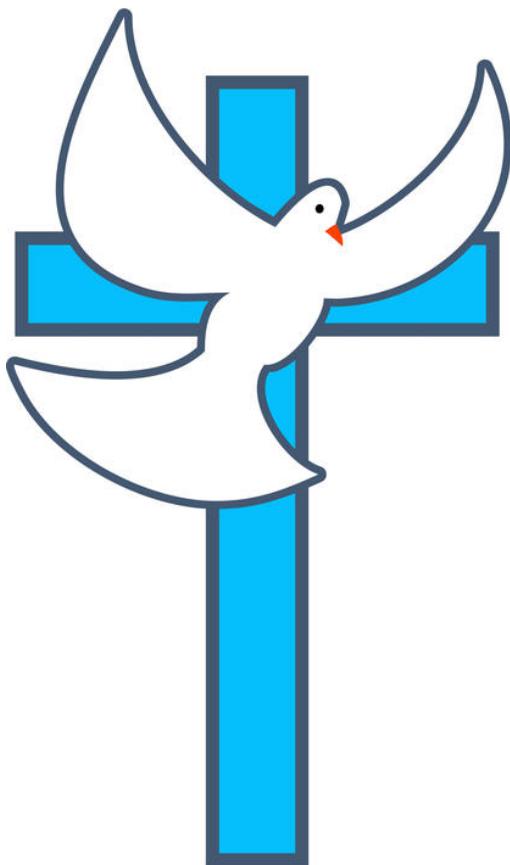


**Welshpool & Bro Hafren  
Methodist Circuit**



**Circuit Magazine & Plan  
June to August 2017**

When I was young the place to go in the summer was to the town lido. It was a big grassy area with a swimming pool in the middle, some rough toilets and an ice cream van. I doubt that any of it would pass modern-day Health and Safety regulations, but it was the place to go and the place to be seen. So I went!

The only problem was that I couldn't swim and hated getting water on my face. I knew that if the local 'lads' found that out then I would be getting thrown in and dunked mercilessly. So, it was a matter of doing only what was necessary so as to not stand out from the crowd: get in and make a bit of a splash, but hope no-one notices that I always have two feet firmly planted on the pool bottom, and never stray past about a quarter of the length. It was a difficult balance for a risk-adverse non-swimmer!

Many Christians can be 'risk-adverse non-swimmers' when it comes to faith. We like to

splash around, whilst staying comfortably in our depth, with feet firmly planted in what we are used to. I wonder if this actually applies to us all, though it takes some courage and wisdom to recognise it. We all have our own comfortable zone which is most likely different to that of the next person. For some the

clue might be in the comment, "but this is how we always do it" or "I like to do it this way" or "this is what we do here at ...." (fill in the name of your chapel). Sticking with the watery theme I could say that we are all in the same boat!



The fact is though, that if we stay in our comfortable zone we never grow or develop or move on to new challenges. I could have dealt with the challenges of the lido by taking swimming lessons and not letting fear limit my progress to proficiency. As it was I splashed around a bit and stayed where I was.

Back in 2001 a new book was published, written by John Ortberg it was entitled "If You

Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat". It was a best-seller and is now a religious classic. Wikipedia describes it as using "the New Testament account of Jesus walking on water as a conceptual framework for discussing leaps of faith and encouraging readers to make them".

*Matthew 14:27-31. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.' Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?'*

Peter took a leap of faith when he got out of the boat, but he wasn't prepared for the challenge of the storm.

He thought it would be easy. If something is easy then it can't be a challenge: a challenge must be challenging. For Christians, serving Christ and responding positively to his call on our lives is bound to have its challenges. It will not always be easy, but God promises to be with us and uphold us as we seek faithfully to grow in maturity of faith. As St Paul wrote to the Ephesians, "we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ". Now, THAT is challenge!

**God promises  
to be with us  
and uphold us**

I still won't go out of my depth when at the pool unless I am within grabbing distance of the side, and I get a crick in the neck after 10 minutes through trying to keep my head out of the water!

But, I am lucky enough to have a holiday this year, so perhaps when I go to the pool I'll try to overcome my risk-aversion and jump in. Perhaps this year I'll get out of the boat. After all, it's never too late to have a go at the next challenge.

**Rev Sue**

# Rolling Reports from the March 2017 Circuit Meeting

## Trefeglwys

Since our last report two years ago, members decided to apply for financial assistance to improve the image of the Chapel, at the same time to cut down on the ongoing maintenance of the building, by cladding all wood surfaces, renewing the front boundary wall, replacing the north side hedge with a fence and inner dry wall.

Also repainting all outer windows and providing improved front entrance for the disabled.

At last, the re-pointing of the dreaded West wall, is underway.

Members are delighted that the application was accepted and grateful thanks to the Circuit Trustees for their support, along with Derek Painter, Circuit Treasurer for his help. We now look forward to completion of the work.

Services continue with our sister church at Llawryglyn, with the up and coming Lambing service on April 2nd, followed by Coffee morning on April 8th and Concert, on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

It is expected that the Concert will be a way of dedicating the building work.

Further to the last report, when it was stated, that surface water was entering the foundations, incurring damage to interior wall decoration, the wall now needs to be redecorated.

Meeting with the local council, only resulted with the water being diverted, a temporary measure.

This period was seen as a very extraordinary wet winter and since then there has not been a problem. However the situation has been recorded, and continues to be monitored.

***Alun Bunford***

## Llanidloes

Since our last report Long Bridge Street has continued to tick over much the same as usual. We have held coffee mornings and Wesley Singer concerts for church funds and hosted Cytûn events. These included services and the very successful Bible Experience held in May 2016, when each church in Cytûn was used, over a four day period, to present how the Bible came to be and focused on the journey of Mary Jones. More than 200 children from four schools in the area attended.

Sadly we are seeing a decline in people attending services. This has come about mostly by advancing

age or illness and disability. Therefore a great deal of the focus of the Church Trustees during the year has been how to proceed and whether we see a future for Long Bridge Street. After many meetings and discussions it is felt that we cannot continue in the property as we are. To date we have met with Trinity Church to explore a possible merger or sharing agreement. We are in the process of meeting with ecumenical advisers from both churches and looking to the best way forward for Methodism in Llanidloes and our relationship with the Circuit and Connexion.

***Diane Morgan***



**S**unday is my quiet day  
A day to pause and rest  
To stop and in the silence  
To dwell on all that's best  
I love this Sunday stillness  
Most blessed of all days  
May always we have Sundays  
For Peace and Joy and Praise

*Unknown*

*Submitted by Doreen Robinson, Newtown*



## Letter from the Superintendent

Dear friends,  
This is my last letter as Superintendent of the Welshpool & Bro Hafren Circuit! Inevitably I am looking forward, but also looking back and reviewing where the Circuit has got to. On most traditional measures we are weaker: fewer chapels with fewer members and older congregations. There are, however, signs of new life and pockets of growth in those places where the call to mission has been embraced.

My aim in leadership has never been for efficiency. There are plenty of do-ers better skilled at that than I. Rather I have aimed to change attitudes; to help everyone recognise their personal responsibilities to make the best use of their gifts and talents; to enable chapels to take responsibility whilst recognising their accountability one to another; to smooth the path ahead of

inevitable and much-needed change; to encourage the meek to raise their voice; to reaffirm the ministry of the laity in line with Methodist tradition.

There have been ongoing changes in legislation and administration over the 10 years: Charity Law and the matter of trustee status; safeguarding; Health & Safety; property consents and so on. I think that by now many people have accepted that times have changed and that chapel membership demands more than a once a week attendance. Some chapels have not survived the increasingly rigorous demands.

The last 10 years has seen the closure of five chapels in the Circuit, four of which I was directly involved in. This has been both a trial and a privilege: assisting people and chapels to address with realism their future mission, and when they felt that the time was right, ministering to them as they prepared to close the chapel

doors for the last time. These closures have never been indicative of failure, but of a wise reassessment of need against available resources.

Since becoming Superintendent I have been keen to encourage individuals to take more responsibility for their own faith journey, rather than expecting the ministers to 'do it for them', not least because of the reduction in the number of ordained ministers. Part of that encouragement has been the introduction of annual Circuit themes: God in the everyday; stewardship; prayer; hope. This initiative met with limited success but the themes became a source of blessing to those who embraced them, through preaching series, summer faith feasts, local preacher summer fellowship and magazine contributions.

Among the many benefits of the Methodist system of governance is the need to move on. Both ministers and Circuits need to follow the

path God calls them to, and this brings times of sad endings alongside joyful expectancy at new beginnings, which is, after all, the cornerstone of Christian faith. I pray God's blessing on you all, individuals, chapels and Circuit, particularly on Rev Bob as he takes over the helm and guides the Circuit into its new beginning.

My grateful thanks go to all who have supported and challenged me, who have given their services to church and Circuit with enthusiasm making my job more manageable and who have been generous with their resources. I will not name you for fear of omission, but I hope you know who you are. Also, to all of you who have exercised patience, forgiveness, understanding, grace, fellowship and, most of all, have shared your ready smiles – thank you!

God bless you and yours  
Love

**Rev Sue**

## It Can't Be Done

Somebody said that it couldn't be done,  
But, he with a chuckle replied  
That "maybe it couldn't," but he would be one  
Who wouldn't say so till he'd tried.  
So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin  
On his face. If he worried he hid it.  
He started to sing as he tackled the thing  
That couldn't be done, and he did it.

Somebody scoffed: "Oh, you'll never do that;  
At least no one has done it";  
But he took off his coat and he took off his hat,  
And the first thing we knew he'd begun it.  
With a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin,  
Without any doubting or quiddit,  
He started to sing as he tackled the thing  
That couldn't be done, and he did it.

There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done,  
There are thousands to prophesy failure;  
There are thousands to point out to you one by one,  
The dangers that wait to assail you.  
But just buckle it in with a bit of a grin,  
Just take off your coat and go to it;  
Just start to sing as you tackle the thing  
That "couldn't be done," and you'll do it.

*Edgar Albert Guest 1919*

*Submitted by **Phil-Eve Senior**  
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 Penny Burkill  
Supernumerary: Rev John W Newbury BA

## 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 Kat Bond (on note)  
Mrs Andrea Davies (on note)

## Worship Leaders

Mr A Bradburn and Mrs A Bradburn  
Mr Derek Painter (in training)

## Visiting Preachers

Mr John Ellis	Mrs Julia Francis
Mr Gareth Evans	Miss Lynne Gennoe
Mr Nigel Evans	Rev Jenny Hurd
	Rev Bill Rowell

Church & Hymn Books	Times	04-Jun	11-Jun	18-Jun	25-Jun
		Pentecost	Trinity Sun	11th Sun in Ord	Conference Sun
		John 20:19-23	Matt 28:16-20	Matt 9:35- 10:8	Matt 10:24-39
Welshpool	9.00			Lawler HC	
H ON	10.45	Lawler HC	Francis LA	Taylor	J Thomas
StF WB	6.00	Hurd	@ St Mary's	Harbron	N Evans
Cefn	10.00	E Jobling BC			
H ON	7.00		14th P & P	21st Lawler HC	28th T Jobling
P Lliflor	2.30	AACG	N Evans	AACG	Lawler HC
H StF WB					
Newtown	10.30	Smith	N Evans	Lawler HC	Rowell
H StF WB	6.00	Lawler HC	Harbron	P & P	Lawler
Llanidloes	10.30	T Jobling	Lawler HC UM	Smith	Harbron
H ON WB					
Caersws	10.30	UB	P & P	Harbron	Lawler HC
H WB					
Trefeglwys	10.00	@ Llawryglyn	Harbron	@ Llawryglyn	Smith
H M					
Llawr Y Glyn	2.30	Smith	@ Trefeglwys	Lawler HC	@ Trefeglwys
H WB					

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

02-Jul	09-Jul	16-Jul	23-Jul	30-Jul
13th Sun in Ord	14th Sun in Ord	15th Sun in Ord	16th Sun in Ord	17th Sun in Ord
Matt 10:40-42	Matt 11:16-19,25-30	Matt 13:1-9,18-23	Matt 13:24-30,36-43	Matt 13:31-33,44-52
		Taylor HC		
11am Lawler @Marlon HC	E Jobling	Ellis LA	N Evans	G Evans UM
Lawler Compline	@New Street	Hurd	Lawler HC	@Newtown
E Jobling BC				
	12th Lawler HC	19th @Welshpool	26th E Jobling	
AACG	Rowell FF	AACG	Lawler HC	AACG
Harbron	T Jobling	E Jobling	Lawler HC	Harbron
N Evans	Burkill HC	Harbron	Smith	Wigley
P & P	@Trefeglwys	T Jobling	@Trefeglwys	@Caersws
T Jobling UM	@Trefeglwys	Smith	J Thomas	Wigley HC
@Llawryglyn	Lawler HC	@Llawryglyn	Jubilate	@Llawryglyn
			"Apostle"	
Burkill	@Trefeglwys	T Jobling	@Trefeglwys	Burkill HC

Church & Hymn Books	Times	06-Aug	13-Aug	20-Aug	27-Aug
		18th Sun in Ord	19th Sun in Ord	20th Sun in Ord	21st Sun in Ord
		Matt 14:13-21	Matt 14:22-33	Matt 15:(10-20) 21-28	Matt 16:13-20
Welshpool	9.00			Taylor HC	
HON	10.45	Rowell	B Thomas HC	T Jobling	Smith
SIF WB	6.00	Taylor	UB	Rowell	P & P
Cefn	10.00	T Jobling BC			
HON	7.00		16th B Thomas HC	23rd E Jobling	30th Taylor
P Llifor	2.30	T Jobling	AACG	B Thomas HC	AACG
H SIF WB					
Newtown	10.30	J Thomas	Gennoe LA	B Thomas HC	G Evans
H SIF WB	6.00	B Thomas HC	T Jobling	N Evans	Rowell
Llanidloes	10.30	@Trefeglwys	E Jobling	P & P	Harbron
HONWB					
Caersws	10.30	P & P	UP	N Evans	B Thomas HC
HWB					
Trefeglwys	10.00	B Thomas HC	@Llawryglyn	J Thomas	@Llawryglyn
HM					
Llawr Y Glyn	2.30	@Trefeglwys	E Jobling	@Trefeglwys	B Thomas HC
HWB					

Visit [www.wbmethodists.org.uk](http://www.wbmethodists.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

## Beryl Evans 1926 - 1917

A Service of Celebration for the life of Beryl, our organist, took place in Newtown on 22nd March 2017.

Beryl and Mary Hughes shared organist duties at Newtown but after Mary passed away Beryl was our sole organist. She had a tremendous feel for music and her knowledge and experience of hymns was a great asset to the worship at Newtown. For Beryl the most important element to a hymn were the words. Any time there was a need to change a tune, it was vital the tune enhanced the words rather than was just the correct meter.

The introduction of Singing the Faith, the Red Book, was not greeted by Beryl with great enthusiasm. New hymns with odd rhythms and tempo didn't go well with her. This didn't mean she didn't like modern hymns, full stop. There were many she did like, usually



the tune was in a traditional style with words picking modern meanings and situations. For sometime we didn't have the organ copies for playing, which created its own difficulties. We got these books to coincide with her 90th birthday which then made things a little easier!

The organ was Beryl's domain yet really it was just a small part of her life in the church.

She involved herself in virtually every other activity of church life, and usually in the thick of it: -

She would come to Church Meetings – not necessarily exciting, but essential. Ladies Fellowship and other social events.

She would be there on Church outings and Church Weekends away, enjoying them to the full.

But she was also there for the less glamorous side -

putting chairs and tables away after a Coffee Morning or Lunch; preparing and serving lunches providing some of the food to be used. She was especially eager to get the bread whenever we needed some. She was on the Church cleaning rota.

For a long time she was in the kitchen for our Coffee Mornings. She wanted to be involved but we were getting concerned she was overdoing it, so she was eased over to Welcoming people to our Tuesday Coffee Mornings and taking their money. She excelled at this, knowing so many people. She loved children coming and would make them feel special. She was interested in everyone's family, be they church members or visitors she knew.

Beryl liked doing things properly and this is why she was so dependable. You could rely on her. She wouldn't let you down. Things got done quietly, no fuss – and never for the

glory of Beryl but in an unassuming way for the glory of God. In modern terms – she was a Team Player – a most important role in the Church of Christ. She was admired for tenacity, her dedication and her loyalty. Beryl had a wonderful sense of humour which was tinged with a little bit of mischief!

Her mental and physical presence belied her age.

We thank God for all she has given to the Church over the years and for walking the path with her. She is a part of each one of us.

Preachers and Local Preachers, both from our Circuit and those visiting really appreciated the help and encouragement she gave them to enrich the worship through hymns and music.

Thank you so much Beryl. We rejoice at her life and all she has given, and we will miss her - a lot.

## Dr Glyn Tegai Hughes 1923 - 1917



*With permission.* © BBC

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Glyn Tegai took place in Newtown on 29th March 2017

Glyn was one of our local preachers, as was his wife Margaret. He was a distinguished scholar and high achiever and appeared in Who's Who. It is important to say that he was also very modest, approachable, helpful and friendly with a wonderful sense of humour that would brighten the most boring of meetings.

The following is an account of Glyn's life and many many achievements:

Glyn Tegai Hughes was the son of John and Keturah, born 18 January 1923. Married Margaret Vera Herbert, of Brisbane, Australia, in 1957. Educated at Manchester Grammar School; MA and PhD at Corpus Christi College Cambridge.

Royal Welch Fusiliers, 1942-46. Lector in English at the University of Basel from 1951-53 and Lecturer in Comparative Literary Studies, the first such post in the country, at the University of Manchester 1953-1964. Tutor to the Faculty of Arts, 1961-64. From 1964 to 1989 he was Warden of University of Wales, Gregynog, and, in 1976, was responsible for re-establishing its prestigious Press (Gwasg Gregynog), and had remained a Director ever since.

Contested West Denbigh Division for the Liberal Party in 1950, 1955 and 1959. He was a Member of the Welsh Arts Council from 1967 to 1976.

BBC National Governor for Wales and Chairman, Broadcasting Council for Wales, 1971-79. Member of the Board of Channel Four from 1980 to 1987 and of the Welsh Fourth Channel TV Authority from 1981 to 1987. Chairman of the Welsh Broadcasting Trust, 1988-1996. He was an active Trustee of the Montgomeryshire Community Regeneration Association (MCRA).

Vice-President, North Wales Arts Association, 1977-1994. Chairman, Undeb Cymru Fydd, 1968-70.

He was made a Fellow of the University of Wales Aberystwyth in 2000 and an Honorary Fellow of the

University of Wales Bangor in 2004.

He served as a Methodist local preacher for seventy years from 1942.

He published many articles and several books: *Eichendorffs Taugenichts*, 1961; *Romantic German Literature*, 1979; *Life of Thomas Olivers*, 1979 (edited); *Williams Pantycelyn*, 1983; *Gwasg Gregynog: a descriptive catalogue*, 1990 (with David Esslemont); *Islwyn*, 2003; *The Romantics in Wales*, 2009 (edited).

He was working on a collection of biographies of notable Montgomeryshire people at the time of his death.

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Unbroken by time or by distance  
The chain of true friendship holds fast.  
It's burnished by caring and sharing  
And stretches from present to past.  
May always fond memories link us  
May always the chain bind each heart.  
So though miles may keep us divided  
We never from friends truly part.

*Margaret Ingall*

Submitted by **Doreen Robinson**, Newtown



# Young People's Page

## Parable of Wise and Foolish Builders Matthew 7:24-29

Let us think that everyone who hears the word of God is building a house.

The one who hears God's word but does not do what it says is like a foolish builder who builds his house on

sand. That house will be crushed in a storm. The one who hears the word of God and obeys it is like a wise man that builds his house on solid rock. That house will stand up to any storm. Wise people build their faith on the foundation of God's word. This faith stands strong against the storms of life.



*missionbibleclass.org*

### Can you find these words?

hears  
built  
streams  
foolish  
words  
house  
winds  
sand  
practice  
rock  
blew  
fell  
wise  
rain  
foundation  
crash



*Sermons4kids.com*

## Dates for your Diary

**Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> June**, 7pm at Newtown  
Circuit Meeting

**Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> June**, 7.30am on Radio Wales  
Broadcast of Celebration Service (1) recorded at Welshpool in May

**Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> July**, 7.30pm at Welshpool  
Concert: "Voices in Harmony". Tickets available at the door.

**Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> July**, 10am to 12 noon at Llanidloes  
Coffee morning

**Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> July**, 11am at Marton (home of Chris Richards)  
Welshpool's Open Air service and Picnic Lunch. (Others welcome)

**Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July**, at Pentre Llifior  
Flower Festival (Sat.10-4pm; Sun.10-1.30pm with service at 2.30pm)

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July**, 7pm at Welshpool  
Circuit Service: Farewell to Rev Sue

**Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July**, 10am at Welshpool  
Annual '100 Cakes' Sale for Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

**Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> July**, 10am at Trefeglwys  
Welshpool's Jubilate Group present "Apostle", the story of St.Paul's Conversion – a Christian musical by Roger Jones

**Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> July**, starting from Welshpool, 8.30am  
Outing to Lichfield and the National Arboretum. All welcome.

**Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> August**, 7pm at Newtown  
Circuit Service: Welcome to Rev Bob as Superintendent Minister, with Rev Dr Stephen Wigley

**Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> August**, 7.30am on Radio Wales  
Broadcast of Celebration Service (2) recorded at Welshpool in May

Please let Janice know of any events that you plan.



01938 850514



*janice@rhodes2236.freemove.co.uk*

**D**on't lose yourself in the temporary.  
No one has ever seen,  
No one has ever heard,  
and no one has ever imagined  
what God has prepared. *Donovan*



## Editorial

Sadly it's time to say goodbye to Rev Sue who moves to the very large Gwent Hills & Vales Circuit. Sue has been in this Circuit for 10 years, initially as a joint appointment with the Welsh Circuit and then for the last five years as our Superintendent. We would especially like to thank Sue for her dedication and ministry in this Circuit.

On a personal note we will miss sharing doughnuts with Sue at our Editorial meetings!

We wish Sue all the very best in her new Circuit; we will miss you very much Sue.

Many thanks to those who have contributed to this issue.

Please keep sending us your contributions; we would be especially happy to hear from our **young people**.

Our next issue covers autumn and harvest and we look forward to receiving your contributions on any Christian theme. The copy date for the next issue is **mid July 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](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***