you for your promise, *I will never leave you or forsake you... (Hebrews 13:5)*
Help us to hold fast to that promise, to keep trusting you – and to be thankful for each September day.
In Jesus' name. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Celebration of Life Service

Many in our church and community have lost loved ones during the lockdown. There will be a Celebration Service to remember and give thanks for the lives of these loved ones.

It will be at 4 p.m. on Saturday September 25th at 4 p.m. and light refreshments will be served in the Hall afterwards.

Invitations cards will be available shortly and your help will be required to distribute them.

Help!!

When Sylvia died she left a big hole and we have filled some of the roles that she had. One thing that few of us knew about was that she knitted hats and gloves for a charity in Warmley. .

If anyone would like to have the wool and pattern to finish this work, please contact Margaret.

We have another hole to fill when Heather moves to Portbury at the end of September. Before lockdown Heather used to distribute the church flowers each week. It is proposed that we have a rota for this. Please let Margaret know if you would be willing to be on that rota. The more people on the rota—the easier it would be

Church Family and Friends

****** Congratulations to Dawn and David Forsey who celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on September 9th.
Best wishes to you both

****** We remember the family of Elizabeth Lowe who died a few weeks ago. May God surround them with his love

At the beginning of the new connexional year it is good to remind ourselves of the Methodist Way of life

A Methodist Way of Life

The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.

As far as we are able, with God's help:

Worship

- We will pray daily.
- We will worship with others regularly.
- We will look and listen for God in Scripture, and the world.

Learning and Caring

- We will care for ourselves and those around us.
- We will learn more about our faith.
- We will practise hospitality and generosity.

Service

- We will help people in our communities and beyond.
- We will care for creation and all God's gifts.
- We will challenge injustice.

Evangelism

- We will speak of the love of God.
- We will live in a way that draws others to Jesus.
- We will share our faith with others.

**May we be a blessing within and beyond God's Church,
for the transformation of the world.**

Prayer Diary

September 2021

6th

Church The entrance - welcome stewards & visitors

Offices of the church Sunday School

Church membership L

Church connections People who use the facilities for various groups

World wide church North Korea

13th

Church The pews - the congregation

Offices of the church Outreach group

Church membership M, N & O

Church connections The Community we serve

World wide church Afghanistan

20th

Church The vestry - stewards

Offices of the church Pastoral visitors

Church membership P & Q

Church connections Ecumenical partnership with St Michael's

World wide church Somalia

27th

Church Kitchen - all who provide & serve drinks after services & refreshments

Offices of the church Stewards

Church membership R

Church connections Fromeside council of churches

World wide church Libya

Preachers for September

5th	Rev. Leigh Maydew (S)
12th	Mr Ken Thomas
19th	Harvest Mr David Carter 6 p.m. Songs of Praise
26th	Pauline & Mike Culshaw

Flowers

Mrs C. Lowe
Mrs. D. Forsey

Mrs J. Haley

With our Christian pilgrimage in mind....

Prayer is the rope up in the belfry; we pull it, and it rings in heaven. –
Christmas Evans

I can take my telescope and look millions of miles into space; but I can go
away to my room and in prayer get nearer to God and heaven than I can



Minister

Rev. Leigh Maydew

Tel : 07388 083488

Email leigh.maydew@methodist.org.uk