

Welshpool & Bro Hafren Methodist Circuit



LARGE

prayers and

small

God answers them all

**Magazine & Plan
Sept to Nov 2019**

Let us Pray

"I'm just off to pray for the nation!" That is what I and other members of the BBC's religious broadcasting department sometimes said, slightly flippantly and not - I hope - pompously, when our turn came to lead the Daily Service on Radio 4. I was always humbled when listeners wrote in to say how much they valued this 'live' fifteen minutes of hymns and prayers. At least, it was always meant to be live but just in case the line 'went down' from All Souls Church, across the road from Broadcasting House in London, where the Daily Service came from, a stand-by tape of a pre-recorded Daily Service was always on hand, back in Broadcasting House. I recorded one such tape on the timeless theme of love; it was, of course, impossible to include prayers related to anything in the news when it might



go out on air. I think my tape was used later, after I had left the BBC and was working for the World Council of Churches in Geneva.

A question: when did God listen to my stand-by prayers (so to speak). When I recorded them or when the recording was broadcast? Or, both times? Or, neither time? Here, we are getting near the ridiculous question about angels and pinheads but it is good to try to understand what prayer is about because there is a lot of it about these days.

During the period covered by this issue of the Circuit magazine, our Circuit will have hosted for one month "If my people", the Wales District's prayer initiative. Preparatory materials for this period of prayer show it will not be parochial but ecumenical - concerned with the whole inhabited world.

Then, many regular prayer aids are available on various themes, such as Christian Aid week, Lent, Easter, harvest, Christmas etc. There is also a Presidential Prayer Card so we can pray for our Methodist president and vice-president as they travel around Britain during their presidential year.

As we pray, what do we expect to happen? How does prayer work? I recently saw a line in a church magazine (not in this Circuit) in which someone asked people to pray for a fine afternoon for an outdoor church activity she was organising. We might wonder what God would do if someone else in the same area was praying for rain at the same time!

Such a misunderstanding of prayer's purpose may seem trivial but it can sometimes be serious. My wife and I were close friends with a young couple at our church

in Northamptonshire. The husband became very ill and, over the course of several weeks, grew worse and died a slow and painful death. A week later the distraught widow met somebody in the village who went to another church. She told our friend that her

husband had died because she had not prayed hard enough. To say such a thing is not

only unbelievably cruel but also wrong.

People who believe that through prayer, God can cure cancer, have no satisfactory answer as to why God cures some prayerful peoples' cancers but not others. Any idea of God as someone who chooses to heal some people but not others does not square with the God of love that Jesus lived and taught.

So, if prayer is not a shopping list lodged with the divine, what is it? There is a



long-taught acronym - ACTS - that describes prayer. It is Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication. Yes, in that final element - supplication - we do pray for people and places in need but do so knowing that God, in part, works through God's people to answer prayers. There is certainly a mystery to prayer but that does not mean it has to be complicated.

Some theological students were in awe of one of their lecturers who was very

**Adoration
Confession
Thanksgiving
Supplication**

learned; the professor spoke Latin, Greek and Hebrew, and was amazingly well read. The students all agreed their teacher must pray the most erudite prayers but couldn't decide in which language they would be. So, one night the students listened outside the professor's door to hear the bedtime devotions in the room. They heard their teacher begin to pray, "Gentle Jesus, meek and mild, look upon a little child ..."

John Newbury

Dear Lord I'll really do my best,
I know you've put me to the test.
Help me use this day for you,
Filled with love in all I do.
Keep me smiling, filled with hope,
Strong and healthy so I'll cope.
And never grumble, patient be,
Only kind and gentle me.
Then when the day is turned to night,
I'll be at peace - I did things right.

Chrissy Greenslade

Submitted by **Doreen Robinson**, Newtown

A.S.A.P.

There's work to do, deadlines to meet;
You've got no time to spare,
But as you hurry and scurry,
A.S.A.P – Always Say A Prayer.

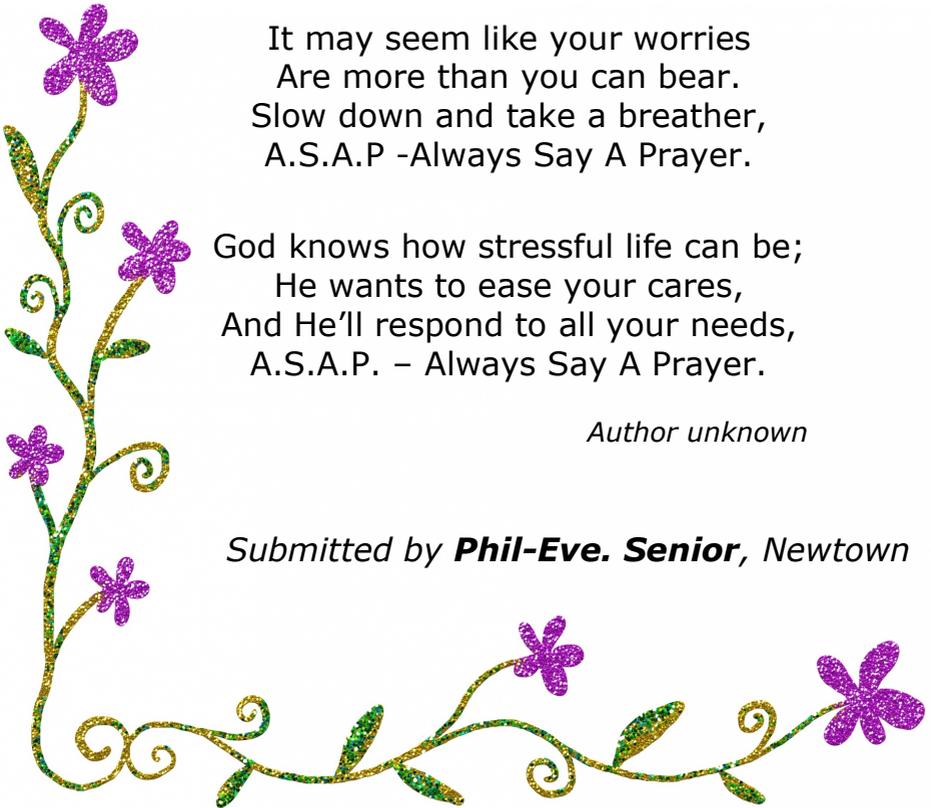
In the midst of family chaos,
"Quality time" is rare.
Do your best; let God do the rest:
A.S.A.P. – Always Say A Prayer.

It may seem like your worries
Are more than you can bear.
Slow down and take a breather,
A.S.A.P -Always Say A Prayer.

God knows how stressful life can be;
He wants to ease your cares,
And He'll respond to all your needs,
A.S.A.P. – Always Say A Prayer.

Author unknown

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





Rev Bob's Letter

Dear Friends,

I'm happy to declare that while yours truly was swanning around Northern Ireland on holiday, relaxing, reading, beachcombing, viewing potential retirement homes, visiting family, wandering around picturesque tourist 'traps', enjoying a variety of good foods, that Mother Nature has



been hard at work on our behalf here in Newtown. Her energy and enthusiasm never cease to amaze me – raspberries, blackcurrants, strawberries, tayberries already picked and eaten or frozen with more to come. Broad beans grown and now in blossom, what were quite scrawny runners have been sufficiently fortified as to make their way up the canes and some even in blossom, and for lunch today the first boiling – in a long number of

years – of garden peas. Not long after you read this we will be gathering to return thanks for all God's blessings in our Harvest celebrations. By which time the garden here will be pretty empty and as tidy as it will ever be.

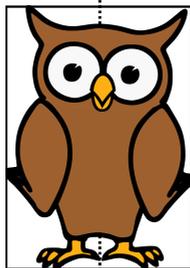
There is I think an anarchic streak in Her Ladyship – it's not just the comestibles that have been blessed it's all the other stuff as well – stuff that in my rather less than humble opinion is

just there as a makeweight – lawns, hedges, weeds and such that have to be cut back, kept in check and cleared so as to access the things that were planted. Sometimes I think it would be better if her generosity could be rather more focused. That same anarchic streak is there in God – if you check out some of the agricultural stories that Jesus tells – the sower who scatters seed in places

where it won't grow, the farmer who pays all his workers the same whether they worked a full day or just a couple of hours, the weeds that are left to grow with the wheat until the harvest – stories that seem quite strange if not downright weird to us. I know the birds of the air have to be fed and that's why God created gardeners – even though they don't get a mention in Genesis.

In spite of all my best endeavours with hoe and trowel, only in autumn and winter is the garden anything like tidy, only when Mother Nature has effectively gone into hibernation am I able to shape it to my will. The rest of the time there are just so many other things going on. As in the garden so in life, when one task is sorted and laid aside something else comes along to fill up the time available.

During the course of our stay in Ireland we managed



to locate and set in train the purchase of our retirement home – no more days off and odd hours on the property websites, chasing hither and yon to look at something that turns out to be completely different to its online representation. Even though we were on holiday, it felt a little odd to have this spare time looking for something to be occupied with. Before long we were wondering whether to do this or that, this before that and so on. The best idea we have come up with so far is the placement of an owl box in the former byre at the rear of the bungalow – we hear owls most every night at the manse but never see one.

In September – as well as celebrating harvest – the Circuit begins the search for my successor from September 2020. It will not be an easy task if our previous experience is anything to go by, please hold the Circuit Leadership

Team and Invitation Committee in your prayers as they submit profiles and consider the ministers available – that God will be understood to be acting for our blessing and benefit in the process and the outcome.

September is the Circuit's month for the District Prayer Initiative – the full programme is included with

this – I hope you can make the time to visit some of the 'stranger' locations in the Circuit and avail yourself of the opportunities to experience something different in the life of prayer. I look forward to meeting up with you in the course of our perambulations.

Greetings and good wishes,
Bob

It sometimes makes me sad to think
Of all the years gone by,
The folks I've known, the happy days -
Oh dear, how time does fly.
But no - I will not be downcast,
Nor sit with gloomy brow,
Today is mine, and that's enough,
I'll prize the Here and Now.
For all I have and all I do,
Enriches every day,
I'll take each moment as it comes,
Rejoicing on my way!



Maggie Ingall

Submitted by **Doreen Robinson**, Newtown

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 Nigel Evans
Rev Marian Jones
Rev Sue Lawler
Rev John Price
Rev Bill Rowell

| Church & Hymn Books | Times | 01-Sep | 08-Sep | 15-Sep | 22-Sep | 29-Sep |
|---------------------------|-------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| | | 22nd Sun in Ord | Education Sun | 24th Sun in Ord | 25th Sun in Ord | 26th Sun in Ord |
| | | Luke 14:1,7-14 | Luke 14:25-33 | Luke 15:1-10 | Luke 16:1-13 | Luke 16:19-31 |
| Welshpool | 9.00 | | | Taylor HC | | |
| H ON | 10.45 | Harbron | Jones HC | T Jobling | B Thomas HC | @ St Mary's Church House |
| StF WB | 6.00 | **** | WCT UW | **** | 4pm P & P ATS | **** |
| Cefn | 10.00 | E Jobling BC | **** | J Thomas | **** | **** |
| H ON | 6.00 | **** | B Thomas HC | **** | Harbron | **** |
| P Llifor | 2.30 | Rowell | AACG | B Thomas HC | AACG | N Evans |
| H StF WB | | | | | | |
| Newtown | 10.30 | Burkill | Williams | B Thomas HC | Davies | B Thomas HF |
| H StF WB | 6.00 | B Thomas HC | Harbron | N Evans | Smith | Rowell HF |
| Caersws | 10.30 | 11am @ Llanwnog | B Thomas HC | Burkill | T Jobling | N Evans |
| H WB | | | | | | |
| Trefeglwys | 10.00 | B Thomas HC | @ Llawryglyn | UA | @ Llawryglyn | 11am Bond HF |
| H M | | | | | | |
| Llawr Y Glyn | 2.30 | @ Trefeglwys | Harbron | @ Trefeglwys | Burkill HF | @ Trefeglwys |
| H WB | | | | | | |

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

| 06-Oct | 13-Oct | 20-Oct | 27-Oct |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 27th Sun in Ord | Homeless Sun | 29th Sun in Ord | 30th Sun in Ord |
| Luke 17:5-10 | Luke 17:11-19 | Luke 18:1-8 | Luke 18:9-14 |
| | | Taylor HC | |
| Lawler HF | Jones HC | P & P CAP | Wigley HC |
| Rowell Harvest Praise | B Thomas WCT UM | **** | 4pm P & P ATS |
| B Thomas BC | **** | N Evans | **** |
| **** | E Jobling | **** | Smith |
| AACG | T Jobling | AACG | B Thomas HC |
| | | | |
| J Thomas | B Thomas HC | T Jobling | Harbron |
| Williams | Harbron | E Jobling | Wgley |
| UB | Harbron HC | Davies | Smith |
| | | | |
| @ Llawryglyn | Smith | @ Llawryglyn | B Thomas HC |
| | | | |
| B Thomas HC | @ Trefeglwys | N Evans | @ Trefeglwys |
| | | | |

| Church & Hymn Books | Times | 03-Nov | 10-Nov | 17-Nov | 24-Nov |
|---------------------------|-------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| | | 31st Sun in Ord | Remembrance Sun | 33rd Sun in Ord | Sun before Advent |
| | | Luke 19:1-10 | Luke 20:27-38 | Luke 21:5-19 | Luke 23:33-43 |
| Welshpool | 9.00 | | | Taylor HC | |
| H ON | 10.45 | Davies | @ St Mary's UA: Bell | Smith | B Thomas HC |
| Sf WB | 6.00 | **** | 4pm Jones HC | **** | 4pm Rowell ATS |
| Cefn | 10.00 | E Jobling BC | **** | T Jobling | **** |
| H ON | 6.00 | **** | B Thomas HC | **** | N Evans |
| P Llifor | 2.30 | AACG | Bond | AACG | J Thomas HC |
| H Sf WB | | | | | |
| Newtown | 10.30 | Smith | Burkill | B Thomas HC | E Jobling |
| H Sf WB | 6.00 | B Thomas HC | J Thomas | T Jobling | B Thomas HC |
| Caersws | 10.30 | B Thomas HC | UB | Burkill | Bond |
| H WB | | | | | |
| Trefeglwys | 10.00 | @ Llawryglyn | Price UM | @ Llawryglyn | T Jobling |
| H M | | | | | |
| Llawr Y Glyn | 2.30 | E Jobling | @ Trefeglwys | B Thomas HC | @ 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
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

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

Rolling Reports from the Circuit Meeting on 13th June 2019



Caersws

We continue to hold our normal pattern of services at 10.30am on the second, third and fourth Sundays in the month. The first Sunday is held in cooperation with the other chapels and church in the village, one place hosting for twelve months.

It is fitting for us to say how much we appreciate the services held in our church. Our lay preachers are really committed to giving us exceptional quality sermons and we can only surmise

that a great deal of time and thought goes into their preparation.

We are actively pursuing the idea of adapting our site to a multi use building, so that the cost of running the church could be subsidised. We hope that with God's grace, a suitable idea will take shape.

We were delighted to present our oldest member with a 100th anniversary birthday cake which we all enjoyed partaking in. It is always so pleasing to chat to Gwyneira about the history of the village and especially the congregations of long ago and wartime experiences within the village.

If we can all be as innovative as our forefathers in those days it would help to bring some happiness to our lives.

Michael Jones

Llawryglyn Chapel



We still enjoy sharing services with Trefeglwys Chapel. The Lambing Service was quite a highlight once again.

We waited a long time for our decorator to come but eventually the work was done and it's given our chapel a fresh, brighter look. We had two nice chairs from Longbridge Street Chapel and Cyril got the seats recovered so they look good now.

At Christmas we had a lovely evening with the Wesley Singers. Their conductor Stella, lead the singing of carols and afterwards we shared refreshments in the Vestry. Everyone enjoyed the evening.

At Easter we had a bilingual service and welcomed members from Staylitttle and Llawryglyn Welsh chapels. It was a joyous service as the Gwernafon boys played their trumpets for the hymns. We had Easter biscuits, scones and a drinks after the service in chapel.

We are not many members now but we always look forward to our Sunday worship together.

Wendy Wigley



- ◆ Adam to Eve: I'll wear the plants in this family!
- ◆ A good sermon should have a good beginning and a good ending and they should be close together!

Young People's Page

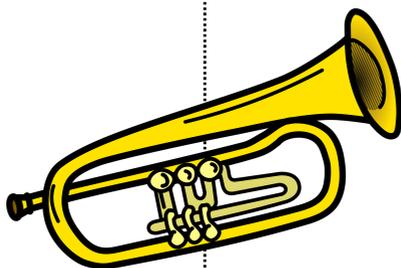
Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. *Luke 18:1 (NVI)*

Once there was a young boy who wanted more than anything to play in the band at school. The boy went home from school one day and asked his parents if they would buy him an instrument and let him sign up to play in the band. Well, the boy's parents didn't say yes, and they didn't say no. They said, "We'll have to think about it. After all, a musical instrument costs a lot of money and we are not sure you will stick with it."

A few days went by and the boy's parents still hadn't said anything, so the boy decided he should ask again. The boy's parents didn't say

yes and they didn't say no. They said, "We are still thinking about it."

On his way home from school the next day, the boy decided to stop by the local music store to check out the musical instruments. When he walked in the store, the first thing that caught his eye was a beautiful, shiny



trumpet. It wasn't new, but it was in very good condition and it had a really cool fake alligator skin case. It was just what he wanted.

That night at supper the boy said to his parents, "I went to the music shop today after school and they have a really nice second-hand trumpet. It is exactly what I want and it only costs £100."

The boy's father turned to his wife and said, "I guess we had better go and look at

that trumpet or we are never going to hear the end of this." The next day, the boy went to the music store with his parents and they bought him that trumpet.

The boy joined the band -- and he did stick with it. He played in the band all through high school and then he went to college and studied music. After graduating from college, he became a music teacher. I wonder how different his life might have been if he had only asked his parents for that musical instrument once and never mentioned it again.

The Bible teaches us that just as our parents want what is best for us and will give us what we ask for, God, our heavenly Father, also hears and answers our requests. Sometimes we ask God for something once and never mention it again.



Maybe that is our impatience showing. When we ask for something, we want God to say "yes," and we want Him to say it right now! **Jesus said that we should always pray and not give up.** Perhaps God just wants us to show that we are really serious about what we are asking of Him. Does this mean that if we keep asking for something over and over again that God will always give it to us? No, but He loves us and wants what is best for us, and He will answer, "yes" if He can.

Dear Father, teach us to pray and teach us to be patient and persistent in prayer. If we desire good things, remind us that we need to pray and pray again. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Taken from Sermon4Kids .com

Old Age



Old age never comes to us when youth is in the mind.

When we have left the wild, ecstatic days of Spring behind,
We come upon a richer time of deep content and peace,
When all the heart's red wounds are healed,
And our rebellions cease ...

When quiet hours bring memories that steal from out the years ...
And lift us up on wings of dreams, and sorrow disappears,
And only happiness remains from all the crowded past,
If we have gathered to ourselves the things that really last.

The body may be broken, but the mind may still expand,
And touch the rosy fringes of that good and better land ...
The spirit is forever young, unfettered it can rise,
And probe the secrets of the wind, the stars, the trees, the skies ...

That old may go adventuring to seek the heart's desire
And live a thousand lives again when dreaming by the fire.

Patience Strong



An old man was relaxing at his 100th birthday party when a reporter went up to him,
"Sir, what is the secret of your long life?"

100

The man considered this for a moment, then replied,
"Every day at 9pm I have a glass of port. Good for the heart". The reporter replied, "That's all?"

The man smiled, "That and cancelling my voyage on the Titanic."

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

Dates for your Diary

- ◆ **Monday 2nd September at 2.30pm – Newtown**
Bible Reading.
- ◆ **Wednesday 4th September at 2pm – Welshpool**
Mid-Week Movies: "Evita". Free admission.
- ◆ **Monday 16th September at 2.30pm – Newtown**
Bible Reading.
- ◆ **Tuesday 17th September at 5.30pm – Newtown**
Circuit Prayer Bring and Share.
- ◆ **Tuesday 17th September at 7pm – Newtown**
Circuit Meeting.
- ◆ **Sunday 22nd September – Llawryglyn**
Harvest Thanksgiving Service.
- ◆ **Friday 27th September at 7pm - Cefn**
Harvest Festival.
- ◆ **Saturday 28th September at 7pm - Welshpool**
Supper Concert with the Jubilate Singers.
Tickets £6 to include supper, from Janice 01938 850514.
- ◆ **Sunday 29th September at 11am - Trefeglwys**
Harvest Service and Lunch.
- ◆ **Sunday 29th September - Newtown**
Harvest Festival and Lunch.

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

Mondays 10am and Tuesdays 7.15pm throughout October to 15th December (performance at 6pm) - Welshpool

Rehearsals for "The Inn Crowd" (Christmas story). Singers invited to join Jubilate on Mondays or Tuesdays or both, to make this a Circuit Event. Further details from Janice.

- ◆ **Wednesday 2nd October at 2pm - Welshpool**
Mid-Week Movies: "Selma". Free admission.
- ◆ **Sunday 6th October, - Welshpool**
Harvest Celebrations and Lunch.
- ◆ **Sunday 13th October at 2.30pm – Pentre Llior**
Harvest Praise.
- ◆ **Wednesday 6th November at 2pm - Welshpool**
Mid-Week Movies: "An Affair to Remember". Free admission.
- ◆ **Saturday 9th November (times to be confirmed) - Welshpool**
Circuit Day with Dr. John Bell, Iona Community . (More details nearer the time).
- ◆ **Saturday 9th November – Trefeglwys**
Coffee Morning. Shoebox Appeal Samaritan Fund.
- ◆ **Sunday 10th November, 10.45am at St Mary's - Welshpool**
John Bell preaches at the United Service for Remembrance Sunday.
- ◆ **Sunday 10th November at 11am - Trefeglwys**
Remembrance Service.

SHE'S DOING IT AGAIN!

The Rev'd Marian Jones is planning another pilgrimage to Israel and Palestine, this time in 2020, from Oct 22nd to Nov 1st, flying from Manchester.

We will be visiting Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jerusalem, Jericho and many other Biblical sites as well as sailing on the Sea of Galilee.

For a copy of the itinerary, further details and a booking form, please contact Marian on 01978 810292 or marian.jones@methodist.org.uk and, perhaps, chat to those (some from Welshpool) who have walked the lands that Jesus walked to hear of their experiences.



Editorial

Prayer changes everything

As you will have noticed the theme for this issue is prayer. As the well known hymn goes: ***What a privilege to carry, everything to God in prayer.***

Sincere thanks to those who have sent us contributions, to enable us to produce this edition. The theme of our next issue is Christmas; lots of contributions relating to Christmas are needed by **mid October 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***