

WELCOME TO



www.gigmillchurch.co.uk

February 2018



Minister : Rev. Michael Payne
e-mail : michaelpayne230@msn.com



Weekly Meetings

- Sunday : Church Services - 10:30am and 6:30pm
Junior Church - 10:30am (Joy Jeffrey)
- Tuesday : Handicraft - 2:30pm (Peggy Broadhead)
Community Tea (1st Tuesday) - 2:30pm (Jane Linford)
- Wednesday : Prayer Meeting (to be announced) - 7:30pm-8:30pm
- Thursday : Friendship Group (22nd February) - 2:30pm (Delia Page)
Choir Practice - 7:45pm (John Walley)
- Friday : Bible Discovery Group (to be announced) - 7:30pm

If you are a visitor to our Church, we give you a very warm welcome, and hope that you enjoy this time of worship with us and will visit again.

If you would like any information about Gig Mill Methodist Church, please ask any of the Stewards, who will be glad to answer your questions.

LOVING GOD BY LOVING AND SERVING OTHERS



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

This month's Community Tea will be held on Tuesday 6th February, the first Tuesday of the month. Transport can be arranged - please speak to Jane Linford.

The Prayer Meeting and Bible Discovery Group meetings this month will be announced in due course in the weekly news sheet. Everyone is welcome to attend these uplifting meetings.

The Gig Mill Friendship Group continues the spirit and friendship of the Bright Hour on Thursday 22th February, a change this month from the normal third Thursday. All Ladies and Gentlemen invited, and all friends from New Road and Bright Street are also welcome.

Please come and join us for fellowship, speakers, entertainment, events and a chat !

Fund-raising for 2018 begins with Gig Mill's...

£ BAZAAR



**Saturday 3rd March from 11:00am-12:30pm
at Gig Mill Church**



Chocolate Tombola, Cakes, Books, Craft and Bric-A-Brac Stalls,
and of course, Sausage and/or Bacon Rolls!

Any donations for the Tombola will be gratefully received, especially Easter chocolate items, please.

If you are able to make any cakes for the cake stall please let Delia know. Many thanks.

LENT GIVING - NOT GIVING UP !! -- During the period of Lent, many people give up "something" - but this year, we are asking you to GIVE instead ! As I'm sure you all know, we need to keep raising funds to support our Church, so we are asking if you would kindly give your loose change to our Church. On the Sunday before the start of Lent, Sunday 11th February - jam jars will be available for you to take home to place your donations in during the following 6 weeks. If you could then kindly return the filled jars for Easter Sunday, 1st April - when the monies and the donors will be blessed for the use of God's work in our Church. Thank you.

RETIRING COLLECTION - Your kind donations during February and March will benefit UCB (United Christian Broadcasters). This charity not only broadcasts nationally on radio, but they also produce very helpful Christian Resources, including the Word For Today quarterly scripture booklets that many of us receive via Gwen. Like so many charities, they struggle financially, so we are pleased to be able to help them with our collections. As always, collection plates will be on the tables at the rear of our Church. Thank you.

GIG MILL NEWS

CHRISTIAN AID CHRISTMAS APPEAL --- Thanks to the generosity of the members and friends of our Church, a cheque for £289.40 has been sent to this appeal. The funds were donated in the retiring collections, in lieu of sending Christmas cards and the Christmas morning collection. These funds will be matched, pound for pound, under the UK Government Aid Match and in addition a number of people were able to Gift Aid their donation.

These monies will help so much as every day, children in South Sudan and Burkina Faso are dying from hunger. They are bearing the brunt of ongoing conflict and climate change. At Christmas and New Year, a time of plenty, when we came together with family and friends to celebrate, relax and often overindulge, it feels particularly unjust that so many families go without food, security and hope. More than three years of devastating conflict in South Sudan has displaced nearly four million people, disrupted harvests, food prices have soared and the economy has collapsed. Half of the population urgently need food. In Burkina Faso, a series of droughts and floods have devastated rural farming communities. And at the heart of the destruction are families (like yours or mine) who no longer have enough food to survive. SO A VERY BIG THANK YOU !

The Women's World Day Of Prayer is to be celebrated at a service at Our Lady And All Saints, Stourbridge, on Friday 2nd March at 10:30am. All are welcome to attend.

St Mary's Church will be hosting a performance of 'Jesus, My Boy' on Saturday 24th March. This is a stunning one-man play, the story of Jesus seen through the eyes of Joseph, an ordinary and down-to-earth man, dismayed about how his image is later portrayed in Christian artwork ! 'Jesus My Boy' is extremely humorous, incredibly moving, and beautifully and cleverly written by John Dowie. Further details regarding ticket prices to follow.

District Pilgrimage to the Holy Land - This has been arranged for 30th April - 10th May 2018 and will be led by the District Chair, Rachel Parkinson and The Rev Ivor Sperring. There is more information of the notice board at the rear of the Church if you wish to find out more.

The Black Country Foodbank currently has the following shortages :

UHT Milk, Fruit Juice, Tinned Potatoes, Packets of Mash, Tinned Fruit
Small Jars of Coffee, Deodorants.

ALL donations are gratefully accepted ! Thank you, thank you for all you do.

Gig Mill's Prayer Chain is there for you. If you have a prayer need, please contact any of the names on the list of links in the chain at the back of the Church.

If you are a tax payer and don't normally use offering envelopes, please consider putting your weekly offering into one of our Gift Aid envelopes and fill in the name and address information. The Church will be able to claim back 25p in the £1 from the Tax Man !

Mary Perry collects unwanted spectacles, and also used mobile phones, for charities. Recycling Boxes for these items are now kept at the back of the Church. The unwanted spectacles will be taken to local opticians who collect them to send to third world countries, and the mobile phones may be able to be sold to raise monies for our Church funds.

Rita Harris collects used postage stamps which also benefit charitable works. Many thanks.

A Message from Rev Michael Payne

*“But do not forget this one thing, dear friends,
with the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like a day.”
- 2 Peter 3:8*

“Time flies like an arrow, fruit flies like a banana” (...think about it !) is one of my sayings – pinched from somewhere at sometime.

“Time flies when you are enjoying yourself” is a more familiar saying as well as “Time seems to go faster the older you get”.

Many of us must be really enjoying ourselves, or getting older very quickly, as time seems to be passing by so very quickly. I am still introduced as “our new minister” and I have no problem with it as it means I am not expected to know everything : but it is now 5 months since I began my ministry in the Vale of Stour Circuit. In September we shall be welcoming Rev Josephine Soon into the Circuit and I will no longer be the new kid on the block. We know the truth of time; it clicks by one second at a time (unless you are a scientist who measures in smaller sections).

I wonder whether the reason time seems to go past so quickly is that we are expected to achieve more in the time that we have due to the technology around us; instant messages, mobile phones, emails etc. in the realm of communication, alongside equipment that makes some time consuming jobs of years gone by much easier – like wash day!

We can get so caught up in the passing of earthly time we forget the eternal dimension, the God dimension.

Over the years I have been in many staff meetings where we regularly have had conversations about what is happening in the churches. Such conversations often focus upon a decline in numbers and an increasing age profile.

The Vale of Stour Circuit is in the midst of a review to help us find God’s way forward as churches and as a Circuit as we can have the same conversation.

As churches we can reflect upon the mission we are involved in. Often our mission is caring for the physical, and I have no problem with that, but it is without spiritual focus. Mission in the name of God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, must include evangelism, calling people to a living relationship with Jesus, a relationship for eternity; otherwise it is little more than social work, making earthly, physical life more comfortable but having no impact upon the spiritual, eternal dimension of the person, and the Kingdom of God, and the membership of His Church.

As we move through the time ahead of us let us commit ourselves to sharing the name and love of Jesus that is about relationship and the eternal whilst not forgetting the temporal.

Rev Michael



SOCIAL & FUND RAISING EVENTS 2018

Sat 3rd March 11am-12.30 pm – £ Bazaar to include chocolate tombola, cakes, books, craft and bric-a-brac stalls and of course, Bacon and/or Sausage rolls!

Sat 5th May 10am-2pm – Craft Fair

We are inviting people to “hire a table” at a cost of £10 for them to sell their own items. In addition, there will be some stalls from our church

Sat 16th June 7pm – A concert by the Gentleman Songsters.

Tickets £10 - plus a tea available at 5.30pm at a cost of £5.

Tickets available from Delia Page – Tel no: 01384 621294

Sat 14th July from 11am – A Brunch at the home of Delia & John (21 Norton Road)

. Entrance £1 includes a “lucky ticket”. Refreshments, cake and craft stalls etc. And fellowship!

Saturday 15th September 11am-12.30pm – Jumble Sale. Entrance 30p

Saturday 17th November 11am-12.30pm – Autumn Fair

Lots of stalls, including Christmas items, tombola, Hot food and refreshments.

Saturday 1st December 10.30am-4pm and

Sunday 2nd December noon-3pm – Advent Nativity weekend

We will be inviting members and friends to share with us their nativity scenes to be displayed, (with a short note of what it means to them) in the church that weekend.

Programmes £1

**PLEASE SUPPORT THESE EVENTS AND SHARE WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILIES.
FURTHER DETAILS NEARER THE DATE OF THE EVENT – ALL PROCEEDS TO
CHURCH FUNDS.**

Meanwhile, further information available from Delia (Tel: 01384 621294)

Please remember the following people in your Prayers



The family and friends of Jane's sister, Susan Garrett, who has sadly passed away ; Jessie Webb and Irene Baker, recovering in Netherton; Rose Bostock in Prestwood ; Rev Peter and Felicity Knight and family ; Rosemary Petherick ; Marilyn Hodgkinson ; Jean Hancock ; Steve and Jane Penn's mum, Elsie ; Maureen Jones' husband, Dave ; Ted and Peggy Broadhead ; David Howard ; Gladys ; Ann Booth and her son, Gwyn ; Roger Langford and mum Phyllis ; Joy Jeffrey ; Betty Tilley ; Janet and Keith May ; Mike Baker ; Mary Perry ; Barbara and Roly Jones ; Jacquie King ; The Stourbridge Street Pastors, the Stourbridge Food Bank volunteers, our friends at Oriel House, and all of our fellow Gig Mill members who are unwell at the moment.

If you, or someone you know, would like a visit from our Pastoral Care Team or would like to be included on our prayer list, please contact Delia Page or see one of the Stewards on duty.

Weekly Offerings :

31 st December :	£294.92
7 th January :	£393.67
14 th January :	£269.55
21 st January :	£278.27



Please give generously if you can !

Please consider the level of your contribution, as we need a minimum of £6.50 per week from each member to cover all of the Church costs, including our payment to the Circuit to cover ministerial costs, and the running costs of our Church.

If you wish to make a contribution or suggestion for our Newsletter, please contact

Malcolm Jeffrey (e-mail : enquiries@gigmillchurch.co.uk), or

Joy Jeffrey by the 25th of the month

so that it can be included in the notices and newsletter for March.

All contributions gratefully received !

If you have any items for the Church weekly notice sheet, please contact Jane Linford by the Thursday before, for inclusion the following Sunday.

Don't forget that we have our own website :

www.gigmillchurch.co.uk

If you have e-mail, your copy of this newsletter can be e-mailed to you : just give Malcolm your e-mail address.

God Bless You All.