

## HOLY WEEK EVENTS

On a sunny and very warm Palm Sunday 60-70 people from a number of local churches gathered on the Village Green for a procession to the Church, led by a donkey. An all-age service followed. On Good Friday, our usual open-air service took place on the Village Green.



**West  
Camel  
Methodist**



**JUNE-JULY  
2017**

# MESSENGER

## PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

It is religion without love that has been responsible for most of the misery in the world. —Anon.

Nothing so tends to mask the face of God as religion; it can be a substitute for God Himself. —Martin Buber.

God calls people to worship Him with their obedience, and instead they try to fob Him off with their religion. —John Herkus.

Formal religion always makes fertile soil for false religion. —Gilbert Kirby.

We are saved not by our deeds, but by Christ's sacrifice for our misdeeds.  
—Fred Catherwood.

## A PRAYER

O God, we pray for all who will enter Parliament as a result of the Election. Give them the wisdom and courage to do what is right, especially with regard to national security, and any actions needed to root out extremism and prevent further terror attacks. In the Name of the Prince of peace. Amen.



**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, 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.



## SMILE

A man burst into a flower shop, and said: "I need two potted geraniums!"

"Sorry," said the assistant, "we don't have any potted geraniums. Will African violets do instead?"

"No," the man replied sadly, "it was geraniums my wife told me to water while she was away."

"I hope you didn't take it personally, Vicar, when my husband walked out during your sermon," an embarrassed woman said after a church service. It's not a reflection on you. He's been walking in his sleep ever since he was a child."

## ODD NEWSPAPER ADS.

Now is your chance to have your ears pierced. Get an extra pair to take home.

We do not tear your clothing with machinery. We do it carefully by hand.

Dog for sale: eats anything, fond of children.

For Rent: 6-room hated apartment.

A little girl became restless as the preacher's sermon dragged on and on. Finally, she leaned over to her mother and whispered, "Mommy, if we give him the money now, will he let us go?"

God has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead. (Acts 17: 31)

# EDITORIAL

## WE NEED LESS RELIGION!

A recent survey found that only just over half the UK population is religious. Our first reaction may be that this is bad news, but is it really? First of all, it means that about half the population does have some religious belief. Secondly, religion is not necessarily a good thing.

It was religion that motivated the Crusaders to ravage lands in the Middle East, killing both Muslims and Jews. It was religious people who flew planes into the twin towers. And it was religious people who were responsible for terrorist attacks in Manchester, Egypt and London. Religion has been having a bad press, and many people have become suspicious of religious believers. In America the *Freedom from Religion Foundation* campaigns against schools receiving Gideon Bibles, prayers on state occasions, and any public display of religion. They are, in fact, promoting their own brand of religion — secular humanism.

God often became angry with the Israelites because they thought that, as long as they followed their rituals, it didn't matter if they mistreated the poor and acted unjustly. In fact, God declared that He had no time for such hypocrisy: "I hate, I despise your religious festivals; your assemblies are a stench to me." (*Amos 5: 21*).



The Way of Jesus is not just one among many. Jesus clearly said, "I am the way."

It was religious people who opposed Jesus and eventually had him crucified, and those same religious people opposed the first Christians as they proclaimed the good news of His death and resurrection. Jesus didn't come to start a new religion, but a new way of life. He said, "I am the way and the truth and the life." (*John 14: 6*). It's fitting that in the Acts of the Apostles the early Christians were described as followers of "The Way." This was a clear break with the old religion.

When Paul visited Athens, he discovered that the people were "very religious" and saw an altar with the inscription "To an unknown God." (*Acts 17: 23*) Paul told the Athenians he had come to introduce them to this unknown God, who had revealed Himself through Jesus. The early Christians were very clear

that the various pagan religions were false, and that Jesus was "the Way." The Church still has the task of proclaiming this life-changing message, which is centred on the death and resurrection of God's only Son, who alone can change the human heart. **What we really need is less religion and more Christianity!**

**"We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in them." (*Acts 14: 15*)**

SUNDAY SERVICES			
June	4th	4.30pm	'Tea-Time' at the Davis Hall
"	11th	<u>11am</u> 6pm	United All-age Service Mr David Herring of Bridgwater
"	18th	6pm	Mr Geoff Chapman
"	25th	6pm	Rev Robert Channon of North Cadbury (H.C.)
July	2nd	4.30pm	'Tea-Time' at the Davis Hall
"	9th	11am 6pm	United All-age Service Mrs Janet Day of Shepton Mallet
"	16th	6pm	Rev Craig Manley (H.C.)
"	23rd	6pm	Rev John Davies of Queen Camel.
"	30th.	<u>5pm</u>	United Songs of Praise and barbecue (H.C.= Holy Communion.)

### CRAIG'S ORDINATION

Our minister, the Rev. Craig Manley, is being ordained on Sunday 25th June at Coventry Cathedral. We have appreciated Craig's ministry over the last two years, and will pray for him as he enters a new phase of his ministry as a fully-ordained minister.



### A PEEP INTO THE PAST

From the *Western Gazette*

**WEST CAMEL:** Collections in the village in connection with Christian Aid week totalled £4. 2s. (*May 26th 1967*)

On Wednesday at the Methodist Church a special meeting was held to mark the reopening of the Schoolroom after redecoration. Mr C Greetham of Enfield was the chairman, and the speaker was Mr H Cox of Weston-super-Mare. Yeovil Salvation Army Women's Choir sang special musical items. The Rev A R Burch thanked all who had helped in arranging

the meeting and in raising money for the redecoration. After the meeting supper was served. (*June 9th 1967*).

At the Methodist Church on Sunday after the evening service, the young people were joined by friends from Somerton. Mr Ian Penny of Galhampton showed colour slides about the "Gospel Place" coffee bar at Bristol. Refreshments were served and the Young People's Group sang items with guitar and banjo accompaniment. (*July 14th 1967*)