

# Welshpool & Bro Hafren Methodist Circuit



**Magazine & Plan  
Sept to Nov 2022**

# **A**s this is the September issue, I automatically began thinking of Harvest.

We tend to think of harvest as a time for bringing in the crops of grain for bread and rice etc, the staple foods for most people of the world.

As I write this I am sitting in a cool room out of the heat of the hottest day of the year; apparently it may turn out to be the hottest on record for Wales. This makes me think about climate change and the fact that harvest will probably be very different for many people now, in many parts of the world. One of my constant prayers is that somehow we and the rest of the world would really learn to take care of this beautiful planet that God has given us.

September in some ways feels like we are moving towards the end of the year, but in other ways it is the time of new beginnings. It is the start of the new school year and the start of the new year in

the Church.

Going back to the harvest thoughts, in some ways that too is a mixture of endings and begins. The crops are gathered in to provide food for the coming months, but this is also time to prepare the soil for new seeds which need



to be sown for the following year.

This made me think about the life of the church, and how we too need to prepare the ground for planting new seeds.

I remember a sermon, from many years ago, in which the minister's point was something along the lines of: *"A farmer does not sit in the barn waiting for the harvest to*



*just appear, and that by making the barn nicer and more welcoming the harvest will appear, there is much work to be done outside first".*

I realise that there aren't any easy solutions for our churches and chapels but feel, that we as Christians, need to start thinking outside the box, looking for new ways of building relationships with folks around us.

Jesus said " *the harvest is*

plentiful but the workers are few" and it certainly feels like that in our chapels, but we can all pray and listen to the answers to our prayers. Then I guess we need to be ready to respond to answers that weren't quite what we were expecting. Our God is often a God of surprises!!

Having just cleared up after our flower festival based on the theme Beauty from Brokenness I am quite sure that God can help us move

*the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few*

forward, for despite having road closed signs put up either side of the chapel on the day that we were setting up, we had lots of visitors and managed to raise £300 for Water Aid. I am convinced that with God's help we can find ways of bringing in the harvest for Jesus.

**Anthea Bradburn**



**T**he harvest time, a precious time  
Bestowed by sun and rain,  
When Mother Nature blesses us  
With gifts of fruit and grain.  
A time when we should celebrate  
And share with all mankind,  
There's so much bounty in the world  
It isn't hard to find.  
So counting blessings every day  
Rejoice in song and rhyme,  
Lift up your heart and spirit, and  
Give thanks at harvest time.

*Iris Hesselden*

## Autumn Letter

A while ago I came across this reflection based on the very familiar Psalm 23. I thought that I would share it with you as it provides a reflection which may be helpful:

The Lord is my shepherd

*That is relationship*

I shall not want.

*That is provision*

He makes me lie down in green pastures;

*That is rest*

He leads me beside still waters:

*That is refreshment*

He restores my soul.

*That is grace*

He leads me in right paths for His name's sake.

*That is guidance*

Even though I walk through the darkest valley

*That is testing*

I fear no evil; for you are with me;

*That is protection*

Your rod and your staff – they comfort me.

*That is encouragement*

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

*That is hope*

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

*That is blessing*

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

*That is prosperity*

And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

*That is immortality.*

I write this as we are in the grip of a heatwave, but I wonder what it will be like by the time you read this. Looking at Psalm 23 was a way of reflecting on the familiar in a different way. I am aware that when we see familiar words we often merely scan the words rather than take them in.

The thing about this time of year is that many things get lost in all the things that we need to do during the early part of a

new Methodist year. The endless round of meetings being one of them. So something to reflect on is probably of more value than just spending time chatting, it can be visited any time that you wish in the future.

At the start of a new year for Methodism, let us pray:  
**Thank you that we are one and are all valued by Christ.  
May we work for the glory of the Kingdom in this coming connexional year.**

Every blessing,  
*Jacquie*

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## A Celebration of Two Local Preachers

The Circuit came together for worship at Welshpool on Sunday morning 12<sup>th</sup> June 2022 to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Terry Jobling's Accreditation as a Local Preacher. Terry and Eileen also felt this was the right moment to retire from active local preaching, hence the service was also celebrating and giving thanks for their service to Christ through preaching.

It was Trinity Sunday, which was quite appropriate, celebrating all the facets of God. The service was led by



Rev Jacquie Evans. Some of the hymns and readings were chosen by Terry and Eileen, picking up defining times on their journey as Local Preachers.

Terry's service for his Accreditation to be a Local Preacher in the Methodist Church was in June 1962. So it was very fitting to have this service in the same month 60 years later!

Terry has treated congregations to the insight and depth of his Faith over the last 60 years and more. Through his preaching,

congregations have come to know Jesus Christ for themselves.

Rev Michael Taylor presented Terry with the “60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Certificate” signed by the President & Vice President of Conference (Rev Sonia Hicks & Barbara Easton).

Coincidentally, Michael also became an Accredited Local Preacher the same year but as an ordained presbyter doesn't qualify to have a certificate. On this special occasion, it was felt he should have something to mark this milestone. The Circuit Local Preacher's Secretary, John Harbron, presented Michael with a “Replica 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Certificate”. Maybe not the real thing but very precious!

The service then focused on the retirement of Terry and Eileen from active local preaching.

They were both thanked for being stalwarts of the preaching plan over many years. ***"Without you both, the Circuit would have struggled to fill the plan. But most of all, thank you for your word telling us about God's Love."***

**Terry:**

“Thank you for supporting all the Local Preachers both through their training and once Accredited Local Preachers”.

**Eileen:**

“Many will have been inspired through you leading worship. You have always been courageous in helping your congregations to experience new ways of worshipping, to let Christ speak to them in different but inspiring ways.

There are a handful of people – 12 in fact – who owe you so much and are so thankful for your gift as Tutor for aspiring Local Preachers.

In turn the Circuit has had the joy and benefit of them leading worship.

As they've moved away – others will be blessed with their preaching; the gift you have shared with them reaches far and wide”.

Initially there were joint tutors: Eileen Jobling and Margaret Hughes.

Eileen has been involved with training 12 Local Preachers. There may be more, if so please let us know.

These are in no particular order:

Graham Smith  
Doris McNulty  
Maureen Douglas  
John Barry  
Stan Zervas  
John Taylor  
Nigel Evans  
Pat Aitchison  
Ronnie Aitchison  
Diane Lewis (URC)  
Sue Lawler  
John Harbron

Pat, Diane (URC) and Sue went on to be Presbyters, Ronnie – a Deacon.

A former pupil who couldn't be at the service, had recorded a message which was shown on the screen. A surprise to everyone, Rev Sue Lawler joined us with a few words.

Sue remembered fondly having sessions studying the LP Training Course in the kitchen. Eileen would mark work submitted to her and discuss her observations having marked it. Sue recalled how Eileen was always very complimentary but on one occasion commented that her Intercessionary Prayers were disorderly then added "they still are"!

She then recalled having a LP meeting at her Manse. Terry was having a coffee, when he lent forward with a biscuit in his hand. Sue's dog bit a piece off it and Sue offered him another one. "No thanks" said Terry, "I'll finish this one first". Not a surprising answer coming from a former Ministry Vet!



Sue spoke in saying it for all of us who have been privileged to have been in their presence:

***"Eileen, Terry: the Lord says 'My blessed servants'.***

***Thank you for all you have done for the work of the Lord".***

Sue's closing words were "Have a super service and a super bun fight!"

We did! We had a Bring and Share lunch which Welshpool put together providing a three course meal! The company and the food made for a wonderful conclusion to our celebrations and thanksgiving.

***John Harbron***

## **A message from Terry & Eileen Jobling**

You will be aware that we have both decided to “step down” as active Circuit local preachers. We want to express our deepest thanks for the wonderful “farewell” service and meal laid on for us by the Circuit. Folk from each of our churches were present and we had the chance to meet many friends.

It has been a remarkable 60 years of shared Ministry, most of it spent serving the churches of our locality. We have been enabled to work together, sharing our books, our preparation and our prayers. In the early days Eileen went to some of the country chapels on her pedal cycle, bringing some criticism from her Mum who did not quite like her doing this.

The origin of our partnership goes back to our student days in the Edinburgh Methodist Mission. There we were nurtured on a rich fellowship. The Community was a mixture of citizens of Edinburgh and folk who were in the city for a whole variety of reasons. The Superintendent minister was Rev Reginald Barrow who profoundly influenced both

of us. We met in his house on the first Sunday of our first term at University. Oddly, though we were both certainly present in the manse, we do not remember each other at that tea! The Circuit Deaconess, Sister Olive Garnett was present and we are still in touch with her. She must be in her early 90s and lives in Lytham.

The first occasion in which we shared jointly in a devotional event was in the autumn of 1959 when our Edinburgh church had an away weekend at Dunbar. There we stood together and gave testimonies about our Christian calling, though Eileen also included her love of science.

We must thank the congregations for their support and friendship. It may not be always apparent to some, but true worship is always two-way traffic. The preacher must give of her/his best but much depends on the response of the people. Our congregations have given us so much friendship and quite a few good meals! So once again, thanks for everything. We will still be around in the life of the church and Circuit.

***Terry and Eileen***

## **Ministers**

Chair of the Synod: Rev Dr Stephen Wigley  
Superintendent: **Rev Jacquie Evans**  
 01686 625690  
Supernumerary: Rev Penny Burkill  
Supernumerary: Rev Bill Jones  
Supernumerary: Rev John W Newbury BA  
Supernumerary: Rev J Michael Taylor BD, BA

## **Local Preachers**

Mr Terry M Jobling OBE  
Mrs Eileen Jobling  
Mr Graham Smith  
Mrs Eleri Wyn Williams  
Mrs Doris McNulty  
Mrs Maureen Douglas  
Ms Bet Holmes  
Mr John Harbron  
Mrs Andrea Davies  
Mrs Kat Bond

## **Worship Leaders**

Mr Alan Bradburn and Mrs Anthea Bradburn  
Mr Derek Painter

## **Visiting Preachers**

Mrs Jane Evans  
Mr Nigel Evans  
Canon Julia Francis  
Rev Marian Jones  
Rev Dr Peter Pike

Church & Hymn Books	Times	04-Sep	11-Sep	18-Sep	25-Sep
		23rd Sun in Ord	24th Sun in Ord	25th Sun in Ord	26th Sun in Ord
		Luke 14:25-33	Luke 15:1-10	Luke 16:1-13	Luke 16:19-31
Welshpool	9.00				
H ON	10.45	W Jones HC	Bond	M Jones HC	Smith
SfF WB	4.00		6pm WCT	P & P ATS	
Cefn	10.00			Evans HC	
H ON	6.00				
P Lliffor	2.30	Holmes	AACG	Evans HC	AACG
H SfF WB					
Newtown	10.30	Evans HC	Jane Evans	N Evans	Evans HF
H SfF WB	6.00				
Caersws	10.30	Pike UM LA	Evans HC	W Jones	Harbron
H WB					
Trefeglwys	10.00		Davies HF		P & P LA
H M					

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

02-Oct	09-Oct	16-Oct	23-Oct	30-Oct
27th Sun in Ord	Homeless Sun	29th Sun in Ord	30th Sun in Ord	Bible Sun
Luke 17:5-10	Luke 17:11-19	Luke 18:1-8	Luke 18:9-14	Luke 19:1-10
Holmes HF	M Jones HC	P & P SKS	Evans	WCT @ UA
	6pm WCT	Smith ATS		
Harbron BC			Holmes BC	
Bond HF	AACG	Evans HC	AACG	N Evans
Smith	Holmes	Harbron HC	Bond	Smith
UB	Burkill	Evans HC	Smith	N Evans
	Evans HC		Burkill	

Church & Hymn Books	Times	06-Nov	13-Nov	20-Nov	27-Nov
		32nd Sun in Ord	Remembrance Sun	Sun before Advent	Advent Sun
		Luke 20:27-38	Luke 21:5-19	Luke 23:33-43	M@t 24:36-44
Welshpool	9.00				
H ON	10.45	Francis LA	WCT @ UA	Evans	Harbron
SIF WB	4.00		M. Jones HC	Rowell ATS	
Cefn	10.00			N Evans	
H ON	6.00				
P Lliflor	2.30	AACG	W Jones	AACG	Evans HC
H SIF WB					
Newtown	10.30	Evans HC	Burkill	Harbron	Davies
H SIF WB	6.00				
Caersws	10.30	Davies	10am Evans UM	Bond	W Jones HC
H WB					
Trefeglwys	10.00	W Jones HC	Williams		Evans
H M					

Visit [www.wbmethodists.org.uk](http://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  
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  
WDP World Day of Prayer  
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

# All Ages Pages

Some thoughts about **attitude**:



"There is little difference in people, but that little difference makes a big difference. The little difference is **attitude**. The big difference is whether it is positive or negative"

*Clement Stone*

"We who lived in concentration camps can remember the men who walked through the huts comforting others, giving away their last piece of bread. They may have been few in number, but they offer sufficient proof that everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms -- to choose one's **attitude** in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way."

*Viktor E. Frankl*

## WORD game

### ATTITUDE

How many words of four letters or more can you make from the word **ATTITUDE**?

**8 is good, 10 very good, 12 or more excellent.**

## Lord, make me a channel of disturbance: The "Reverse St. Francis Prayer"

Lord, make me a channel of disturbance.  
Where there is apathy, let me provoke;  
Where there is compliance, let me bring questioning;  
Where there is silence, may I be a voice.  
Where there is too much comfort and too little action, grant  
disruption;  
Where there are doors closed and hearts locked,  
Grant the willingness to listen.  
When laws dictate and pain is overlooked...  
When tradition speaks louder than need...  
Grant that I may seek rather to do justice than to talk about it;  
Disturb us, O Lord.  
To be with, as well as for, the alienated;  
To love the unlovable as well as the lovely;  
Lord, make me a channel of disturbance.

*Author unknown*

Submitted by **Jon Purcell**

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### Smile awhile!

- ☺ A man was showing a visitor his garden. The visitor was impressed and said "Isn't it wonderful what God can do with a garden?" "Indeed it is" said the man, "but you should have seen it when God had it all to himself".
- ☺ Why do you call your dog Grapes?  
Because if I tread on him he gives out a little w(h)ine.
- ☺ What do you call a man with no shins?  
Toe-knee.
- ☺ Cardiology — the science of chunky knitwear.
- ☺ An honest seven year old admitted to her parents that Billy Brown had kissed her at school.  
"How did that happen?" gasped her mother.  
"It wasn't easy" admitted the girl, "but three girls helped me catch him".



# BUT THE HATS REMAIN

## A MYSTERY BY A. NON. MOUSE

### Chapter 7



The story so far:

*Claire, the minster who should have arrived in Yorkshire, has not. She has been taken prisoner on the moors, but she has left some clues that she hopes that the stewards will find in a hat box in the manse.*

*When the stewards visited the manse again they find the front door open and no sign of Claire, and a box that they hoped to find was missing.*

*In the meantime Claire has woken up after being drugged and removed to a shed on the moors. Initially, she can't find a way out but gradually she manages to make a small hole bigger. She manages to attract the attention of a passing walker who rescues her.*

When Claire woke up she was aware that she was lying on a soft bed and that she was somewhere warm. The room was in semi darkness except for a

small light at a table across the room, she noticed that there was someone sitting at the table.

Her brain starting to work, quickly Claire was aware that whoever it was might not be friendly, she marshalled her thoughts and decided to attempt to get the persons attention. The person came over to her and Claire



could see that it was a woman, but it was a woman in a nun's habit. Then she remembered the woman on the moor and the fact that her hair was covered with what she now knew was a veil.



'How are you feeling my dear? I must say you are starting to look a little better than you were when we brought you in here.'

'Where am I?'

'You are at the Convent of the Sisters of the Valley.'

‘The Sisters of the Valley? I’ve never heard of you before.’

‘No we are a very small order dedicated to helping those who get in trouble on the hills. I’m Sister Gwen, we keep our own names.’

‘Did you just happen to be in the area when you found me?’

‘No, several of us where out there looking; from the information we had received from the police it looked like you had been abducted to somewhere on the moors.’

‘Does anyone know I am here?’

‘Apart from the police, who will be coming to talk to you as soon as you feel up to it, a young lady called Kirsty knows, and she is speaking to two ladies who were at the house that you were moving to.’

At this point Gwen paused and watched the look of relief start to spread over Claire’s face. She busied around making her comfortable and then left the room to get some

food for her. As Claire looked round the room she saw that it was simply furnished, the only items on the wall were a cross and a picture of Jesus as good shepherd. ‘Rounded me up then?’ Claire said to the picture.

\*\*\*\*

Claire slipped in and out of consciousness as she caught up with lost sleep.

Gwen came in to check on her regularly, sometimes getting a response, at other times not. A few hours later she entered the room and told Claire that she had a visitor,

and asked if she would like to see them.

‘Are you sure that they are safe?’ Claire asked hesitantly.

‘I think so,’ Gwen replied.

‘Then let them in please.’

Within a few minutes a young woman appeared. Claire took one look at her and moved back into her pillows.

‘Who are you?’ she cried.

**To be continued.**



# Rolling reports from the Circuit meeting 9th June 2022

## Newtown



During the last twelve months we were down three members, but on September 12th 2021 Janet, a faithful friend to Wesley was welcomed into membership by Jacquie.

We continue to support the Salvation Army Food Bank and their Christmas Appeal. £325 was raised for Ukraine which was matched by the Government. Tuesday Coffee Morning continues to provide friendship and a listening ear not only to our regular friends but to any visiting the town.

The new Sound System is now in use, providing a different form of worship.

Quinquennial recommendations are up to date, the next to be finalized will take

place during the summer.

We are slowly picking ourselves up after Covid and trying to get meetings and activities to back where they were, but this is taking some time!

With help from all members and worshipping friends we continue to show Christian love to all we meet.

***Sheila Pollard***

## Trefeglwys



### *Roles & membership*

In our October AGM, Alun Bunford stepped down from his position as Chapel secretary after 40 years and it was agreed that his role would be shared between Libby Gilman as Minute Secretary and Sue Williams as Worship Secretary. Alun's dedication and service to the chapel was celebrated in a special lunch event in December.

Four new members (George Abbey, Cyril Gethin, Tilly Hughes and Margaret Jones) were welcomed in Jan 2022 but we will be losing one member, Eleri Williams, at the end of July 2022.

### *Property*

All property maintenance is currently up to date and we are continuing to pay off our loan to the Circuit. Some tentative discussions have taken place to improve the kitchen area in the vestry with a view to making the vestry suitable for wider use.

### *Special services and Fundraising*

We were able to once again hold the Remembrance service in November, which was taken by Eleri Williams.

We have been able to resume our usual fundraising events as well. A coffee morning & Samaritan Purse Shoebox Appeal took place last November and Zoar will again be a drop off point this year. A coffee morning was also held earlier in May to raise money for the DEC Ukrainian refugees.

We have also held our annual lambing service which was taken by the Rev. Penny Burkhill.

All in all, we remain optimistic that we will go from strength to strength.

**Sue Williams**



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### **Trefeglwys:**

The chapel is a Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal drop off point from:  
Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November to Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November.

Current drop off times:

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November 9.15-10.45am

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 5.45 – 6.15pm

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November 5.45 – 6.15pm

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November 10am – 12pm (coffee morning)

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 5.45 – 6.15pm

## Dates for your Diary

- **Monday 5th September, 2pm until Monday 21st November, Newtown:** Bible study with the theme "Bad Girls of the Bible".
- **Sunday 11th September, Trefeglwys – 10am:** Harvest Thanksgiving Service with Andrea Davies
- **Sunday 25th September, Newtown - 10.30am:** Harvest Thanksgiving Service with Penny Burkill followed by a harvest lunch.
- **Sunday 2nd October, Welshpool - 10.45am:** Harvest Festival with Bet Holmes, followed by Bring and Share Harvest Lunch. Harvest Appeal for All We Can.
- **Sunday 2nd October, Pentre Llifior - 2.30pm :** Harvest Festival with Kat Bond
- **Saturday 8th October, Welshpool - 7pm:** Memorial Supper Concert presented by Jubilate in memory of the three members, Jane Postings, John Gordon and Roy Cook, who have passed away in the last couple of years.
- **Friday October 14th, Cefn - 7pm:** Harvest Festival
- **Saturday 22nd October, Welshpool - 7pm:** "Postcards from Welshpool" presented by Peter and Julia Francis - an evening of slides, poetry and prose, music and drama, reflecting something of the town's history.
- **Sunday 13th November, Trefeglwys – 10am:** Remembrance Service with Eleri Williams

### **Editorial**

We would like to add our personal thanks to **Terry & Eileen** for their contributions to the Circuit Magazine & Plan. For many years they travelled to Walsall to collect the printed copies and were also responsible for distribution. Eileen was also the editor for many years, before we took over.

As always our thanks to those who have kindly contributed to this issue; please do keep sending us things to share. The next issue covers Christmas (yes it will soon be here!); please send items for inclusion by **mid October 2022**, 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)**

***Bill and Andrea Marlow***

