

Wesley Church Centre Chester

The **Methodist** Church 

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2018

Dear Friends,

As we enter the winter months and the warmth of the summer days seems a long time ago, I have been reflecting again on how seasons and flows in our own lives and in the life of the church. These are integral to our ongoing developing relationship with the God who never changes yet accompanies us through all changes.

One of the joys of the community at Wesley is that within 24 hours I can hold a new baby and have a conversation with someone who shared that they were going to embrace all that their 9th decade would hold, albeit if it were accompanied by a slightly slower pace.

Whatever season of life we find ourselves in, we are assured that God always has more in store for us. In the midst of the challenges we face as we live out our faith it is important to return hour by hour, day by day and week by week to the God who calls us ever onward.

Earlier this year I discovered the writings of Phoebe Palmer, an American Methodist preacher from the middle of the 19th Century. Nicknamed the mother

of the holiness movement her mystic and charismatic expression of her faith caused her to be expelled from the Wesleyan movement. Her work was instrumental in the stream that became the Church of the Nazarene and the Bible Christians. Part of her devotion to the Wesleyan faith included the practice of learning passages of scripture and prayers by memory. This practice meant that in times of difficulty followers of Jesus always had an internalised resource from which to draw strength. I began to embrace this practice at the beginning of September using a prayer by Jonathan Coussins. I have found this to be an immense challenge but a source of great strength and comfort.

At conference this year the Methodist people were reminded to continually revisit 'Our Calling'. This document reminds us to focus on our purpose – to witness to the love of God shown by Jesus through worship, learning, caring, service and evangelism.

This year as we worship, embracing new initiatives such as Open Table, as we meet in small groups, as we pray and care for each other, in our existing mission engagement as well as offering ourselves

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News from the Church Family

Thanksgiving & Baptisms:

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Birthday Milestones:

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We remember and give thanks for the lives of:

Any family news for future newsletters to be passed to Linda Tudor in the office.

Music @ Wesley

Tuesday,
18th December
12.45-1.35pm
Hefin Flue & Harp Duo

(Charlotte Thomas, Bethan Griffiths). Retiring collection



as one of the churches who will be involved in the Emergency Night Shelter over the winter months my prayer is that we will constantly rediscover the joy as well as the challenge of responding to our ultimate calling to follow Jesus.



Yours in Christ
Christine

Christmas at Wesley

Sunday 16th

December

6.30 pm

Candlelit Carol Service

Saturday 22nd

December

12.45 pm

Music for Christmas
Claire Heald (Contralto)
with *Brian Heald (Organ)*

Sunday 23rd

December

10.30 am

Café Style Nativity

Christmas Day

10.00 am

All Age Christmas Service



Please support the Wesley Fair Trade shop, open Sunday mornings after the service.