



## A MIDSUMMER'S DAY MESSAGE

Last Christmas, as is the custom each year, the leaders of the political parties release an appropriate message. David Cameron was applauded for talking about Christian Values.

To be topical in one of the services I was leading early in the New Year, the congregation and myself considered what we thought were Christian Values.

At the time of writing this, Easter has just passed and on the Government's web site, the Prime Minister, David Cameron has sent out his Easter Message: - *"Easter is a message of hope to the millions of Christians in our country and all around the world"*.

And Christian Values again feature because *"they have helped to make our country what it is today"*. He goes on

to name them: -

*"responsibility, hard work, charity, compassion and pride in working for the common good and honouring the social obligations we have to one another."*

So I say well done to him for raising again the important matter of Christian Values.

The first festival I'm aware of in this magazine's edition is Midsummer's Day, 24th June. A Quarter Day in the legal calendar, but for "pagans" it is very important.



Stonehenge of course is centre stage to mark that the days are starting to get shorter, winter is on its way. Though for most of us we've still got to have our summer holidays!

The values most of us hold dear in this country, whether we are Christian, Humanist, Atheist, Muslim or something else have been passed down to us through the message of Christ. The mes-

sengers along the way may have distorted it, but the true message always gets through and like it or not, the values and standards for us to aspire to are engrained in our culture.

So what Christian Values came out of that service last January?

The overriding principle is Jesus' words : - *"Love the Lord your God and love your neighbour as yourself."* An alternative for the second half is often:- *"Treat others as you want to be treated yourself."*

So we listed in no particular order:- **Kindness – Caring – Respect – Sacrifice – Feeding the Hungry – Humility – Respond to Need – Contentment with our lot – Justice for Those without a Voice – Honesty.**

And there are many more which can be added. How-

ever there are two further ones which may be considered the most difficult to follow: -

**Repentance:** The need to say "Sorry" to God for wrongs done and saying "Sorry" to those who've been wronged. Easy to say "Sorry" but harder to mean it.

Our attempts to put right those wrongs show God whether we really mean "Sorry".

**Forgiveness:** This can be given unconditionally. When it happens,

it amazes us, and helps restore our faith in human nature. Sometimes unfortunately forgiveness is not given or returned even when genuine remorse is shown.

So my Midsummer's Day message is this: - *"Let the light of Jesus Christ brighten up a good summer's day, to the same intensity as it should, during those dark wintry times."*



May the love God gives to us radiate the love we show to those around us. Allow the Holy Spirit to make Christian Values shine, so we can see God's glory and His love all around us.

May we be inspired to be part of a Midsummer Dream

where people of all Faiths and Beliefs show **Respect** to each other, so together it shines as a beacon making Reconciliation, Peace and Harmony a Reality in this divided and fractious world."

**John Harbron**



## Letter from the Superintendent

Dear Friends

Many of you reading this letter will know what it is like to have no living parent.

Some of us lost our parents early in life and some much later, some were raised from birth by foster or adoptive parents, others may have had house parents in an institution. Until my Mum died in April I had never known what it was like to not have a parent alive. I half-jokingly said that I was an orphan.

According to common usage my statement was not true: an orphan is 'a child whose parents are dead', and I am not a child. Or am I?

It seems to me that childhood is not very far away, however old we are, and our memories take us there readily. It may be that we have seen a few things, done a few things, achieved a few things, hopefully learned a few things, and have a certain amount of maturity, but underneath all that there is still the little child. This idea is captured poignantly in the words of the hymn "*Take this moment, sign, and space*" by John Bell and Graham Maule (Singing the Faith 513): "*Take the little child in me, scared of growing old...*"

The hymn is a prayer to God in which the writers offer to God all that they are and have: their time, skills,

tiredness, hopes and fears, and this includes the child inside and all its vulnerabilities. It is an honest hymn-prayer, and one which I feel sure is acceptable to God.

God calls us God's children, and in Jesus we see the example of one who speaks to God as Abba, that is, Father. Jesus not only addresses God with that familial term 'Abba' but calls us to approach God's kingdom 'as little children', for it belongs to such as these. When the

time approached for Jesus to leave the disciples he promised that he would not leave them as orphans, but would give his Spirit by which they will find their place in God's family, and in Paul's letter to the Romans, chapter 8, it is made clear:

*For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God...When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our*

*spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ....*

These promises apply equally to us today as to the early disciples. We are to approach God as God's children, adopted into his family forever. So, I may have lost my last parent, Mum, but I

am not orphaned - I am a child of God!

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the

cards, letters, phone calls, hugs and prayers that I received after Mum's death. They really did make a huge difference. Thank you!

Love and blessings  
**Rev Sue**

## Rolling Reports from the March 2016 Circuit Meeting

### **Newtown**

Outreach is our aim at Newtown as we continue to provide friendship to all we meet including those on the street, at Coffee mornings, at Ladies Friendship and at Sunday Lunches. Anyone in need we try to help with understanding and Christian love, whoever they may be.



Bible Study takes place at 2pm on the 1st & 3rd Monday in the month - all welcome.

We support the Salvation Army food bank and provide driver and helper for Meals on Wheels during August. For six months a Local then a National Charity receive donations along with any world appeal for those in need. Gardening donations go towards our outdoor needs.

New lighting in the hall is now completed. At the moment we are working to clear the cost of the new flooring in the foyer before moving on to the next project.

Synod, Circuit and events in other Churches are supported whenever possible, as we believe that by working together, others may come to know the love of Christ.

***Sheila Pollard***

### **Pentre Llifior**

Currently we have 10 members who are often joined by three young adults (family members) based at Aberystwyth University. All have contributed to the effectiveness of our mission through their companionship and support for each other. That support has meant a chapel, virtually derelict and facing closure in 1999, now looks to the future with ever growing confidence. A future

under-pinned by an initial focus on heritage and a developing ability to “tell our story”, thereby attracting visitors and extra funding - action leading to improvements way beyond the imaginings of a congregation of three nearly 20 years ago!

The bar to progress had been the poor state of the chapel and lack of facilities so we are extremely grateful for the Circuit’s past and continuing financial support. Completion of our latest improvements will give us a chapel “fit for purpose” with greater potential for advancement.

Presently, we open once a month on Saturday mornings (bacon buddies) for locals and passers-by. From April to September we also open on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, so that visitors and tour groups may enjoy refreshments and learn something of our story. Major aims for the

next two years are to significantly increase visitor numbers and attract passing cyclists using National Cycle Route 81. Also in hand is another booklet “Telling the Story of the Rev James Buckley” and another detailing the history of the chapel.



Heritage aside, we have not lost sight of what we are, namely a working chapel serving the local community and a contributor to the mission of Methodism in this Circuit.

Helping those in need is a priority and recently we have assisted the Salvation Army, Penrith (via the Cumbria Flood appeal), Wateraid (paying for a well in Ethiopia) and Methodist Women in Britain.

The need to integrate more fully with the local community is another serious issue for us and the All-Age Cell Group worship and House Group sessions may prove to be invaluable. A plan of action is being formulated.

Finally, it can be illuminating to see what people outside think of us. Comments in our Visitors' Book frequently include "spiritual" and "inspirational" as well as astonishment at the quality of the restoration. One hiccup last year was a "compliment" by a visitor on the hardness of the pews -

this will be dealt with and the lady thanked for her helpful suggestion. Clearly we must up our game so that the chapel's ethos "*Let friendship continue and be not forgetful to entertain strangers*" can be preserved!

**Andrew Mathieson**

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## Follow Jesus

**T**he disciple aims to live like his master  
To care for others as Jesus did  
To accept people and to love them as Jesus did  
To have time for people, especially any in need  
To be a light in the world by living a life of truth, honesty and compassion as Jesus did

*From What's the Point? by Norman Warren*



**S**how me the way, not to fortune and fame,  
Not how to win laurels and praise for my name,  
But show me the way to spread the great story  
That Thine is the kingdom and power and the glory.

*Helen Steiner Rice*

*Submitted by Doreen Robinson, Newtown*



## Ministers

Chair of the Synod: Rev Dr Stephen Wigley  
Superintendent: **Rev Sue Lawler**, B Sc, Dip Th  
The Manse, Brookfield Rd, Welshpool,  
SY21 7PY 01938 552794  
reverendsue@btopenworld.com  
Minister: **Rev Bob Thomas** B Th  
Supernumerary: Rev J Michael Taylor BD, BA  
Supernumerary: Rev John W Newbury

## Local Preachers

Mr T M Jobling OBE  
Mrs E Jobling  
Mr J Reohorn  
Mr G Smith  
Mrs E Williams  
Mrs D McNulty  
Mrs M Douglas  
Mrs J Thomas  
Mr J Harbron

## Worship Leaders

Mr A Bradburn  
Mrs A Bradburn

## Readers

Mrs E Stephens  
Mr I Morris

## Visiting Preachers

Rev P Burkill  
Mr N Evans  
Rev J Hurd  
Roger Jones & Christian Music Ministry  
Mr G Evans  
Rev D Francis  
Mr B Rowell

Church	Times	05-Jun	12-Jun	19-Jun	26-Jun
& Hymn		10th Sun in Ord	Methodist Homes Sun	12th Sun in Ord	13th Sun in Ord
Books		Luke 7:11-17	Luke 7:36-8:3	Luke 8:26-39	Luke 9:51-62
Welshpool	9.00			Lawler HC	
H ON	10.45	Francis LA	Lawler HC	E Jobling	Roger Jones & CMM
SIF WB	6.00	@ Newtown	WCT @ UB	T Jobling	No service
Cefn	10.00	E Jobling BC			
H ON	7.00			22nd Lawler HC	29th T Jobling
P Lliffor	2.30	G Evans	AACG	Lawler HC	AACG
H SIF WB					
Newtown	10.30	G Evans	Harbron	Lawler	B Thomas HC
H SIF WB	6.00	B Thomas HC	T Jobling	B Thomas	Lawler
Llanidloes	10.30	Harbron	B Thomas HC UM	T Jobling	E Jobling
H ON WB					
Caersws	10.30	UB	Burkill	B Thomas HC	T Jobling
H WB					
Trefeglwys	10.00	B Thomas HC	@ Llawryglyn	J Thomas	@ Llawryglyn
H M					
Llawr Y Glyn	2.30	@ Trefeglwys	B Thomas HC	@ Trefeglwys	Joblings
H WB					
Llangurig	2.30	B Thomas HC	15th at 7pm		
H WB			Service of Thanksgiving		

Visit [www.wbmethodists.org.uk](http://www.wbmethodists.org.uk) for any changes to the Plan

03-Jul	10-Jul	17-Jul	24-Jul	31-Jul
Conference Sun	Action for Children Sun	16th Sun in Ord	17th Sun in Ord	18th Sun in Ord
Luke 10:1-11,16-20	Luke 10:25-37	Luke 10:38-42	Luke 11:1-13	Luke 12:13-21
		Lawler HC		
N Evans	Smith	G Evans	Wigley HC	Lawler UM
Taylor HC	WCT @ New Street	Harbron	Lawler	E Jobling
Rowell LA BC				
	13th Lawler	20th Lawler HC	27th E Jobling	3rd Aug Lawler
N Evans	AACG	Lawler HC	AACG	Rowell
Smith	N Evans	Lawler HC	Taylor	E Jobling
B Thomas HC	Rowell LA	Burkill	Wigley	Lawler
P & P	Lawler HC	T Jobling	Smith	Harbron
J Thomas UM	Harbron	E Jobling	Lawler HC	T Jobling
B Thomas HC	@ Llawryglyn	Harbron	@ Llawryglyn	Smith
@ Trefeglwys	Lawler HC	@ Trefeglwys	N Evans	@ Trefeglwys

Church	Times	07-Aug	14-Aug	21-Aug	28-Aug
& Hymn		19th Sun in Ord	20th Sun in Ord	21st Sun in Ord	22nd Sun in Ord
Books		Luke 12:32-40	Luke 12:49-56	Luke 13:10-17	Luke 14:1, 7-14
Welshpool	9.00			Taylor HC	
H ON	10.45	T Jobling	Lawler HC	Rowell LA	Harbron
SIF WB	6.00	Lawler Comp	B Thomas WCT	Hurd LA	G Evans Hymn Sing
Cefn	10.00	Lawler BC			
H ON	7.00		17th T Jobling	24th Taylor HC	31st Lawler
P Lliffor	2.30	AACG	Lawler HC	AACG	E Jobling
H SIF WB					
Newtown	10.30	J Thomas	G Evans P & P	T Jobling	B Thomas HC
H SIF WB	6.00	B Thomas HC	Smith	B Thomas	@ Welshpool
Llanidloes	10.30	B Thomas HC	T Jobling	E Jobling	J Thomas
H ON WB					
Caersws	10.30	UP	N Evans	B Thomas HC	Smith
H WB					
Trefeglwys	10.00	@ Llawryglyn	B Thomas HC	@ Llawryglyn	Lawler
H M					
Llawr Y Glyn	2.30	E Jobling	@ Trefeglwys	B Thomas HC	@ Trefeglwys
H WB					
Llangurig					
		Visit <a href="http://www.wbmethodists.org.uk">www.wbmethodists.org.uk</a> for any changes to the Plan			

# REFERENCES USED IN THE PLAN

## BOOKS

H Hymns and Psalms  
M Methodist Hymn Book  
ON Methodist Hymns Old & New  
S The Source  
StF Singing the Faith  
WB Methodist Worship Book

## UNITED SERVICES

UA at Anglican  
UB at Baptist  
UM at Methodist  
UP at Presbyterian  
URC at URC  
UW at Welsh Chapel

## SERVICES

AA All Age Worship  
AACG All Age Cell Group  
ATS Afternoon Tea Service  
BAP Baptism  
BC Breakfast Church  
BTCS Back to Church Sunday  
CA Chapel Anniversary  
CHS Community Hymn Singing  
CMM Christian Music Ministries  
Cov Covenant  
CS Carol Service  
FF Flower Festival  
HC Holy Communion  
HF Harvest Festival  
Jub Jubilate  
LA Local Arrangement  
P&P Prayer and Praise  
SKS Sankey Service  
SoP Songs of Praise  
SS Sectional Service  
WCT Welshpool Churches Together  
UnS Circuit United Service

## OTHER

T Transport Required

## WE KNOW FINE WELL

**What in heaven's name do we mean when we pray every day, 'Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven'? What does that mean?**

We know fine well what the Kingdom values are, in broad precept if not in detail, and they're not about narrow religious issues, they're about the basic stuff of human life. They're the stuff of the Sermon on the Mount.

The kingdom values are about money and possessions and power and sex and violence and security; about war; about how we treat our neighbour; about how we treat our enemy. Fine well we know God's will and we cannot hide behind ignorance.

We know God's will about flowers blooming in wilderness places, about the blind being able to see, the deaf hearing, the lame leaping

and dancing and the dumb shouting aloud. It's about drug addicts and AIDS sufferers and the homeless young in 'cardboard cities' being valued and brought in from the cold.

God's will is about those who are 'rubbished' and dismissed being treasured; it's about the powerful being brought to heel; about the first being last and the last first.

It's good news to the poor; about feeding the hungry and clothing the naked; about liberty to the captives and setting free the oppressed; about the time having come when the Lord will save his people.

These are the Kingdom values; that is the Kingdom agenda and we know it well. We cannot hide behind ignorance. We cannot say we do not know ... we know, fine well!

*Erik Cramb*  
*Member of the Iona community,*  
*Glasgow*  
**Submitted by Terry Jobling**

## JULIAN MEETING

### “Be still and know that I am God”

The prayer of loving attention; contemplative prayer; the prayer of silence; the prayer of the heart – all these describe a way of praying which many people find to be the best way for them. As they pray they are waiting on God in silence, listening to Him, resting in Him.

Our words, our thoughts, our thanks and praise, our requests, our saying sorry are all important, but these need to be balanced by times of listening to God. In any conversation or relationship we need both to speak and to listen.

Julian Meetings are ecumenical groups of people who meet together regularly to practise silent contempla-

tive prayer. Some members have no formal church links, but most belong to a congregation.

At a Julian Meeting we sit in a circle and relax in the presence of God. A short devotional reading, or some music, leads into a time of silent prayer, with a cross or candle in the centre to focus on as we open ourselves to God and wait on Him. We tend to depart in the silence.



If you are interested come along to Glandwr, Milford, Newtown SY16 3HD on: Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June at 2.30pm and/or Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> August at the same time.

Please contact  
Jenny Thomas on  
01686 625690  
if you plan to come.

Details of Julian Prayer can be found on the website: - [www.julianmeetings.org](http://www.julianmeetings.org)

## Mary Anoints Jesus John 12:1-8.

*Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?' (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it). Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.'*

## A Reflection

Amidst the noise of the kitchen and the conversation of the men, you would think that quiet, inconspicuous Mary would simply fade into the background. But quiet Mary steps forward and performs an extravagant act symbolic of friendship, service, and love for Christ.

In Mary's hands is a flask containing a pound of extremely expensive perfume made from the roots of the spikenard plant. It's worth at least a year's labour.

Spontaneously Mary kneels before Jesus, pours the perfume on his feet, and wipes them with her unbound hair. The room that once smelled of baked bread and traveling men is now filled with the smell of perfume and the sweetness of Mary's extravagant devotion.

This is an act of deep love for a friend, performed while there is still time, and it foreshadows Jesus' own act of washing the feet of the disciples out of his love for



them. Such loving sacrifice brings eternal hope. We, like Mary of Bethany, can anoint the body of Christ, while there's still time, we too can bring hope.

Can you smell the sweet aromas from the various ointments? They fill our chapels with their fragrance. For example, there's the 'aroma' of music. It fills the air in hymns and choruses and voices and piano and guitar. Such gifts are the oil of gladness to Christ's body. There's the 'aroma' of art and beauty. It rises up in colours, candles, cross, banners, children's drawings. There are the gifts of time and energy spent on service for Christ, which can be seen as loving gifts to Christ's body.

Then there is the sweet gift of friendship that anoints the body of Christ. Our friendships and unity, as brothers and sisters in Christ, are like the oil that the Psalmist refers to, that drips down the beard of Aaron (Ps 133:2).

With Mary, we offer our gifts: the sweet aroma of service to the body of Christ. How sweet is the sacrifice of time spent caring for the children and adults of the church. Not only that, but also, Jesus reminds us, we always have the poor. How fragrant it is to bend down at the feet of Christ, present in the poor and needy, and anoint them with hope.

But it is not only the poor and needy who need hope. When we answer the call, like Mary, to anoint the body of Christ, through our gifts, our love, our friendship, and our service we thereby bring hope to the church itself.

There is, then, something that is both exemplary and lasting in Mary's anointing of Jesus at Bethany. It was above all an anointing of the body of Christ with hope. The church is known as the body of Christ, and when we are lavish in our fragrant offerings to others the whole church is filled with the sweet aroma of hope.

*Rev Sue*

# Young People's Page

## Butterfly Word Search

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;  
the old has gone, the new has come!

2 Corinthians 5:17



J J T L Y K C S M H B Z I Z K  
T V P Q D T H T L A R V A P B  
T N Z C B O A Y M O G V L G W  
Y J Y N A F N H E G G Y I G K  
R C J Q X T G G S P L J U O W  
C Y F B L S E I N F W K X A X  
W C X A G B L R R F L S B U T  
F L V N C A F E P U I A B P P  
E E I G S E T L F I N D W U O  
L W R Y M T I I O O L U K P X  
U E R U U D T L O W A L U A H  
R H A B Q U E C L N E T A M Y  
C S M V A N O I G Y E R K R B  
Q U N E E C D I N S E C T N H  
G S B O A S M O T H P Y F H I



butterfly  
pupa  
chrysalis  
egg

cocoon  
cycle  
adult  
moth

wings  
caterpillar  
change  
beautiful

leaves  
flower  
insect  
larva

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☺ Knock, knock. (Who's there?) Tank.  
(Tank who?) You're welcome!

☺ Knock, knock. (Who's there?) Canoe.  
(Canoe who?) Canoe come out and  
play?

☺ Knock, Knock. (Who's there?) Boo.  
(Boo Who?) Why are you crying?

☺ Knock, Knock. (Who's there?) Or-  
ange. (Orange Who?) Orange you  
glad this is the last knock, knock joke?

## Dates for your Diary

- ◆ **Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2.30pm at Glandwr, Milford Road, Newtown**  
Julian Prayer Meeting. Contact Jenny Thomas on 01686 625690 if you plan to attend
- ◆ **Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> June, 7pm at Llangurig**  
Final Service of Thanksgiving followed by refreshments
- ◆ **Sat & Sun, 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> June, at Welshpool**  
Roger Jones weekend; "Barnabas" on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> rehearsal 1.30pm, performance 7 for 7.30pm. 10.45am on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>: Roger leads worship
- ◆ **Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> July, 5pm at Newtown**  
Annual Summer Circuit Faith Feast
- ◆ **Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> July, from 9.30am at Welshpool**  
"100 Cakes" Stall – proceeds for Christmas Shoeboxes. Drinks and light refreshments available.
- ◆ **Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> August, 8.30am from Welshpool**  
Annual Church Outing (open to all from the town and Circuit) to Stratford on Avon. Phone 01938 850514 to book.
- ◆ **Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2.30pm at Glandwr, Milford Road, Newtown**  
Julian Prayer Meeting. Contact Jenny Thomas on 01686 625690 if you plan on attend
- ◆ **Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> August, from 10am at Welshpool**  
Bank Holiday weekend Coffee Morning, Lunches and Stalls
- ◆ **Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> August, 6pm at Welshpool**  
Annual Community Hymn Singing event led by Gareth Evans

*Please keep the Secretary informed of any events that you plan.*

*Tel. 01938 850514 or email:  
janice@rhodes2236.freeserve.co.uk*

Roger Jones in **Welshpool** directing "Barnabas" Sat 25th June, at 7.30pm with the Christian Music Ministries team and the Jubilate Group plus other singers from the town and Circuit. Worship on Sun 26th June, at 10.45am, led by Roger and the CMM team.

The last service to be held at **Llangurig** will be on Wednesday, 15th June, at 7pm when a final Service of Thanksgiving will take place, followed by refreshments. The members of Llangurig invite all from across the Circuit to join them for this service.



## Editorial

Your magazine needs you! We are not looking for gifted writers, poets or artists but if you've got an anecdote, a prayer, a front cover design or a small message to share with the Circuit please send it in. Have your name in print or stay anonymous...it's your choice. Many thanks to our regular contributors; you are our heroes!

Our next issue covers Autumn and Harvest but we welcome contributions on any Christian theme...it will be Christmas after that!

Contributions are very welcome at any time but for inclusion in the next edition we need them by **1st July** 2016. We are happy to receive articles by post (our address is not printed here for security reasons) or by email — [editors.marlow@btinternet.com](mailto:editors.marlow@btinternet.com) or you can pass to the ministers or stewards.

This magazine is available in glorious technicolour on the Circuit website:

[www.wbhmethodists.org.uk](http://www.wbhmethodists.org.uk)

Those of you with smart phones or tablets can scan this QR code to go straight to the website.



***Bill and Andrea Marlow***