

**Welshpool & Bro Hafren
Methodist Circuit**

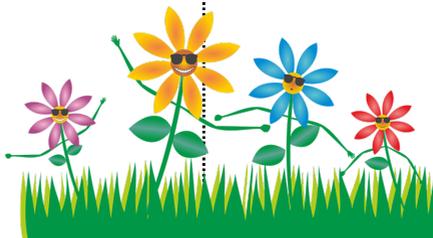


**Magazine & Plan
March to May 2019**

As I write this article we have just cleared away the Christmas decorations, and by the time you read it hopefully we will be moving into spring. I actually like winter, seeing it as a time to slow down, reflect and just be. We are very blessed to live in beautiful countryside where we are very aware of the changing seasons. If we take the time to look, even in winter when the trees seem bare, if we look closely we can see new buds forming ready for the warmer weather and longer days. By the time we get to March, when you will possibly be reading this, there should be lots of new life all around us.

Christmas was a time to think about a very special

New Birth; we are now looking forward to "re birth", the time when Jesus was reborn as it were from the tomb on that first glorious Easter morning. I'm not sure which is God's greatest surprise, coming to earth as a baby or returning when all seemed lost.



God constantly surprises us if we care to think about it. Plants spring up in unexpected places, bare earth becomes covered in plants when left unattended. Spring seems to be a miracle every year and I always see it as a promise fulfilled.

... the great celebrations of the church's year, offer Christians opportunities to share their faith in simple ways.

It seems to me, that both of the great celebrations of the church's year, offer

Christians opportunities to share their faith in simple ways. When talking about the ways that they are marketed, it might be

possible to talk quite casually about the cross on a hot cross bun, why they used to be only sold around Good Friday, or the fact that Easter eggs are symbols of new birth.

I have to admit that I don't always find it easy to talk about my faith, and yet it is one of the things that I feel that Jesus specifically asked us to do. At the end of Matthew's gospel, in the "great commission" go and

make disciples, and that isn't going to happen if those of us who call ourselves His disciples don't talk about Him. So, maybe I and perhaps some of you, could use the opportunities that our celebrations and simple things like nature's miracles offer us, to talk about our faith.

Anthea Bradburn

Issue 13, Winter 2019 of the Connexion magazine contains inspiring stories on the theme of "journeying".

Rev Stephen Lindridge stresses the centrality of our prayer and day-to-day witness for evangelism. Some of his article echoes what Anthea has written above...

"I guess many of us don't think we are well skilled in evangelism but it is very often more straightforward

than we imagine. It is rarely a clever argument or an amazing bit of street preaching that makes someone sit up and take notice of Jesus.

The Talking Jesus research (<http://talkingjesus.org>) tells us that most people say it's you ... an ordinary person, as a family member or friend, journeying in life with them; the choices you make, the kindness you show, the prayers that you offer, the lived out faith that you graciously display."

Hello God

Hello God, I called tonight
To talk a little while...
I need a friend who'll listen
To my anxiety and trial...



.....
You see, I can't quite make it
Through a day just on my own...
I need your love to guide me,
So I'll never feel alone.

.....
I want to ask you please to keep,
My family safe and sound.
Come and fill their lives with confidence
For whatever fate they're bound.

Give me faith, dear God, to face
Each hour throughout the day,
And not to worry over things
I can't change in any way.

I thank you God, for being home.
And listening to my call,
For giving me such good advice
When I stumble and fall.

Your number, God, is the only one
That answers every time.
I never get a busy signal,
Never had to pay a dime.

So thank you, God, for listening
To my troubles and my sorrow.
Good night, God, I love You, too.
And I'll call again tomorrow!

Author unknown. Taken from The Cedewain

*Submitted by **May Harding**, Newtown*



Rev Bob's Letter

Dear Friends,

As I'm working my way to the keyboard this morning the phone rings. A lady from the Crabbs Cross congregation is calling to check up on how we are. Among the cards we received was one from a lady in the Askew Avenue congregation letting us know how she was and wondering how we are getting along, just two among many reminders of the ties of love and friendship that bind us all – and add so much to the celebration of Christmas. Two ladies – among others – that we in this house rise to call blessed on every remembrance of them.



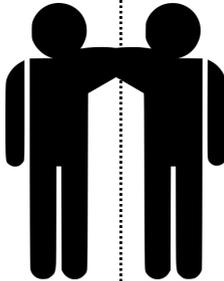
At its best, church is a quality of relationship – when we talk about mission and outreach, being invitational as well as welcoming, we are talking about entering into relationship with people, inviting people into relationship with us and through us into relationship

with God. Quality relationships are a long time in the growing and require a deal of care and attention. In all likelihood it may take months or even years before our shared conversation turns to matters of faith, but then, as I read the Gospels Jesus talks more, and more frequently, about life than he does about faith. We might not feel able to participate freely in a conversation about the life of faith, but there are very few of us in this Circuit who haven't been round any number of blocks a sufficient number of times as to form an opinion on at least part of life, the universe and everything. On the other hand we might all be a lot younger than we look!

We don't need to look too far afield to see the worth of those ties of love and friendship and the strain they are currently under. There is something quite shaming about the recent headline in the County Times (03 January) drawing attention to the use of the Foodbank and

the Salvation Army's gift service of Christmas. Individual acts of generosity will always be necessary and are highly commendable, but to be a member of a society that perpetuates rather than seeking to alleviate such necessity I find quite distressing. Just recently I found myself in conversation with a Christian gentleman – who in my opinion was old enough to know better – who told me that he had voted to leave the E.U. because the nation needed a healthy dose of poverty – I offered to introduce him to some of the folks I know but he was happy to make such a statement without feeling the need to forego his own creature comforts.

As the celebration of the light that shines in the darkness recedes so we look forward to the celebration of the life in death that is Easter. For so many in our community there is little or nothing to celebrate in life – those of us who give our contributions to the Foodbank week by week and wrap our presents for the



Salvation Army at Christmas have little idea of how such dependency might take the edge off the celebration. We might wish to strongly assert that Jesus can make all the difference to our celebrations – but if we are not ready to enter into relationship with them how will they come to believe that Jesus is wanting to enter into relationship with them? In his letter to the church of Corinth Paul declares that conversation, understanding, generosity to the point of profligacy that go without the warmth of love are less than worthless. Love cannot be experienced at arm's length – that's why Jesus comes among us as an infant at Christmas and opens his arms to us at Easter – to reach our hearts and draw us to his own.

With every good wish,

Bob

"The salvation of humankind lies in making everything the concern of all."

Alexandr Solzhenitsyn.

Ministers

Chair of the Synod:	Rev Dr Stephen Wigley
Superintendent:	Rev Bob Thomas 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 Bill Rowell

Church & Hymn Books	Times	03-Mar	10-Mar	17-Mar	24-Mar	31-Mar
		Sun before Lent	1st Sun in Lent	2nd Sun in Lent	3rd Sun in Lent	Mothering Sun
		Luke 9:28-36	Luke 4:1-13	Luke 13:31-35	Luke 13:1-9	Luke 2:33-35
Welshpool	9.00			Taylor HC		
H ON	10.45	Smith	Jones HC	T Jobling	B Thomas	UA St Mary's
StF WB	6.00	Rowell HC	UA WCT	@ Cefn	4pm P & PATS	@ Cefn
Cefn	10.00	T Jobling BC				
H ON	6.00		B Thomas HC	Smith	E Jobling	Harbron
P Llifor	2.30	B Thomas HC	AACG	Rowell	AACG	N Evans
H StF WB						
Newtown	10.30	N Evans	B Thomas HC	Bond	G Evans	J Thomas
H StF WB	6.00	Smith	J Thomas	B Thomas HC	T Jobling	Williams
Caersws	10.30	Burkill UM	Smith	B Thomas HC	E Jobling	N Evans
H WB						
Trefeglwys	10.00	B Thomas HC	@Llawryglyn	Smith	@Llawryglyn	Davies
H M						
Llawr Y Glyn	2.30	@Trefeglwys	E Jobling	@Trefeglwys	B Thomas HC	@Trefeglwys
H WB						

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

07-Apr	14-Apr	21-Apr	28-Apr
5th Sun in Lent	Palm Sun	Easter Sun	2nd Sun of Easter
John 12:1-8	Luke 19:28-40	John 20:1-18	John 20:19-31
		Jones HC	
Harbron	Davies	Jones HC	B Thomas
Rowell HC	UW WCT	Easter P & P	Harbron
B & J Thomas BC			
	T Jobling	B Thomas HC	E Jobling
AACG	B Thomas HC	AACG	T Jobling
Smith	B Thomas	Taylor HC	Davies CA
Burkill	N Evans	Easter P & P	B Thomas CA HC
UP	Bond	B Thomas HC	J Thomas T
Burkill LS	N Evans	@ Llawryglyn	Harbron HC
@ Trefeglwys	@ Trefeglwys	B Thomas HC	@ Trefeglwys

Church & Hymn Books	Times	05-May	12-May	19-May	26-May
		3rd Sun of Easter	Vocations Sun	Aldersgate Sun	6th Sun of Easter
		John 21:1-19	John 10:22-30	John 13:31-35	John 14:23-29
Welshpool	9.00			Taylor HC	
HON	10.45	Jubilate	Jones HC	G Evans	B Thomas
SIF WB	6.00	B Thomas HC	UMWCT Café Ch CAid	@Cefn	Harbron
Cefn	10.00	E Jobling BC			
HON	6.00		Friday 10th @6pm CA	Rowell HC	@Welshpool
PLlifer	2.30	AACG	B Thomas HC	AACG	E Jobling
HSF WB					
Newtown	10.30	B Thomas HC	E Jobling	T Jobling	Harbron
HSF WB	6.00	Rowell	B Thomas HC	Harbron	B Thomas
Caersws	10.30	T Jobling	UB CAid	Harbron HC	Davies
HVB					
Trefeglwys	10.00	@Llawryglyn	Williams	@Llawryglyn	J Thomas HCT
HM					
Llawr Y Glyn	2.30	Bond	@Trefeglwys	NEvans	@Trefeglwys
HVB					

Visit 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
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

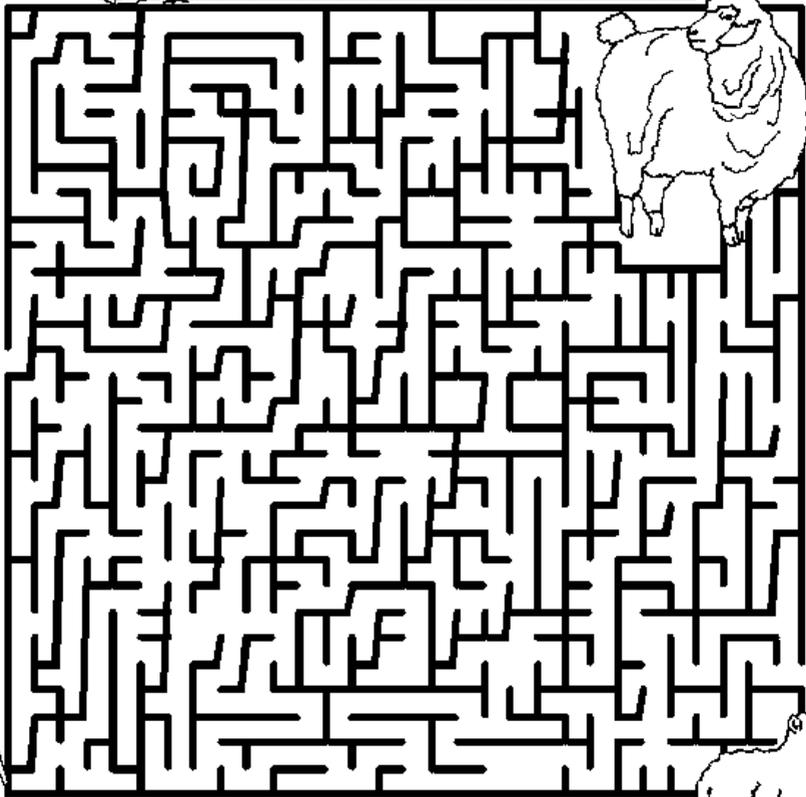
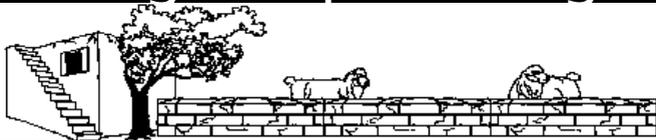
UNITED SERVICES

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



Find the
Lost Sheep



Do you really matter to God?

Once, when Jesus was talking with a group of children, He said, "What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost (Matthew 18:12-14)." Jesus Christ is concerned about each and every one of us, especially children! We are special and unique to Him... He loves us very much.

www.KidExplorers.com

Resurrection



All things are bursting into life from out the Winter's gloom
- All things are turning towards the light, deep in the
earth's dark tomb-The trees are bright with swelling buds-
their gay green banners furled-There is no death-the cry
rings out across the grieving world....The Christian faith
is pinned upon this mighty, glorious fact-We human
creatures live our lives by fear and torments racked-
And yet each Eastertide the Truth is brought to us again-
The truth that is the answer to our doubting and our pain...
He rose again-He came to life-and thus set all men free-
Death is a dream from which we wake to immortality.

Patience Strong.

Eastertide

Easter flowers! What thoughts they bring! Crowning glory
of the spring... Easter bells!- their chimes ring out-
banishing our fears and doubts...Easter hymns of hope
and praise-Anthems of the holy days...Who dare speak
Of Deaths dark power-in this glad triumphant hour?
Gone the sorrow and the gloom; Christ has risen from the
tomb! No more tears or grief or loss...He was nailed upon
a Cross-made to suffer hate and scorn-wounded-pierced
by spear and thorn...Thus He conquered death and pain-
Thus He died-to rise again.
Do you mourn a dear one gone? That immortal soul lives
on-This the Truth for which He died-This the joy of
Eastertide!
...Weep not o'er some earthy bed; God is Love-There are
no dead!

Patience Strong



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

Dates for your Diary

Shrove Tuesday 5th March at Newtown
Coffee Morning with Pancakes

Saturday 31st March at Welshpool
Spring Fair

Saturday 6th April at Trefeglwys
Coffee Morning

Sunday 7th April at Trefeglwys
Lambing Service

Thursday 18th April at Newtown and Welshpool
Maundy Thursday Services

Good Friday 19th April at Newtown and Welshpool
Churches Together Walk of Witness

Good Friday 19th April at 2.30pm, Welshpool
Music and Meditation for Good Friday

Sunday 28th April at Newtown
Church Anniversary Services

Friday 10th May at Cefn
Chapel Anniversary Service

Sunday 12th May 6pm at Welshpool
Cafe Church: Churches Together Christian Aid Week Service

Sunday 19th May 7.30pm at Trefeglwys
Concert, Llanwnog Mixed Choir

Advanced Notices:

Saturday 29th June Welshpool's Annual Outing:
By coach to LIVERPOOL, calling at Port Sunlight, £15. Friends from
around the Circuit are invited. Book now to avoid disappointment.

Saturday 9th November at Welshpool
Circuit Event: JOHN BELL

You envy someone's lifestyle?

It's tempting, it is true,
To count another's blessings
And wish you had them, too.
But stop and think a moment;
It's yours you need to count,
For once you start, you'll realise
You've got the same amount!
All blessings are allotted,
We get just what we need,
Enjoy what you've been given,
And life is rich indeed.

Margaret Ingall

Submitted by **Doreen Robinson**, Newtown

Count
your
blessings



Editorial

He is risen indeed

"The great gift of Easter is hope - Christian hope which makes us have that confidence in God, in his ultimate triumph and in his goodness and love, which nothing can shake." Basil C Hume (1923-1999)

Many thanks to all our contributors. Do **you** have something you can share with the Circuit? We need you! Our next issue covers the summer months of June, July and August; contributions by **mid April 2019** please, though we are happy to receive articles at any time by post: Foxglove, Beech Close, Newtown SY16 2QP by email: 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

Those of you with smart phones or tablets can scan this QR code to go straight to the website. **Bill and Andrea Marlow**