



THE
Wesley Fellowship
Bulletin



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THE WESLEY FELLOWSHIP WAS FOUNDED IN 1985

by Herbert McGonigle & William Parkes

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Rev. Dr Arthur Skevington Wood (1986-1993) & Rev. John Lawson (2000-2003)

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A CHANGED PROGRAMME

In the middle of last month we received the worrying news from Devon that our esteemed Wesley Fellowship member, Revd Dr John Haley, had suffered a heart attack. Naturally, we were very concerned indeed to hear this, but somewhat relieved when his wife, Janet, informed us that John had been very well cared for by the team at the hospital, adding that 'their prompt action' meant that he was already 'making a good recovery'. Of course, as many members will realise, John was

also our booked speaker and preacher for the Wesley Fellowship autumn 2011 meeting arranged to take place at Zion Church of the Nazarene in Birmingham on Saturday 29 October. Obviously, with John under his doctor's orders, he would not be able to be with us at the meeting. However, with Janet's email we also received information that indicated that our brother John had been thinking about us even from his sickbed! He had been in touch with his good friend, Revd David A. Hull, and sounded him out to see if he might be available to take John's place at the October WF meeting. As it happens, the WF Executive at their last meeting in August had already discussed the possibility of inviting Mr Hull to speak at a future meeting of the WF, and so they were quick to offer an invitation to Mr Hull - and delighted and grateful when he agreed to speak and preach at such short notice at the meeting in Birmingham on 29 October 2011. Although there will naturally be considerable disappointment that we will not be able to meet our brother John Haley at our next WF meeting, we will pray for John's speedy return to full health, and at a later date hope to be able to invite him to bring his paper and preach at a future meeting of the WF.

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FORTHCOMING MEETINGS OF THE WESLEY FELLOWSHIP

WESLEY FELLOWSHIP 2011 AUTUMN MEETING: 11.00AM-3.00PPM SATURDAY 29 OCTOBER 2011 at Zion Church of the Nazarene, Brearley Street, Handsworth, Birmingham, B21 0JJ. Due to the indisposition of the Rev Dr John M. Haley, MA, the originally published programme has had to be changed. We are pleased to be able to announce that Dr Haley's friend, the **Rev. David A. Hull, MLitt, BTh (Cantab.)**, will be able to speak and preach at the meeting - with the following revised programme: **MORNING LECTURE: "WRESTLING FOR A BLESSING: PERSONAL EXPERIENCE IN THE HYMNS OF CHARLES WESLEY". AFTERNOON SESSION: "A SERMON: FOR THOSE 'CONVINCED OF BACKSLIDING'!". This promises to be a most interesting and challenging day – one not to be missed!** Doors open from 10.30am, ready for a formal and prompt start at 11.00am. The meeting is planned to end by about 3.00pm. Drinks will be provided, please bring your own packed lunch.

We are very grateful to our speaker and preacher, the Reverend David A. Hull, for stepping in at such short notice. He is a Methodist Minister, currently serving as Chaplain to Shebbear College, a Methodist

School in North Devon (with its foundation dating back to 1829). He was previously the minister of seven churches east of St Austell (Cornwall's largest town). A graduate of Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, he trained for the ministry at Wesley House, Cambridge, and held a **Decani Scholarship**¹ at Clare College. David is a trustee of the interdenominational mission organisation **Share Jesus International**², and an Executive Member of **Methodist Evangelicals Together** (MET) - with responsibility for Theology and Research within the organisation. He co-hosts MET's annual '**Digging for Treasure**' expository preaching conferences and is a co-editor (with Mark Reasbeck) of two books³ about expository preaching arising from these conferences. David regularly lectures in Biblical Theology for the **Peninsula Gospel Partnership**⁴, which he also supports as a Board member. With an interest in theology and music, David holds a Master of Letters degree from the University of St Andrews. He is also an Honorary Fellow in Theology at the University of Exeter, and is currently reading for a University of Manchester PhD as a part-time post-graduate student at Cliff College. David's spare time is often devoted to his passion for music. He is also a keen archer (in his youth he was the South West under 13s champion!).

PLEASE: BOOK THE DATE Sat. 29 Oct. 2011 - HAVE THIS MEETING ANNOUNCED AT YOUR CHURCH – USE THE ENCLOSED FLYER - PLAN TO COME -- BRING FRIENDS – ALL ARE WELCOME!

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¹ A Decani Scholarship is an award at Clare College, open to students in any field of Christian theology with a commitment to Christian ministry and interested in playing an active part in assisting the Dean to promote the life and ministry of the College Chapel. Normally it is awarded to graduates who have been approved for a course of studies leading to a PhD degree in the University of Cambridge.

² Share Jesus International, founded in 2000 by the late Rev Dr Rob Frost, is a London based organisation, passionate about communicating the good news about Jesus in our ever-changing times and responsible for pioneering scores of projects every year, such as short term missions, short films, youth leadership development courses, and campaigns challenging a binge drinking culture.

³ Namely: *Digging for Treasure: Restoring Confidence in Expository Preaching for the Twenty-first Century*, Ilkeston, 2009; and *Digging for Treasure: Preaching Jesus from the Whole Bible*, Ilkeston, 2010).

⁴ The 'Peninsula Gospel Partnership' is a network of evangelical Christians and Churches in Devon and Cornwall who long to see a Christ-centered, Bible-teaching, people-loving church available to every community in Devon and Cornwall.

WESLEY FELLOWSHIP SPRING 2012 MEETING: 11.00AM-3.00PM, ON SATURDAY 31ST MARCH 2012 at Zion Church of the Nazarene, Brearley Street, Handsworth, Birmingham, B21 0JJ. The title of the Paper for the morning session is 'The Wesleys and World Mission', the afternoon session will include a sermon on a holiness theme. **The speaker in the morning session and preacher in the afternoon session will be (DV) Revd Doug Atherton, the UK Executive Director of One Mission Society (OMS).** His office is based in Manchester. Doors open from 10.30am, ready for a formal and prompt start at 11.00am. Drinks will be provided, please bring your own packed lunch. **Everyone is warmly invited** – please bring friends.

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THE WESLEY FELLOWSHIP AUTUMN 2012 MEETING IS PLANNED AS A RESIDENTIAL CONFERENCE/HOLIDAY TO BE HELD FROM MONDAY EVENING 29 OCTOBER 2012 TO FRIDAY MORNING 2 NOVEMBER 2012 at the lovely venue of St Winifreds, on Marine Drive, Rhos-on-Sea, North Wales, LL28 4NL. The theme will be 'Wesley's Preachers through Three Centuries'. **PLEASE NOTE THE DATES - AND PLAN TO COME!**

St. Winifreds can accommodate up to 60 guests and is situated in a superb location right on the sea front. The sun lounge overlooks panoramic views of the Irish Sea, and you can walk out of the front door and be immediately on the level scenic promenade close to the harbour, shops and cafes in Rhos-on-Sea, as well as being only a short drive from the Snowdonia National Park – or other attractive seaside towns such as Colwyn Bay, Llandudno, and historic Conwy. **Mr Alistair Barclay, the WF Treasurer/Secretary has provided the following update on arrangements for this event. He writes:**

"Having now received the tariffs for 2012 from St. Winifreds we are able to give further details about our 2012 Holiday/Conference. There will be full-board for those attending, with a three-tier charge system based on choice of room accommodation: £155 per person for ensuite (shower, toilet and basin); £145 per person for partial ensuite (toilet & hand basin); and £135 per person for Standard Room (no ensuite facilities). These prices (which work out at about £3.00 per person, saved each week, between now and the conference!) will be financially viable as long as we have at least 40 people attending. Also, a group of that size will

enable us to have St. Winifreds for our sole use. Of course we want *more* than 40 to attend the conference and to maximise the use of all the rooms available. Unfortunately there are only two single rooms available and therefore it would help us to achieve a high attendance if people would, where possible, arrange to share. One room has three beds and another has four, the rest are either twin-bedded or double-bedded rooms. Your assistance in helping to maximise attendance would be appreciated. **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND A BOOKING FORM PLEASE CONTACT THE TREASURER/CONFERENCE CO-ORDINATOR - ALISTAIR BARCLAY, TELEPHONE No. 01142301439 OR MOBILE 07777688394.**

There are various straightforward ways of getting to St Winifreds – it may be possible to share transport. By car the scenic A55 North Wales dual carriageway (which links directly with the British motorway system) runs very close to St Winifreds. By coach or rail the nearest station or drop off point is Colwyn Bay. From there, lifts could be arranged - or taxis are available to bring you the short drive to St Winifreds. From Ireland it's possible to fly or sail to Liverpool, or sail to Holyhead, and from there to either drive (about 50 miles to St Winifreds), or take the train or coach. **Details of the programme are still being finalised but it is hoped that the general theme will be 'Wesley's Preachers through three Centuries'; at least two speakers are already booked, Revd Dr Andrew J. Cheatle and Revd Douglas Atherton.** Dr Cheatle is Lecturer in Pastoral Theology at Liverpool Hope University (and, as a world expert on Dr William Edwin Sangster, will be speaking on Sangster. Interestingly, the conference venue is particularly appropriate – because in the 1920s Sangster, as a young Methodist minister, was sent to Wales to take up his first ministerial appointment with joint responsibility for two churches, one in Rhos-on-Sea and the other about seven miles away in Conwy). Mr Doug Atherton (who during the conference will also be preaching and leading devotions), is the UK Executive Director of One Mission Society (OMS). He is a leader of the OMS UK office team based in Manchester, involved in recruiting, training, sending and supporting people called by God to serve the mission fields of the world. Born in Liverpool, in 1964 he worked in the Civil Service before studying theology and history, and going on to pastor several churches. Doug has

served on the OMS UK Board for over 15 years and is married with two adult daughters.

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REPORT by Wesley Fellowship Member, Denis Haywood on the Wesley Fellowship meeting held on Saturday 9 April 2011 at Zion Church of the Nazarene, Handsworth, Birmingham:

John Gibby chaired the meeting and warmly welcomed everyone including the speaker and preacher, Revd Paul Smith, MA, Superintendent Minister at Plymouth Methodist Central Hall. Following devotions, including prayer (which did not forget those absent through illness - in particular the Revd Dr Herbert McGonigle, who had been *particularly* looking forward to meeting his former student and hearing him speak and preach), the Revd Paul Smith delivered his paper, entitled, 'Hester Ann Rogers: A Witness to Revival'. He gave a most interesting and challenging account of the life of Hester Ann Rogers, née Roe (1756-1794). We learnt that some of her letters and her unpublished diary and journals are held at the John Rylands Library, Manchester, and have never been fully transcribed. Hester was the daughter of an Anglican Minister, Rev Norman Roe, and her early years were influenced by strict Puritan piety. Hester wrote many letters and recorded deep spiritual reflections in her journal, which spoke of her very deep commitment to the Lord and remain a challenge to anyone who reads them even today. Following visits by Wesley to her home town of Macclesfield, Methodism was present in small numbers from the mid-1740s, and Hester first became connected with these Methodists when they occasionally met for Anglican worship at the recently built Christ Church. But Hester's father was reported to be 'too proud to be seen in a Wesleyan gathering' and she suffered persecution and rejection by her parents. Hester first met Wesley in 1776 and her correspondence with him, and her writings with and about him, reveal glimpses otherwise unrecorded about his life. Hester also met Fletcher of Madeley and other preachers associated with Wesley, and she later came to know the family of a Methodist preacher, James Rogers (1749-1807), when he came to Macclesfield with his wife and two children. After the death of his first wife in 1784 he and Hester Roe were married. Soon after, Rogers was sent by Wesley first to Dublin and then Cork, where, well supported by his wife Hester, revival broke out and the

societies grew rapidly. In 1790, Wesley called the Rogers to London and James became an assistant preacher at City Road and Ann worked as housekeeper for John Wesley. Both Hester and her husband were present when Wesley died in 1791. The vivid presentation of the paper and the interesting answers to questions left us all wanting to learn even more. Following devotions (including powerful words of testimony from Pim Gibby recounting her experiences of illness from cancer), Revd Paul Smith in the afternoon session opened an exposition on 'Life in the Spirit' based on Romans 8: 5 - 17. This teaching reminded us of the difference between living under the Law and living under life in the Spirit. We were reminded further that it is through Christ's redeeming work on the Cross that God's gift of righteousness is given, enabling all to be purified to live as Spirit filled Christians today. We were blessed by this sound teaching straight from the heart of God expounded through His Word, which reminded us that with God's grace and mercy, and with the power of the Holy Spirit in us, we can be enabled to be more effective servants of the Risen Christ.

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OUR CONGRATULATIONS GO TO OUR WF CHAIRMAN, REVD DR HERBERT MCGONIGLE, who this year will be formally presented with the prestigious **Eurasia Region's Award for Excellence in Theological Education** (the 'Dr. Hugh Rae Lifetime Award') at the Nazarene Theological College graduation service at the Whitworth Hall of the University of Manchester on Saturday 22 October 2011.

BOOK NOTICES

William Gibson and Geordan Hammond (eds.), *Wesley and Methodist Studies*. Volume 3. (Manchester: Didsbury Press, 2011. Pbk. £8.00. pp.173. ISBN 97809552507-4-3).

This is the very welcome third volume - and by far the largest so far - in this most attractive (and surprisingly inexpensive) series of varied length peer-reviewed scholarly essays (more than eight of which are in this edition) that set out to examine aspects of the life and work of the Wesleys, their contemporaries, their historical and theological antecedents, and their successors in the Wesleyan tradition. The discerning and informative scholarly book reviews (seven in this edition) are now a growing and worthwhile addition to this series. Of particular value is Arthur Alan Torpy's succinct

annotated account of his discovery and later re-transcription of what was, until recently, a completely undocumented manuscript of ‘Samuel Wesley’s Letter to Mr Smith, 1696’. It is a significant addition to our understanding of the Rector of Epworth - and an exemplary example of how such a manuscript should be dealt with and published as a reliable and trustworthy resource available to all.

Henry D. Rack (ed.) *The Works of John Wesley. Volume 10. The Methodist Societies: The Minutes of Conference. [The Bicentennial Edition]* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2011. Hbk. £38.99. pp. i-xxiv + 1046. ISBN 978-1-4267-1190-9).

Dr Henry Rack’s international reputation as an outstanding Wesley scholar and historian was made with the 1989 publication of his monumental study of John Wesley, *Reasonable Enthusiast*. His masterly editing of this present bulky edition of all extant copies remaining of the Minutes of Conferences held in Britain during Wesley’s lifetime can only enhance this reputation – making it certain that scholars beyond the twenty-first century will note Dr Rack’s name with gratitude for providing a richly annotated, reliable text of these important and revealing eighteenth-century organisational meetings of Wesley with his invited preachers and friends. The Irish Minutes are included in an appendix, but American Minutes have been omitted (partly because they were not directly controlled by Wesley himself). If one wants to measure the magnitude and value of Rack’s editorial work in producing this superb volume, it is worthwhile reading an excellent article by Wesley F. Swift on ‘The “Minutes of Conference”’⁵, in which he describes how complex is the history, and haphazard was the recording, of the Minutes during Wesley’s time, thereby forcing a would-be-editor to grapple with problems galore - such as the ‘Manuscript’, ‘Printed’, ‘Missing’, ‘Doctrinal’, ‘Disciplinary’, ‘Large’, and the unreliable ‘collected 1812’ versions of Conference minutes. Indeed, until now, the ‘best’ edition of the Minutes available to scholars was ‘The “Revised” 8vo Edition of 1862’ - but this is so scarce that many libraries are without a copy. Of course, there were errors even in *that* text, and unlike Henry Rack’s wonderful new critical edition, the 1862 edition had practically no editorial introduction or scholarly notes – and certainly no index! Rack records the help he received from the ‘few notes’ that came to him from the late Dr John Bowmer (who was originally assigned as editor for Volume 10, initially scheduled for publication in 1992). He also acknowledges help from others, stating his ‘greatest debt’ is to the late Professor Frank Baker – who supplied him with a ‘meticulous text’ and ‘numerous notes and suggestions’.

Bill Graham

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⁵ See *Proceedings of the Wesley Historical Society*, vol. 21, part 7, (September 1958), 155-160.