



### God With Us

I am a firm believer in God-incidences, God-winks, or whatever you like to call them. You know, those feelings that you should do something; write a letter to a friend or phone a neighbour, perhaps, only to find that that bit of human contact was exactly what was needed at that time. I, myself, was fortunate enough to experience two incidents of this type fairly recently.

On 29th December, soon after my son and daughter had had to return to their respective homes after Christmas, I looked through the window only to see a small patch of vivid pink in a bush. It was a fully open camellia, a reminder that all things happen in God's time, but He is with us always. Then, only a few weeks ago, a friend gave me a present for no reason; no birthday, no anniversary and no special occasion. But that beautiful gift could not have been better timed or more appropriate for raising my spirits and making me feel loved and wanted. And yet neither she nor anyone else, as far as I am aware, knew that I was feeling low and a little bit lost at that time. But God knew, and surely this was a deliberate prompt.

God does not, however, restrict his promptings to this type of situation. This realisation was created by one of my Advent readings in Revd Chris Morley's, "The Heart of Christmas." He tells us about a movement called, "In Praise of Slow" started by Carl Honore, and goes on to say, "Many of us, these days, rush through life. Often the first thing we do on waking is to look at the clock, and we keep our eye on timepieces of one sort or another throughout the day. Many of us keep mental lists of what needs to be done and feel anxious if we "get behind. The New Testament's word for this approach to time is "chronos", but more important than clock time are times of particular significance or "kairos" moments, times when God reveals himself in large or small ways. The most important of these is the coming of Jesus. Not being so anxious about chromos will make us more ready to spot a kairos."

On Christmas Eve, I was walking with my daughter in Betws-y-Coed. As the path went up onto the edge of the golf-course, we became aware of a small bird fluttering about in a bush that was hardly more than a bunch of twigs, only about a metre away from us. To our amazement, not only was it completely unperturbed by our presence as we stood and watched it, but also it was indeed a small bird, a goldcrest, together with the related firecrest the UK's smallest bird, typically measuring only 3.5 inches, half an inch less than the wren! The tiny size of the bird contrasted vividly with the huge expanse of wall-to-wall blue sky and beautiful sunshine we were also enjoying. What a wonderful example this contrast in size gave us of the scope of God's creative power!

But there was more to come: on Boxing Day we went to Llyn Crafnant, and as we walked round the lake, we were struck by the greenness of it all. The grass verges that lined the road were verdant, the trees festooned with hanging swathes of greyish green, and even the rocks wore a veneer of yellowish green. The picture that was painted in various shades of green was truly beautiful. Our God does not need a wide variety of colour to prove the extent and variety of his creative powers.

So, Godincidence, Godwink or kairos moment: you chose the name, but all exist to prove God's promise, "Surely I am with you always." (Matthew 28, v.20)

From Arline, St John's Llandudno



### **Accessing our Circuit Churches**

In addition to circuit services, you can also access the following: St David's Craig y Don Weekly worship is live-streamed, from 10am each Sunday via [this link](#).

Circuit website displays regular updates and information, found via this link:

<https://www.conwyprestatynmc.org.uk/>

### **Conference Business Digest**

The Conference Business Digest is now available, in which it is hoped, provides a helpful summary of the decisions made by the Conference this year.

It is available on the circuit website and for download from [www.methodist.org.uk/conference](http://www.methodist.org.uk/conference)

### **Save the Date**

A circuit welcome service will take place for Rev'd Nigel Rodgers at 6.30pm Wednesday 31st August at St John's Llandudno. Rev'd Jennie Hurd, District Chair of the Cymru Synod of the Methodist Church in Wales, and Superintendent of the Cymru Circuit. will be attending.

### **A Message from Eleanor Reddington**

Next year I will be 70 so I've come up with a different way to celebrate, and, as many of you will expect it involves water. I've decided that, over the next year, I'm going to swim 1 mile in 70 different locations, and raise money for Aspire.

Aspire supports people with spinal injuries, and I first started raising money for them in 2003, so next year I'll have been supporting them for 20 years. During that time I've raised over £20,000, and I want to really make a splash with this challenge.

I've set up an online fundraising page at [www.justgiving.com/page/eleanor-reddington](http://www.justgiving.com/page/eleanor-reddington), and donations can also be given to me.

### **Cytûn**

The Cytûn summer Newsletter is available on our circuit website. In it, you will find updates on racial justice work, work with refugees, news about Cytun's presence at the Urdd Eisteddfod as well as updates on Witnessing and a "Welcome to Wales" course for ministers new to Wales.

### **Plans**

The latest quarterly preaching plan, September – November 2022 is available on our circuit website. Hard copies will be distributed next week,



### **An invitation from Cytûn – 10<sup>th</sup> August**

A talk from the author Isabel Losada about her recent much-praised book 'The Joyful Environmentalist' will be taking place at Festival Church at 7.00 p.m on August 10<sup>th</sup>. Free tickets (just to help with numbers) can be booked on Eventbrite (link below) or you can email with any numbers from your church and can block book tickets for those numbers to John Harvey... [revjohnharvey@googlemail.com](mailto:revjohnharvey@googlemail.com)

For Churches in Cytûn, it is hoped that this talk will be one step towards addressing our environmental goals, sharing practical ideas of how to live sustainably in this age on God's earth, and our agendas of engagement with local community in offering a meeting place to explore concerns which touch every human, and non-human, life.

So, please spread the news of this event as far and as wide as possible – the venue can accommodate 150.

Here's the eventbrite link and there is a poster with further details on the Conwy and Prestatyn Methodist Circuit website.

[https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-joyful-environmentalist-an-evening-with-isabel-losada-tickets-389961363937?utm\\_campaign=post\\_publish&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eventbrite&utm\\_content=shortLinkNewEmail](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-joyful-environmentalist-an-evening-with-isabel-losada-tickets-389961363937?utm_campaign=post_publish&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eventbrite&utm_content=shortLinkNewEmail)

### **Online Event: Is the Cost of Living Support Enough?**

We are already experiencing a cost of living crisis. Families in the UK who were just about managing to make ends meet are being pulled into poverty by the rapidly rising costs of living. In the Autumn, fuel prices are expected to skyrocket and food costs mount up whilst the pressures of cold weather increase.

But the social security net isn't providing enough support for people who need it. Despite emergency payments to low-income families from government, millions are still experiencing a major shortfall in their finances.

The Joint Public Issues Team have been working on a report (currently embargoed) that will be launched on Aug 7\*. Over 40 faith groups and charities have signed in support of the report and are calling on the new Prime Minister to make this a priority once in office.

Join the Joint Public Issues Team and Church Action on Poverty for a conversation on Wednesday August 10<sup>th</sup> about the crisis we find ourselves in and what next steps are needed for families to receive sufficient support. We'll hear from people with first-hand experience of poverty, explore how churches are already in the midst of offering emergency provision and discuss the next steps for government in the light of the report. You can sign up for the event on Eventbrite here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/392552514137>

\*The report will be published on the JPIT website: <https://jpit.uk/enoughtolive>