

Welshpool & Bro Hafren Methodist Circuit



Magazine & Plan
June to August 2018

Jesus speaks to Nicodemus “You should not be surprised at my saying ‘You must be born again’. The wind blows where it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the spirit”.

St John 3: 7-8

We are in the season of Pentecost. We remember the powerful experience of the disciples in Jerusalem. They were waiting, possibly uncertain, when this energy, this spirit came upon them. It was described as “a sound like the blowing of a mighty wind from heaven”. A new life, a new spirit, came upon them and in this they went forward to what God had for them.

What of ourselves? As a Circuit we are too well aware of contraction, anxieties for

the future, people not available to fill jobs. What do Jesus’ words to Nicodemus say to us? He spoke of the wind. Let us lay ourselves open to the wind, the breath, the spirit of the living God. This we do by availing ourselves of the ancient, yet lively means of grace available to us. The wind can take many forms.

It can be destructive, sweeping away what has now fulfilled its purpose and is now redundant. The soft refreshing breeze can comfort, soothe and refresh. As Jesus said to Nicodemus, the breath, the spirit, gives new birth, a new creation and a new future.



As Brian Wren’s hymn puts it: “A promise calling them ahead, a future yet unknown”. H&P 447.

Jesus said to Nicodemus “You hear the wind, but you do not know where it will take you”.

As St Paul sought to invigorate the infant churches in the Roman world he regularly sought to encourage faith, hope and love. Grounded in these good things, the church was

born and thrived. In this season of Pentecost let us also be born anew.

Terry Jobling

Service of Thanksgiving Llanidloes Chapel

The Llanidloes congregation will be holding a final
Service of Thanksgiving
for the life of the chapel
on Wednesday 20th June at 6.30pm
prior to the closure.

An invitation is extended to all Local Preachers, and to representatives of all the churches and chapels in the Circuit, to join the Llanidloes church family for this special service, and afterwards, for refreshments.

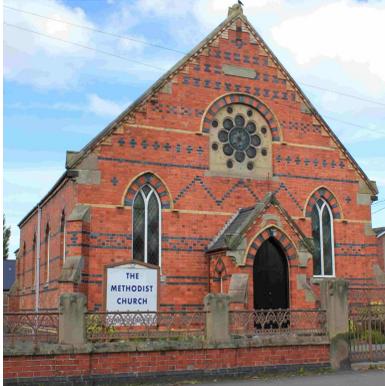
To aid catering arrangements, it is requested that all hoping to attend please let Diane Morgan know by Thursday 14th June 2018: dianemorgan@pc-q.net.

The front cover is a photograph of Long Bridge Street Methodist Church (Llanidloes).

The very first church on this site was built in 1802, but the present building was erected in 1874. At the beginning of the 20th Century a large hall was added for a Sunday school and other weekday meetings.

The Church was known as the Wesleyan Chapel for many, many years and is still called this by some of the older members.

Rolling Reports from the Circuit Meeting on 8th March 2018



Caersws

We continue to enjoy our usual Sunday morning worship with a high proportion of our members able to attend. Our organist, Owen, has taken to playing our electronic organ with the universal approval of the congregation and a very good accompaniment is given to hymn singing.

The Thursday afternoon fellowship sessions held fortnightly are ably lead by our Minister, Bob, and a number of friends come and

join in the lively discussions that take place.

Our building, constructed in 1874 to accommodate about 140 people is by now far too large to manageably heat for our present numbers. If only we could down size, as in houses, just move down the road to a smaller venue. This nettle will have to be grasped if Methodism is to continue in Caersws. We need to look forward and envisage what we need to provide for a vibrant congregation to attract its future members.

Michael Jones

LLawr Y Glyn

We are few in number and are always pleased to be joined by Trefeglwys members every other Sunday.

We have been looking for so long to find a builder willing to replace some slates on the roof of the chapel. Last month the work was completed and we were so

relieved to be watertight once more. Now we have plans to decorate inside and hope it will be done this spring.

We had a lovely Christmas Carol Singing service with the Wesley Singers. The snow nearly put pay to our plans but the singers rearranged the date and we had a great evening. We enjoyed refreshments in the Vestry afterwards.

Our longest serving member, Mr Glyn Bennett, has been unable to come to



chapel as he's been poorly. He's feeling better but our chapel isn't very warm so we all went to Y Felin for our service. It was so nice to be

all together again in the comfort of his sitting room. We had a lovely tea afterwards.

We're looking forward to having the Wesley Singers with us in Holy Week, March 27th at 6.30pm and hope that many villagers will join us then.

Wendy Wigley

Busy people always seem
The ones who understand
Someone else's problems
And find time to lend a hand.
Yes, we all have problems
But life has often shown
By overcoming others' woes
We overcome our own.



Submitted by **Doreen Robinson**, Newtown



Rev Bob's Letter

Dear Friends,
During the course of my first 'Supers' letter I drew your attention to Conference's instruction that Church Councils were to consider whether we were planning for end of life or a five year programme of growth. I'm not sure how many of us have done that but it's never too late – however as time goes on carrying out those plans will become more difficult and take longer.

It is time for us to put ... into practice ... our mission and outreach.

Since 1983 the percentage of Brits declaring a Christian religious affiliation has declined from 67% to 41%. The number of those attending church at least once a month has declined from 16% in 1997 to 14% in 2016. These figures represent a more complicated picture than we can open up here but nevertheless the underlying trend continues to be downward.

The single most significant factor in the congregations of

those historic main-stream churches that are growing is the desire to grow coupled with a willingness to reflect and change. I hope to meet with Councils and congregations in September to consider the question at length and at leisure. In the meanwhile please let your imaginations wander and see what ideas you come up with – whether as things to do before you die or things that will ensure your survival

beyond 2013. We are God's people, the body of Christ; as the Eucharistic bread

we are taken, blessed, broken, and given for the life of the world. We are a people of the resurrection, we believe in the life beyond. It is time for us to put that belief into practice with particular regard to our mission and outreach.

It is interesting that while participation in and affiliation to organised religion are in decline, the numbers of those holding religious belief are increasing. The numbers of the faithful grow while the organisations of the faithful decline – a very real

indication of our inability to keep in touch with the communities among which and on behalf of whom we worship. Current research seems to indicate that there is more at stake here than changing the hymnbook or the liturgical form we use. There is more to the relevance of worship than the age of the hymns we sing or the variety of the forms we use – although I must confess to a desire to hear the modern version of the Lord's Prayer used more often in our worship!

**Outreach is
not rocket science**

Over the course of my years in ministry I have spoken with many with whom I have much in common who would never darken the doors of a church but whose faith was as real and vibrant as my own. If we can open a relationship with such folk and allow them to play their part in the life of our congregations who knows where we might be in five years time? I know that the Church is God's before it is yours or mine, and that what happens is ultimately down to God rather than ourselves – I'd like to be sure that I gave

God a fair chance to grow the congregation rather than being a hindrance or an obstacle to be worked around.

There are no quick fixes to the declining numbers in our congregations as there are many factors to be discovered – our reliance on analysis and amendment has seldom grown a congregation – congregations grow by entering into relationship and relationships grow out of and through conversation.

"In the beginning was the word" declares John – a truth which draws

order out of chaos at the beginning of everything and a truth which draws humankind into friendship. Outreach is not rocket science – an older, wiser head than mine, many years ago described it as 'one beggar telling another where to get bread'.

I look forward to meeting with as many of you as possible in September to hear your ideas and make some plans. In the meanwhile I pray God's blessing for you in the months ahead.

Bob

Christians Against Poverty

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) was founded by John Kirkby in 1996. It is a national organisation which specialises in debt and provides counselling for people who are in financial difficulty.

CAP works through a network of regional offices which exist in partnership with a local Christian Church.

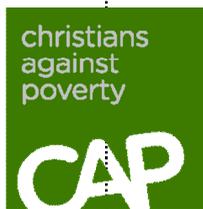
The Right Honourable Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, became patron in May 2015. The charity has won a number of awards including Debt Advice Provider of the year 2015.

In September 2017 three members of Welshpool Church attended a CAP Money Training Day at St Barnabas Church in Erdington, Birmingham. It was a very inspiring and thought provoking day.

The day was divided into

four sessions with various speakers and video presentations. The 90 trainees were told how to run a training course to help people:

- ◆ to manage their budget
- ◆ make their money balance at the end of the month
together with
- ◆ living on Cash Not Credit Cards.



The next day at morning worship, led by Derek Painter, we had two people from Hope Church, Newtown come and explain to our congregation how CAP works .

The next week we began our first Money Management course over three Friday nights and five young people came. The reviews following that course were very positive.

If anyone would like to know more about CAP please get in touch with us.

Eric Pacey
Welshpool

Ministers

Chair of the Synod: Rev Dr Stephen Wigley
Superintendent: **Rev Bob Thomas** B Th

 01686 625690

Active Supernumerary: **Rev Marian Jones**

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 trial)

Worship Leaders

Mr A Bradburn and Mrs A Bradburn

Mr Derek Painter (in training)

Visiting Preachers

Rev Alun Chiplin

Mr Gareth Evans

Mr Nigel Evans

Mrs Julia Francis

Rev Bill Rowell

Rev Anne Smith

Mr Jim Smith

Church & Hymn Books	Times	03-Jun	10-Jun	17-Jun	24-Jun
		9th Sun in Ord	Methodist Homes Sun	11th Sun in Ord	12th Sun in Ord
		Mark 2:23-3:6	Mark 3:20-35	Mark 4:26-34	Mark 4:35-41
Welshpool	9.00	Jones HC			
H ON	10.45	Jones	P&P	Jones HC	Jones WTF Service
SIF WB	6.00	Rowell HC	Jubilate WCT	Harbron	G Smith
Cefn	10.00	T Jobling BC			
H ON	7.00		13th B Thomas HC	(20th @ Llanidloes)	
P Lliffor	2.30	AACG	B Thomas HC	AACG	E Jobling
H SIF WB					
Newtown	10.30	J Thomas	Harbron	G Evans	B Thomas HC
H SIF WB	6.00	Burkill	@ Welshpool	B Thomas HC	T Jobling
Llanidloes	10.30	Burkill HC	Chiplin	B Thomas	
H ON WB				(final Sunday service)	
Caersws	10.30	UB	B Thomas HC	G Smith	J Thomas
H WB					
Trefeglwys	10.00	B Thomas HC	@ Llawr y Glyn	J Thomas	@ Llawr y Glyn
H M					
Llawr Y Glyn	2.30	@ Trefeglwys	Harbron	@ Trefeglwys	B Thomas HC
H WB					

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

01-Jul	08-Jul	15-Jul	22-Jul	29-Jul
Conference Sun	Action for Children	15th Sun in Ord	16th Sun in Ord	17th Sun in Ord
Mark 5:21-43	Mark 6:1-13	Mark 6:14-29	Mark 6:30-34,53-56	John 6:1-21
Jones HC				
Jones	G Smith	Jones	Francis LA	Jones HC UM
B Thomas HC	@ New Street WCT	T Jobling	N Evans	E Jobling
E Jobling BC				
	11th M Taylor HC	18th Rowell	25th Harbron	
AACG	T Jobling	AACG	N Evans	AACG
Davies	T Jobling	Burkill HC	G Smith	N Evans
N Evans	P & P	E Jobling	Harbron	B Thomas HC
B Thomas UM	E Jobling	Chiplin HC	Williams	Davies
Burkill HC UM	@ Llawr y Glyn	Jubilate	@ Llawr y Glyn	B Thomas HC
@ Trefeglwys	G Smith	@ Trefeglwys	Williams	@ Trefeglwys

Church & Hymn Books	Times	05-Aug	12-Aug	19-Aug	26-Aug
		18th Sun in Ord	19th Sun in Ord	20th Sun in Ord	21st Sun in Ord
		John 6:24-35	John 6:35,41-51	John 6:51-58	John 6:56-69
Welshpool	9.00	Jones HC			
H ON	10.45	Jones	B Thomas	Jones HC	Davies
SfF WB	6.00	Taylor HC	@ UB WCT	J Thomas	T Jobling
Cefn	10.00	E Jobling BC			
H ON	7.00		15th B Thomas HC	22nd E Jobling	
P Llifor	2.30	B Thomas HC	AACG	Rowell	AACG
H SfF WB					
Newtown	10.30	B Thomas HC	A Smith	Harbron	J Thomas
H SfF WB	6.00	J Thomas	Rowell	T Jobling	B Thomas HC
Llanidloes					
Caersws	10.30	UP	J Smith	B Thomas HC	T Jobling
H WB					
Trefeglwys	10.00	@ Llawr y Glyn	G Smith	@ Llawr y Glyn	B Thomas HC
H M					
Llawr Y Glyn	2.30	T Jobling	@ Trefeglwys	N Evans	@ Trefeglwys
H WB					

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
CAP Christians Against Poverty
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
P&P Prayer and Praise
SKS Sankey Service
SoP Songs of Praise
SS Sectional Service
WCT Welshpool Churches Together
WTF Welshpool Transport Festival
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
TS Trial Service

Young People's Page

Once upon a time, there were two brothers. Their father had a large farm and when he became too old to work, he called his sons to him. "I am too old to work anymore," he said. "I will divide my farm in half and give each of you one half. I know that you will always work together and will be good friends."

When the brothers first started farming on their adjoining farms, they were the best of friends and would share everything together. Then, one day there was an argument between the two brothers and they stopped speaking to one another. For many years, not a word was spoken between them.

One day, one of the brothers was at his house when a carpenter came to his door and said, "I would like to do some work. Do you have

any work that I can do?" The brother thought for a moment and then replied, "I would like for you to build a fence on my property. Build it down near the stream there that separates my farm from my brother's. I don't want to see my brother any more and I would like for you to build a high fence there please. I'm going into town and I'll be back this evening."



When he came back that evening, he was shocked to see that the carpenter had not followed his instructions. Instead of building a high fence there, he had built a bridge over the stream. The man walked down to take a look at the bridge, and as he did, his brother walked toward him from the other side. His brother said, "After all the terrible things I've done to you over the years, I can't believe that you would build a bridge and

welcome me back." He reached out to his brother and gave him a big hug.

The brother then walked back up to his farmhouse to talk to the carpenter. "Can you stay?" he asked. "I have more work for you to do." The carpenter answered, "I'm sorry but I can't stay. I have to go, for I have many other bridges to build."

Sometimes you and I have a disagreement with our brothers and sisters in Christ. When that happens,

we often build a fence between ourselves and them. We stop talking to them. We don't want to see them. We don't want to be around them. That isn't what Jesus wants us to do. Instead of fences, he wants us to build a bridge of love between us.

Dear Father, we know it is your desire for us to live together in peace and harmony. Help us to love one another. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Sermons4Kids

Word Search

Can you find these words in the grid?

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

- TRUTH
- AGAINST
- CHURCH
- YOU
- HEAVEN
- EARTH
- WITNESSES
- AGREE
- BIND
- SINS
- REFUSES
- TESTIMONY
- FAULT
- LOOSE
- WON
- FATHER
- SHOW
- LISTENS
- BROTHER

Dear Lord, you know I long for
 A Faith that's strong and sure
 That holds me when I'm anxious
 Or lost or insecure.
 A Faith which questions daily
 Yet knows its inner truth.
 Dear Lord, I'm still imperfect
 My Faith may sometimes fail
 I am not always trusting when
 Fears and doubts assail.
 Yet hold me, if you will Lord
 Whene'er my Faith feels small.
 For this I know for certain -
 Your love won't let me fall.



Submitted by Doreen Robinson, Newtown

**Methodist Homes Sunday
 10th June 2018**

This year, Methodist Homes for the Aged (MHA) celebrates its 75th Anniversary. MHA was founded in 1943 by members of the Methodist Church who wanted to improve the quality of life for older people in the time before the creation of the Welfare State. The first residential care home was opened in 1945. Some years later, in 2012, MHA won both the national Best Residential Care Provider Award, and the Queen's



Diamond Jubilee Volunteering Award.

From its modest beginnings, MHA has grown, and today is a charity providing care, accommodation and support services for more than 17,000 older people throughout Britain. Its mission is "to improve the quality of life for older people, inspired by Christian concern".

Today, MHA supports:

- ◆ **5,000** older people living in care homes, many receiving specialist dementia or nursing care

- ◆ **2,000** older people living independently in purpose-built apartments, with access to social and leisure facilities, and to flexible care if required
- ◆ **10,000** older people living independently in their own homes with the support of MHA's "Live at Home Scheme" across the UK.

To provide these services (for older people of all faiths and none), MHA relies on the commitment and dedication of some **7,000 staff** and **5,500 volunteers**, and, as a national charity, on fundraising and charitable donations, which are vital if their work is to continue

to expand.

Gift envelopes will be available in the churches and chapels of our Circuit on Methodist Homes Sunday, 10th June, ("Best Sunday for Ages"), and we hope that you will respond generously to this appeal, in this 75th Anniversary year. MHA has produced a special Order of Service, entitled "Full of Years", and this will be the theme of the Prayer and Praise morning service at Welshpool on Methodist Homes Sunday. If others would like to use it, it can be downloaded from the MHA website, www.mha.org.uk.

Janice Rhodes, Welshpool

June is Bible Month

As you will have read in the last Circuit Magazine, June is Bible Month, with the selected book for 2018 being **Jonah**.

Congregations throughout the Circuit are encouraged to spend some time looking at this short book from the Old Testament, either in Bible Study or other groups, or in Sunday worship.



At Welshpool, Jubilate will be leading the service on Sunday evening, 10th June, at 6pm, which will include the singing of Michael Hurd's "Jonah Man Jazz". This is a short Christian musical originally written for children, which presents the story of Jonah in a contemporary way. If you are free, why not join us? A warm welcome, and some lively music, awaits!

Janice Rhodes, Welshpool

Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow

There are two days in every week about which we should not worry. Two days that should be kept free from fear and apprehension.

One of these days is **Yesterday** with its mistakes and cares, its faults and blunders, its aches and pains. Yesterday has passed forever beyond our control. All the money in the world cannot bring back Yesterday. We cannot undo a single word we said, we can't erase a single act we preformed. Yesterday is gone.

The other day that we should not worry about is **Tomorrow** with its possible adversities, its burdens, its large promise and poor performance. Tomorrow is also beyond our control. Tomorrow will rise, either in splendour or behind a mask of clouds – but it will rise. Until it does we have no stake in Tomorrow for it is as yet unborn.

This leaves only one day – **Today** – Any man or woman can only fight the battles of one day. It's only when you or I add the burdens of those awful eternities – Yesterday and Tomorrow – that we break down. It is not the experience of Today that drives people mad – it is the remorse or bitterness of Yesterday or the dread of what Tomorrow may bring.

Yesterday never saw Today and Today will never see Tomorrow.

So therefore let us live but one day at a time.

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

Dates for your Diary

June

- Thurs 7th** Circuit Meeting, 7pm at Newtown
- Sat 9th** Concert: "Summer Serenade" with Jigsaw Sound, 7.30pm at Welshpool
- Sun 10th** Methodist Homes Sunday – envelope appeal throughout the Circuit
- Sun 10th** "Jonah Man Jazz" sung by Jubilate at Welshpool, 6pm, to mark Bible Month
- Weds 20th** Llanidloes Closing Service, 6.30pm
- Thurs 21st** Worship Consultation, Welshpool, 2pm
- Sat 23rd** Welshpool Festival of Transport: exhibitions, stalls etc., in church; refreshments
- Sun 24th** Welshpool Festival of Transport: Festival Service, 10.45am at Welshpool

July

- Mon 9th** Cefn Coffee Morning and Stalls at Welshpool, 9.30am to 12
- Sat 14th** "100 Cakes" and Coffee Morning, Welshpool, 10am (for Samaritans Purse)

August

- Sat 11th** Welshpool's Annual Church Outing, to Black Country Museum. All welcome.
- Sat 11th & Sun 12th** Pentre Llifior Flower Festival

Please send dates & details of future events to Janice Rhodes:



01938 850514

rhodes4144@gmail.com



The Robin and the Sparrow

Said the robin to the sparrow,
"I should really like to know,
Why these anxious human beings
Rush about and worry so."



Said the sparrow to the robin,
"Friend I think that it must be,
That they have no Heavenly Father,
Such as cares for you and me."

Elizabeth Cheney

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



Editorial

Hopefully by the time you are reading this summer, in all its glory, will have arrived after a long, hard winter. Many thanks to those who have provided us with the inspirational material to put this issue together; we hope you enjoy reading it.

Our next issue covers harvest and autumn, our copy date is **mid July 2018**, however, contributions are very welcome at any time. We are happy to receive articles by post: Foxglove, Beech Close, Newtown SY16 2QP 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**