

# **Welshpool & Bro Hafren Methodist Circuit**



**Magazine & Plan  
Dec 2018 to Feb 2019**

# Come, Thou long-expected Jesus

As we approach the Advent season my thoughts have been drawn to this wonderfully encouraging and challenging hymn by Charles Wesley which seems to me to be at the heart of the Christmas message (*Singing the Faith` 169*). John Henry Newman stated that the incarnation is "the most stupendous event that can ever take place on earth".

In this hymn there is an **expectancy** of the Messiah`s coming to both identify with our earthly struggles and needs and particularly to be a Saviour to all who will call upon His name (v.1). "Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you" *{Luke 2 v. 11}*.

At the heart of the hymn is a real sense of **hope** for individuals, communities, nations and therefore the

whole world (v.2). In Mark`s gospel the true nature and purpose of Jesus coming is proclaimed as

"Immanuel....God is with us" *{Mark 1 v.23}*. William Barclay says that "Jesus` coming is the final and unanswerable proof that God cares". And so in a broken and needy world Jesus comes to all who cry out to Him, to all who are hungry and thirsty and offers to quench our thirst and satisfy our hunger *{John 6 v. 35}*.

Charles Wesley goes on to speak of Jesus` incarnation in terms of

**deliverance** "born to set Thy people free" and **royalty** "born to reign in us for ever" (v.3). Graham Kendrick urges us "make way for Christ the King (who) in splendour arrives; fling wide the gates and welcome Him into your lives...make way and let His Kingdom in" (*Singing the Faith` 264*). Is He your King?



In the final verse of the hymn he notes that Jesus desires to **reign** in each of our hearts/lives. He desires that we will allow him the freedom to do His good will within us and reverse the rule of sin which separates us from our Creator.

So we may see this hymn on two levels, in terms of His **first coming**, as a vulnerable baby in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago, whilst also looking toward His **second coming**, as

... Christmas Day belongs not to time but to eternity

King at a future date. Frederick Denison Maurice sees Christmas as binding “together the life of Christ on earth with His life in heaven” and assuring us “that Christmas Day belongs not to time but to eternity”.

At this Advent season Jesus calls to each of us to come and follow Him and if we faithfully respond then accompanying this is an invitation to live with Him throughout eternity. This is the wonderful truth of the Christmas message.

“Come and behold Him born the King of Angels;  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord”.  
*(`Singing the Faith` 212; Charles Wesley)*

**Nigel Evans**



# Trees



The **Fir** tree is a soldier bold,  
So straight and tall he stands;  
The **Oak** a mighty sage of old  
With snarled and crooked hands.

The **Ash** tree weaves a net of lace  
With leaves against the sky;  
The **Poplars** seem to run a race  
To reach the clouds on high.

The **Plane** tree gives us playthings  
And shades the town's hot way;  
The **Aspen** seems to say things  
In whispers all the day.

The **Hawthorn** in the winter drear  
Gives hungry birds their food;  
The **Holly** comes with **Christmas** cheer  
And all things glad and good

The **Willow** has a graceful air  
Above the waterfall;  
But the **Birch** tree is a lady fair  
And the loveliest of all.

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



## Ideas for New Year's Resolutions!

To those who have hurt you ... forgiveness  
To those who try your patience ... tolerance  
To a friend ... your heart  
To all men ... charity  
To a child ... a good example  
To yourself ... respect.



There are three things you can do today to take stock of your life and face up to whatever challenges are presented to you:

1. Think back with thankfulness for the life you've enjoyed.
2. Think forward with hope in your heart.
3. Look heavenward and feel the self confidence within you.

Submitted by **Doreen Robinson**,  
Newtown

### **John Wesley's Rule for Christian Living**

*Do All the Good You Can,  
By All the Means You Can,  
In All the Ways You Can,  
In All the Places You Can,  
At All the Times You Can,  
To All the People You Can,  
As long as Ever You Can.*

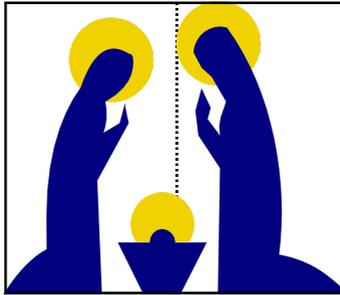
*John Wesley*



## Rev Bob's Letter

Dear Friends,  
I'm currently renewing my acquaintance with the 'Highland Novels' of Compton MacKenzie – an author perhaps better known for **Whisky Galore**. As you would expect they are drily hilarious accounts of the collision of the old ways and the new world in the Scottish highlands. There is something similar going on in the celebration of the birth of the Child of Bethlehem and the orgy of present-giving more familiarly known as Christmas. God's agenda in Bethlehem – indeed in the world is far more subversive than any of our celebrations would suggest – raising the poor and needy from the ash heap, settling the barren woman in her home the joyous mother of children.

I live in hope that we might avoid a similar collision



across the Circuit – the traditions we maintain do not bode well for our future – as we currently practice ministry we will have nothing to show for all our activity beyond 2030/35 at the latest – barring the intervention of God. In the Highland Novels Hector cannot wholeheartedly embrace the new ways that Archie would introduce in order to ensure the future of the ancestral home, but neither can he continue to maintain the traditions without Archie's help. In the Gospel accounts, the keepers of the Jewish tradition recognise that the preaching of Jesus will lead to their loss of place and authority in the nation. Not to put too fine a point on it time is running out for the Methodist Church in the Severn Valley – at sixty-two I am the youngest member of most congregations in which I preach – barring divine intervention it will be down to me to switch off the

lights and turn the key as I leave.

I believe in divine intervention. I meet regularly with two groups to read the Bible – not to read the comments and answer the queries of others – but simply to read the text. In doing so I’ve learnt something about divine intervention – more often

than not the Lord intervenes when people are working towards the answering of their prayers. Sometimes that

intervention is not according to their request but it certainly is an intervention. When the intervention is in accord with their labours then the blessing is mighty indeed. I believe in grace and am grateful for the ministry to which I am called – it is for me a means of grace – the invitation of God to enter more fully into relationship with Him.

Whatever our ministry, whatever the talent we seek to exercise to the glory of

**We need to become congregations that are more than welcoming, we need to be invitational**

God, for the benefit of those around us, it is for God the occasion of blessing us more fully.

At this time of year we celebrate God’s gift of Godself – in Jesus the generosity of God is exhausted – God has given absolutely everything that God has to give to humankind. This gift will

take more than a lifetime of unwrapping. This gift will take an eternity of understanding and appreciation.

This gift will be yours to treasure as long as you continue to give it away. It is more than vital for us to seek new ways of sharing our faith with our neighbours in the communities in which we worship. We need to become congregations that are more than welcoming, we need to be invitational – inviting others to share in those things that we enjoy so much that we continue to come to church week after

week to continue our pleasure.

Jesus tells a story of a wealthy man going on a long journey, entrusting his wealth to his servants, according to their ability.

Two of the three do business with their master's money and win his commendation.

The third keeps his master's treasure safe and returns it to him intact and is subject to his discipline. What he had been given is taken from him and given to

another. I think there should be a fourth servant who in taking the risk loses his master's wealth but nevertheless wins his master's commendation.

The building in which we worship, the people with whom we worship, the communities among which we worship are among the talents God has left in our care.

What more can we do . . . ?  
May God bless us, everyone.

**Bob**

## Misunderstood



Betty was a maid at a large London Hotel. A Duchess was due to arrive and the manager gave Betty final instructions: "When you speak to this lady always say Your Grace".

When the Duchess arrived Betty was heard to say "this way please and for what we are about to receive, may we be truly thankful".

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

## Ministers

Chair of the Synod:	Rev Dr Stephen Wigley
Superintendent:	<b>Rev Bob Thomas</b> B Th  01686 625690
Supernumerary:	Rev J Michael Taylor BD, BA
Supernumerary:	Rev Penny Burkill
Supernumerary:	Rev John W Newbury BA

## Local Preachers

Mr Terry M Jobling OBE  
Mrs Eileen Jobling  
Mr Graham Smith  
Mrs Eleri Williams  
Mrs Doris McNulty  
Mrs Maureen Douglas  
Mrs Jenny Thomas  
Mr John Harbron  
Mrs Kat Bond (on trial)  
Mrs Andrea Davies (on trial)

## Worship Leaders

Mr Alan Bradburn and Mrs Anthea Bradburn  
Mr Derek Painter (in training)

## Visiting Preachers

Mr Gareth Evans  
Mr Nigel Evans  
Rev Marian Jones  
Rev Phil Poole  
Rev Bill Rowell

Church & Hymn Books	Times	02-Dec	09-Dec	16-Dec	23-Dec	30-Dec
		1st Sun of Advent	2nd Sun of Advent	3rd Sun of Advent	4th Sun of Advent	1st Sun of Christmas
		Luke 21:25-36	Luke 3:1-6	Luke 3:7-18	Luke 1:39-45	Luke 2:41-52
Welshpool	9.00			Taylor HC		
H ON	10.45	Davies	Jones HC	N Evans	B Thomas	Harbron UM
SfF WB	6.00	Rowell HC	Jubilate:musical WCT	(Choral Concert 7.30pm)	Nine Lessons & Carols	T Jobling
Cefn	10.00	E Jobling BC				
H ON	6.00		@ Welshpool	B Thomas HC	Smith	
P Llifor	2.30	AACG	B Thomas HC	AACG	E Jobling	AACG
H SfF WB						
Newtown	10.30	B Thomas HC	J Thomas	Bond	T Jobling	B Thomas
H SfF WB	6.00	Harbron	@ Welshpool	Burkill HC	Candlelit Carol Service	N Evans
Caersws	10.30	UP	Smith	B Thomas HC	Williams	N Evans
H WB						
Trefglwys	10.00	@ Llawryglyn	B Thomas HC	@ Llawryglyn	Smith	@ Llawryglyn
H M						
Llawr Y Glyn	2.30	B Thomas HC	@ Trefglwys	T Jobling	@ Trefglwys	B Thomas
H WB						

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

06-Jan	13-Jan	20-Jan	27-Jan
Covenant Sun	1st Sun in Ord	2nd Sun in Ord	3rd Sun in Ord
John 1:10-18	Luke 3:15-17,21-22	John 2:1-11	Luke 4:14-21
		Taylor HC	
J Thomas	Jones Cov	Smith	B Thomas
Rowell HC	WCT @ New St		Stewards ATS 4pm
E Jobling BC			
		Taylor Cov	
B Thomas Cov	AACG	T Jobling	AACG
B Thomas Cov	Harbron	Davies	E Jobling
E Jobling		Rowell HC	
@ Llanwnog 11am UA	B Thomas Cov	E Jobling	T Jobling
N Evans	@ Llawryglyn	Bond	@ Llawryglyn
@ Trefeglwys	Burkill Cov	@ Trefeglwys	B Thomas

Church	03-Feb	10-Feb	17-Feb	24-Feb
& Hymn	4th Sun in Ord	5th Sun in Ord	6th Sun in Ord	7th Sun in Ord
Books	Luke 4:21-30	Luke 5:1-11	Luke 6:17-26	Luke 6:27-38
Welshpool			Taylor HC	
H ON	Williams	Jones HC	Bond	B Thomas
Sf WB	B Thomas HC	WCT UB		Stewards ATS 4pm
Cefn	T Jobling BC			
H ON			B Thomas HC	
P Llifor	J Thomas	AACG	Rowell HC	AACG
H Sf WB				
Newtown	B Thomas HC	G Evans	N Evans	Williams
H Sf WB	Smith		J Thomas HC	
Caersws	UB	B Thomas HC	Burkill	Davies
H WB				
Trefeglwys	Burkill HC	@ Llawryglyn	Poole	@ Llawryglyn
H M				
Llawr Y Glyn	@ Trefeglwys	Harbron HC	@ Trefeglwys	B Thomas
H WB				

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# 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

**There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.**

*John 1:6-8 (NIV)*



**Christmas** is the most wonderful season of the year! I love all of the decorations, especially the lights. Many towns put up Christmas lights; people decorate their houses. Sometimes the local newspaper publishes pictures of the most beautifully decorated homes and during the holidays, people get in their cars and drive all around to see the beautiful lighting displays. It

is so easy to get so caught up the beauty of the lights that we might think that that is what Christmas is all about, but it isn't. You see, the lights aren't Christmas, the lights are just reminders of the One True Light that came to bring light into the world.

There is a beautiful song called, "Shine On Us." The words go like this:

*Lord, Let your light,  
Light of your face shine on Us.  
That we may be saved,  
That we may have life,  
To find our way in the darkest night,  
Let your light shine on us.*

The Bible verses above tell us that there was a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came to tell about the light so that everyone would believe. John wasn't the light, he only came to tell others about the light.

Jesus was the light that John

came to tell people about. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

others about Jesus -- the light of the world -- that they might be saved, that they might have life, that they might find their way in the darkest night.

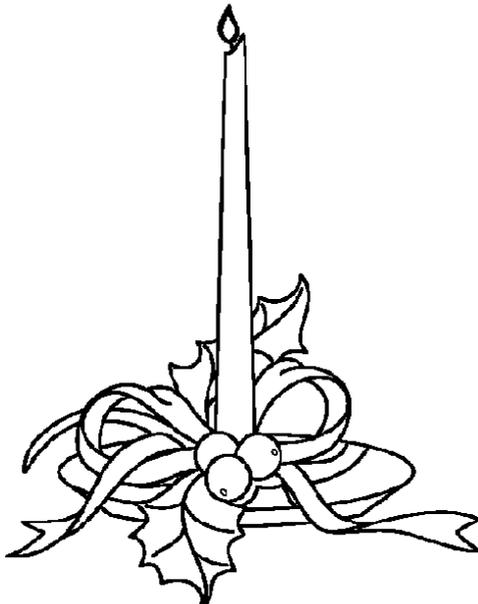
This Christmas, as we enjoy the beautiful Christmas lights, let's remember that while they are beautiful, they are only reminders of the one true light -- Jesus. Let's also remember that we have been called to tell

*Heavenly Father, this is such a beautiful time of the year. As we enjoy the lights of Christmas, we give thanks for your Son, the light of the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

*Adapted from Sermons4Kids*

***Christ is the Light of Christmas***

***Colour Me!***



**Rolling Reports (edited)  
from the  
Circuit Meeting on  
20th September 2018**

**Newtown**

With the help of every member, we at Newtown are able to provide Christian love to everyone we meet.

Friends still share worship and fellowship with us ... long may it continue.

Tuesday Coffee Morning provides friendship to our regular visitors and to passers-by.

The Salvation Army Food Bank still receives our support as do other charities in the town.

Four members represent us at Cytûn.

We now have extra storage in the hall and the toilets have been refurbished.

We try to support Circuit events and those put on by other chapels and pray that we continue to work together in our Lord's name.

***Sheila Pollard***

**Pentre Llifior**

The originator of the Eden Project in Cornwall, Tim Smit, had two rules; Rule 1 never disappoint your visitors, Rule 2 see Rule 1. As an accredited Methodist Heritage Site, this also applies to us and is a driver for change and improvements. The past year has seen completion of display boards relating to our story and connection with Methodism's

history. We also have purchased comfortable pew runners and a system for the hard of hearing as well as an excellent refurbished electronic organ, with the ability to play a variety of styles of music.

At the start of the connexional year we were honoured by the visit of Bishop Solomon and 43 members of the Methodist Church of Singapore touring Methodist sites

in Wales. At their insistence, an ad-hoc collection was held - raising an astonishing £550. September also saw the publication of "Chapels of England - buildings of Protestant Nonconformity" by Christopher Wakeling (*Gomer Press, 2017*) commissioned by Historic England. Amazingly, despite its location, Pentre Llifior was featured in the book and the author had wanted it on the front page! The latter has given us a major boost and the confidence to engage on a major advertising strategy and pursue possible links with the Methodist Churches of the United States of America and Gibraltar - a long held ambition.

Next year sees the 250th anniversaries of John Wesley's last journey through Montgomeryshire via Pentre Llifior and the establishment of a fledgling group of Wesleyan Methodist worshippers at the Pentre Farm. Plans are afoot to (a) finally set up a "Wesley Way" pilgrimage trail through Montgomeryshire

and (b) produce some display boards including some devoted to the wives of the founding ministers James Buckley and James Gill.

Aside from heritage, we need to develop further our engagement with the local community as this is where opportunities arise to improve our membership base. Currently, we are open on the 2nd Saturday of the month for our successful "Bacon Buddies" morning and on Wednesday and Thursday for our "Tea Shop Stop". We intend to develop some attractive display boards in the Preacher's Stable showing something of our present endeavours and to look at how we might more actively engage with other aspects of what goes on locally, i.e. with the farming community, schools and the various clubs. We have to broaden our base and take mission very seriously - we have to remember that the responsibility for shaping our future belongs to us all.

**Andrew Mathieson**



### **The Risk of Birth**

This is no time for a child to be born,  
With the earth betrayed by war and hate  
And a comet slashing the sky to warn  
That time runs out and the sun burns late.

That was no time for a child to be born,  
In a land in the crushing grip of Rome;  
Honour and truth were trampled by scorn –  
Yet here did the Saviour make his home.

When is the time for love to be born?  
The inn is full on the planet earth,  
And by a comet the sky is torn –  
Yet Love still takes the risk of Birth.

*Madeleine L'Engle*

*Submitted by **Jenny Thomas***



# **Christmas Events and Special Services**

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November 6.30pm** at Welshpool

Carols on the Steps for the turning on of the Christmas Lights

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December**

**Newtown:** Street Nativity Enactment; turning on of the Christmas Lights; Church Stall in Bear Lanes

**Welshpool:** Coffee Morning, Lunches and Stalls for Winter Festival

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December**

**Newtown:** Christmas Lunch

**Welshpool:** 6pm Jubilate Singers present Roger Jones' Christmas Musical "While Shepherds Watched"

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 7pm** at Welshpool

'Service of Light' to remember those not with us at Christmas

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December 10am** at Welshpool

'Carols at Costa' collecting for Action for Children, Broad Street

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December 10am** at Welshpool

Coffee and Carols for Action for Children

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 6.30pm** at Pentre Llifior

Candlelit Carol Service

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December 7pm** at Cefn

"Carols by Candlelight"

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December**

**Newtown:** 6pm Candlelight Carol Service

**Welshpool:** 6pm Traditional Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

**Newtown:** 7.30pm Christmas Eve Communion

**Welshpool:** 11.30pm Christmas Eve Midnight Communion

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> December**

**Newtown:** 10am Christmas Day service

**Pentre Llifior:** 10.30am Celebration of Christmas

**Welshpool:** 10am Christmas Day service at Chelsea Lane Baptist chapel

## Mid-Week Movies

This is a new initiative at Welshpool not only for our church family but especially for those in the Community who are lonely, or find it difficult to get out. Transport can be provided. Taking place on the first Wednesday of every month, at 2pm, the films are shown on the big screen in the Meeting Room, tea and biscuits are served, and there is time for a chat. Bring a friend, or come alone and make new friends. All are welcome, and there is no charge.



## Editorial

**Wishing you all a joyful and peaceful Christmas and a very Happy New Year**



A couple of questions for Christmas:

- ♦ What did one snowman say the other?  
Do you smell carrots?!!
- ♦ How did Mary & Joseph know that Jesus weighed 8lbs?  
Because they had a weigh in a manger!!

Sincere thanks to all our contributors; you make our task so much more pleasurable.

Our next issue covers Easter and we need contributions by **mid January 2019** please. We are happy to receive articles at any time by post: Foxglove, Beech Close, Newtown SY16 2QP

by email: [editors.marlow@btinternet.com](mailto:editors.marlow@btinternet.com)

or you can pass to the minister 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**