



The Methodist Link

Linking the Methodist Churches at
Elburton, Oreston, Pomphlett and
Cattedown to the Community

MAY 2018

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ORESTON METHODIST CHURCH

Plymstock Rd, Oreston PL9 7LL

WORSHIP AT 10.30am

Minister: Rev'd Simon Leigh Tel:335773

Secretary: Mrs Ann James Tel: 404971

Treasurer: Mrs Val Hopkin Tel:403425

Senior Steward: Mrs Dorothy Turpitt Tel: 484038

Link rep: Mr Roger Dodd Tel: 406850

POMPHLETT METHODIST CHURCH

Pomphlett Gardens, Plymouth PL9 7BL

www.pomphlettchurch.org.uk

WORSHIP AT 9.30am

Minister: Rev'd Andrew Day, Tel: 342519

Secretary: Bert Symons, Tel: 210820

Treasurer: Mrs M Williams Tel: 493251

Senior Steward: Mrs Mary Symons Tel: 210802

Link rep: Mr Bert Symons Tel: 210820 or

email: www.pomphlettchurch.org

ELBURTON METHODIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

Springfield Rd, Elburton PL9 8PR

WORSHIP AT 10.30am AND 6.30pm

Minister: Rev'd Simon Leigh Tel: 335773

Secretary: Mrs Tricia Stringer Tel: 482532

Treasurer: Mr Robert Faulkner Tel: 491779

Senior Steward: Mrs Pauline Raine Tel:405483

Lettings Secretary: Mrs Helen Carhart Tel: 480319

Link rep: Tony Raine Tel: 405483

GATEWAY PROJECT, CATTEDOWN

3 Tresillian St, Cattedown

WORSHIP AT 11.00am every 2nd Sunday of each month

Minister: Rev'd David Youngs Tel (880286)

Senior Steward: Mr Roger Dodd Tel 406850

ABOUT YOUR LINK

Editor: Tony Raine.

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NB The Editor may need to amend or omit articles submitted though he will do neither without discussing it with you.

THE JUNE ISSUE DEADLINE IS SUNDAY MAY 13th

The Link is available in printed format or online in colour, at www.elburtonmethodist.org.uk/thelink or your church web site.

Contact Tony Raine on 405483 for details. mobile: 07505 286682

THE LECTIONARY

6th May

Acts 10:44-48

Psalm 98

1 John 5:1-6

John 15:9-17

13th May

Acts 1:15-17,21-26

Psalm 1

1 John 5:9-13

John 17:6-19

20th May

Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104:24-34,35b

Romans 8:22-27

John 15:26-27;16:4b-15

27th May

Trinity

Isaiah 6:1-8

Psalm 29

Romans 8:12-17

John 3:1-17

FRONT COVER: Sea Pinks, or thrift, adorn the cliff tops this month as Spring arrives in force.

Letter for Elburton and Oreston



Dear One and All,

Before Easter Sunday comes Good Friday, before the Resurrection hope and Glory there is the inescapable fact of death. On Easter Saturday the Church keeps watch and holds a vigil waiting for that glorious Easter morning. Pain, fear, anticipation, vindication and hope realised. Holy Week and Easter is truly a rollercoaster of emotions. Its story is painted on the canvas of our faith, sustaining, comforting, challenging and enlivening us all.

On Easter Monday this year our friend Peter Ough died after a valiant battle against cancer. For, Michelle, Simon, Liz, Jack, his family and friends, this is an immensely sad time and he will be missed. And yet he was a man of faith who knew the Risen Lord Jesus; Easter again sustains and comforts us, even when we are grieving and in pain. It is in the hope of the Jesus of Easter that we surround Michelle and the family with our prayers and concern.

This weekend I have been sharing with our friends at Colebrook Methodist as they prepare for the closure of the church on Low Sunday. It was good to view the exhibition of artefacts, pictures, photographs, records and documents which told of the Colebrook's history over the last 150 years. So too it was interesting to hear stories about past events, memories of former ministers and the characters who had formed part of the church over the years. There will be immense sadness as the church finally closes its doors and worship ceases in that place. And yet, just as those disciples walking to Emmaus found (Luke 24:13 et seq) Christ is Risen and continues to go before, stand alongside, comfort and challenge. Likewise Ecclesiastes 3 reminds us there is

a time for everything. Colebrook's time to close has come but the message of Christ goes on. A building closes but the body of Christ is alive. In that Christians continue to find hope and continue in faith.

In this Easter season may I ask you to reflect on the Easter hope in you and to let it shine in your living.

Every blessing,

Simon

IT'S ALL HAPPENING HERE!

Messy Church (P 10) on the 5th May, Family Cinema on the 20th May at 2.00 pm with free popcorn and ice cream when 2 exciting films are showing, a Family Picnic on Sunday 27th May at 12.30pm at Muggerridge Park (across the road from the church}, and the Family Fun Day in the May half term from 10am until 2pm on Thursday 31st May. Call 07884 232829. Mail: Jon@Carhart.co.uk. Far more details are available on www.facebook.com/Elburtonmethodist

FAMILY CINEMA

**Sunday 20th May
at 2pm**

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FREE ice cream.



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Elburton Methodist Community Church



SUNDAY

SERVICES

Morning

10.30 am

Evening

6.30 pm except May 13th

May 6th	Rev'd Simon Leigh SACRAMENT	Joint Service with St Matthews here. Rev'd James Croucher and Rev'd Simon Leigh P12
May 13th	Mr Mike Cade PARADE & FAMILY	UNITED SERVICE AT ORESTON AT 3.00pm
May 20th	Mrs Brenda Youngs ALDERSGATE	Mrs Di Smart Alternative Worship
May 27th	Mrs Di Smart	Dr Philip Walsh

HOT CROSS BUNS

The coffee morning at which the Sounds Alive Singers sold Hot Cross Buns raised an amazing £225-65. £65 of that were given to the charity Send a Cow which uses local people to deliver farming advice, land-management training and livestock (where appropriate) to enable Africa to feed itself. All that is given must be passed on including the first female calf, the training and the seeds - a highly ethical charity.

Elburton Methodist Community Church

JaM (JESUS AND ME)

- 10.30 a.m.

JaM is the name for our children's and youth ministry. We meet in the Moore Hall for 10.30 am.

SOUNDS ALIVE SINGERS

When we have a presentation to work towards we meet for rehearsals at 11.45 am after church on Sundays to share our love of music.

MONDAY

DANCE FITNESS - 10.30 a.m.

Contact Sarah Danning, 01752 881447 or email:
info@physicallyfabulous.co.uk
www.physicallyfabulous.co.uk

LUNCHEON CLUB - 11 a.m.

On Mondays lunches are provided for those less able to cook for themselves. Contact June Dinner (407418) for 3rd Mondays, Barbara Jeffery (311100) for the other Mondays.

BEAVERS - 5 p.m. - 6.30 p.m.

CUB SCOUTS - 6.00 - 7.30 p.m.

SCOUTS - 7.30 p.m. - 9.00 p.m.

NOTE NEW TIMES FOR SCOUTS

There are a few vacancies for boys and girls and also helpers. Contact Roger Galloway 268803 for more information.

TUESDAY

METHODIST WOMEN

IN BRITAIN - 2.30 p.m

May 1st Rev'd Kate Konrad

May 8th Mrs Delane Irving

May 15th Mr Ivor Merrin

May 22nd Mrs Janet Dobinson

May 29th Mrs Jean Oliver

RAINBOWS

BROWNIES - 6.00 p.m.

The Women's Network Fellowship, now called MWiB, meets in the Moore Hall of Elburton Methodist Church. For more information contact Carol Batchelor 491962

Contact Julie Hoskin on 481605.

There is no Guides group at present.

Elburton Methodist Community Church

PLYMSTOCK & RIDGEWAY

MEN'S GROUP 7.30 pm

May 8th at Ridgeway, with the Ladies
Colin Brokinshire -
Last Wooden Fishing Boat
May 22nd at Elburton
to be announced

Contact Andrew Gow (341037) for more details. Half the meetings are held at Ridgeway, the others are in the Rank Hall, Elburton Methodist Community Church.

WIVES CLUB - 7.45 pm

May 1st: Susan Devenish-Mutton
Trichology & related cosmetic Science
May 8th: Hope For Henry
May 15th: Pauline Raine, The Ganges
May 22nd: Clare Mains
Plymouth Community Energy
May 29th: Wendy Osborne
Haunted places in Devon

Ladies are invited to join us on Tuesday evenings at 7.45 pm in the Elburton Moore Hall. For more information contact Sylvia Harris (514818) or Carol Pike (311150).
□

HOME GROUP 1 - 7 p.m.

The Tuesday group is held at Pam Kingsland's house and led by Rev'd Simon Leigh.

WEDNESDAY

EXERCISE CLASS 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Contact Denise Avent (402818)

HOME GROUP 2 7.30 pm

Held at the home of Trisha Stringer and led by Maureen Richardson (407137)

HOME GROUP 4 8 p.m.

A group meets at a different home each week (helpful for the young families who attend). Contact Jon Carhart (480319).

THURSDAY

WORKING PARTY from 9.30 am
FIRST Thursdays of the month only.

Come and help us keep our church in a good state of repair. Contact Tony Sleep (403247) for details.

Elburton Methodist Community Church

MEET AND EAT

THIRD Thursdays from 10 a.m.

A good meal, tea/coffee, and good company for everyone, led by Rosemary Lee, Barbara Jeffery (311100) and Jennifer Tomlinson (403896).

TABLE TENNIS 3.15 - 5.15 p.m.

Contact David Finemore (406372)

HOME GROUP 3 7.30 p.m.

David and Brenda Youngs (880286) lead this group on Thursday evenings at 7.30 pm at Ruth Sweetland's home.

FRIDAY

LUNCHEON CLUB

11 a.m. (in term time)

A lovely lunch provided for those less able to provide for themselves. Good food, good company. Contact Trisha Stringer (482532).

SATURDAY

COFFEE MORNING


Last Saturday of the month
10 a.m. - noon

Held in the Moore Hall, Arranged by Margaret Passmore (404929), run by various groups. Funds go to church projects, term time only.

MESSY CHURCH

First Saturday of month 10.30 a.m.

An informal kind of worship tailored to the needs of the whole family with lots of fun, food, activities and a Christian message.

	
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MESSY CHURCH

SATURDAY 5th May



The theme this month is:

Creation, activities include
junk modelling, fruit kebabs and animal
masks. Bible ref: Genesis 1

STEWARDS

May is the month when Stewards are appointed and Stewards leave having completed their five years. This year we are grateful to the memory of Peter Ough, also to Christine Clamp, Liz Coleman and Jean Davies for their hard work for the church, particularly the last two named who have worked jointly as Senior Steward for the past two years.

In their place we appoint Tristan Merrifield, Brenda Youngs, Rosemary Palmer, Di Smart and Julia Washbrook. Along with Pauline Scott, Tony Raine and Pauline Raine (who has offered to take the Senior Steward roll again). This means that we have a full team of eight Stewards for the coming year meaning each will be working on average one week of every two.

Peter Ough passed away recently and I will give a page to this in the next edition.

The Sunday School teacher was describing that when Lot's wife looked back at Sodom she turned into a pillar of salt, when Bobby interrupted. "My mummy looked back once while she was driving," he announced, "and she turned into a telephone pole."

ELBURTON METHODIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

Planning a party? Need a venue? Looking for a hall?

All our facilities are available for letting.

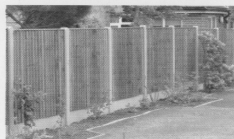
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JOINT SERVICE

**Sunday 6th May 2018 at 6.30pm.
at Elburton Methodist Community Church**

Refreshments from 6pm

A joint service between Elburton Methodist Church and St Matthews, Elburton.

Theme: the Rev'd James Croucher will be teaching and preaching on the theme of
Transformation
from Romans chapter 12.

**Come and join in a time of worship,
teaching, prayer, fellowship and hospitality.**

Dad got quiet. Then, in a soft voice, he said, “Probably. I was the cook.” Marian Babula



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Meet *and Eat*



The next one is
Thursday 17th May

Come and join us for good
food, good company, games
and happy conversation.

To Church Members

***Andy Gow and Pauline Scott
are marrying at Elburton
Methodist Church midday on
Saturday 12th May.***

***The Reverend Simon Leigh will
be conducting the ceremony.***

***Anyone who wishes is welcome
to join us in the Church to help
us celebrate the occasion.***

It will be a simple wedding.

Prayer Page

Ascension Day

Lord Jesus, we remember how you returned to your Father on the first Ascension Day. Although we cannot see you with our eyes, we know that you are still with us as you promised always to be. We thank you for being our constant friend. Help us to remember that you are near and that you will never fail us. Help us to come to you when we are frightened or disappointed, and may we remember to tell you about our joys as well as our troubles.

From the Gelasian Sacramentary

Christian Aid Week

This Christian Aid Week, we pray for Marcelin and his daughters. His family were forced out of their home when Hurricane Matthew struck Haiti. Pray that we may respond generously this Christian Aid Week, giving Marcelin and his family a chance to create a better life. Pray that they know they're not alone in their struggle. Pray for all who are collecting door-to-door this week. Pray they would be encouraged and know the joy that Jesus prayed for his disciples

Christian Aid

Pentecost

O God, you have generously brought us to this hour, the time when you poured out your Holy Spirit in tongues of fire upon your apostles, filling them with the gift of your grace; so most wonderful Lord, may we too receive this blessing; and as we seek to praise you, merciful God, in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, may we share in your eternal kingdom. For your name is worthy of all honour and majesty and you are to be glorified in hymns of blessing, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever, to the ages of ages. AMEN.

Eastern Orthodox Church

Holy Spirit, mighty wind of God, inhabit our darkness, brood over our abyss and speak to our chaos that we may breathe your life and share your creation in the power of Jesus Christ. AMEN.

Janet Morley

Wesley Day

Prayer of John Wesley:

O God, seeing as there is in Christ Jesus an infinite fullness of all that we can want or desire, may we all receive from him, grace upon grace; grace to pardon our sins, and subdue our iniquities; to justify our persons and to sanctify our souls; and to complete that holy change, that renewal of our hearts, which will enable us to be transformed into the blessed image in which you created us. O make us all acceptable to be partakers of the inheritance of your saints in light. AMEN

Trinity Sunday

Thanks be to God our Father, who made us and sustains us through the harvests of the world. Thanks be to Jesus Christ his Son, who redeemed us and reconciles us to God through the blood of his cross. Thanks be to God the Holy Spirit, who regenerated us and revives us in the life of the church. O God, all-loving, all-holy, all-wise, we worship and adore you. AMEN.

Maurice A P Wood

Supplied by Rev'd David Youngs

My seatmate on a flight was a woman. Ever the charmer, I asked, "Does the airline charge you extra for sitting next to good-looking men?"

"Yes," she said, "but I wasn't willing to pay."

—Glen Phenix

MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING

Every month except in the holiday periods, on the last Saturday there is a coffee morning held in the Moore Hall in aid of church funds. It is a happy social event with many regular attendees.



NEXT: Saturday May 26th

Plymouth and Exeter District
Methodist Women in Britain



SPRING DISTRICT DAY
Wed 2nd May 2018
11am - 3.30pm
(coffee from 10am: and tea afterwards)
Fremington Methodist Church
2 Old School Lane, Fremington,
Barnstaple, EX31 3AZ
Speaker: Rev Audrey Standhaft
ALL VERY WELCOME!

We are aiming to have as little 'business' as possible on this day, and much of the information will be available in the form of a written report. The Speaker will be Revd Audrey Standhaft, who will be talking about Cuba. There will also be an update from Phil Pugsley on our District overseas charity, Amigos. We are still raising money for Amigos, which will be replaced at the

"Thy Kingdom Come"

This is a global prayer event taking place between Ascension Day (10th May 2018) and Pentecost Sunday (20th May 2018). It stems from the Archbishop of Canterbury's initiative in the Church of England 'Thy Will be Done'. The Methodist Church has produced 'Nine Days of Prayer: Waiting in Wonder' to accompany this time of prayer. The booklet is written by the Revd Michaela Youngson, President-Designate of the Methodist Conference. Please contact The Revd Simon H Leigh 01752 335773 for further details or go to the Methodist Church website.

www.methodist.org.uk

beginning of September for 2 years by our new 'home' charity, Air Ambulance. All are very welcome. For further information, a map or to arrange transport if necessary, please contact Carol Batchelor on 491962.

A LETTER FROM A READER

I am sure you have often been surprised at how frequently memories are triggered at the most unexpected times. This happened to me when reading last month's "Link" and the story (joke) of the man whittling down his beliefs and where it led.

At the time I was working in an office where we had foreign students join us for work experience and they would also enjoy joining us to chat and improve their English. On one occasion we were discussing religion with a little Malaysian student and during this we showed our differences. - "I'm Baptist, I'm Methodist, I'm a Congregationalist, I'm C of E, etc." To this day, sixty years on, I can clearly remember the confusion on his face as he said, "Ah yes! But me, I am Christian!"

I was taught a lesson that day which I have never forgotten. (Malaysia was then only 2 per cent Christian) but he had the important part. AMH

THE BIG BREAKFAST



**(A little or a lot -
it's up to you)**

Saturday

12th May

Starting at 9am,

last orders 11.30am

EASTER OFFERING

As has been traditional since 1883, money is raised for World Mission of the Methodist Church in Britain through the Easter Offering.

It all started back in 1883 when women in Manchester raised £32 for missionary work overseas. The following year the London District issued envelopes and raised £100, and so the tradition was born. In 2017 £340,641 were raised through the Easter Offering all of which goes to World Mission and is used through the Church's 65 partner organisations worldwide.

We are very fortunate and grateful to Methodist Women in Britain, supported by the Methodist World Church Relationship Team, who provide resources for the dedication of this offering.

This year's Circuit service is at Oreston Methodist Church on Sunday, 13th May at 3p.m. when there is an opportunity to hear how some of this money has been spent to make a difference to people's lives in various parts of the world. This year we hear from Sri Lanka, Japan, and Israel/Palestine. It is titled: "Seek Peace and Pursue it".

It's a service about World Mission, a time of fellowship (there will be refreshments) and despite what The Plan says Simon is not preaching – no one is! The stories speak for themselves. Hope to see you there.
Di Smart

A WALK OF PRAYER

On Thursday 10th May at 7pm, starting at Elburton Methodist Church, there will be a time of prayer, reading and reflection, followed at 7.30pm by a walk of prayer around Elburton. I shall be bringing Thy Will be Done booklets to church this evening. I have sufficient for every member of the church. I will be talking about this initiative this evening and at services next week and beyond. It's very worthwhile and being backed wholeheartedly by the Methodist Church, in support of the Archbishop of Canterbury's initiative. Our Synod gave its full support to this and there are events all over the Plymouth and Exeter District between Ascension and Pentecost. It's good news.

SIMON

Oreston Methodist Church



Our Services in May:

6th May 10.30 am. Di Smart

13th May. 3pm. Easter Offering Service
for MWIB.

Refreshments at the end of the service



SINGING FOR FUN

Thursday 31st May

Light lunch and Singing for Fun with
Brian Gerry At Oreston Methodist
Church. Lunch at 1 pm £5
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Recommended by two more satisfied customers this month

A doctor, a lawyer, a little boy and a priest were out for a Sunday afternoon flight on a small private plane. Suddenly, the plane developed engine trouble. In spite of the best efforts of the pilot, the plane started to go down. Finally, the pilot grabbed a parachute, yelled to the passengers that they had better jump, and then he bailed out.

Unfortunately, there were only three parachutes remaining. The doctor grabbed one and said "I'm a doctor, I save lives, so I must live," and jumped out.

The lawyer then said, "I'm a lawyer and lawyers are the smartest people in the world. I deserve to live." He also grabbed a parachute and jumped.

The priest looked at the little boy and said, "My son, I've lived a long and full life. You are young and have your whole life ahead of you. Take the last parachute and live in peace."

The boy took the parachute but returned and gave it back to the priest. "Don't worry Father," he said. "The smartest person in the world just jumped out of the plane with my backpack."



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ORESTON EVENTS...

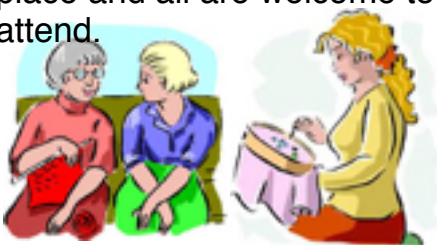
Oreston Parents and Toddlers

The Group meets every Friday in term time, in the Church Hall



Oreston Stitch, Knit & Natter

The group meets every Monday from 2.00 – 4.00 pm in the Church Hall. Craft activities of many types take place and all are welcome to attend.



All Age Table Tennis



2 pm to 4 pm each Tuesday (excluding School Holidays) Used to Play? Want to Learn? or just want to have some fun & exercise at the same time? Drop in any Tuesday and expect A WARM WELCOME!

THE INTERCHURCH BIBLE STUDY GROUP

the interchurch Bible Study Group now meets only once a month at Pomphlett on the 4th Friday of each month at 10am and it is led by the Rev'd Andy Day - all are welcome.



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WHO ARE THESE?

Answer on page 27

***Opportunity
may knock
once, but
temptation
bangs on your
front door
forever.***



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THE SECRET'S OUT!!!

I've read it in my Sunday Paper and heard it at the Stitch Knit and Natter Group at Oreston Methodist Church, when I spent time there helping to knit for various charity projects. It is becoming a very trendy and enjoyable hobby for the fit and healthy of all ages and many of their family members are wearing the gifts made for them, with love. We now learn that it COULD save our NHS millions £££'s which would have been spent on anti-depressants, blood pressure treatments, treatment for stress-related illnesses, etc. if we all took up Knitting, or Sewing, or Crocheting..... Maybe it would alleviate dementia symptoms too, as it is a gentle hobby and is said to be as relaxing as yoga; plus there is a definite benefit to those who suffer from mental health problems.

A new international promotion is the Knit for Peace group started by the Charities Advisory Trust which was intended to generate an income for victims of the Rwandan Civil War, and which spread throughout the Indian continent. British knitters joined the group and donated their work in support of the Good Gifts catalogue issued in aid of refugees and promoted by the Trust.

Reports soon came in that not only did the knitted and sewn goods offer comfort to the needy, but the crafters were also feeling a benefit to their health too. Their heart rate was lowered by an average of 11 beats per minute and it lifted their mood and reduced their feelings of stress at the same time. It also had the added benefit of dulling any pain they were suffering. It's certainly well worth a try and, if you join a Group, you have the added extra of chatting to each other and sharing a calming pot of tea!!

We send our congratulations and best wishes to Dorothy Turpitt who has celebrated her 80th birthday.



POMPHLETT METHODIST CHURCH



PREACHERS AT POMPHLETT ON SUNDAYS AT 9.30 AM

May 6th	Mr Nigel Norris	
May 13th	Rev'd Andrew Day	SACRAMENT
May 20th	Mrs Di Smart	
May 27th	FRESH EXPRESSIONS	

In 18th century England they started running out of places to bury people. Consequently, people would dig up coffins and take the bones to a 'bone-house' and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realised they had been burying people alive. So the clergy decreed that they should tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the 'graveyard shift') to listen for the bell. Thus, someone could be 'saved by the bell'. Also they could be considered a 'dead ringer.'

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Welcome to Family Worship

Sundays @ 9.30 am

Experience the Pomphlett Welcome

Please pop in for a cuppa
After the service at about 10.30 am

Friendship Group Easter Bonnets & More



Margaret Driscoll

Marion Harrigan writing says, "Bit embarrassing Bert as I won the competition. Maureen had asked for Easter hats or anything to do with Easter and I did Jesus on the cross surrounded with flowers. The person that judged the competition didn't belong to Friendship group so we didn't know her. There was some really

good bonnets and it was great to see most made an effort. I had a box of celebrations and everyone was given a Twix. Maureen put some cakes and choccy things on the table for refreshments. It was a very pleasant afternoon.



Paddy Pearce



The picture on the left shows Marion's winning entry of Christ on the cross in a garden scene.



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**Prayer
Meeting
& Bible
Study**

10 am
4th Friday
of each month
in The Lounge

We start our meeting with a cuppa and a chat and then we move into our prayer time which is led by our Minister Rev'd Andrew Day.



Coffee Cakes Chat

Saturday May 19th

Teas Coffees from 9 am

Bacon Butties from 9.30 am

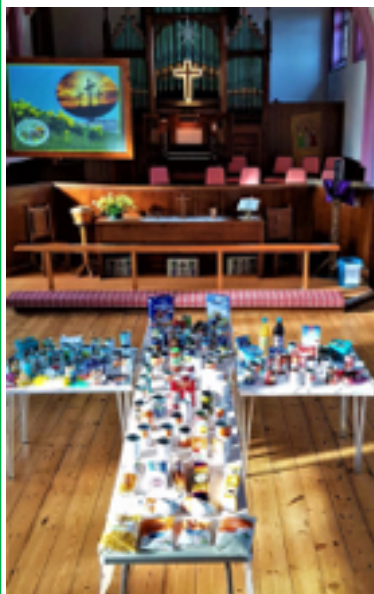
Raffle

**I believe in the purpose of everything living,
That taking is but the forerunner of giving;
That strangers are friends
that we some day may meet,
And not all the bitter can equal the sweet;
That creeds are but colours, and no man has said
That God loves the yellow rose more than the red.**



Our Spring Harvest

Each year at Pomphlett Church we have three Harvest times, one in Spring, one in Autumn and another at Christmas. Why three?



We support the Plymouth Foodbank as an ongoing thing, but our three harvests give us an opportunity to make, "that special effort".

Our Spring Harvest this year was boosted with help of donations of food from our U3A groups, The Seniors Computer Group, Tea Dancers, Line Dancers and Keep Fit Group.

We want to thank Members, Friends and all of our Community Groups who have helped to make this Spring's Harvest at Pomphlett Church a great success.



Dates In May

7th 21st

All starting at

2pm



Buffet Lunch & Film

Friday May 4th
Buffet @ 12.15 pm
Movie @ 1pm

The original movie from 1964



Computing for Seniors



Wednesdays 10 am till 12
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Cafe Style Church

May 27th 9.30 am

Come grab a seat

It's Church
But not as you know it

Enjoy a bun and cuppa
whilst worshipping God

Try Something New

Gateway

The Church in a House



My dear Friends at Gateway

It was good to see some of you at our dear friend and brother Ken Banfield's thanksgiving service on Friday 13th April. Although I used to meet him once a month at Plymbridge House, I learnt a lot more about this preacher, JP, and Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire and of all that he and his late wife Gwen did for us at Gateway over 25 years. He will be greatly missed by so many people and organisations.

From a Christian calendar point of view this post Easter month of May has many celebrations. We begin on the 1st remembering the Apostles Philip and James; then on 10th we remember Ascension Day. My father used to tell of his school going to church on Ascension morning and then being given the rest of the day off!! I used to look after the village of Seend in Wiltshire and on Ascension Day the villagers were invited to get up and go on to the Parish Church roof to welcome in Ascension Day. On 13th Christian Aid Week begins whereby we are asked to raise funds for the work that this important organisation does around the world.

Sunday 20th is Pentecost also known as Whitsunday remembering what happened on that first Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came upon Peter and his friends and they preached to the people of Jerusalem about Jesus and what He had done for them. This is the 49th day after Easter. Also on this day Methodists celebrate Aldersgate Sunday. Aldersgate Sunday is a great opportunity to celebrate the work of God in our lives, and to reflect on how we can respond to all that God has given us. In the

Methodist Church calendar, Aldersgate Sunday is the Sunday nearest to 24th May (traditionally known as 'Wesley Day') or the Sunday before it.

Thursday 24th is celebrated by Methodists as Wesley Day, the day in 1738 when John Wesley felt his ***heart strangely warmed*** as he listened to someone reading. This Aldersgate experience was crucial for his own life and became a touchstone for the Wesleyan movement. As he wrote in his diary: ***'In the evening I went unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, (London) where one was reading Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation: and an assurance was given to me, that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.'***

Sunday 27th is called Trinity Sunday, when Christians remember and honour the eternal God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Trinity Sunday is celebrated the Sunday after Pentecost, and lasts only one day, which is symbolic of the unity of the Trinity. Eastern Churches have no tradition of Trinity Sunday, arguing that they celebrate the Trinity every Sunday. Westerners also commemorate the Trinity at every Eucharist, although they set aside a special feast day for the purpose as well.

31st May celebrates the visit of Mary, the mother of Jesus to her cousin Elizabeth who was also expecting. Indeed she claimed that the baby in her womb (who was John the Baptist) jumped with gladness as soon as Elisabeth heard Mary's greeting.

May God richly bless you all. Your brother in Christ,

David

GATEWAY (continued)

Our worship on 13th May at 11am is to be led by Ann Cullum.



KEN BANFIELD

Mount Gould Methodist Church was full for the funeral service of Ken Banfield. Ken was involved in many projects and activities throughout his life. Ken was a preacher in the Methodist church for over sixty years, a Justice of the Peace, school teacher and heavily involved with Prince Rock youth club. He was a founder of the Prince Rock Rugby Club and gave a lifetime of service to the Boys Brigade. Together with his late wife Gwen he raised many thousands of pounds for Macmillan Cancer Relief. Ken was at one time awarded Citizen of the Year for Plymouth. For all of his public service he was awarded the M B E. All of us at Gateway are grateful for the work that Ken and Gwen gave to our fellowship at Cattedown. We give thanks to God for a life well lived and a friend who was an inspiration to all.

RVD

Ken, and his wife Gwen and I began Gateway 19 years ago. It has grown in popularity over the years but we have always regarded the two of them as founder members and there would probably have been no club without them. AR

We send love and best wishes to Isabella Wake who is celebrating a birthday in May.



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SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

"Look at that poor guy over there," said Cath. "Don't they make you feel guilty, these people?" She was walking down the street with James, a young man she was just getting to know and who didn't share her compassion.

"Guilty? Angry, more like. They should clear them off the streets when they pick up the other rubbish. Why on earth do you feel guilty?"

"Walking by. Not giving anything. I've got so much and he's got so little." James was not convinced, "Don't give him money. Anything you give him, he'll only spend on drink or drugs."

"If he did that with my money, it would be his choice, wouldn't it? I can respond to his need - but I can't live his life for him!"

James looked at the dishevelled man and noticed a hind leg and tail poking out from under a dirty raincoat on the pavement. He's got a dog under there. That's what I feel sorry for. That poor animal doesn't choose to starve on the streets in the cold and the wet."

"Do you imagine the guy likes it? Apart from the bad weather, what do you think begging does for his self-esteem?" Cath answered testily.

"Look - he put himself there. He can get a job. We need people like him to clean the streets," James argued unsympathetically.

"To get a legitimate job, you need an address and a bank account. To get those you need money. To get that kind of money, you need a job. It's an impossible situation. And when you get a job, even if it's just for a week, you can lose your benefits for three weeks or more afterwards while they reassess you. And sometimes the difference between dole and pay isn't enough to make it worth it."

"You're mistaking me for someone who cares. It's not my problem."

"You can't wash your hands of it all! Suppose Jesus had done that! Where would we be?" Cath's voice broke with intensity.

"You and your Jesus. Look, I happen to know that they can make very good money at that game. I've heard stories of people following them at the end of the day, and they get into a Mercedes round the corner."

"That's mostly a myth that people put about so they don't have to care. All right then, I won't give him money. I'll give him food instead." So saying, Cath crossed the road into an M&S shop opposite and returned a few minutes later with a sandwich which she handed to the man who was begging. "It's bacon and egg - they call it an all day breakfast. That should help to fill you up," Cath explained as she gave it wrapped in a paper serviette.

"The man smiled at first then he read the label and instead of eating it,

he fed it to the dog that had emerged from the raincoat to investigate the smell.

James was now angry. "The ungrateful blighter," he exclaimed. "You see how they behave? I told you not to waste your time."

"I didn't do it for gratitude," Cath explained tearfully.

"The man looked at her apologetically and handed her a dirty fold of paper. She unravelled it and saw it was a Jewish News.

She showed it to James. "They don't eat bacon." She turned back to the man. "Stay there. I'll get something else."

"I told you, I don't care if he eats grass. To be honest, I don't look at them - I don't see them - I look straight through them - they aren't there. He's nobody - nothing!" James declared.

"Don't you see?" Cath said in a shocked voice. "Whatever you do for that man - you are doing for Jesus."

"Nah," James protested, realising as he said it that he was damaging terminally his relationship with this strange girl. "I don't believe that."

For a moment, Cath studied his face then she turned and walked rapidly across the road into the shop again..

"Don't go, Cath. Come back." James called after her to no avail. He turned round and caught an image in the corner of his eye of the beggar standing silhouetted against the darkening sky, and it seemed that his arms were stretched out - as though nailed to a cross.

AR

Why do you come to church?

In any good church you are surrounded by people who love you and whom you love, and you come to worship God with them and to rejoice in the certainty that God loves you and you love him.

Exactly how is that different from what you believe Heaven to be like? Think about it.

Isn't it possible that TODAY, HERE, NOW you are actually experiencing the Heaven on Earth that you so often pray for?

Church is a foretaste of Heaven - that's why we come.



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