

**Welshpool & Bro Hafren
Methodist Circuit**



**Circuit Magazine & Plan
Sept to Nov 2016**

W elcome to the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness. This is something of a 'fresh expression' for me - last year was the first time I preached harvest in a rural setting. In all my years of ministry I would have been hard pressed to find anyone who could truthfully sing 'We plough the fields and scatter', not that that prevented them from doing so with great gusto. During the course of those years I struggled to find an honest and relevant expression of harvest for suburban Christians none of whom had ever laid a hand on a plough in anger.

Harvest allows us the opportunity to recognise and celebrate the diversity of all creation, even those bits and pieces we struggle with like wasps and slimy snails, all have their place and purpose within the ongoing activity of

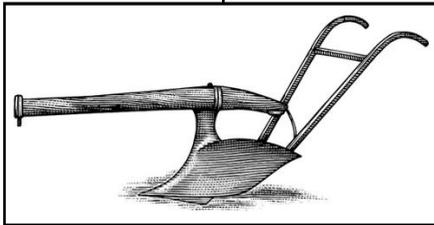
God in our world. James Lovelock some years ago, defined the Gaia hypothesis, presenting the universe as a self-regulating organism, adjusting itself to repair the damage that humankind inflicts upon it by processes of manufacturing and farming.

As our awareness of the world has grown, while the world itself has come to be regarded as a

global village, humankind continues to struggle with the question that inspired the parable of

the Good Samaritan – 'Who is my neighbour?' I trust that before too long we will recognise the interrelatedness and interdependence of all the human race in every country of all the world, and take steps to build the neighbourly relations which make life an altogether more pleasant experience.

At the very least that will require the cessation of armed conflict including those that



are sanctioned and 'legitimised' by the United Nations, and conducted by the so called 'policemen' of the world. At the very least that will require an end to the economic slavery enforced upon the third world by the wealth makers of the first world, the equitable sharing of all the necessities of human life and the technologies which enable and advance them.

To allow the gap between rich and poor to continue to widen will not only bring

down the national economies which allow it to continue unchecked, but will also increase jealousy and lessen safety internationally as well. Bullying whether by means of economic control or force of arms is no indication of respect nor likely to generate a sense of respect among those subjected to it.

Just in case you think that a little difficult let's cut it down to size and bring it closer to home, though I don't think

that'll make it any easier. Perhaps we could try and think of the Welshpool Bro Hafren Circuit, our particular church, as the representation of the world, the particular place where we are required to build the neighbourly relations that will make our experience of church so much more pleasant at the same time making our churches more welcoming places to

be. Here as in all the world there are those with whom we feel ourselves 'at home',

those who generate in us a degree of discomfort, those with whom we disagree so completely that there is almost no sense of common ground between us.

These are the people with whom we are to learn and to practice the love of our neighbour that declares and demonstrates God's love for all the world. We are the people God has given to the world as an indication of God's continuing interest

...to practice the love of our neighbour that declares and demonstrates God's love for all the world.

and activity in the world. It is not necessary for us to be in agreement all the time, but it is necessary for us to be in conversation, listening, speaking, and disagreeing with respect for each other, rather than pursuing our own agendas regardless of what anyone else wants or who gets in the way. We offer what we are able to but

do not feel slighted when our offer is refused. For us at least, the journey and the company in which we travel are as important as the destination.

God bless us all as we travel together.

Rev Bob

Llangurig 1814-2016

A thanksgiving service to celebrate 202 years of Christian witness at Llangurig Methodist Chapel was held on Wednesday, 15th June 2016.

The chapel was packed with barely a seat free as

the roof was almost lifted to the amazing sound of ***"Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son"***.

Rev Bob Thomas, Rev Penny Burkill and Rev Sue Lawler

all contributed to the wonderful service; the guest preacher, Rev Chris Denney gave the address entitled "Thank God for the Memories" which covered the past

successes of this little chapel, with some amusing stories and gave us all hope for a future in Christ.



The organist was Mrs Eirwen Turner and the lesson was read by Mrs Tilly Hughes.

After the service everyone was invited to a superb buffet meal at Church House in the village.



Reflection on an Autumn branch

I think we are very blessed in that our climate offers us such variety. Even in summer we never know from day to day what the weather has in store for us! I enjoy every season and I particularly love the colours of Autumn.

If you are able to, take a good look at an autumn branch. Look closely. See the variety of colours. Some leaves still green: supple, fresh, the last determined reminders of summer potential. Some leaves are turning yellow, gold, orange, red: at the height of maturity: abundantly rich reflections of season's fruitfulness. Some leaves curled and brown: dried and almost finished; ready for winter's sleep.

Signs of transformation: changing seasons on an Autumn branch.

So too are we called to be

transformed. Our bodies - transformed from new-born dependence, growing to youthfulness, maturing to fruitfulness, increasing in frailty, almost finished – yet ever glorious according to God's plan.

Our spirits - shining with the brightness of the face of God, are transfigured much like the Messiah himself; Our lives - becoming brighter and more beautiful as God enters through his Spirit and we become more like him.

Jesus says "I am the vine and you are the branches. When you're joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant" .(Message Bible)

Such it is to be a disciple of Christ: called from glory to glory, step by step, through the seasons of life, and beyond, from the shadows to every brighter light, seeking an ever greater harvest for the Lord.

Rev Sue

Circuit Faith Feast

Hope was the theme for the annual Faith Feast at the beginning of July this year.

It was a time for sharing food, of merriment and laughter, of exercising the brain during the quiz organised by Derek Painter and for **hope** during the worship part of the Feast.

During the service, conducted by Rev Sue, we shared cake and water in loving cups. We considered what gives us **hope** prompted by articles and stories from around the globe. Andrea Davies read a poem entitled **Hope** which she wrote and is printed on the next page.

We shared our **hopes** and notes of hope were placed on the cross. Some of these hopes were:

- ♥ That climate change be ever in the minds of the powers that be for the sake of future generations.
- ♥ This young girl was at the

end of her tether having been rejected, abused and shamed. Her prayer is that she can love herself with the hope of God.

- ♥ Sharing peace, joy and the Christian message via blogs and other social media on the internet.
- ♥ To see the acts of young people giving hope.
- ♥ Sign up! www.national-prayer-weekend.com. Joins the nation in prayer. 23-25 Sept 2016.
- ♥ Only by working and praying together can we hope for the future.
- ♥ My hope for the future is to consider and help each other through good and bad times.
- ♥ God give us hope. I pray that we keep and share that hope in our daily worship and deeds.
- ♥ Hope from people of different faiths and no faith coming together.
- ♥ God answers prayer. Hope is being aware that despite the media there are good people in the world.
- ♥ My hope is after reading what the Lord is saying He wants from us, we do it.

Hope

Against a background of a world that's torn
By greed and hate and ignorance and fear,
Routines of daily life move on.

A baby cries,
A mother smiles,
She holds with love, their new-born child.

A mother dies in daylight, on our streets,
Shot down for her good works and firm beliefs,
Her husband speaks of boundless love.
The wreaths are laid,
Collections made,
Her vibrant spirit will not fade.

When pain and sorrow drain our firm resolve,
Confusion clouds the troubled, sleepless mind.
The promise of tomorrow waits,
A brightening dawn,
A blackbird's call,
The new day is a gift for all.

A narrow crevice on the church's step
Reveals a pansy blooming from the stone,
Unlooked for here, new life that's grown;
Symbolic weed,
The sign we need,
That much may stem from simple deeds.

Against the background of a race that lived
With Roman edicts, the oppressor's law,
Routines of life were changed or gone.
A baby cried,
The world looked on,
Mary held her new-born son.

Andrea Davies, Welshpool

A personal reflection on the Methodist Conference 2016

The Conference is the governing body of the Methodist Church and meets annually to discuss matters affecting the life of the Church, the nation and the world. The 2016 Conference took place from 30 June - 7 July at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, London.

I was very pleased and privileged to be elected to attend Conference this year as a representative of the Wales Synod. I arrived on Wednesday 29th in time for the start of the Presbyteral session the following day. (The Methodist Church has two equal but distinct orders of ministry - Deacons and Presbyters. In our Circuit we tend to call Presbyters 'ministers', though in fact both Deacons and Presbyters are ministers.) Pres-

It is good to know that people are still being called to serve in the Methodist Church as ordained presbyters and deacons.

byteral session runs over two days during which we worship together, confer, receive obituaries and discuss business specific to our ministry.

Conference weekend was a joyous time. The new President, Rev Dr Roger Walton, and Vice-President, Mrs Rachel Lampard MBE, had their inauguration, the ministers who have completed their

probationary ministry were "welcomed into full connexion" during a wonderful service of celebration, and ordination services took place.

I attended the ordination service of Rev Rachel Wheeler from Bridgend which took place in Wesley's Chapel. It is good to know that people are still being called to serve in the Methodist Church as ordained presbyters and deacons.

Roger's theme for his year as president is 'holiness', and Rachel's is 'justice'. Ra-

chel shared words from the Message Bible translation of Amos 5:24: "*Do you know what I want? I want justice - oceans of it. I want fairness - rivers of it. That's what I want. That's all I want*". Powerful prophetic words, as relevant today as 2800 years ago.

The main business of Conference started on Monday 4th July in the representatives' session. This is a fast-moving time of conferring on various agenda items. I draw out a few items to share with you.

1. The Methodist Church Fund assessment is increasing by 1% from £1.25 per member per week to £1.30. This is a relatively small proportion of the assessment paid by churches and goes towards paying for ministry and ministers' pensions.

2. 3Generate: The Methodist Children and Youth Assem-

bly. In 2015 this event had to move to bigger premises as 600 young people aged 8-23 wanted to attend. This is good news! Each of three age groups produced a manifesto and the Conference directs churches, Circuit and districts to engage with the content. How we will do this locally has yet to be arranged.

3. The Marriage and Relationships Task Force presented a resolution that, following responses received from the recent consultations (you may recall the Circuit workshop that you were invited to attend), the Methodist Church would revisit the definition of marriage. A new task force will consult with members and report back to the 2018 conference. Also adopted was the definition on homophobia which will be included in the guidance section of our Constitutional Practice and Discipline (CPD).

" Do you know what I want? I want justice - oceans of it. I want fairness - rivers of it. That's what I want. That's all I want"

4. Safeguarding. The frequency of training is being increased from 5 to 4 years, and the roles that must receive training are being re-defined to include those who represent the church as pastoral visitors.

5. After the Referendum; National Life.

The outcome from this session is reproduced as a statement from Conference and reproduced elsewhere in this magazine.

Representatives from ... across the world attended and many addressed conference passionately and thoughtfully; a reminder that we are one amongst many.

Representatives were housed at student halls of residence at Greenwich. This required travel by some combination of over-ground, underground, DLR and Thames Clipper. I think I tried most combinations and didn't get lost - much.

During Conference a huge Pro-Europe rally took place just outside in Parliament Square and the Chilcot Report was published at the

Queen Elizabeth II Hall next door. An interesting time to be at Westminster.

It was hard-work, great fun and a privilege to be at conference this year and to see the church at work and in its broader context. Representatives from Methodist and other churches across the world attended and many addressed conference passionately and thoughtfully; a reminder that we are one amongst many.

I enjoy being in London and am both invigorated and exhausted by the hustle and bustle. It was with a mixture of relief and sadness that I made my way home to Wales.

For more information see:
www.methodist.org.uk/conference/conference-2016/london-2016/2016-07-06

Rev Sue

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

I write to you from the Methodist Conference in order to act upon a resolution which it passed yesterday afternoon. What follows is the text which the Conference agreed should be read in all our churches this coming Sunday, or as soon as is possible. The statement is also shared on our website www.methodist.org.uk/nationallife where it can be turned into an email which will be automatically sent to your local Member of Parliament. The Conference also encourages the Methodist people to send this letter to their MP. The Conference also encouraged the Methodist people to join the campaign to wear an empty safety pin as a badge symbolising solidarity against racism (please see <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-36661097> for details).

The 2016 Annual Conference of the Methodist Church passed a resolution containing the following text:

The United Kingdom, as a result of the referendum on 23 June 2016, has voted to leave the European Union. In this time of very significant change and uncertainty there is a need for leadership which seeks the common good and encourages people to work together, to respect one another and to uphold the dignity of all.

The Methodist Conference believes that the British Isles are enriched by diversity and celebrates the contribution made by those who have come from other parts of the world.

The Christian tradition calls for respect, tolerance, love of neighbour and hospitality to the stranger. All bear the responsibility of speaking and acting for healing, reconciliation, and mutual respect.

The Methodist Conference abhors and deeply regrets those actions and words which incite hatred and lead to the victimisation of groups within society and

notes with concern that such actions and words have been normalised in recent public discourse. Believing that racism is a denial of the gospel and that to stay silent when others are abused is to collude with those who seek to promote hatred and division, the Methodist Conference calls:

- ◆ on the Methodist people to challenge racism and discrimination.
- ◆ for a political debate which neither demonises any nor leaves the vulnerable (the foreigner, the immigrant and refugee) in danger

of victimisation.

- ◆ on political leaders to work together for the good of the whole community putting the needs of the nation before party politics.
- ◆ on all those in positions of power and authority to hear the voices of those who have been marginalised and alienated and to respond to them in ways which offer real hope for the future.

With gratitude for our continued partnership in the gospel,

Reverend Gareth J Powell

Amos 5:21-24 The Message (MSG)

"I can't stand your religious meetings. I'm fed up with your conferences and conventions. I want nothing to do with your religion projects, your pretentious slogans and goals. I'm sick of your fund-raising schemes, your public

relations and image making.

I've had all I can take of your noisy ego-music. When was the last time you sang to me?

Do you know what I want? I want justice—oceans of it. I want fairness—rivers of it. That's what I want. That's all I want."

Submitted by Rev Sue

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 P Burkill
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

Mr G Evans
Mr N Evans
Rev P Rees
Rev B Rowell

Church	Times	04-Sep	11-Sep	18-Sep	25-Sep
& Hymn		23rd Sun in Ord	24th Sun in Ord	25th Sun in Ord	26th Sun in Ord
Books		Luke 14:25-33	Luke 15:1-10	Luke 16:1-13	Luke 16:19-31
Welshpool	9.00			Lawler HC	
H ON	10.45	P & P	Lawler HC	Rowell	Lawler
Sif WB	6.00	Lawler Comp	WCT @ UW	@ Cefn	N Evans
Cefn	10.00	T Jobling BC			
H ON	6.00		B Thomas	Lawler HC	T Jobling
P Llifor	2.30	T Jobling	AACG	Lawler HF	AACG
H Sif WB					
Newtown	10.30	Lawler	J Thomas	Smith	B Thomas HF HC
H Sif WB	6.00	B Thomas HC	Harbron	B Thomas	Lawler
Llanidloes	10.30	Burkill	UP	B Thomas HC	E Jobling
H ON WB					
Caersws	10.30	@ Llanwnog 11am	B Thomas HC	N Evans	T Jobling
H WB					
Trefeglwys	10.00	B Thomas HC	@ Llawryglyn	T Jobling	@ Llawryglyn
H M					
Llawr Y Glyn	2.30	@ Trefeglwys	Lawler	@ Trefeglwys	B Thomas HC
H WB					
Llangurig					

Visit www.wbhmethodists.org.uk for any changes to the Plan

02-Oct	09-Oct	16-Oct	23-Oct	30-Oct
27th Sun in Ord	28th Sun in Ord	29th Sun in Ord	30th Sun in Ord	31st Sun in Ord
Luke 17:5-10	Luke 17:11-19	Luke 18:1-8	Luke 18:9-14	Luke 19:1-10
		Lawler HC		
Rees HF LA	Harbron	Lawler HC	Jubilate OWW	@ St Mary's
Lawler Comp	WCT @ UB		4pm Lawler ATS	@ Cefn
Lawler BC				
	N Evans	E Jobling	Lawler HC	Harbron
N Evans	AACG	Lawler HC	AACG	G Evans
Burkill	Rowell	E Jobling	B Thomas HC	G Evans
B Thomas HC	T Jobling	B Thomas	Smith	Lawler
Harbron	Smith	B Thomas	Lawler HC	T Jobling
UB	B Thomas HC	Smith	J Thomas	E Jobling
B Thomas HC	@ Llawryglyn	N Evans	@ Llawryglyn	B Thomas HC
@ Trefeglwys	J Thomas HF	@ Trefeglwys	B Thomas HC	@ Trefeglwys

Church	Times	06-Nov	13-Nov	20-Nov	27-Nov
& Hymn		32nd Sun in Ord	Remembrance Sun	Sun before Advent	1st Sun of Advent
Books		Luke 20:27-38	Luke 21:5-19	Luke 23:33-43	Matt 24:36-44
Welshpool	9.00			Lawler HC	
H ON	10.45	B Thomas HC	WCT @ St Mary's	G Evans	J Thomas
SIF WB	6.00	Lawler Comp	4pm Lawler HC		4pm ATS Stewards
Cefn	10.00	E Jobling BC			
H ON	6.00		Smith	Lawler HC	4pm @ Welshpool
P Lliffor	2.30	AACG	B Thomas	AACG	Lawler HC
H SIF WB					
Newtown	10.30	T Jobling	10am Smith	Lawler	B Thomas HC
H SIF WB	6.00	B Thomas HC	Harbron	B Thomas	T Jobling
Llanidloes	10.30	Burkill	Harbron UM	B Thomas HC	E Jobling
H ON WB					
Caersws	10.30	Lawler HC	10am B Thomas UM	Harbron	N Evans
H WB					
Trefeglwys	10.00	@ Llawryglyn	J Thomas UM	@ Llawryglyn	Lawler
H M					
Llawr Y Glyn	2.30	Burkill	@ Trefeglwys	B Thomas HC	@ Trefeglwys
H WB					
Llangurig					
Visit www.wbhmethodists.org.uk 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
OWW One World Week
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

Rolling Reports from the June 2016 Circuit Meeting (Edited versions)

Welshpool

Since our last report our activities have continued to flourish; we have been pleased to welcome more members of our community through our doors, especially to the fortnightly Saturday Friendship Lunches (when it's sometimes hard to squeeze everyone in!), to Friday Fellowship (at one of our meetings, following training we became a 'Dementia Friendly' Church), to our social events (concerts, quiz evenings, talks and suppers, church outings and our new walking group) and to our singing group 'Jubilate'.

Our Sunday worship continues to be very varied, with styles to suit all including Sunday morning ecumenical services when we join with St Mary's either at our church or theirs.

In Autumn 2015 we held a weekly Alpha course which was well received and an-

other is planned for this September. A new group, The Gallery Group, is an important outcome of Alpha providing a 'bridge' between the last Alpha and the next. The simple format of a supper followed by a short video and discussion seems to appeal. We hope that this gentle outreach will attract others.

Our 3 year, £210,000 Development Project is nearing its end and is on budget. Funds have been raised through grant applications, individual donations and many fund-raising activities. Phase 3 has seen the refurbishment of the church with the pulpit transformed into a preaching lectern and table thus opening up the area as a multi-functional space and the installation of a new sound and visual system, desk and screen. The kitchen has been extended and re-fitted, and the toilets refurbished. We have received planning permission for new front doors. Once this work is done, our project will be complete. Now the real work begins as we find new ways

of reaching out to "Celebrate and Share God's Love" with those around us.

Janice Rhodes

Cefn

The last rolling report immediately preceded the plans for our builder to start work. There was slow progress at first because of time taken to "dry the chapel out"! Outside disabled access was provided with tarmac. This tarmac was eventually delivered and put down just as we had a Friday evening service for our Harvest festival! The car park has been slightly enlarged.

Inside we now have the main area divided into two. The front is square and carpeted throughout, this is the worship/activity centre. It is heated by infra red heaters; this is regretted now we live with them. Also, as planned, we have 38 chairs, 10 from Welshpool, for which we are grateful and 28 bought new. We still retain two inbuilt benches for extra seating at special services. All the chairs together with our folding tables were used

when Rev Martin Dawes, one of our former ministers, returned and preached at our Anniversary.

At the back we have a kitchen which is well fitted with a fridge and just about everything we need. Beside the kitchen is a room for the compost toilet which is disabled friendly.

All these changes have at times been bewildering, but we are surviving! Apart from regular services, we now run a monthly coffee morning.

The monthly fellowship meetings with Bible Study still take place in the home of a member. Also the first Sunday in the month is still "Breakfast Church" where we share tea or coffee and toast, followed with a shorter service to which two young boys come. We are now licensed to hold weddings in the presence of the registrar. In August a local couple are going to get married at Cefn! This feels to be an extra blessing for us and we wish them every happiness in the future.

Eileen Jobling

Young People's Page

He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field.

Luke 10:2 (NIV)

In this verse from the Bible, Jesus sent out people to bring in the harvest. The harvest Jesus was talking about was not corn, fruit or vegetables. He was sending out workers to bring people into the kingdom of God.

Jesus is still looking for people who will work for Him and bring people into His kingdom. That is what the church is supposed to do. It won't always be easy. In fact, it will be hard. How about you? **Are you willing to work for Jesus and invite people to come to church?**



*Each number represents a letter of the alphabet.
Substitute the correct letter to reveal the word.*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
E	R	S	P	I	H	L	U	J	T	F	C	D	B	O	K	V	X	Y	A	N	Z	W	M	Q	G

1. 4-8-2-3-1 _____
2. 6-15-8-3-1 _____
3. 6-20-2-17-1-3-10 _____
4. 23-15-2-16-1-2-3 _____
5. 4-7-1-21-10-5-11-8-7 _____
6. 16-5-21-26-13-15-24 _____
7. 3-20-21-13-20-7-3 _____
8. 11-5-1-7-13 _____

Computer Swallowed Grandma

The computer swallowed grandma,
Yes, honestly it's true.
She pressed "control" and "enter"
And disappeared from view.

It devoured her completely,
The thought just makes me squirm.
She must have caught a virus
Or been eaten by a worm.



I've searched through the recycle bin
and files of every kind:
I've even used the Internet,
but nothing did I find.

In desperation, I asked Jeeves
My searches to refine.
The reply from him was negative,
Not a thing was found "online".

So, if inside your "Inbox",
My Grandma you should see,
Please "Copy", "Scan" and "Paste" her
In an email back to me!



©2004 Valerie Waite, Derbyshire.

This is a tribute to all the Grandmas and Grandpas who
have been fearless and learned to use a computer!

They are the greatest! We do not stop playing because we
grow old; we grow old because we stop playing.

Submitted by **Phil-Eve Senior**, Newtown



Letter from the Superintendent

Dear Friends

Someone once said to me, that the greatest gift you can give someone is your time. How true these words were!

The person in question had recently lost his mum and was commenting on how she had been so grateful for the time that members of the church had given to her: providing lifts, running activities, doing fellowship lunches, and so on.

Time, I think, is a bit of a tyrant demanding our attention as it ticks by. We have to do this and be there, and by such-and-such a time of the clock. So the time passes with us in a frenzy of non-attentiveness to anything other than time itself.

We often seem to be far more aware of, and far more wise in the use of, our money than we are our time.

I sometimes play a silly game of stopping my grand-

mother clock, silencing the bongos, and thereby reminding myself that whilst time slips by I do have some say in how I use that which is allotted to me. I usually do this having realised that the items on the to-do list don't fit into the time left to do them in!

"A single minute released from the chronological order of time has recreated in us the human being similarly released." Proust.

Yet, how lovely it is to overcome the tyranny of the clock, by rising above the demands of our busy lives and 'taking time out' to give our full attention (our time) to God and to others. Such offerings on our part are so valuable, and through them very often we can receive wonderful and unexpected blessing.

So let us all be mindful of how we use each moment we are given - spending it wisely: giving it freely to others.

God bless you all

Sue

Stationing

Many of you will be aware that generally a presbyter (aka a minister) is stationed to a Circuit for a period of five years. At the end of the fourth year discussions take place about what will happen to the minister and Circuit when the five years is completed. It is part of Methodist discipline for ministers to accept 'itinerancy', the act of travelling from place to place, and the system of rotation governing the ministry of the Methodist Church.

I was first stationed to the Welshpool & Bro Hafren Circuit in September 2007, working half time in our Circuit and half time in the Powys Circuit, part of Synod Cymru. After my fourth year I was asked to consider becoming the superintendent of the Welshpool & Bro Hafren Circuit. I did consider this carefully and decided it was the right thing to do and so I became superintendent in September 2012.

Now once again the time has arrived for me to consider what will happen in 2017 when my five years is completed. After careful prayer, and discussion with Rev Dr Stephen Wigley, our Chair of District, and having considered my own needs and those of the Circuit, I have come to the conclusion that I should seek a new appointment elsewhere in the Connexion beginning September 2017. This will give the Circuit the opportunity to seek someone new to take-up appointment when I leave. The Circuit looks and feels a different place to when I joined in 2007, but now it is time for someone with fresh ideas to build on what has been achieved over the last 10 years.

In November ministers that are due to move, visit their prospective new Circuits. This November I shall visit somewhere as yet unknown and it is hoped that another minister will visit us with a view to joining us here.

But this is a way off yet, and although my last Harvest, Christmas, Covenant Service and Easter in the Circuit will be poignant for me as I steel myself to move on, yet we should remember that we

are all called to be pilgrims on our life-journey in faith with God.

Rev Sue.



In the garden of the heart
Grow seeds of love and trust
Where honesty proliferates
Where all is kind and just
A garden warm and comforting
Welcoming and splendid
Where those who gladly step inside
Are nurtured and defended.

A garden that will fortify
Compassionate and sweet
A place of strength and tenderness
A sure and safe retreat
In the garden of the heart
Enwrapped in love and grace
Is where those who are dear to us
Will always hold a place

Anon

Submitted by Doreen Robinson, Newtown

Sand and Stone

A story tells of two friends who were walking through the desert. During some point of the journey they had an argument and one friend slapped the face of the other. The one who was slapped felt hurt, but without saying anything he bent down and wrote in the sand,

"Today my best friend slapped me in the face."

They kept walking until they found an oasis and decided to bathe. The one who had been slapped became stuck in the mire and began to drown, but his friend saved him.

After he recovered from the near drowning he wrote on a stone,
"Today my best friend saved my life"



The friend who had hit him asked, "After I hurt you you wrote on sand and now you write on a stone, why?"

The other friend replied, "**when someone hurts us we should write it on sand where the winds of forgiveness can erase it. But, when someone does something good for us, we must engrave it on stone, where no wind can blow it away**".

Learn to write your hurts in the sand and your benefits in stone.

Learn to write your hurts in the sand and your benefits in stone.

Author unknown

*Submitted by
Jenny Thomas, Newtown*

A Short Course in Human Relationships

The **six** most important words-

I admit I made a mistake

The **five** most important words-

You did a good job

The **four** most important words-

What is your opinion?

The **three** most important words-

If you please

The **two** most important words-

Thank you

The **one** most important word-

We

The **least** important word-

I



Argument in the playground

First boy: My Daddy is a teacher and makes me clever for nothing.

Second boy: My Daddy is a doctor and makes me healthy for nothing.

Third boy: My Daddy is a vicar and makes me good for nothing

Trefeglwys will be organising a **Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal** between 1st and 18th November. Please contact Susan 01686 430307 for further details.

Dates for your Diary

- ◆ **Saturday, 3rd September**, 10am to 5pm at Newtown
"break@backlane" – light refreshments, cookery books,
kitchen utensils and more!(As part of the Food Festival)
- ◆ **Thursday, 8th September**, 7pm at Newtown
Circuit Meeting
- ◆ **Sunday, 18th September**, 2.30pm at Pentre Llifior
Anniversary and Harvest Celebrations with Rev Sue Lawler
- ◆ **Tuesday, 20th September**, 2.30 Newtown Manse
Julian Prayer: Waiting on God in silence
- ◆ **Sunday, 25th September**, 10.30am at Newtown
Harvest Celebrations followed by Lunch
- ◆ **Thursday, 29th September**, 7pm at Trefeglwys
Harvest Celebrations with Eileen Jobling
- ◆ **Friday, 30th September**, 7pm (?) at Cefn
Harvest Celebrations
- ◆ **Saturday, 1st October**, 11am to 2pm at Welshpool
War-time Lunch – as part of the town's 1940's weekend
- ◆ **Sunday, 2nd October**, 10.45am at Welshpool
Harvest Celebrations with Rev Peter Rees, followed by
Lunch
- ◆ **Tuesday, 18th October**, 2.30 Newtown Manse
Julian Prayer: Waiting on God in silence
- ◆ **Saturday, 29th October**, at Newtown
Preachers' Open Fellowship Day: Rev Irfan John & family
- ◆ **Tuesday, 3rd November**, at Newtown (time to be ad-
vised) All Souls' Day Service
- ◆ **Sunday, 6th November**, at Newtown
Advent Lunch following morning service
- ◆ **Saturday, 12th November**, 9.30am at Welshpool (Church
House) Community Coffee Morning
- ◆ **Saturday, 12th November**, 10am - 12pm at Trefeglwys
Coffee morning; donations towards chapel funds
- ◆ **Tuesday, 15th November**, 2.30 Newtown Manse
Julian Prayer: Waiting on God in silence

*Please let Janice know of any events that you plan.
01938 850514 or janice@rhodes2236.freeserve.co.uk*

Did I offer peace today? Did I bring a smile to someone's face? Did I say words of healing? Did I let go of my anger and resentment? Did I forgive? Did I love? These are the real questions. I must trust that the little bit of love that I sow now will bear many fruits, here in this world and the life to come.

Henri Nouwen

*Submitted by **Doreen Robinson**, Newtown*



Editorial

We hope you enjoy this bumper edition of the Circuit Magazine. Many thanks to all our contributors. Have you heard the one about the reverend who went into a pet shop? Why did he go? To buy a dog collar of course!

Do you have any jokes or stories you'd like to share?

Our next issue covers Christmas and the New Year, but we welcome contributions on any Christian theme. Contributions are very welcome at any time but for inclusion in the next edition we need them by **1st Oct** 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 or you can pass to the ministers or stewards.

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

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

