

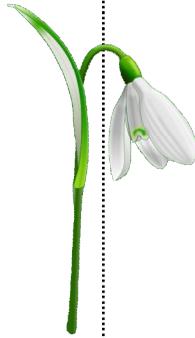
Welshpool & Bro Hafren Methodist Circuit



**Circuit Magazine & Plan
March to May 2017**

I write this in the darkest time of the year, the garden having been cleared of dead growth. But as you hopefully read it in early spring we see new growth, new birth. Our garden will be full of snowdrops, offspring of roots collected many years ago from a Montgomeryshire farm. One of our favourite devotional books is "The Green Heart of the Snowdrop" written by the late Kate McIlhagga, Minister and poet. The green heart on the underside of the tiny snowdrop flower symbolised for her new birth, hope.

I feel that we are fortunate in the northern hemisphere that we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord in the spring, the time of re birth of the natural world. To il-



lustrate the nature of His Kingdom Jesus took a seed. Buried in the ground it dies, yet from this comes abundant new growth. This is surely seen in the long history of Judaism and Christianity. This is a story of death and resurrection. The times when all appeared hopeless, when it appeared that the cause had dried up, the community had come to an end. Yet miraculous new birth, new growth seen uniquely on that first Easter Sunday morning. What does this say to our local witness in the Bro Hafren Circuit? We are conscious of closing chapels and a lack of support from the younger generation. What lies in the future?

May I suggest that we look again at Acts 4:31-35; the life of the primitive church. Central to their assurance

The Antiguan Lady on the front cover has been expertly drawn for us by **Ruthie Lockyer** from Welshpool.

was their awareness that the risen Christ was alive, amongst them, as He is with us. What is He saying to us? It is that we can be refreshed and renewed for the future. Let us remain faithful to our life of community, of worship, fellowship and prayer. As Derek Bedford, a former minister used to say to us "our obligation is not to be successful, but to be faithful". We can then confidently remember the words of Julian of Norwich, the 14th Century Anchorite "All will be well and all manner of things will be well".

A Prayer

Almighty God through the rising of your son from the grave, you broke the power of death and you condemned death itself to die. As we celebrate this great triumph may we also make it a model for our living.

"our obligation is not to be successful, but to be faithful".

Help us to identify in our lives all that should rightly die; redundant relationships, tired habits, fruitless longings.

Resurrect in our lives faith, hope and love as surely as you raised Jesus Christ from the grave. Amen

Terry Jobling

The Power Of Words

A careless word may kindle strife;
A cruel word may wreck a life.
A bitter word may hate instil;
A brutal word may smite and kill.

A gracious word may smooth the way;
A joyous word may light the day.
A timely word may lessen stress;
A loving word may heal and bless. — *Author unknown*

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



Alleluia! Easter Morning.

Hear the bells ring out.
Feel the joy and new upliftment.
Banish fear and doubt.

Alleluia! Gone the darkness.
Feel the hope within.
Onward to a bright tomorrow.
See the way begin.

Alleluia! Share the gladness.
Joy be unconfined.
Gifts of wonder, love and beauty.
Filling heart and mind.

Alleluia! He is risen.
Farewell darkest night.
Death and sadness gone for ever.
Welcome love and light.

Iris Hesselden

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



An elderly couple died and were received by St Peter into Heaven. No words can describe their happiness. A little reproachfully the husband said to the wife, "If you hadn't come up with all those health foods, we could have been here years ago"



Before I got married I had six theories about bringing up children.
Now I have six children and no theories.

40 Year Local Preaching Certificate

In 2015, **Graham Smith** completed 40 years service as a Local Preacher. An amazing achievement, especially when it has been carried out in just one Circuit – ours!! Graham came on the Plan in 1975 and so has been serving Christ in the Welshpool & Bro Hafren Circuit for the last 40 years. To celebrate this, a 40 Year Service Certificate for Local Preaching was presented to him in November.

From everyone in this Circuit, congratulations Graham and thank you so very much for all you have brought to each of us through your commitment and love of Jesus Christ.

So if you've not done so already, when you next see him, maybe you would like to congratulate him and thank him for the service he has given to each one of us and the Circuit.



John Harbron
(Local Preachers' Secretary)

"THE TORN CURTAIN", another musical by Roger Jones, will be presented by the Jubilate Singers in a Circuit Service at Welshpool on Palm Sunday, 9th April at 6pm. Somewhat different in style to Roger's other musicals, the work includes a setting for Holy Communion which all will be invited to share. Rehearsals began in February, but it is not too late for additional singers to join the group on Mondays from 10am to 11.30am and/or Tuesdays from 7pm to 8.30pm. Further details from Janice 01938 850514





Letter from the Superintendent

A friend of mine has suggested that I might like to take up running for a hobby. I'll be honest it has never appealed, and having listened to an account of running the Athens marathon in over 20° heat, with 10 miles of 'up-hill', it appeals to me even less!

Admittedly, pounding the streets of Welshpool or the lanes of Powys is hardly comparable to a city Marathon, though the hills are definitely par for the course! Nevertheless I remain unconvinced. I mean, why would anyone choose to spend their time running?

I have a number of objections to taking up the sport: It hurts; what if I get three miles out of town and then realise that I'm totally exhausted and cannot take another step?; What if I get

lost?; What if I run out of things to think about and get bored - has anyone ever fallen asleep running? I feel an editor's comment coming

In any case, endurance has never been my forte.



In response to my objections I am told about the joys of running: improved fitness and increased energy; the camaraderie of running with others, encouraging them and making friends;

reading about races and reflecting on personal efforts and achievements; the satisfaction of success and increased ability to endure the hard times.

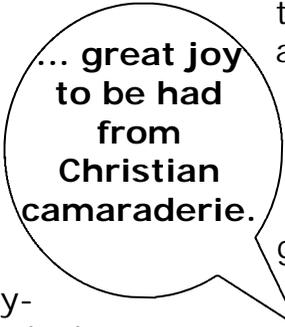
The apostle Paul used running a race as a picture of the Christian life, saying *"But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ*

Jesus". (Phil 3:14). So too did the author of Hebrews who wrote *'let us run with endurance the race that is set before us'*.

I find the analogy helpful. For one thing a lot of my objections to running are equally applicable to faith. Being a Christian can be hard-going sometimes and very uncomfortable. Many people don't understand it and pour scorn - "I mean, why would anyone want to spend their time going to church?" For the Christian it can be very easy to get bogged-down and exhausted by all the activity, and easy as well to get lost on the journey. At other times it all seems very dull: the same old thing over and over again.

On the other hand, I find it helpful to consider the plusses of running and how they might shed light on the Christian life. There is no doubt in my mind that the more we put into our spiri-

tual lives the healthier we become, spiritually speaking. The healthier our spiritual lives the more we can achieve our calling, and the greater our satisfaction. By keeping-up a regular pattern of spiritual exercise we can become stronger and better able to endure the inevitable times of difficulty and challenge. Like running, faith sometimes calls us to times on our own - but there is certainly great joy to be had from Christian camaraderie. After all, encouraging and supporting others in their faith is what fellowship is all about.



... great joy to be had from Christian camaraderie.

Perhaps one of the most helpful analogies between running and faith is that of perseverance. The Christian life is not a sprint, but a marathon. Don't give up when the going gets tough, keep at it, strive forward, pace yourself wisely, and you shall reach the goal, and have lots of fun on the way. Oh, and if you fall over, then

pick yourself up, brush yourself down and remember in future to LOOK WHERE YOU'RE GOING!

Well, I'm off for a run. Anyone else coming?

Blessings to you and yours
Love Sue

P.S. Another friend and colleague, Rev Keith Tewksbury, is also a keen runner: see →



Superintendent Minister runs the London Marathon

"Having run in the Snowdonia Half Marathon in 2015 I'm ready for another challenge - the big one this time!" says Rev Keith Tewksbury.

The London Marathon takes place on 23-April-2017. Keith is Superintendent of the Conwy and Prestatyn Circuit, and will be raising funds for 'All We Can', the Methodist Relief and Development Agency.

Donations will be gratefully accepted up to 27th July 2017 at

<https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/keithtewkesbury1>



A prayer for the journey by John Birch

God of the journey,
may you be both
travelling companion
and mountain guide
on this, our daily walk;
lest unprepared
or ill-equipped
our feet should stumble
on uneven ground,
or clouds obscure
the destination
that we so long to see.

John Birch, 2016
www.faithandworship.com

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 G Smith
Mrs E Williams
Mrs D McNulty
Mrs M Douglas
Mrs J Thomas
Mr J Harbron
Mrs Andrea Davies (on note)

Worship Leaders

Mr A Bradburn and Mrs A Bradburn

Visiting Preachers

Rev Alun Chiplin Rev Keith Fantham
Mr Gareth Evans Rev Bill Rowell
Mr Nigel Evans Rev Dr Stephen Wigley

Church	Times	05-Mar	12-Mar	19-Mar	26-Mar
& Hymn		1st Sun in Lent	2nd Sun in Lent	3rd Sun in Lent	Mothering Sun
Books		Matt 4:1-11	John 3:1-17	John 4:5-42	John 19:25-27
Welshpool	9.00			Lawler HC	
H ON	10.45	Fantham LA	Lawler HC	Wgley & Lawler	T Jobling
StF WB	6.00	Lawler Comp	WCT @ UB		4pm Stewards AT
Cefn	10.00	E Jobling BC			
H ON	6.00		Lawler HC	Harbron	T Jobling
P Llifor	2.30	E Jobling	AACG	Wgley HC	AACG
H StF WB					
Newtown	10.30	Lawler	B Thomas HC	Harbron	Smith
H StF WB	6.00	B Thomas HC	Burkill	Rowell	B Thomas HC
Llanidloes	10.30	B Thomas HC	UP	P & P	Lawler
H ON WB					
Caersws	10.30	Smith UM	J Thomas	E Jobling	B Thomas HC
H WB					
Trefeglwys	10.00	T Jobling	@ Llawryglyn	B Thomas HC	@ Llawryglyn
H M					
Llawr Y Glyn	2.30	@ Trefeglwys	B Thomas HC	@ Trefeglwys	J Thomas
H WB					

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

	02-Apr	09-Apr	16-Apr	23-Apr	30-Apr
	5th Sun in Lent	Palm Sun	Easter Sun	2nd Sun of Easter	Vocations Sun
	John 11:1-45	Matt 21:1-11	Matt 28:1-10	John 20:19-31	Luke 24:13-35
			8.30am Lawler HC		
	B Thomas	Lawler HC	Harbron	Smith	UA @ St Mary's
S	Lawler Comp	Jubilate "Torn Curtain"	Easter Praise	Lawler	@ Cefn
	Lawler BC				
		@ Welshpool	Taylor HC	Rowell	B Thomas
	N Evans	AACG	Lawler HC	AACG	T Jobling
	G Evans	B Thomas	Taylor HC	Lawler CA	B Thomas HC
	T Jobling	@ Welshpool	B Thomas HC	Harbron CA	P & P
	@ Trefeglwys	T Jobling	@ Trefeglwys	Burkill HC	J Thomas
	UP	Smith	Lawler HC	B Thomas	T Jobling
	Burkill LS	@ Llawryglyn	B Thomas HC	@ Llawryglyn	Williams
	@ Trefeglwys	T Jobling	@ Trefeglwys	B Thomas HC	@ Trefeglwys

Church	Times	07-May	14-May	21-May	28-May
& Hymn		4th Sun of Easter	5th Sun of Easter	Aldersgate Sun	7th Sun of Easter
Books		John 10:1-10	John 14:1-14	John 14:15-21	John 17:1-11
Welshpool	9.00			Lawler HC	
H ON	10.45	Rowell	WCT Christian Aid	Jubilate	G Evans
SIF WB	6.00	N Evans	Lawler Comp	6pm @ Newtown	Smith
Cefn	10.00	E Jobling BC			
H ON	6.00		12th 7pm CA	6pm @ Newtown	Lawler HC
P Lliffor	2.30	AACG	Lawler HC	AACG	G Evans
H SIF WB				6pm @ Newtown	
Newtown	10.30	N Evans	T Jobling	Burkill HC	J Thomas
H SIF WB	6.00	Smith	Williams	Easter Offering UnS	Harbron
Llanidloes	10.30	P & P	Harbron	Smith	@ Trefeglwys
H ON WB				6pm @ Newtown	
Caersws	10.30	P & P	UP	N Evans	Harbron
H WB				6pm @ Newtown	
Trefeglwys	10.00	@ Llawryglyn	Chiplin LA	@ Llawryglyn	Lawler HC
H M				6pm @ Newtown	
Llawr Y Glyn	2.30	Burkill HC	@ Trefeglwys	E Jobling	@ Trefeglwys
H WB				6pm @ Newtown	

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

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
C&C Carols and Christingle
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
LS Lambing Service
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

UNITED SERVICES

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

OTHER

T Transport Required

The Preachers' Fellowship & Study Day Saturday 29 October "Christ at the Margins"

This is usually held in the Spring but this year it had to be put back until the Autumn. Delayed – yes, but we were certainly not disappointed.

With immigration to the forefront of the news, the subject matter was very topical. The day was led by Rev Irfan John, accompanied by his family, and was about "Christ at the Margins" and in particular the plight of the immigrant, refugee and the asylum seeker.

Their story about being Christians living in Pakistan, a dominant Muslim country. A family of father, mother and four children aged from 13 down to 2 leaving their homeland with just a suitcase each. Everything else, possessions, friends and family being left behind as they departed into the unknown.

We see images on our television screens, read articles in newspapers and listen to debates and discussions on our radios, but nothing compares with talking and listening to people, including children who have actually gone through it all.

Leaving your homeland behind is one thing, arriving in another country and going through the interrogation, procedures and unfamiliarity is not as simple as it may sound.

This was a very successful day for those who made it. It may not have been enjoyable but it was enlightening as we learnt so much about the desperation of people finding themselves in danger of their lives in their own country. Once in this country, going through the system, unable to speak the language, yet still carrying the fear, suspicion and lack of trust into the unknown.

Finally Rev Sue provided "Prayer Stations" which visually depicted various aspects of being a "Refugee"

living on the margins of society. Most thought provoking.

Our thanks go to Rev Irfan John and his family and to Rev Sue for the "Prayer Stations", which hopefully she will share with us in the Circuit sometime to help us try

to understand the trauma and complexity of it all.

Rev Irfan John and his family took part in worship at Welshpool on the Sunday morning.

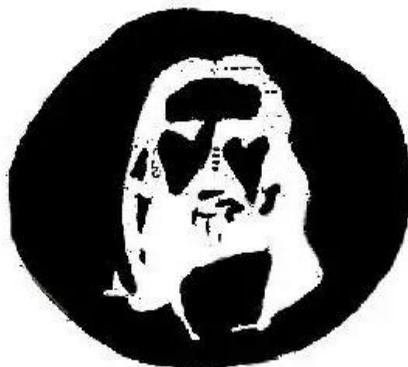
John Harbron
Local Preachers' Secretary

Some of the Prayers written and offered on the day:

- † Lord, please may world leaders find ways to deal compassionately with the refugees in the world.
- † Dear Lord, open our eyes to the plight of asylum seekers and refugees. Open our hearts that we may reach out to them in love and open our mouths that we may proclaim your love. In Jesu's name.
- † I pray for children separated from parents and for parents who feel unable to protect their children.
- † Lord show us how we, as individuals, can make a difference and influence governments to change things.
- † We pray for people being persecuted and in danger.
- † May the asylum seekers and refugees voices be heard
- † Bless all who welcome strangers, care for them and support them.
- † Lord we place into your hands all those who fear for their lives, for all who have escaped their homeland seeking a better life. Enfold them in your love and may your strength uphold them now and always.

Young People's Page

I've Just Seen Jesus



Stare at the four dots in the centre of this picture for about thirty seconds. Then, close your eyes and wait for an image to appear. What did you see? Did you see an image of Jesus? Some people see the image of Jesus and some don't. It is just like it is in real life. Some people don't see Jesus because they are looking for Him in the wrong places.

That is what happened in our Bible story today. Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb where Jesus had been buried. She found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. She ran and found Simon Peter and another disciple, whose name was John. She told them, "They have taken the Lord's body out of the tomb, and I don't know where they have put him!"

Peter and John started out for the tomb. They were both running, but John outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He stooped and looked in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he didn't go in. Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings, while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying apart from the other wrappings. Then the disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in,

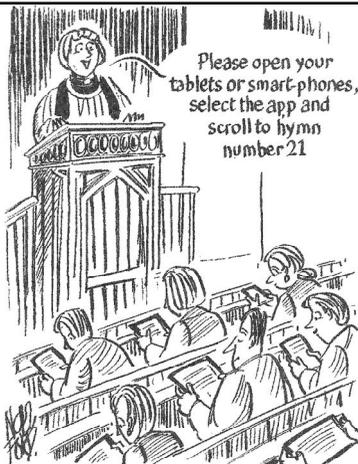
and he saw and believed -- for until then they still hadn't understood the Scriptures that said Jesus must rise from the dead. Then they went home.

Mary stayed behind and stood outside the tomb weeping. As she knelt down and looked inside, she saw two angels dressed in white. They asked her why she was crying. She told them that someone had taken her master and she didn't know where they had taken him. Then, Mary turned and saw a man standing behind her. It was Jesus, but Mary did not recognize Him. She thought he was the gardener. Then Jesus called her by name and, when she heard his voice, she recognized Him. After she saw that it was Jesus, she went to the disciples and said to them, "I've just seen Jesus! He is alive!"

Some people, like Mary, Peter, and John can't see Jesus because they are looking for Him in a grave or on a cross. He isn't there! He is risen and is seated at the right hand of His Father in heaven. If you want to see Jesus, look in His Word, He will reveal Himself to you, just as He did to Mary!

Dear God, we thank you that Jesus, our Saviour, is not in a grave. He is alive! We serve a risen Saviour! Hallelujah! Amen.

Taken from Sermons4Kids.com



Thanks to technology, replacing the worn-out hymn books didn't cost a penny

Taken from:
Cedewain Mission Area Magazine
Submitted by
May Harding, Newtown



SPARKS OF LIGHT



***Encounter, Learn and Experience
what the Iona Community is about.***

The day will include:

- ◆ *Experiences of the worship and a presentation about the work of the Community;*
- ◆ *Testimony as to how the Community engages Members in both prayer and politics;*
- ◆ *Stories, both sacred and secular, of the Community's impact upon people's lives*

Saturday 18th March 2017

10am - 4pm

Bayston Hill Methodist Church

Bayston Hill

Shrewsbury

SY3 0HY

(just off the A49 South of Shrewsbury)

ALL WELCOME – BRING YOUR FRIENDS

- ◆ *The day is free and lunch is provided, but there will be opportunity to contribute financially towards the work and vision of the Iona Community.*
- ◆ *It may be possible to arrange for lifts from/to Shrewsbury Rail Station if this is required.*
- ◆ *For more information: contact Richard Sharples 01978 290006 or rvsharples@phonecoop.coop*

Dates for your Diary

- ◆ **Wednesday, 1st March, 7pm at Welshpool**
Ash Wednesday Service
- ◆ **Thursday, 2nd March, 7.30pm at Welshpool**
Derek's Quiz Night
- ◆ **Thursday, 9th March, 7pm at Newtown**
Circuit Meeting
- ◆ **Sunday, 19th March, 10.45am at Welshpool**
Service of Thanksgiving for the Completion of Church Development, with Rev Dr Stephen Wigley, followed by Celebration Lunch
- ◆ **Saturday, 1st April, 10am to 2pm at Welshpool**
Spring Fair and Lunches
- ◆ **Sunday, 2nd April, 10am at Trefeglwys**
Lambing Service with Rev Penny Burkill
- ◆ **Sunday, 9th April, 6pm at Welshpool (Circuit Service)**
Jubilate present "The Torn Curtain" by Roger Jones
- ◆ **Tuesday, 11th April, 7pm at St Winefride's, Welshpool**
Stations of the Cross
- ◆ **Thursday, 13th April, 7pm at Welshpool**
Agape with Tenebrae
- ◆ **Friday, 14th April, 10.30am from St Winefride's, Welshpool**
Welshpool Churches Together Walk of Witness
- ◆ **Saturday, 15th April, 10am to 2pm at Welshpool**
Open Church, with Craft Stalls, Coffee and Lunches
- ◆ **Sunday, 23rd April, 10.30am and 6pm at Newtown**
Church Anniversary with Rev Sue Lawler am, & John Harbron pm
- ◆ **Friday, 12th May, 7pm at Cefn**
Chapel Anniversary
- ◆ **Sunday, 21st May, 6pm at Newtown**
Circuit Service for the Dedication of the Easter Offering

Advance Notice: Wednesday 19th July, 7pm at Welshpool
Circuit Service
Farewell to Rev Sue

Please let Janice know of any events that you plan.

A Heartfelt Thank You



On behalf of the Circuit we would like to express our thanks, first and foremost, to **John Spooner** who has printed this Circuit Magazine & Plan for a couple of decades. John is a Local Preacher based in Walsall and has kindly printed our magazine, at cost price, freely giving up his own time to do so.

In addition, we would like to say a big thank you to **Eileen** and **Terry Jobling** for collecting the printed copies every quarter from Walsall and distributing the Magazine & Plan within the Circuit. After around 20 years Eileen and Terry have decided it is time to relinquish this role.

The next edition of the Magazine and Plan will be printed by a social enterprise company in Bishops Castle.

Many thanks also to all our contributors for this edition; without you we wouldn't have much to send to the printer!

Our next issue covers the summer months of June, July and August and we look forward to receiving your contributions on any Christian theme. The copy date for the next issue is **mid April 2017** however, contributions are very welcome at any time.

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