



Puffin Pageant

Puffins, puffins everywhere. Earlier this year Jack, (my husband) and I encountered hundreds of these fascinating birds when we visited Lunga, an island off the coast of Scotland. The journey from Oban to the puffins is not for the faint-hearted; a large ferry to Mull, a coach trip across Mull and a much smaller boat to Lunga. The days before and after our visit the tour was cancelled because of rough seas.

Lunga was worth it. Up a muddy track from the shore and there on the top were hundreds of puffins. The amazing thing is that they seem totally unafraid of humans. Despite a history of being hunted and killed by humans they seemed to have no fear of coming close to us. There are many aggressive razorbills on Lunga. Maybe the puffins saw us as their protectors.

At not more than 12 inches in height, the iconic photo of a puffin on the cover of bird books belies their diminutive size, but their bullet shaped bodies can dive as much as 15 metres. Built for purpose. They all have very smart summer plumage: a black cap and neck, like a bow tie, dinner jacket black upperparts and smart white shirts. Set into their white faces are red eye rings with small blue markings above and below each eye, a bit like mascara. At each side of the beak openings are orange 'globs'. I don't know what purpose they serve but maybe they have something to do with shedding the summer beak for a smaller and duller winter one because above them it almost seems as though the beak has been sewn on. Maybe God unpicks the stitches at the end of the mating season.

Why did God create such a small bird with such a large beak? To attract a mate of course and raise a family. They build a nest, not on the ground where there are predators, but underground, in burrows, which can be as much as two metres long. I wonder if their beaks are slightly luminous in the darkness of their burrows. Their orange webbed feet are very large, designed not just for rapid diving but also for soft landings. They end in long black toenails. To dig their burrows they need 'tools'.

So God gave them tools. Each burrow is marked by droppings. I have a lovely photo of a puffin peering into a burrow. I imagine he was saying 'Are you down there, my love?'

God must have had a great deal of fun creating puffins. How humbling to remember He then entrusted them into our care. 'Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground' Genesis 1:28.

How well are we fulfilling His mandate to us?

Sue Harwood, Conwy St John's.

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](#). Conwy & Prestatyn Methodist Circuit Blog is accessed through this link: revbev.org.uk and the Circuit website displays regular updates and information, found via this link: <https://www.conwyprestatynmc.org.uk/>



Invitation for Stewards...Mission Planning Training

On Tuesday July 19th at 7pm-9pm, Emma Nash, from the Evangelism and Growth Team, will be leading a session on Mission Planning for Circuits. To reserve your place, please follow [this link](#).

To learn a little more about it first, please be invited to watch Emma's short overview of this process on [YouTube](#).

Walking Group

First Walk Millionaires' Row Llandudno and the Gunnery Site July 11th Set off at 2 pm meet at Cheshire Cat West Shore (outside Lilly's Pub restaurant) Walk along maintained paths past the Sand Dunes onto Marine Walk stopping at the WW2 Gunnery School before returning the same way.

Second Walk Conwy Circular - Bodlondeb -Marine Walk -Conwy-Cantin Café August 8th start at 2 pm Meet at Conwy Cultural Centre . Please bring refreshments. All welcome!

Day Trip From Abergele

Would you like to join our friends from Abergele church on a day's outing on Tuesday 9th August?

Leaving St Paul's Church Abergele at 9.45am (you can leave your car there) travelling by coach to Barton Grange Garden centre near Preston. (Awarded Destination Garden centre of the year 2022).

From there we shall go on a cruise on the Lancaster canal with a fish and chip lunch on board.

Afterwards there will be time to look round the Garden centre and have a cup of tea and possibly even go across the road where there is the Flower bowl entertainment centre housing a 3 screen cinema, curling Hall ,10 pin bowling alley, 18 hole crazy golf course and restaurants.

We shall leave Barton Grange at 5pm planning to return to St Paul's about 7pm.

The total cost is .£37.50 and a deposit of £10 is required by 15th July please.

Names and deposits to Pat Preston please. (07710 277631).

Spread the Word

Please ensure you let your congregations and friends know about the bulletin, to help promote us working as a circuit. Please let me know if you know of anyone who may like to receive this on a weekly basis. It has also been suggested that churches print out a few copies of the circuit news weekly bulletin to pass onto people who do not have access to email.



Sri Lanka

The economic crisis in Sri Lanka is having devastating effects on the daily lives of the people as rising prices and shortages make essential goods, such as food, cooking gas and medicine, harder and harder to obtain.

The Methodist Church in Sri Lanka has launched a *Samaritan Journey Project* which aims to provide relief for the people who are suffering most seriously. This includes providing severely affected families with relief packages consisting of essential food and other items, giving grants for medical expenses of children who have recurring illness, and giving start-up kits to enable people to grow their own vegetables.

In response, the Methodist Church in Britain has given a Solidarity Grant of £15,000 from the World Mission Fund towards the Samaritan Journey Project. The need, however, goes far beyond the scope of this grant, and so we are inviting donations to the *Samaritan Project* through the World Mission Fund. This channel for giving will be open until August 15, and the money raised will then be sent as a lump sum to the Samaritan Journey Project.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Presidency Elected

The Revd Canon Graham Thompson and Anthony Boateng have been elected and inducted as President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference.

In their speeches they covered themes of being a neighbour and what it would mean to have a revival.

Find out more [here](#).

The Connexion Magazine

The Connexion is a free magazine about the life and work of the Methodist Church, bringing together inspirational stories from Methodist people who are passionate about sharing God's love to change lives.

You can read the latest publication on our circuit website.

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