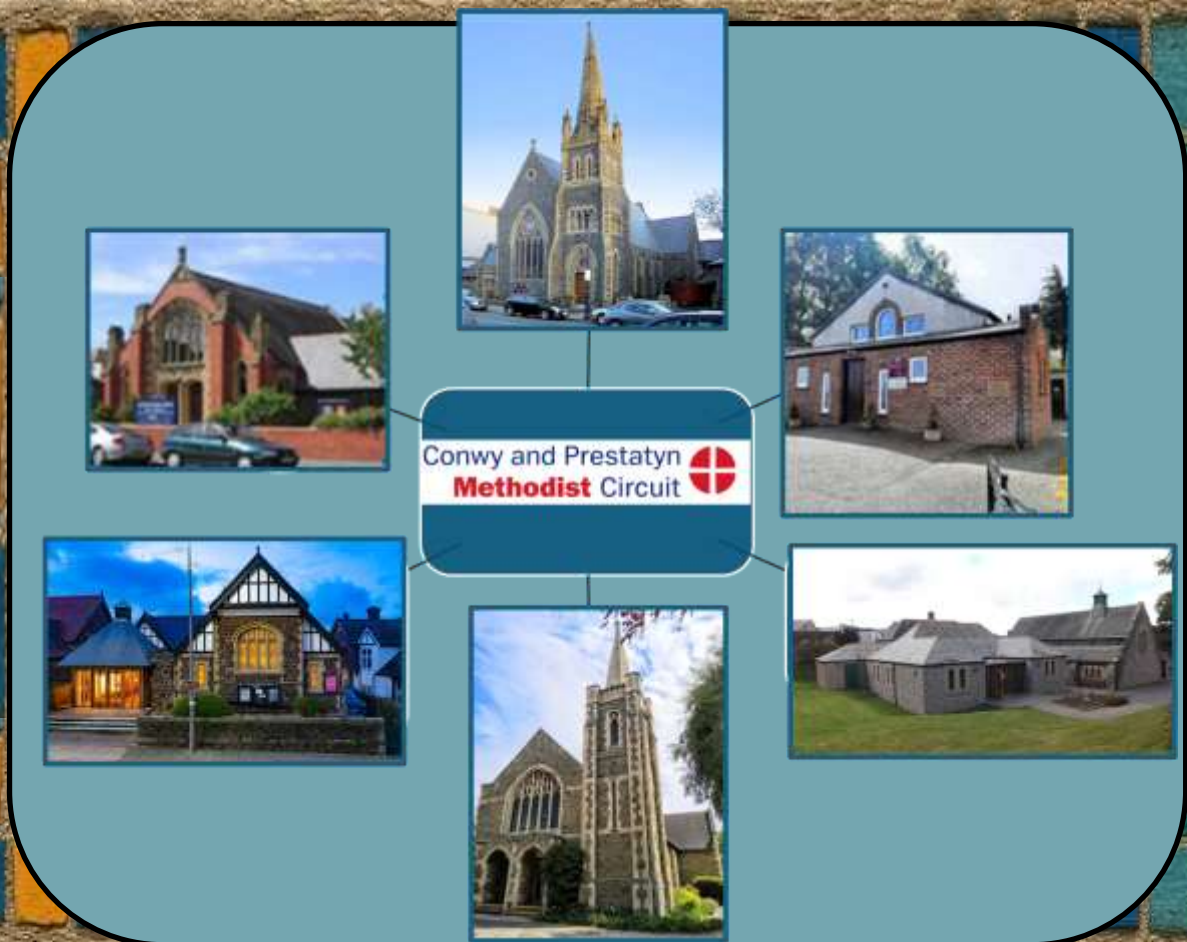


# CONNECT WITH US

## Circuit Magazine



## Autumn Edition 2025

## **DEAR FRIENDS,**

As we step into this new Connexional year together, we are reminded once again that we are part of something much larger than ourselves. Each September, the Methodist Church across Britain begins its year afresh – a reminder of new opportunities, new beginnings, and the constant grace of God that goes before us.

For some, the year ahead will bring changes – new ministers, new responsibilities, new ventures in mission. For others, it may feel like a continuation of what has been faithfully built over many years. Wherever we find ourselves, we are called to walk together as God's people: worshipping, serving, and sharing the love of Christ in our communities.

Our churches continue to face both challenges and opportunities. We know the weight of responsibilities, the worries about numbers, and the questions about the future. And yet, in the midst of all this, we also see signs of God at work – in conversations shared over coffee mornings, in the faithful service of our stewards and pastoral visitors, in the welcome offered to strangers, and in the quiet but powerful prayers that uphold all we do.

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus tells us: *'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest'* (Matthew 11:28). As we begin this year, may we draw deeply on that promise. We are not called to carry the work of the church in our own strength alone, but to place it in the hands of Christ, trusting that he will lead and sustain us.

Let us therefore encourage one another, support one another, and seek together how best to serve our communities in Christ's name. May this Connexional year be one of renewal, of joy in fellowship, and of courage in mission.

***With every blessing,***

***Deacon Linda***

***NIV Psalm 27 Vs 13-14: I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.***

***Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.***



## **By their fruit you shall recognise them (Matthew 7:20)**

We spent last year together discerning God's call for the churches in this Circuit. The harvest of those conversations is a renewed commitment to 'seek first the kingdom of God' – to put compassion first in all that we do.



In pursuing this aim, we have said that our churches will be communities for personal growth. They will be growing churches in the sense that they will help us all to grow in our discipleship of Christ, as we learn together how to put compassion first.

Our churches will also be communities of encounter – places where we expect to nurture well-established friendships, but also to meet new people. Only by encountering new people will our churches be able to grow. So often, it is in our response to the stranger that we encounter Christ.

Our prayer is that all the churches in the Circuit will be expanding churches over the next three years. In order for them to expand in numbers, we will need to expand our idea of what it means to be a church. Gone are the days when we can sit in our buildings on a Sunday morning and measure success in terms of the number of people who choose to come and join us.

Sunday worship remains at the core of our churches, but if we want to grow the church, we need to grow the apple (the wider life of the church) that surrounds the core (Sunday Worship). This means having a variety of events that we feel comfortable inviting people to – and then inviting them: not because we love the church, but because we love them. If we put compassion first and seek the kingdom of God, then God will grow the church. That is our faith.

***James Garnett, Superintendent Minister***



**NIV Matthew 9 vs 37-38:** The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field

## CHILDREN & FAMILIES LAY WORKER UPDATE

It's been a wonderful season with our children, families and young people across the Circuit!

Let me fill you in with what I have been up to since our last edition!

**Toddler groups** continue to go from strength to strength at St John's Conwy, St David's and Trinity, Prestatyn - as well as Sing and Play at St John's Llandudno! We had a lovely term together before breaking up for the summer holidays, and we said goodbye to some of our little ones who have now started school – always such a special milestone! I'm really looking forward to seeing the children, parents, and grandparents again this term, and to meeting some new families too.

There's **Messy Church** at three of our churches: St John's Conwy, St David's and Llanddulas. Thanks to wonderful teams of volunteers, we have welcomed well over 30 families across the sites and share creativity, celebration and hospitality, which are the Messy Church values. What a pleasure and privilege this is!

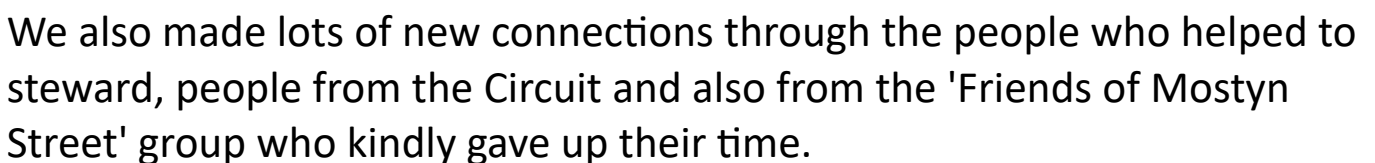


A particular highlight of the summer was our **Holiday Club at St David's**, themed '*Who Can Fix It? Explore God's Repair Shop!*' The week was filled with songs, Bible stories, games, crafts, bubbles, laughter, and plenty of silliness! We met new families, deepened connections with others, and received lots of positive feedback – a real encouragement to the whole team. It really was a fabulous week, and I look forward to next year already!

A huge thank you to everyone – volunteers, parents, grandparents, children, and young people – who make all these things possible. I can't wait to see what the next few months bring!

## MAKING CONNECTIONS

Once again we have had the privilege of making connections through our LEGO exhibition which took place in August. The actual models require lots and lots of connections to be made, after all, a big pile of unconnected bricks wouldn't have quite the same wow factor! We had around 17,000 people visit and engage with the models, thank you to Alan for all you did to make it happen.



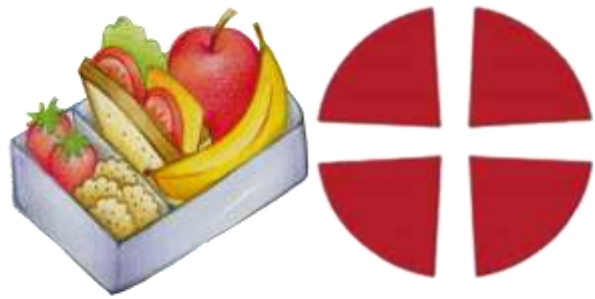
We connected through the conversations, the treasure hunt, the welcoming smiles. We hope that connections will grow.

5

## HOLIDAY HUNGER

Faith without works is dead!

James 2:14-17



What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? 15. Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. 16. If one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? 17. In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

Faith without works is dead! What a powerful statement. When this came up in my daily devotions quite some time ago, it struck me quite literally silent. I read the whole chapter in context and then went on to read the entire book of James. There were numerous references to looking after people. Through this, I came to realize the importance of not only prayerfully upholding people but also physically supporting them.

In this Circuit, compassionate ministries are abundant. One such initiative is the Holiday Hunger - Food with Joy project in Old Colwyn.



What is Holiday Hunger? Families with limited incomes often rely on free school meals for their children. This becomes a concern during holidays when these meals are not available. We all know how much children eat! So, the Churches Together in Old Colwyn came up with the Food with Joy project. We all come together to make packed lunches for families

in our community. Hebron, Festival, St John's, St Catherine's, and of course, Old Colwyn Methodist Church, all participate. This summer marks its second year. This year, we have partnered with Morrison's, who have been supplying the food for us to make the packed lunches. We have opened our church doors and had the blessing of helping our community, creating opportunities to share the love of God. This again shows the importance of the command Jesus gives us - Love your neighbour, and the effectiveness of working together ecumenically with other churches.

What a blessing this summer has been!

***Liz Royle, Outreach Worker.***

### **UPDATES FROM THE CIRCUIT MEETING ON 17 SEPTEMBER**

- ◆ Deacon Linda Brown's appointment in the Circuit was extended by two years, to finish in August 2028.
- ◆ A new staffing policy was agreed to clarify areas of responsibility for ordained staff and lay workers across the Circuit.
- ◆ Grants have been awarded from the Circuit (and matched by the District) for a full time Lay Community Worker in Conwy, part-time Lay Community Workers in Old Colwyn and Prestatyn and a Development Officer at St John's, Llandudno.
- ◆ As churches review their membership lists and contact details this autumn, they are encouraged to distinguish between Members, Friends and Contacts to aid communication and integration.
- ◆ Save the date:

**Circuit Away Day**, Saturday 21 February 2026,  
10am-4pm at Old Colwyn.







Every  
person's  
potential  
fulfilled

## **ALL WE CAN IN GAZA.**

In Gaza, All We Can are working with their partner in the Gaza and Lebanon Justice Appeal, 'The Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre' (JPBC). The Gaza and Lebanon Justice Appeal is a joint collaboration

between All We Can, The Methodist Church in Britain, and the United Reformed Church to meet the urgent humanitarian need as the crisis worsens. With the support of the Appeal, the JPBC are supporting rehabilitation services for children with disabilities and their families in Gaza.

## **AN UPDATE FROM THE JERUSALEM PRINCESS BASMA CENTRE**

Through the support of All We Can, the JPBC succeeded in securing rehabilitation tools and children's play equipment to support their work within Gaza, at a time when access to Gaza for humanitarian aid was not permitted due to the blockade. The arrival of these resources and equipment provided much encouragement to the team of eight staff in Gaza and ensured services could continue for children with disabilities, both with chronic conditions and post-acute injuries

Despite the overwhelming needs, the JPBC Gaza team works tirelessly with the children and families with chronic disabilities, offering expert interventions to enable the best chance of recovery and development for Gaza's children. The JPBC is able to support 150 children with chronic disabilities and post-acute injuries through rehabilitation services because of the money supplied by All We Can.

Ismail, a physiotherapist at the Centre said, 'In the midst of the pain and suffering experienced by the children in Gaza, we hold on to hope and plant it in them every day through our work. When I see a child walk or even smile again after a therapy session, I feel like I am helping to restore



a part of their humanity that was taken away by the war. One of the most moving moments for me was when, after months of sessions, a child with an amputated leg was playing with his peers again and laughing from the bottom of his heart. What gives me strength is the children's determination to live, and their clinging to hope despite everything. My message to the world: the children of Gaza are not just numbers in the news, they are living souls who deserve to live with dignity and be given the chance to grow, learn and dream like other children around the world.

### **OMAR'S STORY.**

Omar was born in the Zaytoun area of Gaza at the end of the eighth month of pregnancy. From his earliest days, concerning signs began to appear. He spent two weeks in the incubator due to a lack of oxygen at birth, and at just 12 days old his mother noticed tremors in his hands and feet. After visiting several doctors, brain scans confirmed that he had epilepsy. However, due to the ongoing war, the family was unable to access the necessary medication.

Later, at four months of age, his mother realised that he could not see. She continued with medical follow-ups and waited anxiously until, at nine months, Omar finally began to respond visually. In terms of movement he couldn't stand or stabilise his body. Alongside the lack of food and medicine, Omar also suffered from thyroid issues and severe malnutrition, making every day a heavy burden for his mother.

During one of her visits to the local clinic, she learned about the services provided by the JPBC through its therapeutic unit in Gaza. There, she met Dr. Saeed, and that marked the beginning of Omar's therapy journey. He received physiotherapy sessions that helped him to take his first steps. He will soon begin speech therapy, as he has shown clear delays and can say only a few words.

Today, the family lives in a tent, facing severe shortages in water, food, essential nutritional supplements and medication. Yet, despite these challenges, his mother insists on attending every session and makes sure to apply the therapy techniques at home. Omar's mother dreams of a safe, clean environment for him, and hopes for continued access to therapy. She said, 'The rehabilitation centre was a turning point in my son's life. The most emotional moment in this journey was when Omar started walking.'

Dr. Saeed, General Practitioner in JPBC therapy unit in Gaza, said, 'Omar Arafat suffers from developmental delay due to hypothyroidism. Through regular monitoring of thyroid function and bone growth, along with rehabilitation, his development has progressed from being unable to sit upright to walking independently with full balance.'

We are sharing the stories of All We Can partners, like the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre, because we want to remind you of the vital work they do. You are also a vital part of making sure this work can happen. Because of your support, All We Can is able to respond to humanitarian crisis through our incredible partners.

All We Can – Methodist Relief and Development

Website: <https://www.allwecan.org.uk/about-us/who-we-are/>

***Arline Griffiths, St John's, Llandudno.***



### **'AU REVOIR' AND A 'BIG THANK YOU' TO ST DAVID'S**

It is over 70 years since I became a Christian in my teens in Manchester when I believed, as my church expected, whatever it said about the faith and the Bible was THE

TRUTH.' I have since, very slowly initially, come to believe that, like most things in life, 'religious faith evolves - not the basics' (that would make the faith meaningless) but rather some of the interpretations of such.' I also now think different interpretations do not necessarily mean that only one of them is right.' Before St David's big influences here were my' Christian Endeavour activities both within my churches and in CE's wider spheres and my church membership at 'both Methodist and Baptist churches' - you may be pleased' to learn the Methodists won in total years of membership!

I was very pleased, when I came to St David's 22 years ago, I was accepted as a member on references given by my Baptist church in Macclesfield and despite making it clear that I favoured some Baptist practices over Methodist ones!.' My poem' 'My Faith' (based on my pre- St David's experience of God) was originally written for St David's 80th anniversary magazine (some of you will have seen it) and it expresses succinctly beliefs which remain unchanged today despite my life experiences having changed quite dramatically in recent years : that God speaks to me through the wonder and beauty of creation, of love and friendship and the need to belong, of his hidden presence and the trust that leaves things with him in difficult times, of resurrection life, and through all kinds of people and events, the words of the Bible and, most of all, the presence in my life of Father, Son & Holy Spirit.

I believe God (with Father, Son and Holy Spirit being equal, in relationship with each other and acting together in all things) is eternal, all powerful and unconditionally loving to all irrespective of race, nationality, sexuality or behaviour.' I believe the Son came in human form to earth (as Jesus) to show us exactly what God is like by using in his teaching the culture of his time on earth, by his incarnation, life, death and resurrection.' I believe the Holy Spirit (representing the Father and the Son) will reveal to all who



will listen the ETERNAL TRUTHS about both God and Life.

In the meantime, I do wonder if Jesus's death is seen by God himself as an act caused by man but allowed by God as evidence of his unconditional love rather than a sacrifice made by God himself; if, as important as I think the emphasis on sin is in the church's interpretation of the Garden of Eden story, the primary emphasis should rather be that God gave humankind a choice about life; and I sometimes wonder if some of the Jewish theology included in the Bible weakens a little the very positive message of the Gospel. I don't see these so much as doubts but rather as a deeper exploration of the faith which might possibly be alternative interpretations of Scripture? I often wonder why, when Jesus was explaining his mission in the temple at the beginning of his ministry and quoting the prophet Isaiah, he did not include Isaiah's words about the vengeance of God?

This deeper exploration (not necessarily the particular issues I have mentioned) comes from the effect on me of the ministries of Rev Nick Sissons, Rev Mike Long & Rev Bev Ramsden (very different from each other and from very different personalities), from issues raised in sermons by others and from the meditations/reflections of many and I thank God for all the devotional options allowed at St David's, many of which I have been able to participate in over the years. I thank God for the many and varied outreach and social activities which are so important for a thriving church and for the many friends made at St David's from 2003 to 2025.

Pauline joins me in thanks to God and to St David's for 22 years of tremendous blessing and we would say to each and every one of you:

'AU REVOIR AND GOD BLESS'

**Jack & Pauline Waddington.**





## METHODIST CONFERENCE

The Methodist Conference calls on UK Government to Recognise Palestine as an Independent State.

At this year's Methodist Conference 2025, the President and Vice-President, Revd Richard Andrew and Matthew Forsyth, spoke with deep concern about the unfolding humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

They said:

'We have been appalled and horrified by the pictures and first-hand witness accounts of the dire situation in Gaza, particularly around access to food. No-one could fail to be moved by the images of emaciated children. We have a moral duty to heed and act on the warnings from countless aid agencies of mass starvation and malnutrition.'

While welcoming the recent pause in military activity, Conference leaders stressed that this alone is not enough. They reminded us that red lines in international law have been crossed and insisted that both the Israeli Government and Hamas must accept the right of all Israelis and Palestinians to live in peace, security and prosperity.

This year's Conference also received and accepted a memorial (motion) from the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District Synod. It urged the Conference to write to the UK Government, calling for the recognition of Palestine as an independent state – a position long held by the Methodist Church.

The motion noted that in the last twelve months:

*'The Israeli government has accelerated the seizure and annexation of Palestinian land, in violation of international law. This has implications not only for Palestinian people in the West*

*Bank and Gaza who are forcibly displaced, but also for any prospect of a future peace.'*

The Conference concluded that the time has come for decisive action. The UK Government is urged to recognise Palestine's right to self-determination and ensure safety for all its citizens.

Meanwhile, Methodists everywhere are called to continue in prayer – for those in Gaza facing hunger and despair, and for those in the West Bank living in fear of border closures and settler violence.

**Graham Morgan, St David's**

### **MICHAEL CADEN WARM WELCOME GRADUATE AND TROUBADOR**

St John's Llandudno Warm Welcome is attended by all sorts of people and all sorts of characters. One such is the talented musician and poet Michael Caden. It is hard to characterise his music as it reflects many genres. He writes songs that bring to mind Blues but he manages to add Folk and street music rhythms too. In fact his music and writing are of his own and defy pigeon holing.

Michael can be found, sat on the bench outside of the Warm Welcome offering his music to us all.

Here is an example which reflects the emotional intensity of his art.

#### **True Love Song**

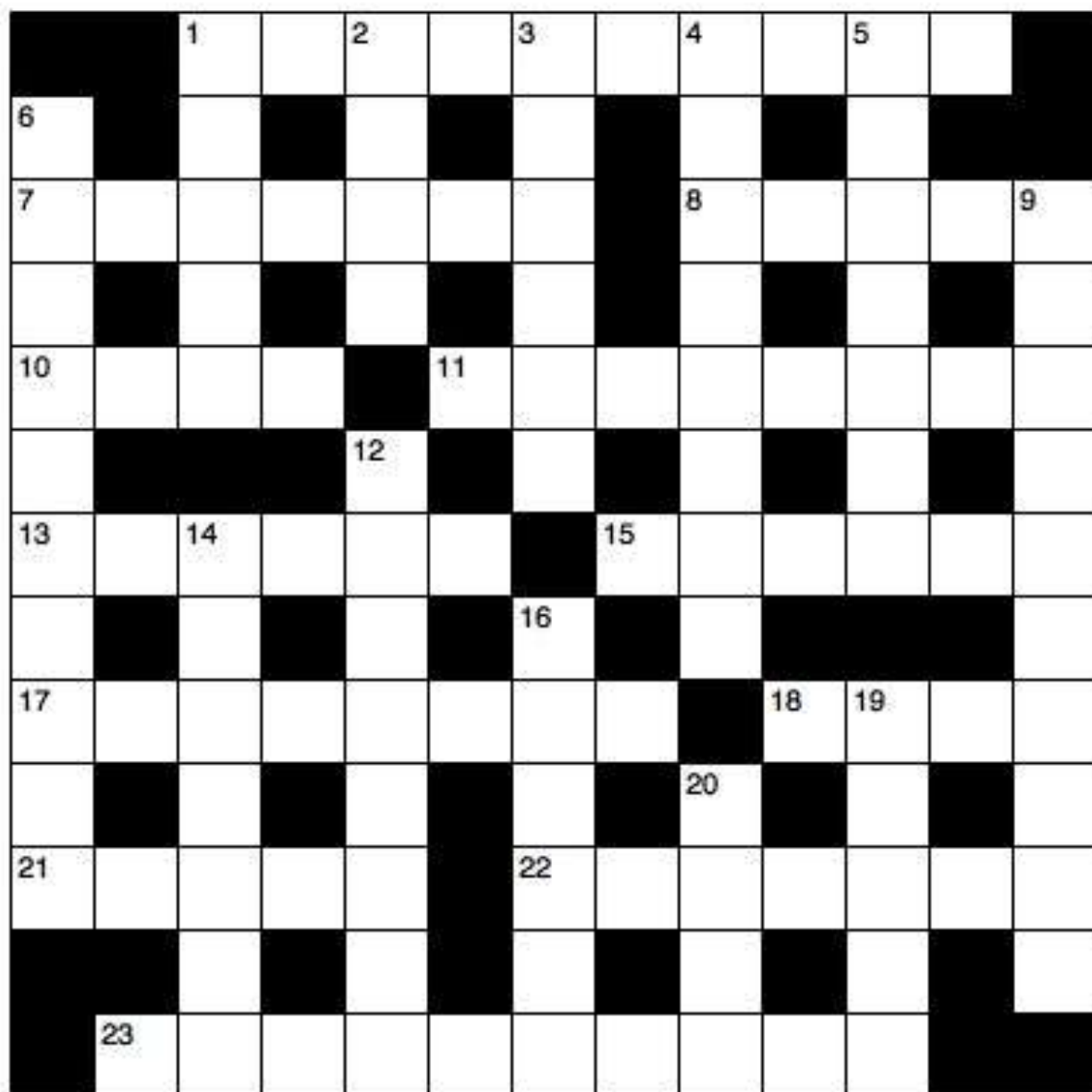
Every day, I try to keep busy  
But loving you only makes me feel dizzy  
Our love affair was meant to share,  
but you don't care  
Now my mind's crystal clear  
Everything is fair in love and war  
So, I step outside the world to explore,  
you hurt me to my core.  
But one day you'll start begging for more-





I don't want you back  
As you stand there in the rain,  
wearing your plastic mac  
So, I'll wipe my feet on the doormat  
You put me in a trance,  
you hypnotised me  
So, you set me free  
Now instead of you and me,  
you want three  
So, you begin to flirt as you brush your skirt  
You will never know how much it hurts  
I can still smell your perfume on my shirt  
You twisted and distorted my mind  
You made me emotionally blind  
You played the game of deceit.  
never more to meet  
Now, I'm standing tall and strong  
Everything we said and done has gone wrong  
So, I look to the heavens above,  
you taught me the language of love  
You go back to him and let me love again, again  
So ta-ra, farewell goodbye  
You made me cry, you made me high- I wanted to die  
Funny how time made me shine  
So, I'll stop now and forget you, anyway, anyhow.

***Submitted by Graham Morgan.***



# CROSSWORD

## CLUES ACROSS

**1** He was replaced as king of Judah by his uncle Mattaniah

(2 Kings 24:17) (10)

**7** 'Let us fix our eyes on Jesus... who for the joy set before him — the cross' (Hebrews 12:2) (7)

**8** Relieved (5)

**10** Impetuous (Acts 19:36) (4)

**11** Surprised and alarmed  
(Luke 24:37) (8)

**13** 'It is — for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for the rich to enter the kingdom of God'

(Mark 10:25) (6)

**15** Directions for the conduct of a church service (6)

**17** One of the acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19) (8)

**18** and **20** Down 'She began to wet his — with her tears. Then she wiped them with her — '

(Luke 7:38) (4,4)

**21** 'We will all be changed, in a flash, in the twinkling of an — , — the last trumpet' (1 Corinthians 15:51–52) (3,2)

**22** 'But he replied, 'Lord, I am — — go with you to prison and to death'' (Luke 22:33) (5,2)

**23** Third person of the Trinity (2 Corinthians 13:14) (4,6)

### CLUES DOWN

**1** He betrayed Jesus  
(Matthew 27:3) (5)

**2** Paul's assurance to the Philippian jailer: 'Don't — yourself! We are all here!' (Acts 16:28) (4)

**3** 'Fear God and keep his commandments, for this — the whole — of man'  
(Ecclesiastes 12:13) (2,4)

**4** The sort of giver God loves (2 Corinthians 9:7) (8)

**5** Sun rail (anag.) (7)

**6** Naboth, the ill-fated vineyard owner, was one (1 Kings 21:1) (10)

**9** Paul said of young widows, 'When their sensual desires overcome their — to Christ, they want to marry'  
(1 Timothy 5:11) (10)

**12** This was how Joseph of Arimathea practiced his discipleship 'because he feared the Jews'  
(John 19:38) (8)

**14** Mop ruse (anag.) (7)

**16** Foment (Philippians 1:17) (4,2)

**19** Where Joseph and Mary escaped to with the baby Jesus  
(Matthew 2:14) (5)

**20** See 18 Across



"We've had a tip-off that the sermon is going to over-run again."



"Delivery for whoever ordered the trendy alternative to a basket of groceries..."



## A MEMORY REMEMBERED

I was once in true Olympic style awarded a 'gold medal' on the car park of an MFI in South Ruislip, (that's how long ago it happened MFI no longer exists!) by members of one of the congregations I served. The National Anthem was not played, but no one could have been prouder that I was! The reason, I had just ridden a bicycle for the first time in my life for half an hour round the car parks and local roads without falling off! Mind you every time I turned a corner I kept trying to signal with the brake levers! Highly dangerous.



The Bike had been a gift, and given to help me get some exercise. So there I was, with a bike, a Highway Code and a brand new shiny blue helmet! Can you just picture it? I had the equipment, I had the theory, it was just the doing it that was the sticking point. I had even booked for a cycling proficiency test, but couldn't do it until I could ride the bike safely, without wobble and able to do hand signals.

For those of you who can ride a bike, you must wonder what the fuss was about; those who have never will perhaps know a little of what I was feeling. I did want to do it, I did want to do it well and safely but it was also a bit scary, as I knew if I fell off it was going to hurt.

In a youth club I went to in the 1970's I heard an epilogue by someone called Gordon Bailey. He came dressed as a mountaineer. He showed us that he had all the gear. He told us that he had read all the books that had ever been written about mountaineering or by mountaineers, he attended a climbing club meeting every week that talked about special climbs, but what he had not actually done was climbed a mountain! After all he said, 'as long as you know how to do it, and have read all about it, and can tell others about it, you don't actually have to do it, do you?'

The reason for this memory – well I keep looking at the bike that is in my garage, and the shiny helmet and think, I know how to do it, but I'll leave it and try another day, then I get in the car!

I wonder if this is a modern parable about our Christian witness? Are we as individuals, as churches, local and nationally like me and my bike, or like Gordon Bailey as the mountaineer? I know how to do it, I have all the equipment, I know the theory, but don't actually do it!

As Christians we have read the book – The Bible - we know what is expected of us as followers of Jesus, We have the equipment, the gift of God's Holy Spirit and we have the encouragement of each other.

We have the opportunity to share, but do we? Is our faith visible or locked away for a more suitable time to use it?

I am ashamed to say that as of writing this the bike is still in the garage! But I hope my Christian witness is out and about – is yours?

**Denise Creed, St David's**



### **CHEAP AT THE PRICE**

A little boy was pestering his parents for a baby brother or sister. They kept telling him 'maybe one day, but we can't afford one yet.' Then one Sunday the little boy dragged his parents over to the noticeboard at the back of church. It was advertising a coming sale at the church and announced: 'Children: free'.



### **A PRAYER**

Dear Lord, So far today, I am doing all right. I have not gossiped, lost my temper, been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or self-indulgent. I have not whined, complained, or cursed. I have not charged on my credit card or eaten any chocolate. However, I am going to get out of bed in a few minutes, and I will need a lot more help after that! Amen.

## RARE BUTTERFLIES:THE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



One of the rarest butterflies in the UK has returned to Wales, decades after last being seen in the country. The endangered Wood White, known for its delicate cream colour and striped antennae, was recorded at four sites in Powys by The Butterfly Conservation, including a female laying eggs.

The species used to have a permanent colony in south-east Wales but died out several decades ago due to a destruction of habitat, with only some 'sporadic sightings' since. Butterfly Conservation said butterflies had suffered in recent years 'because of human actions' but now there was new hope for conservationists, with a 'real success story' in the new species in Wales.

Since 1979, the species' abundance has decreased by 82% at its few remaining sites. Butterfly Conservation said the new arrivals 'almost certainly' come from sites just over the border in Shropshire, where targeted conservation work has been ongoing to maintain Wood White populations.

The charity said its conservation team saw at least four individuals, including a female laying eggs, at Natural Resources Wales (NRW) sites at Siercwm. Volunteers now plan to do further surveys next spring and are in contact with NRW to discuss managing roadside verges along forestry plantation roads.

The news comes after a host of 'surprising butterfly and moth activity', the charity said, much of it linked to this year's record-breaking weather.

Butterfly Conservation have recorded 18 species of butterfly emerging at least two weeks earlier than average, with a further 24 species at least a week early.

However, Dr Dan Hoare, Butterfly Conservation director of nature

recovery, said while the charity loved to see butterflies and moths doing well in the UK, there were 'going to be winners and losers from the very rapid climate change we're experiencing'.

Dr Hoare added: 'One way we can increase the number of climate winners is by managing habitats positively so that threatened species can benefit as well as widespread mobile species.'

'That means creating and maintaining good quality, connected habitat at a landscape scale, which Butterfly Conservation has been doing for years and will continue to do.'

Llandudno has always been known for its rare butterflies especially its Blues on both Ormes and in Bodafon Fields but one hasn't been seen there since 2022.

The most prominent blue butterfly found on the Great Orme in Llandudno is the Silver-studded Blue butterfly. It's a rare butterfly and is known to be found in specific areas of the Great Orme, particularly during the summer months. You can also spot the Small Blue butterfly, although it is not as common as the Silver-studded Blue.

Both are protected under UK law. Specifically, the Large Blue butterfly under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

***Frank Bradfield, Author of the 'The Community Newsletter.'***

## CROSSWORD SOLUTION



**Contributions to our next Circuit 'Connect With Us' Magazine are invited from all churches . Please send to Maria**

**maria.s.carter7@gmail.com.**

**The deadline for the Christmas Winter Edition is:-**

**Sunday 23 November 2025.**

## EDUKID PERU BLOG WITH NOAH



Rydal Penrhos our school, organised the trip through the charity Edukid to go to Peru. Originally last October, the trip was rescheduled for July 2025.

Before going to Peru, we spent a lot of time physically and mentally preparing for the challenges that we would face, this included school meetings and zoom calls, none of which could have prepared us for how profound the experience would be.

After a long twelve hour flight, we finally landed in Lima. From the moment we stepped out of the airport, it was clear that Peru was extremely different to the UK. Seeing children walk around barefoot, shack houses and the constant police presence shocked us.



Once we had reached Imacita, we spent our days visiting several local schools. These included an indigenous school and Imacita primary school, where we witnessed firsthand how important Edukid was for this community. Seeing how the charity had removed the barriers to education for so many children was

heartwarming. One of the most moving experiences was when we helped out in the primary school's kitchen, serving meals. Seeing how grateful the children were, some of whom only get one meal a day, was sobering.



Another tough moment was at the Indigenous school, when we spoke to a 19 year old teenager who had been supported by the charity over the last few years. Hearing the heartbreaking story of losing both her parents and had had her child taken from her was a conversation that left us in tears. But it also gave us hope knowing that the girls refuge that the charity was building would provide a safe home for her and others in similar situations. One of the most important parts of the trip came on the sixth day where we split into groups and took part in home visits. In my group, we visited a shack which housed a single Mother with her four children, one of whom was blind. Seeing the conditions the family was living in was shocking to us all. So much so we organised a trip to the markets to buy much needed food for the family, which included rice, beans and sugar – recommended to us by the local leaders. This experience had deeply affected us – but also inspired us to take action. As a group, we decided to commit to raise enough money for her treatment, in hopes of repairing at least one eye. The following journey back home gave us time to reflect on everything we had witnessed, giving us time to process the powerful trip we had just taken part in.



Our trip to Peru was more than just a volunteering experience, it was a stark and powerful reminder of the challenges that children and young

people face when trying to get an education. It made us realise how fortunate we are in Wales to not have to worry about when our next meal will be, or how we will afford the journey to school.

Thank you to the staff from Rydal Penrhos and Edukid for all the help and support to get us there safely and supporting us whilst there.

Thank you to the Methodist church and congregation at Sr David's Methodist church Craig y Don for all your help and encouragement .

***Noah Lewis, St David's***

## **EDUKID PERU BLOG WITH RUBY**

Peru 2025- Ruby Lewis



18<sup>th</sup> July:

The journey from London to Peru. Starting point Rydal Penrhos school. Destination- Imacita in the Amazon.

19<sup>th</sup> July: Arrived in Lima Breakfast at the hotel Explored Lima

Chocolate making session Back to the hotel for dinner

Went out in the evening and danced with the locals

20<sup>th</sup> July: Flight from Lima to Chiclayo 7-hour taxi journey from Chiclayo to Jaen through the Andes Stayed overnight in Jaen

21<sup>st</sup> July: Taxi journey from Jaen to Imacita Explored the local town of Imacita

Visited the Imacita Primary school to meet a few teachers Went on a boat ride on the amazon river that the children from the local primary school take to school Played volleyball and football with the local children of Imacita

22<sup>nd</sup> July:

Welcomed by the local primary school of Imacita and celebrations and

dances Activities with the children (volleyball, bracelet making, chalk, face painting) Lunch at the school with the children



Visited the indigenous school to meet the teachers and do local crafts such as making bowls and creating jewellery with the teachers

23<sup>rd</sup> July: Welcomed by the Indigenous primary school and celebrations and dances Ate the lunch with the children and teachers

Activities with the children (football, bracelet making, face painting, volleyball) Home visit in the indigenous community with a child from the



school

24<sup>th</sup> July: Back to the local primary school in Imacita to say goodbye to them

Went into the local village stadium to celebrate their Independence Day

Responded to the home visit and brought supplies that they needed in the local markets (Mattress, rice, oats, sugar, baby formula, diapers, new clothes for the family, oil, eggs, Tupperware)



Re visited the home to give the supplies to the family and played football with the boy called Esme.





25<sup>th</sup> July: Went to the Indigenous primary school to say goodbye and have a goodbye ceremony

Taxi journey back to Jaen 3 hours Explored Jaen Pizza restaurant

Stayed the night

26<sup>th</sup> July: Taxi journey from Jaen to Chiclayo through the Andes 7 hours

Explored Chiclayo Restaurant in Chiclayo stayed the night

27<sup>th</sup> July: Flight from Chiclayo to Lima Flight from Lima to Madrid

28<sup>th</sup> July: Flight from Madrid to London Heathrow

Travelled from London Heathrow airport back home

## **EXPERIENCE:**

We travelled to Peru, not to only experience the amazing landscape but an opportunity to connect deeply with a different community and to experience life from a completely different perspective. While I



expected to learn about a new culture I did not anticipate how much I would take from spending time with the children from the Imacita and Indigenous school as well as the home visit in the Indigenous community.



One of the most memorable parts of the experience was first walking towards the Imacita Primary

school. As soon as they saw us their faces lit up and they were all screaming with joy running towards us and hugging us. We were all met with big smiles, and they were so happy. The children were so eager to spend time with us. Firstly, we had a massive warm welcome where they danced their local dances and invited us to dance with them. Then we did so many activities with them where they were so happy. I remember vividly when I took out some bubbles and started blowing them, their eyes widened so much and were laughing so much. It was so heartwarming and humbling to see them this excited over the simplest things and the creativity they had. We then had lunch with them where we learnt what they had every day, rice, meat and banana. I learnt that some of the children brought bigger Tupperware, and the school would fill them up more as they knew that the meal would be their only meal of the day. Even though there was the language barrier it did not matter and did not affect them or their confidence one bit.

There were two important and very emotionally parts of the trip.

One of them being when we met and spoke to a girl who had suffered from sexual violence. We learnt how it had affected her life and how she did not have her parents with her. We learnt that the charity that we went to Peru with was in the middle of building a refuge for women who are venerable or have been victims of sexual abuse. This was so heartbreaking to hear Cassandra's story and how there were many other girls of all ages suffering with very little support. But also, how there was hope with the refuge being built and a safe place for the girls to be with support around them. It made me realise how big the support network in the UK is and how they have to deal with the trauma by themselves but also in their living conditions.

The second very emotional part of the trip was the home visit. This was a family in the indigenous community with a boy, Esme who attended the indigenous school. The home was made from sticks of wood and straw and was one room. The family greeted us with warm smiles and welcomed us into their home. They bravely told us about their living conditions and what they do and eat in their day to day lives. There was six people living in their home and it was cramped. They used a black sheet of plastic tarpaulin as the bed for all the children and then the two



parents and the 6-month-old baby had a small mattress to share. They also shared with us how they only have one meal a day which is a local vegetable called Yuka. The most heartwarming moment was when we asked what Esme, the young boy wanted to do when he was older. He explained how he wanted to get a degree and become a teacher. We then asked him where he would like to go after to teach. He explained he would like to come back home and share his knowledge. We learnt that the people in the indigenous community got their degrees and came back to share their knowledge and create a better life for the community. One woman called Nelly had the chance to do her masters in Italy but decided against it and came back to help her community. This showed me even though they had very little and their living conditions weren't great it did not matter to them as their community means more than anything and how strong a family they all were. How they put the needs of others before their own every time.

Another emotional time was when we said goodbye to the indigenous children on the last day. All the children were crying and hugging all of us, they were so upset as they had been so happy to spend their time with us and teach us all how they live, their culture and their homes.



Coming back from Peru had taught me so much, more than I ever expected. It has taught me to appreciate the simplest things again and to never take anything for granted. Even though the children were going through so much in their own lives they never stopped smiling and always kept going. The home visit taught me to listen deeply, appreciate what everybody does around me and for me and taught me to think more about how I could help my community more.

Spending time in a community where people face tough challenges with strength and open hearts made me reflect on what truly matters. These children didn't have the latest technology, the best resources or access to many important supplies but they had curiosity, creativity, and excitement to try new things and to meet new people that did not phase them one bit. The family I visited didn't have a lot, but they had generosity,

kindness, and warmth that filled their home and made them appreciate things so much more. Our gifts to them with the supplies they needed the most did not feel like a lot for me but for them it was life changing and they were so shocked which made me realise how lucky I am to have all my basic needs given to me.

Another powerful takeaway I got from this experience was the importance of human connection and community. Even without speaking the same language fluently, we laughed, played, and shared stories. I was reminded that connection doesn't require perfection and things like technology but just presence and a willingness to engage. Which the children were so grateful for. It was just important for the children for us to have showed up and play with them. That is what meant the most to the children.

And finally, I left with a deeper sense of gratitude. Gratitude for the privileges I've often taken for granted like access to education, clean water, and a safe home and gratitude for the people I met in Peru, who showed me what resilience, joy, kindness and a strong sense of community look like in action.

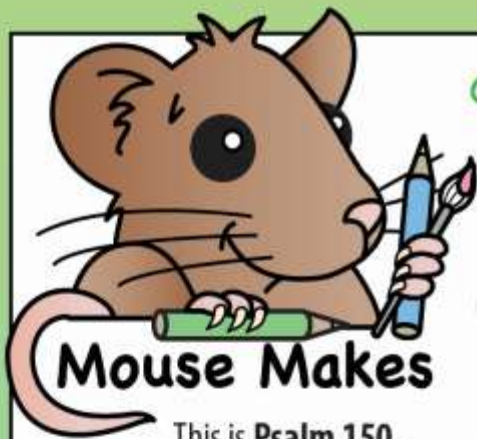
I learnt that sometimes all you need is a strong community with people who care and are kind and without that you cannot live properly. These experiences weren't just highlights of my trip they reshaped how I think about people, culture, and community. I didn't go to Peru expecting to be changed, but in many small, lasting ways, I was.

The Thank yous! Thank you to the staff at Rydal Penrhos school. Our headmaster Mr Hutchinson for driving us to Heathrow airport and collecting us. Rev Rob Beamish for all the planning and organising.

Dr Jim Lewis and Hannah Skinner for organising and keeping us safe out there! Chris and Chloe from Edukid for their support. Rev Janet Park and the Methodist Church Bonner Trust. Rev James Garnett, Maria and Andy for helping us to share our story. Paula for arranging the collection.

The Congregation at St David's church for all their support, donations, encouragement and prayers. **Ruby Lewis, St David's.**

***Philippians 4:19: And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.***



## Mouse Makes

This is **Psalm 150**,  
a song of praise to God,  
it tells us why and how  
to worship God.  
*How do you praise and  
worship God?*

**Praise** God in His Temple,  
**Praise** Him in His mighty heavens.  
**Praise** Him for His acts of power,  
**Praise** Him for his surpassing greatness.

**Praise Him**  
with the sounding trumpet,  
**Praise Him**  
with the harp and lyre,  
**Praise Him**  
with tambourine and dancing,  
**Praise Him**  
with the clash of cymbals,  
**Praise Him**  
with the resounding cymbals.  
Let everything that has breath  
**PRAISE THE LORD!**

P	K	G	C	Y	M	B	A	L	S	A
O	L	R	H	E	A	V	E	N	S	B
W	T	E	M	P	L	E	T	U	A	R
E	T	A	M	B	O	U	R	I	N	E
R	H	T	L	U	T	E	U	A	C	A
D	A	N	C	I	N	G	M	P	T	T
R	R	E	P	I	P	E	P	R	U	H
U	P	S	F	L	U	T	E	A	A	H
M	D	S	G	O	D	E	T	I	R	O
S	T	S	T	R	I	N	G	S	Y	R
O	Y	L	E	D	L	Y	R	E	Y	N

PRAISE • GOD • TEMPLE • HEAVENS • SANCTUARY • POWER • GREATNESS  
TRUMPET • HORN • PIPE • FLUTE • HARP • LYRE • LUTE • STRINGS  
TAMBOURINE • DANCING • CYMBALS • DRUMS • BREATH • LORD



# CHURCH DIRECTORY

Conwy and Prestatyn  
**Methodist** Circuit



**Llanddulas Methodist Church**  
Minffordd Road LL22 9RF  
Sunday Service 10:30am  
3-5pm MESSY CHURCH  
See Plan



**OLD COLWYN Methodist Church**  
Wynn Avenue LL29 9RF  
Sunday Service 11:00 am

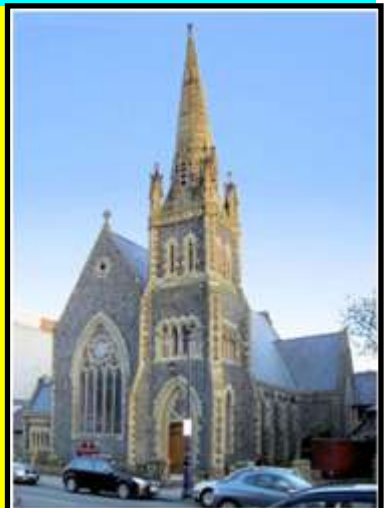


**St David's Methodist**  
Mostyn Avenue LL30 1YY  
Sunday Services  
10:00am and 6:00pm  
4pm Messy Church  
See Plan

**St John's Methodist**  
Mostyn Street

**LLANDUDNO LL30 2NN**

Sunday Service 11:00am  
*Thursday Circuit*  
*Healing Service 1:45pm*



**Trinity Methodist**  
Pendre Avenue Prestatyn  
LL19 9SH  
Sunday Service 10:45am



**St John's Methodist Church**  
ROSEHILL STREET CONWY LL32 8LD  
9:00AM HC 1ST Sunday in the month  
Sunday Service 10:30am  
4pm Messy Church See Plan

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Scan the QR code



[conwyprestatynmc.org.uk](http://conwyprestatynmc.org.uk)



Conwy and Prestatyn Methodist Circuit

## WAYS TO WORSHIP IN OUR CIRCUIT



Sunday worship



Messy Church



Coffee Mornings



Reflections



Prayer meetings



Warm spaces



Toddler groups



Healing service



Open Churches