

# **Welshpool & Bro Hafren Methodist Circuit**



## **Joy to the World!**

**Magazine & Plan  
Dec 2019 to Feb 2020**

I write this in the autumn; at the fullness of the year. The earth has yielded its harvest and, for those of us in the fertile lands of the world, "all is safely gathered in ere the winter storms begin".

Indeed, they have begun already. The autumnal equinox (when daylight equalled darkness) had barely passed when storm Lorenzo swept in off the Atlantic to make its presence felt.

This is the time when change is in the air. Spiders are drawn to our houses, looking for a mate and a warm place where they can breed. The now rare Tawny Owl hoots quietly from his perch in a surviving ash tree. The scene he scans is more about death than new life. He watches over a landscape where leaves are dying on deciduous trees. Small creatures are heading into hibernation; alive but dead to the world, and "the last rose of summer" puts on one final show of colour

before she "and her lovely companions are faded and gone": Cut down by the frosts that herald the coming of winter.

We have no choice. We have to endure the gloomy season our Celtic ancestors called "Samhain", the time of the dead. The days shorten and nights lengthen. The cold strengthens and the sun's warming rays are but a distant memory or, at best, a rare occurrence.



I hate the gloom of the year's penultimate month. I find it appropriate that we use it to commemorate man's (and I mean man's) utter stupidity and senseless brutality as shown in two world wars; and more violence since.

I cling to the fact that in spite of all our carelessness shown in climate change, in our selfish refusal to tackle poverty and our inability to make peace not war, God still loves us.

He loves us with amazing, boundless and unconditional love.

Around the time of the winter solstice the Old Testament gives way to the New Testament; of which **we** are a part for it is still happening.

Every year we are reminded of a miracle. God opened a pathway to heaven for all believers when he came among us in a frail, fragile vulnerable baby.

We call it Christmas; the Mass of the Christ. Heaven opened. God shared our lives in Jesus, Emmanuel, "God with us".

At Christmas we are bidden to open **our** hearts to receive the Christ-child into our lives once more.

Christmas, when like the Tawny Owl, we too may survey the landscape around us and see the signs; small and slow at first but gathering momentum; the signs that new life is coming once more to the land.

We see that winter was just the natural world, God's created order, at rest.



The new life that comes with the Christ of Christmas shows us that God is about redemption and reconciliation. He is about life and love. He is about forgiveness and forever.

In Jesus, the Babe of Bethlehem, God gives himself to us for he is the gift that is freely given out of love. He is the gift that dispels the darkness of winter and floods our lives with warmth and light that nothing can overcome.

So when it comes, may you have a Happy Christmas. May you receive once more the gift that is Jesus and, as he is the love that is never exhausted, may you share that special gift with those you know and even with those you don't. Christmas; when God reaches out to his world through the waving arms of a beautiful baby.

Every blessing to you all,  
**Rev Penny Burkill**

## One Solitary Life

He was born in an obscure village. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty. He then became an itinerant preacher.

He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a house. He didn't go to college. He had no credentials but Himself...

Twenty centuries have come and gone, and today **He is the central figure of the human race.**



All the armies that have ever marched and all the navies that have ever sailed; all the parliaments that have ever sat and all the kings that ever reigned, have not affected the life of man on earth as much as that ... one solitary life.

*Adapted from a sermon by Dr James Allan Francis  
Submitted by **Margaret Griffith, Newtown***

Two little girls tiptoed past their Grandmother. "Why is Granny always reading the Bible?" asked Kate. "Ssh!" whispered Lizzie, "we mustn't disturb her! She's cramming for her finals"



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

## The Miracle of Friendship

There is a Miracle called Friendship  
that dwells within the heart,  
and you don't know how it happens  
or when it gets it's start...

But the happiness it brings you  
always gives a special lift,  
and you realise that Friendship  
is God's most precious gift.

*Anonymous*



Submitted by **John and Anne Hewlett** as a token of the appreciation shown to them by Members of Newtown Methodist Church and for their continued friendship. Anne and John have recently celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

.....

*Those crazy church notices...back by special request!*

- ☺ Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
- ☺ At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is hell". Come early and listen to the choir practice.
- ☺ Low self esteem support group will meet on Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.  
Weight watchers will meet on Friday. Please use the large double door at the side.



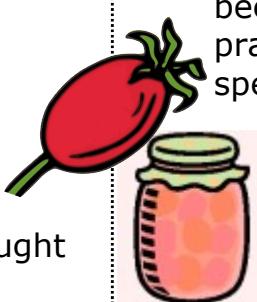
## Rev Bob's Letter

Dear All,

One way and another September turned out to be an interesting month for us – District prayer events going on in various locations across the Circuit, not that we were able to get to as many as we would have wanted – in various meetings since, we have spoken of our experience of the various prayer events and the comments of those inadvertently caught up in them.

I have learnt how well prayer and food go together – is there anything more natural than sitting round a table eating/grazing/nibbling and ‘stopping’ periodically to pray? I have come to believe that in reality we were at prayer all the time – God was no less participating in our conversation than when heeding our specific address. I think it was St. Francis who said ‘Preach all the time and use words when you

have to.’ Perhaps that was in Abbe Michel Quoist’s mind when he wrote ‘If we knew how to look at life then all of life would become a prayer’.



Strangely there have been one or two instances of complaint. In the accounts I have heard no reason was given for the complaint which leaves me wondering what may or may not have been going on. Is prayer to be limited to specific times/places/reasons? I suspect in most people’s minds the answer would be ‘yes’ but as I age in my faith

I am prompted to believe that prayer is a rather more complex activity than I had understood to be the case. Perhaps part of prayer is in consciously bringing our more ‘ordinary’ gifts and skills into our relationship with God and our neighbour.

During the summer I have spent a deal of time harvesting and processing rose-hips and blackberries

that in time will become pots of jelly, just this last month – in need of some ‘culinary therapy’ – I’ve put together a couple of batches of chutney. I know that I will enjoy eating them in due course but I will also take a pot of something when I go to visit the grieving and ailing. I might not know who they are for sharing with when I make them but I dare to believe that God does and that God will count my stirring, sterilising and sharing as my prayer for them.

In the ordinary and everyday as well as in the momentous moments we walk in the company of God and every now and again we recognise God walking beside us. Just because we are unaware of the presence we dare not allow ourselves to believe that God is absent.

At the heart of our faith is the twofold strand of the love of God and our

## God is Everywhere

neighbour – an instruction that is clarified from time to time.

Towards the end

As we have considered the comments rising from the month of prayer ‘someone’ asserted that “God is everywhere”. Caught up as we are in the maintenance and management of chapel and Circuit, it is too easy for us to forget that God is everywhere and that God is in everything. In Jesus, God has broken down the divisions between God and humankind, between world and church – life is the place in which God comes to us.

of the New Testament, James writes of our relationship with the needy “If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them ‘Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,’ and yet do not supply their bodily needs what is the good of that?” Beyond the pages of the Bible the stories of Papa Panov and St. Christopher serve to remind us God is worshipped in the care of our neighbour as much as in

our singing of hymns – if we cannot demonstrate our love in the care of our neighbour we cannot declare our love for God without being hypocritical.

Jenny joins me in wishing you all joy for the coming festivities we look forward to sharing in worship with you over the Christmas season.

All love,

**Bob**

---

## **Priest, Pastor, Vicar, Minister and Friend?**

Whatever we call him (or her), it's still a tough job!



If he visits his flock, he's nosy,  
If he doesn't, he's a snob.  
If he preaches longer than 10 minutes, it's too long,  
If he preaches less than 10 minutes, he can't have prepared his sermon.  
If he runs a car, he's worldly,  
If he doesn't, he's always late for appointments.  
If he tells a joke, he's flippant,  
If he doesn't, he's far too serious.  
If he starts the service on time, his watch must be fast,  
If he's a minute late, he's keeping the congregation waiting.  
If he takes a holiday, he's never in the parish,  
If he doesn't, he's a stick-in-the-mud.  
If he runs a gala or bazaar, he's money mad,  
If he doesn't, there's no social life in the parish.  
If he has the church painted and decorated, he's extravagant,  
If he doesn't, the church is shabby.  
If he's young he's inexperienced,  
If he's getting old he ought to retire.

BUT...

when he dies, there's never been anyone like him!

Adapted from  
Beda Review

*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 Burkhill
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 Nigel Evans  
Rev Marian Jones  
Rev Bill Rowell

Church & Hymn Books	Times	01-Dec	08-Dec	15-Dec	22-Dec	29-Dec
		Advent Sun	2nd Sun of Advent	3rd Sun of Advent	4th Sun of Advent	1st Sun of Christmas
		Matt 24: 36-44	Matt 3: 1-12	Matt 11:2-11	Matt 1:18-25	Matt 2:13-23
Welshpool	9.00			Taylor HC		
H ON	10.45	Davies	Jones HC	Bond	B Thomas HC	UA P&P
Sf WB	6.00	No service	WCT @ New Street	Jubilate:Musical	Carol Service	No service
Cefn	10.00	J Thomas BC	-	T Jobling	-	-
H ON	6.00	-	B Thomas HC	@ Welshpool	-	-
P Llifor	2.30	AACG	Evans	AACG	B Thomas HC	AACG
H Sf WB						
Newtown	10.30	B Thomas HC	T Jobling	Harbron	E Jobling	Smith
H Sf WB	6.00	Harbron	Evans	@ Welshpool	B Thomas Carols	No service
Caersws	10.30	UP	E Jobling	B Thomas HC	J Thomas	T Jobling
H WB						
Trefeglwys	10.00	@ Llawryglyn	B Thomas HC	@ Llawryglyn	Evans	@ Llawryglyn
H M						
Llawr Y Glyn	2.30	B Thomas HC	@ Trefeglwys	Burkhill	@ Trefeglwys	B Thomas
H WB						

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

05-Jan	12-Jan	19-Jan	26-Jan
Covenant Sun	1st Sun in Ord	2nd Sun in Ord	3rd Sun in Ord
John 1:(1-9) 10-18	Matt 3:13-17	John 1:29-42	Matt 4:12-23
		Taylor HC	
Jones Cov	T Jobling	P&P Sankey	B Thomas HC
No service	WCT @ UB	No service	4pm Rowell
E Jobling BC	-	Evans	-
-	B Thomas Cov	-	T Jobling
Harbron	AACG	B Thomas Cov	AACG
B Thomas Cov	J Thomas	Bond	Harborn
Rowell	No service	Williams	No service
11am @ Llanwnog	B Thomas Cov	Burkhill	Smith
Harbron Cov	@ Llawryglyn	B Thomas	@ Llawryglyn
@ Trefeglwys	Davies	@ Trefeglwys	B Thomas Cov

Church & Hymn Books	Times	02-Feb 4th Sun in Ord Matt 5:1-12	09-Feb 5th Sun in Ord Matt 5:13-20	16-Feb 6th Sun in Ord Matt 5:21-37	23-Feb Sun before Lent Matt 5:38-48
Welshpool	9.00			Taylor HC	
H ON	10.45	Evans	Jones HC	Harbron	B Thomas HC
Sif WB	6.00	No service	WCT @ New Street	No service	4pm Smith ATS
Cefn	10.00	Bond BC	-	E Jobling BC	-
H ON	6.00	-	B Thomas HC	-	Rowell
P Llifor	2.30	E Jobling	AACG	B Thomas HC	AACG
H Sif WB					
Newtown	10.30	Burkhill HC	Evans	B Thomas HC	E Jobling
H Sif WB	6.00	Smith	No service	Harbron HC	No service
Caersws	10.30	UB	B Thomas HC	T Jobling	Harbron
H WB					
Trefeglwys	10.00	Davies	@ Llawryglyn	J Thomas HC	@ Llawryglyn
H M					
Llawr Y Glyn	2.30	@ Trefeglwys	Burkhill	@ Trefeglwys	B Thomas HC
H WB					

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

## **UNITED SERVICES**

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

## **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  
EO Easter Offering Dedication  
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  
TF Welshpool Transport Festival  
WCT Welshpool Churches Together  
UnS Circuit United Service

## **OTHER**

- T Transport Required  
TS Trial Service

## **Rolling Reports from the Circuit Meeting on 17th September 2019**

### **Newtown**

After a busy, warm Summer and holidays, we are ready at Newtown to face the Autumn and Winter months dedicated to "**serving the Lord with gladness**" and praying that regulars and visitors alike will feel that His love is evident in the welcome received and worship shared.

Tuesday coffee morning continues to be a regular meeting place for people of Newtown and passers-by. Our new kitchen is well used by the town - in particular "FOOD LOOP" which offers cooking instruction and guidance on Monday morning and the Community café which meets every Wednesday, serving lunches from 12.00 - 1.00pm. We hope that this continues to grow offering a welcome to anyone who drops in for a chat and a good meal. We

are pleased that the number of volunteers who help is increasing.

We continue to support the Salvation Army food bank (and a chosen local charity every two months). Bible study meets every other week on a Monday and our Friendship club every third week on a Thursday for films, discussions and demonstrations - all are welcome to join us! We hope that the September prayer initiative will develop and bring God's renewal and strength to all of us.

***Margaret Griffiths***

---

### **Trefeglwys**

Since our last report, the problem we had with surface water has now been cured, as has the problem with the vestry wall.

We had a return of Vocalease ladies' choir, in May 2018 with Val Owen, and Harvey Lloyd soloists. It was a very enjoyable evening with an entertaining President's address by Rev Bob Thomas. We also had a concert by

Llanwnog Mixed choir in June of this year, with conductor Graham Marshman, and soloist Glyn Jones, along with another entertaining address from Rev Bob Thomas, culminating in another successful evening.

The Remembrance service, celebrating the hundred years since the end of the first world war, was appropriately conducted in excellent manner, by Mrs Eleri Williams, with a large attendance.

The Coffee mornings continue to be reasonably well attended and we continue to be a drop off point for the Samaritan purse (shoebox) appeal. This is efficiently run by Miss Susan Williams.

Since the closure of Longbridge Church Llanidloes, we have had worshippers join us on occasions, and we are pleased that Kevin and Libby Gilman, have decided to become members. We are hoping that maybe one or two others may decide to do so, but in any event, we welcome anyone who wishes to join us in our worship at any time.

We are grateful to Longbridge for donating the carpets, which we have had fitted, also the P.A.

system; unfortunately this has not been installed due to the lack of a Technician. (Does anyone know of such a person??)

The annual Lambing service was in April of this year, with the local primary school children, along with the Head Mrs Caroline Harris. We were sorry that the local YFC declined the invitation to be part of our service. Sadly young people do not appear interested. However the service was conducted in excellent manner by the Reverend Penny Burkhill, and £92.50 was collected for the Wales Air Ambulance.

Services with the Anglican Church have re-started after a long period, and services with our sister church at Llawryglyn continue on alternate Sundays.

Several new houses have been built, and sold in the village, to date no Methodists among them. However we continue to be a witness to Methodism in the community, and regularly extend a warm invitation to all.

**Alun Bunford**

# Young People's Page

## Joy is found in sharing

Are there a lot of gifts under your Christmas tree? Have you looked to see how many of the gifts have your name on them?

I heard about a little boy who checked the presents under the tree every day. One day, he discovered that his sister had more gifts than he did. He became very upset and ran into the kitchen where his mother was preparing dinner.

"Katie has more presents under the Christmas tree than I do!" the little boy cried. Then he turned and ran from the room. He went to his room, closed the door, and sat pouting. He couldn't even enjoy the Christmas season because he was so upset that someone else had more gifts under the tree than he did. What this little boy did not understand was that the real joy of Christmas is not in how many gifts we receive, but in

sharing what we have with others.

John the Baptist was sent to prepare people for the coming of Jesus. He told them to repent of their sins and prepare their hearts for the coming of the promised Messiah.

"What should we do?" they asked.

John answered them, "If you have two coats, give one of them to the one who has none. If you have food, share it with those who have none."

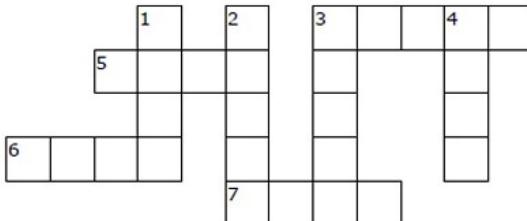
That is the same message we need to hear today as we look forward to Christmas. If we want to experience the real joy that Jesus wants for us, then we must learn to share! By sharing what God has so generously given to us, we will receive an even greater gift -- the gift of joy.

*Adapted from Sermon4Kids.com*

# Christmas Joy

John answered, "Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same." Luke 3:11 (NIV)

Puzzle is based on Luke 3:7-11



## ACROSS

3. An item of clothing that is worn on the upper half of the body
5. To have very little money or possessions
6. The opposite of bad
7. A tall plant that has a trunk, branches, and leaves

## DOWN

1. What we eat
2. The sweet food that grows on a tree
3. To give part of what you have to someone else
4. The part of a tree that grows under the ground

ROOT FOOD	TREE GOOD	POOR FRUIT	SHARE SHIRT
--------------	--------------	---------------	----------------



Two poems full of optimism, joy and  
celebration for the New Year



**TODAY** is all about life,  
Today is all about living,  
It's catching the sunshine and seizing the day  
And sometimes forgetting, forgiving.  
Today is all about you,  
The you that is hidden within,  
A time to look forward and nurture your dreams  
And let those ambitions begin.  
Today is all about love,  
To comfort the hurt and the strife,  
Reach out to each other, Sister and Brother,  
It's time now to celebrate life!

*Iris Hesselden*



**M**ay your path lead on to sunlight,  
Bright flowers line the road,  
And guardian angels walk with you,  
To lighten every load.  
May those you love find happiness  
To warm and lift their hearts  
And may they find the joy in life, that only love  
imparts.  
May every far horizon be filled with hope for you,  
And as the shadows fall away may all your  
dreams come true.

*Iris Hesselden*

*Submitted by Doreen Robinson, Newtown*

## Dates for your Diary

- ◆ **Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> December:** Caersws 10.30am United service at the Presbyterian
- ◆ **Tuesday, 3rd December:** Welshpool 7.15pm Service of Light
- ◆ **Wednesday, 4th December:** Welshpool 2pm Movie: "White Christmas"
- ◆ **Saturday, 7th December:** Welshpool from 9.30am (Welshpool Winter Festival) Christmas Gifts, Coffee and Lunches
- ◆ **Sunday, 8th December:** Welshpool 7.30pm Welshpool Choral Society's Christmas Concert
- ◆ **Saturday, 14th December:** Welshpool 10am Carol Singing in Broad Street, collecting for Action for Children
- ◆ **Sunday, 15th December:** Welshpool 6pm "The Inn Crowd" by Roger Jones, sung by Jubilate
- ◆ **Monday, 16th December:** Welshpool Coffee and Carols for Action for Children
- ◆ **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December:**  
Cefn 1.30pm Festive entertainment by pupils of Buttington / Trewern school  
Caersws 2.30pm Cyfun Carol Service in Caersws Village Hall  
Pentre Lliffor 6.30pm Traditional Candlelight Carol Service
- ◆ **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December:** Cefn 7pm Candlelit Service
- ◆ **Sunday, 22nd December:**  
Welshpool 6pm Candlelit Carol Service  
Newtown 6pm Candlelit Carol Service
- ◆ **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December:**  
Trefeglwys 9pm Christmas Eve Communion Service  
Newtown 11.30pm Christmas Eve Communion Service; John Harbron  
Welshpool 4pm Crib Service  
Welshpool 11pm Service of Holy Communion
- ◆ **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December:**  
Pentre Lliffor 10.30am Short, informal Christmas morning service  
Caersws 9.30am United service at the Baptist Church
- ◆ **Sunday 12th January:** Newtown New Year's Lunch
- ◆ **Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> February:** Welshpool 2.15pm Screening of 6 Nations, Wales v Italy
- ◆ **Saturday, 29th February:** Welshpool 2pm Games Afternoon with Welsh Afternoon Tea

Please send details of events to **Emma Edwards**, the Circuit Administrator  
by email if possible:  
[wbcircuit@gmail.com](mailto:wbcircuit@gmail.com)  
or telephone  
01938 552942  
Monday or Wednesday

## Circuit Logo Competition

An invitation to design a logo, for the Circuit, is open to everyone.

Logo

To give some guidance to help with the design the following ideas have been suggested; they are just suggestions and **all ideas are welcome**:

- ◆ The logo needs to reflect Montgomeryshire.
- ◆ The pictorial part of the logo should ideally include mountains in the background with a narrow River Severn emerging, leading to some lower hills, with the river meandering and widening across flat green plains.
- ◆ The words Welshpool and Bro Hafren need to be incorporated into the logo and ideally one of the letters of the words to include a shepherd's crook.

Submissions should be sent to [wbhcircuit@gmail.com](mailto:wbhcircuit@gmail.com) or post to

Emma Edwards at Welshpool Methodist Church, 13 High Street,

Welshpool, SY21 7JP.

Closing date: 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020

## Editorial

### ***Joy to the World!***

- ☺ What is a newborn mother's favourite song?  
Silent Night!
- ☺ What did Adam say to his wife around Christmas?  
It's Christmas, Eve!

Sincere thanks to those who have sent us contributions.

The next issue covers Spring and Easter; please send items for inclusion by **mid January 2020** 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](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***