

## FLOWER ROTA:



August 21st-28th  
Mrs Chapman  
Sept. 11th-18th.  
Mrs Whittington  
Sept. 25th  
Mrs Purnell

## SPECIAL SERVICE TO CELEBRATE OUR CHURCH SHARING

Thursday 8th September 7pm.

Guest speaker, the Rt. Rev. Ruth Worsley  
(Bishop of Taunton)

Refreshments to follow

Please do join us on this special occasion as we  
move forward, sharing with our friends at  
All Saints Church

## PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

Since freedom is one of the highest, if not the highest value, God was justified in 'taking the risk' of creating free agents. He cannot be held responsible for the bad choices of these agents. —Henri Blocher.

Time cannot erase the promises of God: circumstances cannot dim them: wicked people cannot destroy them: but you can nullify them if you don't claim them. —Anon

I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word

in reality. This is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant.  
—Dr Martin Luther King.

## A PRAYER

We thank You, Lord, that you are never taken by surprise by anything that happens in the world. We are sometimes perplexed by the evil things that happen, but help us to hold on to Your promise that Your Kingdom will come. In the meantime, help us to play our part in building Your Kingdom now. Amen



## SMILE

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?"

The mother replied, 'Because white is the colour of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life.'

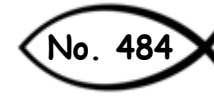
The child thought about this for a moment then said, "So why is the groom wearing black?"

The Vicar at Harvest Festival had arranged all the vegetables in front of the Altar. He asked the children if they could name them. The replies were - potatoes, cabbage, carrots, broccoli, and swede. He asked if they could use one word to cover them all. A little boy held his hand up and replied "Gravy."

## (CHURCH) SIGNS OF THE TIMES



# West Camel Methodist



**AUGUST-  
SEPTEMBER  
2016**

# MESSENGER

**Our services are  
now held at  
All Saints Church**



## REGULAR ACTIVITIES:

**Sunday:** 2nd–5th Sundays 6pm. Evening worship.  
1st Sunday 4.30pm. "Tea-Time" at the Davis Hall.

**Wednesday:** 7.30pm Bible study (various venues). First in month, united study at the Davis Hall.

**MINISTER:** Rev. Craig Manley, 2 Parsonage Crescent, Ansford, Castle Cary. (Tel. 01963 351598)

**STEWARD:** Mrs Elizabeth Chapman, Mead Farm, Downhead. (Tel. 01935 850838)

**WORSHIP  
CO-ORDINATOR:** Mr Geoff Chapman, Mead Farm, Downhead. (Tel. 01935 850838)

**EDITOR:** Mr Geoff Chapman.

Plant the good seeds of righteousness, and you will harvest a crop of love. Plough up the hard ground of your hearts, for now is the time to seek the Lord, that he may come and shower righteousness upon you. (Hosea 10: 12, New Living Translation)

# EDITORIAL

## WHAT ON EARTH IS HAPPENING?

Some very disturbing events have happened this summer. There have been several terrorist attacks in France and Germany, more car bombs in Iraq, a priest murdered by Muslim terrorists in France, and an attempt to kidnap a British serviceman. Several hundred people died as the result of a failed coup in Turkey, and in parts of Africa Islamic groups such as Boko Haram are regularly terrorising and killing people, especially Christians. In Syria fighting continues in a civil war that has raged for more than five years, and in Yemen civilians are being killed by Saudi Arabian jets using bombs purchased from our Government. Is the world more troubled than ever, or is it just that modern communications mean we hear about events almost as soon as they happen? And how should Christians, who believe in an all-powerful God, react to what is going on?



First of all, we need to remember that we live in a fallen world, and God has given human beings free will. When people say “Why does God allow it?” what are they suggesting He should do? — zap all evil people? We should be grateful that He doesn’t, since we are all sinners, and at least partly responsible for the evil in the world. Would the people who think God ought to step in, be willing for Him to step into *their* lives, and force them to do something against their will? There is much mystery around the existence of evil, but freewill is an important part of it. It is also important to recognise that there is a force of evil at work, and the Bible identifies Satan — the enemy — as this source.

In Matthew 13 there is a parable that Jesus told about a farmer who sowed good seed in his field. Then an enemy sowed weed seeds. His servants suggested rooting out the weeds at once. But the farmer advised leaving well alone until the harvest, lest the wheat be damaged. When the harvest came, the weeds were gathered and burned and the good grain saved. This parable helps us to understand why evil exists and why we should expect evil and good to go on growing together.



Jesus's parable about the wheat and the weeds helps us to understand why evil is growing

God sent His Son Jesus to die so that, when we accept what He has done for us, our own sin can be forgiven. We then belong to “the people of the kingdom.” (*Matthew 13: 38*). The “harvest” will be when Jesus returns to usher in His kingdom. In the meantime, although evil will go on growing with the good, we can be sure that evil will not triumph, and that God’s will will finally be done!

The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil... Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. (*Matthew 13: 41, 43*)

## SUNDAY SERVICES

- August 7th. 4.30pm. ‘Tea-Time’ at the Davis Hall  
“ 14th. 6pm. Mr Rob Haskins of Castle Cary  
“ 21st. 6pm. Rev. Craig Manley (H.C.)  
“ 28th. 6pm. Mr Richard Coles of Martock  
Sept. 4th. 4.30pm. ‘Tea-Time’ at the Davis Hall  
“ 11th. 6pm. Rev. Craig Manley (H.C.)  
“ 18th. 6pm. Mr Rob Haskins of Castle Cary  
“ 25th. No service - Harvest Festival at Bruton 6.30pm  
(H.C.= Holy Communion.)

## A NEW BEGINNING

Our chapel on the A303 was filled to over-flowing for the final service on Sunday 3rd July. It was an inspiring service, and a number of people commented on how positive it was. Our superintendent minister the Rev. Nick Lakin, our own minister the Rev Craig Manley, and the Rector the Rev John Davies took part. There was a Powerpoint presentation of our history. The tea before the service included a celebration cake, donated by the Bakery.

This was not an end, but a new beginning. We go forward, believing that God has led us down this path, and are confident that He makes no mistakes!

- A special photo supplement has been printed to accompany this issue.

## A PEEP INTO THE PAST

### SPECIAL VISIT OF THE ‘YORKSHIRE FIREBRAND.’

Herbert Silverwood, who appeared in the TV programme “The Dale that Died.” He will speak at West Camel Methodist Church on Sunday 25th July at 11am and 6.30pm. Special ‘get-together’ for all ages at 8pm. You and your family are warmly invited. (*16th July 1976*)

From the *Western Gazette* 40 years ago.

The harvest thanksgiving services were held at the Methodist Church on Sunday. The preacher in the morning was Mr Frank Beamond of Lydford, and in the evening the Rev. Rossiter Forward of Castle Cary. The services were continued on Tuesday when Mr Forward conducted a short service followed by a sale of gifts in the schoolroom. Gifts were auctioned by Messrs. P Moore and G. Chapman. Total proceeds of the collections and the sale amounted to £82.50 for church funds. (*24th September 1976*)