

SINGING AND BARBECUE

On Sunday 29th July we had a united 'Songs of Praise'. Friends from Yeovil Elim Church provided accompaniment for hymns and songs chosen by members of our two congregations. Because of the threat of rain, singing took place inside the church, rather than outside as planned. The singing was followed by a barbecue.



PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

The Lord loves a cheerful giver – but he also accepts from a grouch. —Anon

Live more simply, that others may simply live. —Anon.

Give to all, lest the one you pass over should be Christ Himself. —Augustine.

The world has enough for everyone's need, but not everyone's greed. —Gandhi.

It's one thing to be grateful. It's another to give thanks. Gratitude is what you feel. Thanksgiving is what you do." —Tim Keller

Gain all you can, save all you can, and give all you can. —John Wesley

A PRAYER

Heavenly Father, everything we have comes from You. Forgive us for our selfishness and lack of thankfulness. We thank You for Your generosity in providing for our material needs, and also our spiritual needs through the greatest of your Gifts - Jesus Christ our Saviour. Help us to share Your goodness to bless those who are in need. In Jesus' name. Amen



SMILE

Two men were fishing on the river. One caught the biggest catfish they had ever seen. He said to his friend, "We need to remember this spot so we can come back here again." His friend pulled a felt pen out of his pocket and marked a big 'X' on the bottom of the boat. The first man looked at him and said: "Are you serious? Suppose we bring a different boat next time?"

Every ten years, the monks in the monastery are allowed to break their vow of silence to speak two words. Ten years go by and it's one monk's first chance. He thinks for a second before saying, "Food bad." Ten years later, he

CHURCH BULLETIN BLOOPERS

On their tour of the Mideast, Pastor Phillips and his wife saw many places that no longer exist.

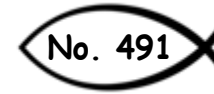
The church's workshop on openness is now closed.

The Optimist Club, which meets at our church, is going better than expected.

The Women's Guild will hold a Whine and Cheese Party as their summer kick-off event.

says, "Bed hard." A decade later it's the big day again. He gives the head monk a long stare and says, "I quit." The head monk replies, "I'm not surprised. You've been complaining ever since you got here."

West Camel Methodist



**OCTOBER-
NOVEMBER
2017**

MESSENGER

**We meet 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, Broadclose, Station Road, 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.

He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? (Romans 8: 32)

EDITORIAL

IT IS RIGHT TO BE THANKFUL!

THIS is the time of year when we are especially thankful - or at least we should be. Crops of field and garden have been harvested. Ever since Old Testament times God's people have made the Harvest Festival a special occasion. It is a time to remind ourselves that all we have is a gift from God, and give Him the thanks that is His due. We often grumble, but compared to millions of people in other parts of the world, most of us don't know what real need is. 800 million people go to bed hungry every night, and even in Britain a growing number of people are using food banks, so if we have enough we do have cause for thanksgiving.



Sadly, people don't attend Harvest Festivals like they used to. Does this mean that they take God's blessings for granted? Some would say that, with so much need in the world, we have no right to celebrate, but should feel guilty that we have so much when many have nothing. However, the Bible teaches us that "God... richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment." (1 Timothy 6: 17). So, unless we are being selfish, we shouldn't feel guilty. But if God has blessed us we should "Do good... be rich in good deeds...

be generous and willing to share." (verse 18). Both Old and New Testaments exhort us to share our material blessings with those in need.

God created the earth with sufficient resources and made humans stewards of His creation. However, we have made a very bad job of it, squandering and wasting the earth's resources. In Britain 18 million tonnes of food end up in landfill every year!

The battle against world hunger is slowly being won, as people in poorer countries learn more about efficient methods of agriculture and are given practical help to become self-sufficient. Most churches now see the Harvest Festival as an opportunity, not only to celebrate God's generosity, but to help the needy by supporting the various aid agencies.

So, what can we do to play our part in the battle against hunger and poverty?

- Support one or more of the aid agencies by our prayers and giving.
 - Pray that God will forgive us for our wastefulness and greed.
- Avoid wasting food or taking more than our fair share of the world's resources.
- Support local food banks (local churches support the Yeovil "Lord's Larder")

If you missed the Harvest Festival this year you can still thank God in your own way, and give practical support to those who are helping the needy.

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does **not** change like shifting shadows.
(James 1: 17)

SUNDAY SERVICES

October	1st	4.30pm	'Tea-Time' at the Church
"	8th	11am 6pm	United All-age Harvest Service Rev Craig Manley (Harvest Praise)
"	15th	6pm	Mr Steve Roles of Yeovil
"	22nd	6pm	Rev Craig Manley (H.C.)
"	29th	6pm	Mr Chris Spracklen of Martock (U.S.)
Nov.	5th	4.30pm	'Tea-Time' at the Davis Hall
"	12th	10.55am 6pm	Remembrance Service (U.S.) Rev Robert Channon of North Cadbury (H.C.)
"	19th	6pm	Mr Geoff Chapman ("Sing Sankey")
"	26th	6pm	Mr David Herring of Bridgwater

(H.C. = Holy Communion. U.S. = United Service)

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Sunday 8th October 11am & 6pm. Harvest lunch at the Davis Hall after the morning service. Tickets from Elizabeth Chapman.

Sunday 19th
November 6pm
"SING SANKEY"
service



A PEEP INTO THE PAST From the Western Gazette 40 & 50 years ago

WEST CAMEL:

An Overseas Missions meeting at the Methodist Church was presided over by the Rev. Rossiter Forward. The Rev. William Holden of Glastonbury introduced a film on the work of the Church of South India. A collection and bring-and-buy stall raised £20.60 for the Methodist Missionary Society, bringing this year's total so far to £136.92, including £81.66 from members' collecting boxes. The 1976 Overseas Missions total was a record £137. (11th November 1977)

The 59th anniversary services were held at

the Methodist Church last weekend. On Sunday the preachers were Mr Hope of North Cadbury in the morning, and the Rev. A. R. Burch of Somerton in the evening. On Monday evening tea was served in the schoolroom, followed by a meeting in the church, at which Mr Burch presided. The choir of St Mark's Methodist Church, Yeovil, gave a special programme of musical items, and the Rev. T. Wilkinson, chaplain of Millfield School, Street, was the speaker. Supper followed in the school-room. All proceeds were in aid of church funds. (20th October 1967)