


SPRING EDITION 2025



Conwy and Prestatyn
Methodist Circuit 



CONNECT WITH US!

Stay up to date & join the
conversation:



welcome!

Welcome to this first edition of *Connect With Us* – a magazine offered as a gift from the churches of the Conwy and Prestatyn Circuit to members and visitors alike.

Connection is a fundamental idea for Christians who call themselves Methodist. Originally, in the Eighteenth Century, this word expressed the connection of religious societies with John Wesley. It distinguished them from societies connected with other leaders of religious revival – including Howel Harris, here in Wales for example. The Methodist Church still refers to itself as the ‘Connexion’, retaining the old-fashioned spelling to remind us of our roots.

Yet the connection of individuals with churches, of churches in a circuit and of circuits with other circuits in the Connexion also represents a theological way of understanding ourselves. We are members of the body of Christ – each of us an individual, church or circuit in our own right; yet, each of us finding purpose and wholeness only in relationship with one another.

I hope that in the pages of this magazine you will find connection with like-minded and differently-minded people. Please do connect with us. Tell us what you think; because connexion works in both directions. Join the conversation.

Rev Dr James Garnett
Superintendent Minister

‘Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!’ — 2 Corinthians 5:17

SERVING TOGETHER IN FAITH AND LOVE

As we embark on this exciting new venture with our circuit magazine. I am reminded of the beauty of our shared journey as a people of faith. Having served in the circuit for the past four years, I have been blessed to witness the depth of care, commitment, and faith that shapes our community.

The role of a Methodist Deacon is one of service - walking alongside others, reaching out to those in need and embodying Christ's love in practical ways. But this calling is not mine alone; it is something we all share as the body of Christ.

Each act of kindness, each prayer lifted, and each moment of fellowship reflects our collective response to God's love.

As we step into this new chapter with our magazine, my hope is that it will be a space of encouragement, inspiration and connection - a place where we celebrate our faith, share our stories, and explore new ways to serve together. May we continue to be a church that listens and loves.

With every blessing

Deacon Linda Brown

The Gift

Saved by grace lest any should boast
Such is His gift obtained at great cost,
God's Son was given to set men free,
Redemption made ours as He hung on the tree.

In wonder the angels saw Him go
From the glories of heaven to our world below,
This earth once fair now corrupt from the fall,
Fellowship broken and lost to all.

Bought back with a price that we could not pay
The taint of our sin by His blood washed away,
Reconciled to the Father, all this we have gained
Salvation His gift if we call on His Name.

By Megan Carter Parish Pump Editorial



LLANDDULAS Methodist Church

Minffordd Road LL22 9RF

Sunday Service 10:00am.

Messy Church, Faith, Fun, and Family Time

Messy Church at Llanddulas has been bringing families together for faith-filled fun since its launch on 10th December with a special

Christmas-themed session. Meeting on the second Tuesday of each month from 3:30 to 5:00 pm, this vibrant gathering offers an engaging way for children and their families to explore who God is and who Jesus is.



Following the same themes as St John's Conwy and St David's Craig-y-Don, each session is packed with creativity and excitement. Families enjoy four themed craft activities, alongside a fun game or challenge, before coming together for a celebration featuring a Bible story. The afternoon concludes with a shared meal, fostering a wonderful sense of community and hospitality.

The joy of Messy Church isn't just for the children—our adult helpers seem to have just as much fun! A huge thank you goes out to our dedicated team of volunteers who plan, prepare, run activities, tidy up, and, of course, indulge in a few sweets along the way!



With three regular families attending each month and new faces joining us every session, Messy Church at Llanddulas is thriving. If you're looking for a relaxed, welcoming space to explore faith as a family, why not come along? We'd love to see you there!

Jodie James, Circuit Lay Worker



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

We would like to share with you the things we have done.

‘Rake and Cake’ events; This is where all are welcome to come and do a bit of gardening, litter picking, and eat cake. **WhatsApp group;** Some gardeners wanted to meet more often and so a private WhatsApp group was started so that each member felt connected. Many of our members initially didn’t like to talk on the phone. We therefore adapted the communication so people felt more comfortable. **Eco Church;** 2024 the Church and grounds entered to become an Eco Church. We were awarded ‘Bronze’ certificate.

Registered Wild Space; 2024 we became a registered wild space with the Butterfly Conservation group. **RHS Bloom 60;** we became involved in ‘project grow’. RHS sent packets of seeds. We planted a raised bed for cut flowers so that the community and church could help themselves. **RHS**



Colwyn In Bloom and ‘It’s Your Neighbourhood’ awards.

The garden has been awarded Level 5 ‘outstanding’. In 2024 the church received the Gold Award in Class 6 and was presented with the shield.

What is new in 2025? We have been approached by **Homestart** to provide a brunch club. From April 19 to September 20 we will have a monthly Brunch and

Gardening Club (10-12 noon). Everyone is invited to have brunch, chat and get to know others in the area. This will run at the same time as the gardening group. There will be opportunities to take seedlings and fresh produce home. All these events will be free of charge.



**TRINITY Methodist Church Pendre Avenue
Prestatyn LL19 9SH**

Sunday Service 10:45am

***‘Trinity Tots’ Toddler Group A Thriving
Community for Little Ones and Their Families***

Since its launch on 17th January, ‘Trinity Tots’ in Prestatyn has been a resounding success! Taking place every Friday morning from 9:30 to 11:00, the group provides a warm and welcoming space for children and their parents or grandparents to connect, play, and learn together.

Each week, an average of 16 little ones join in the fun, with attendance sometimes soaring to over 20! The group offers a fantastic variety of activities to keep the children engaged, including a baby soft play area, a playhouse, ride-on toys, jigsaws, books, and a play kitchen. In addition, themed crafts and colourings add a creative touch to every session.



The structure of the morning ensures a wonderful balance of free play and organised activities. Sessions begin with play and craft time, followed by a shared snack, then story time and a singing session to bring everyone together. We have had a huge amount of positive feedback from parents and grandparents and it’s lovely to see familiar faces coming back each week!

The group has already celebrated several special events, including World Book Day, Mothering Sunday, and Easter. A recent highlight was raising money for Comic Relief, showcasing the community spirit that thrives within the group.

A huge thank you goes out to the dedicated team of volunteers who make these sessions possible every week! Their time, effort, and enthusiasm create a joyful and inclusive environment for all who attend.

Jodie James, Circuit Lay Worker.



ST DAVID'S Methodist Church
Mostyn Avenue Craig Y Don LL30 1YY
Sunday Services 10:00am and 6:00pm
Messy Church
Every 4th Sunday 4:00pm

Following our Centenary year during which the Leadership Team, with the collaboration of our congregation, planned a series of events and special services throughout the year, it was decided to make this an annual tradition. This decision was driven by the overwhelming success and positive feedback received from our congregation and the community, highlighting the importance of fellowship and celebration.

So far this year we have experienced Junior Jamborees and All Age Worship services, thanks to Jodie James, Line Dancing organised by Alison Mckinley, Quiz evenings a special thank you to Denise Creed for all the questions and are looking forward to the remainder of the year.

As we move forward, the Leadership Team remains committed to enhancing these annual traditions that will offer new opportunities for worship, engagement and celebration. We look forward to continuing this journey of fellowship, growth, and shared experiences. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to making these events a success. Your participation and support are the cornerstone of our community and church life here at St David's. All are welcome to join with us! ***St David's Leadership Team.***

Join Us!
Open House
A Community Hub
At St David's Methodist Church
Craig Y Don
Open Space
Experience the Joy
of relaxed Conversation and Community

Food and Drinks
Enjoy Complimentary refreshments while
mingling with others. All are Welcome to
share a simple meal and conversation.

It's Free!
It's Fun
11:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Every Tuesday





ST JOHN'S Methodist Church

Rosehill Street CONWY LL32 8LD

Sunday Service 10:00am

Holy Communion

9:00am 1st Sunday in the month

Messy Church

Last Sunday in the Month 4:00pm

HEAT AND EAT: WORKING WITH OTHERS.

As I write this article, Heat and Eat at St John's Conwy is in its final weeks before we close for the summer.

Heat and Eat is a warm space initiative that runs during the winter months from 4pm until 7pm on Wednesdays. The evening begins with a slow trickle of people coming in, but it soon becomes very busy. We also provide a number of activities such as Lego, board games books and toys. The favourite game being Grandmas windy knickers! The explanation is a bit tricky so come on down and see for yourself!

Our Chef, Dave, cooks up a storm - often with ingredients kindly donated by local businesses - and our volunteers ensure the evening runs smoothly. Everyone chips in, especially when it comes to tidying away and we genuinely see many hands make light work!

We have seen some good developments over this past year, including new people attending and accessing this very much needed warm space. Because of the success of Heat and Eat, we have an exciting opportunity to consult with St Mary's next door and their new Neuadd Ni community centre. The aspiration is that Heat and Eat will run every week now during the winter for the community of Conwy, sharing the outreach with St Mary's CIW church next door. This is a very exciting time, and we look forward to the Lord's work being expanded here in Conwy. We cannot conclude the winter season without expressing our heartfelt gratitude to Chef Dave and our incredible volunteers, whose unwavering support and dedication make all our achievements possible.

Thank you. **Liz Royle, Circuit Lay Worker**



ST JOHN'S Methodist Church

Mostyn Street

LLANDUDNO LL30 2NN

Sunday Service 11:00am

Thursday Circuit Healing Service 1:45pm

WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

St John's is embarking on a new oral and visual history project centered around St John's as a building but also as group of people. We often hear people in the town talking about St John's as their church and they have a real connection to it, maybe because they were christened there, or they were a bridesmaid at their cousin's wedding. Or because they were in the Boys Brigade or Sunday School. We know that people come back to St John's year after year on their holidays and we would love to be able to capture these memories for the future.

So if you have photos or stories that you would like to be a part of this project then we would love to hear from you. Photos can be copied and returned, short conversations can be arranged so that memories can be recorded.

We plan to display this content for visitors to engage with and it is being led by the Circuit outreach worker, Liz Royle who is based at St John's, so please do get in touch. *.Contact Liz Royle: Mobile: 07886 177832*

*Email: cpmclayworkerlr@gmail.com. **Rhian Smith***

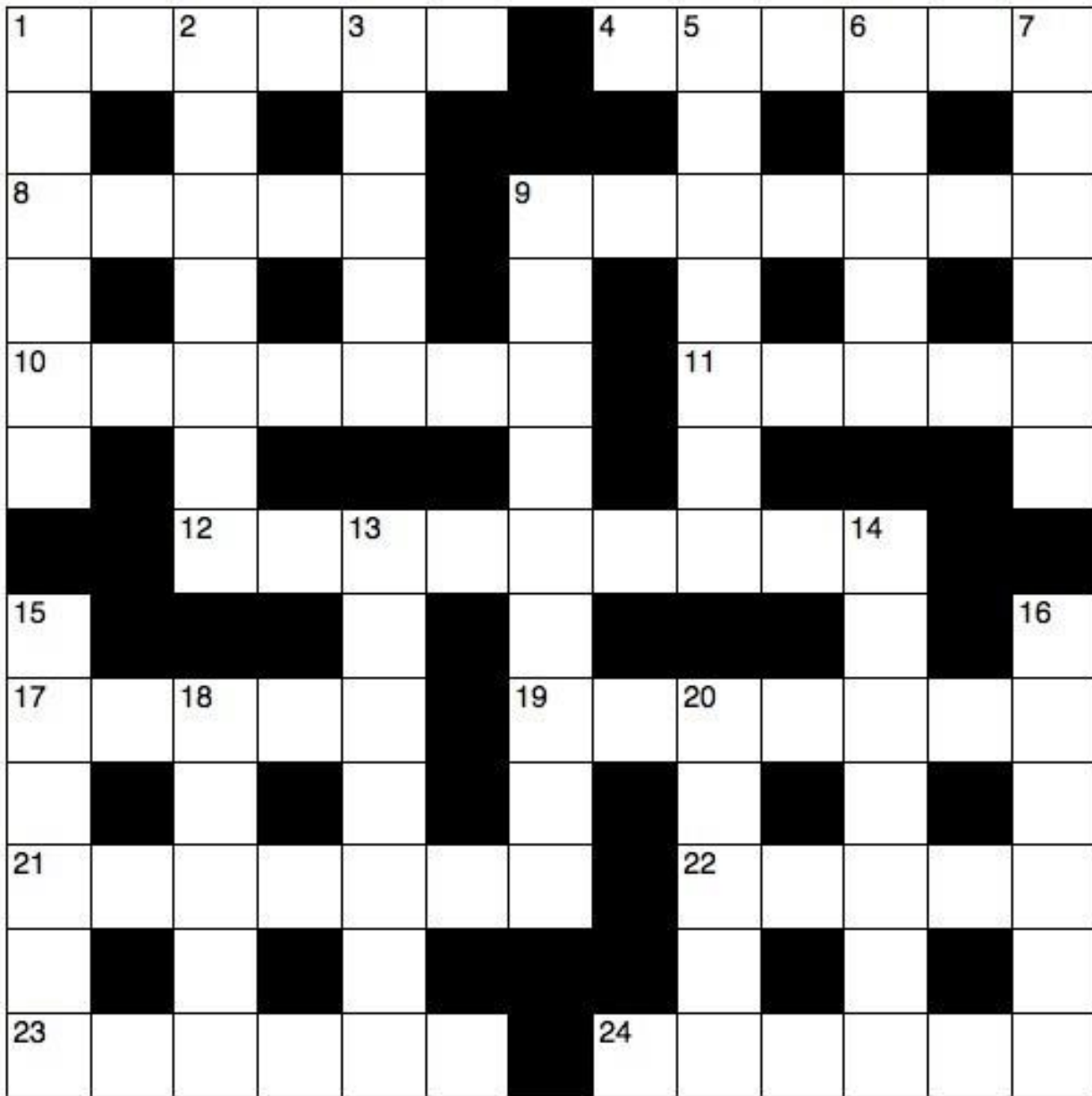
Sunday Morning Worship 11am with refreshments afterwards.

Holy Communion generally the 1st Sunday of the month.

Monday Toddlers Sing & Play 9:45am

Friday Prayer meeting 9:30am , Community Cafe 10-12:30 , Warm Welcome 1-4pm

1st Wednesday of the month 12-2 the Pastoral Picnic, all are welcome to bring their lunch and have some time together, tea & coffee provided.



**C
r
o
s
s
w
o
r
d**

CLUES ACROSS

1 Relating to the whole universe (6)

4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)

8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)

9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)

10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)

11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)

12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)

17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3-4) (5)

19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord' (Exodus 34:29) (7)

21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)

22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)

23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)

24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)

CLUES DOWN

1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)

2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)

3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)

5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)

6 11 Across is certainly this (5)

7 He reps (anag.) (6)

9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)

13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)

14 They must be 'worthy of

respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)

15 The human mind or soul (6)

16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — ' (Graham Kendrick) (6)

18 'We played the flute for you, and you did not — ' (Matthew 11:17) (5)

20 Bared (anag.) (5)



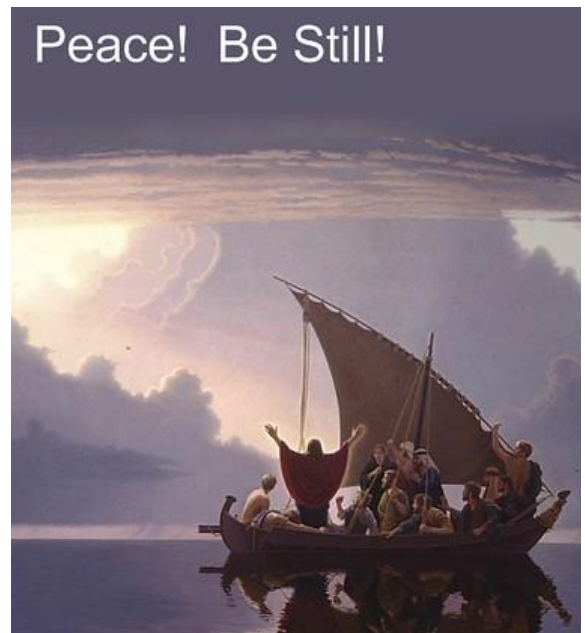
...between you and me, it's the only way I can remember my PIN number!



MAY THE PEACE...

Do you have a hymn or a verse/line of a hymn that you really identify with? It might not be your favourite hymn, but there is something about that line that 'gets you' every time? For me this is the third verse of StF 504:

*May the peace of God my Father
rule my life in everything,
that I may be calm to comfort
sick and sorrowing.*



504 is a great hymn and the verses have so much to say about many aspects of our lives. It is often chosen by preachers and I love what it has to say about everyday life and the challenges that we all face.

Many of you will know that I am an advanced nurse practitioner on the neonatal unit at Glan Clwyd Hospital and also on the transport team that moves sick babies across North Wales and beyond. And as I am sure you can imagine a neonatal unit is often not very peaceful, whether it is a sibling watching a video clip on an iPad, a well baby yelling for their next feed, a monitor sounding to get the attention of staff, the clatter of a baby being admitted from the operating theatre or the crowd of staff on the ward round, it can be a noisy place!

We try to keep things as quiet as possible though as this is good for the growing brains of our tiny patients. But there is a difference between quietness and calmness, and it is the calmness of this verse that speaks to me and the fact that this is what I am given in abundance by my Father God as I go about my work.

Those who know me well will also know what a chatterbox I am, why say something in 5 words when you can say it in 50?!? Something that has been observed by several of my colleagues is that in a stressful situation I actually say far less. Instructions need to be short and to the point, but I hope always polite too. I need to lead the team who are relying on me by staying calm, even if I am not feeling it inwardly.

A wise older colleague once said to me that when your patient (or their family) is having their worst day, they need you to be having your best. This isn't referring to the current use of 'best day' as a phrase, but more that when a patient is very sick, the best thing that a team can do is be cohesive and not drawn into the emotion of the day. After all the emotion of joy, sadness or grief is unique to that family, we staff need to stay calm and strong when they are struggling.

So I will continue to have this verse as a focus and a guide in my work as, for me, it really expresses the way that God helps me most in my vocation.

Rhian Smith, St John's Llandudno.

JAMES ALLAN FRANCIS (1864–1928)

QUOTATION: Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another obscure village, where He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty, and then for three years He was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never owned a home. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put his foot inside a big city. He never travelled two hundred miles from the place where He was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself. He had nothing to do with this world except the naked power of His divine manhood. While still a young man, the tide of public opinion turned against Him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth while He was dying—and that was his coat. When he was dead He was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend. Nineteen wide centuries have come and gone and today He is the centrepiece of the human race and the leader of the column of progress. I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that One Solitary Life.



EASTER JOY

It's not just about life after death, is it?
Surely it's also about life before death too?

Easter cards are illustrative
and you sometimes see them passed between folk at church.

The 'religious' ones often show
an empty cross or an open tomb, stone rolled away.

The 'secular' ones might show
baby chicks, gambolling lambs or colourful spring flowers.

All are shouting out 'NEW LIFE! NEW LIFE!'.

Resurrection!

It reminds me of the words from a song:
'Every time I hear a newborn baby cry or touch a leaf or see the sky
I know why I believe'.

But what is the quality of this 'NEW LIFE'?

Surely it's more than life itself?

Yes, it's ETERNAL LIFE and that makes all the difference,
an eternal life which starts here and now and is not just for the hereafter.

For eternal life is to know God himself.



Just believing there is a God
and knowing a lot about him
is not the same.



EASTER JOY!

O yes, it can sometimes seem rather hidden
because of life's circumstances
but my experience is that, even in the bad times,
it is still there,
bubbling up beneath the surface.

EASTER JOY, CHRIST IS RISEN, HALLELUJAH!

Jack Waddington, St David's

OUTREACH WORKER UPDATE: LIZ ROYLE, CIRCUIT LAY WORKER

Service and Partnership

Over the past few months, I have had the pleasure and privilege of participating in several community activities. These activities ranged from warm spaces to fostering partnerships with other charities and organizations, and I am excited to share some highlights.

Making Partnerships with Other Charities and Organisations

I have dedicated a significant amount of time to building partnerships with other charities and organisations because I recognise the importance of collaboration in achieving our goals. These partnerships were crucial in expanding our reach into the communities we serve.

Working alongside organisations such as Homestart Conwy and Sanctuary Trust, we were able to pool our resources, share expertise, and coordinate efforts to better serve our community. Whether it was partnering with food banks to ensure a steady supply of provisions for Trinity's warm space or collaborating with local community charities to secure funding for Mission planning, the opportunity for fellowship with these organisations and the mutual support we have had has been immeasurable.

Community Champion Recognition by UCB Radio

In February, Rhian Smith and I were recognised as joint 'Community Champion' by UCB Radio for the work at the warm space at St. John's. This recognition was not just a personal accolade, but a testament to the collective effort and dedication of everyone involved with Warm Welcome at St John's- Llandudno.

The acknowledgment by UCB Radio brought greater visibility to our work and helped raise awareness about the needs of our community. It was an opportunity to highlight the importance of compassion, service, and community engagement.

Conclusion

Reflecting on the past few months, I am grateful for the opportunity to serve our Lord.

As I look forward to the future, I am excited about the possibilities ahead. There is still much work to do, and I am eager to continue building on the foundation we have established.

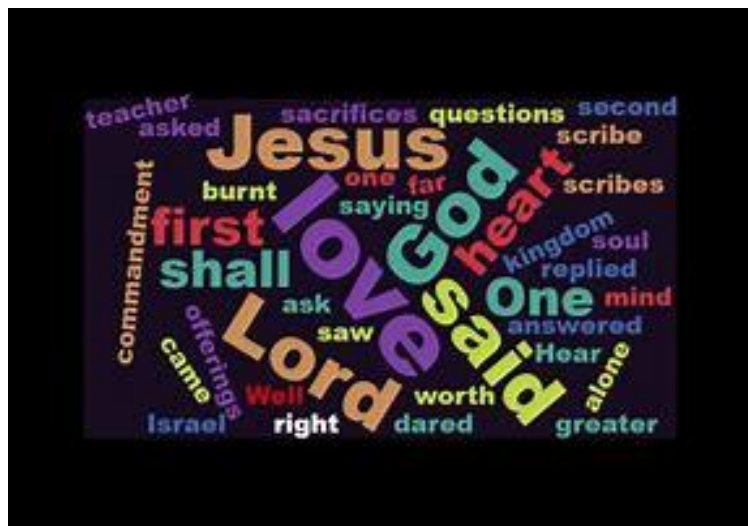
Together, we can continue to share God's love with our community.

Matthew 22:34-40

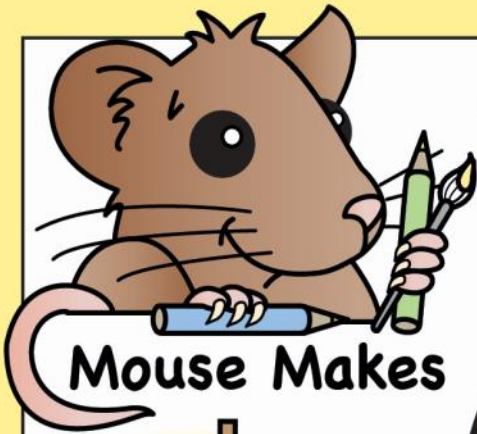
The Greatest Commandment

Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: 'Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?'

Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.'



Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.



Mouse Makes



On the cross Jesus opened wide his arms for us.
 Jesus put an end to death by dying for us,
 and showed us the resurrection to
 come by His raising to new life!



Jesus is risen!

The angel said:
 "Jesus ...is not here, for He
 has risen, just as He said."
Matthew 28:6

Jesus is here

Jesus said:
 "Where two or three
 come together
 in my name I am
 there with them."
Matthew 18:20



READ the story of
 the resurrection in:
Matthew 28:1-10
Mark 16:1-19
Luke 24:1-49
John 20:1-29
and 21:1-14

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



Jesus will come again!

Jesus said:
 "I will come back
 and take you to
 myself so that you
 will be where I am."
John 14:3



JESUS • ALIVE • RISEN
 LORD • SAVIOUR • KING
 RESURRECTION
 PEACE • NEW LIFE • JOY • GOOD NEWS



MESSIAH • REDEEMER
 CHRIST • SON OF GOD
 HOSANNA • PRAISE
 GO TELL • EASTER



GET MESSY!

'Get Messy!' is the title of the resource book that we use to plan our Messy Church sessions each month at St John's Conwy from September through to August. It is full of useful ideas and programme outlines. So when our team meets to plan each Messy Church (normally about three weeks in advance) we are not starting from scratch!



A typical Messy Church begins with a variety of different activities that are available for children, adults and families to do over the course of an hour. Each activity relates to the Bible story which is the theme for the session. For example, in February the theme was What did Jesus say? 'I forgive you' based on Luke 7:36-50, the story of Jesus visiting the house Simon the Pharisee for a meal. In the story Jesus' feet are washed and anointed by a woman whom the pharisee labelled as 'sinful', and Jesus tells the parable of the two men who borrowed money from a lender and were unable to pay it back. Forgiveness is at the heart of the story.

So our activities included foot painting in which people had the soles of their feet painted and then made footprints on paper (not on the church hall carpet - we used a tarpaulin!!); and of course foot washing where people had their feet washed clean again. There was a coin counting challenge (modesty prevents me from saying who won...); Love you cards in which cards were made to remind people of God's love for them and our love for one another; woven placemats as we thought about the meal that Jesus shared; and tea tasting in which people could smell and taste a variety of fruit teas and try to guess what they are. So some activities are truly messy and quick, some are quiet and slow, but all of them come with questions to wonder about, such as, 'Which person will love the

moneylender more in Jesus' story?' or 'What would you prepare to eat if Jesus were coming to dinner?' or 'I wonder what the house smelt like when the woman poured perfume on Jesus' feet?'

Then we all go into church for a brief celebration during which we sing some songs together, often with actions, act out the Bible story or illustrate it in some way, and have a brief prayer ending with the 'Messy Grace'. Each Messy Church ends with a meal prepared for us by Dave or Sian. We have a wonderful time together which includes people of all ages. It is a fun way of exploring our faith. If you have never been to Messy Church, then do come along one month and try it out. It really is for everybody and nobody is ever forced to 'get messy'! However, please do book for catering purposes. Contact details are on the leaflets that we produce each month.

If you fancy being part of the planning team and would like to get involved, then please have a word with me at church sometime or give me a ring on **07950 006336**. You will have a great time.

Chris Gray St. John's, Conwy

THE TAXI

The passenger tapped the cab driver on the shoulder to ask him something. The driver screamed, lost control of the car, nearly hit a bus, went up on the pavement, and stopped inches from a shop window.



For a second everything went quiet in the cab, then the driver said, 'Look mate, don't ever do that again. You scared me half to death!'

The passenger apologised and said he hadn't realised that a little tap would scare him so much. The driver replied, 'You're right. I'm sorry. Really, it's not your fault. Today is my first day as a cab driver. I've been driving a hearse for 25 years.'

Parish Pump Editorial, April 2025 Edition.

THE GROWING GARDEN AND INCREDIBLE EDIBLE AT OLD COLWYN

Introduction: In May 2017 our National Autistic Society branch had an opportunity to compete for a grant with the National Garden Scheme. The design was unusual as it was setting up a community garden for families who have members with autism. The project aim was to encourage health, wellbeing, socialisation and learning. We were successful!



Our Journey: Over the last 8 years the 'growing garden' has developed into a community resource, haven and wildlife garden. We have also joined with the 'Incredible Edible' movement. We are a vital contributing option of a wider scheme to reduce social isolation and increase confidence in young people from 18 - 35 who have autism.

Online, our whole journey is documented by our Instagram page, [incredibleediblegrowinggarden](https://www.instagram.com/incredibleediblegrowinggarden). This a key communicator of who we are and what we do. There are 371 posts, and we have 208 followers to date (March 2025).



Our costs are minimal, as we grow from seed, cuttings and division of existing crops.

We grow fruit, salad, vegetables and herbs. We also have an orchard of fruit trees- apples, pears, plums and cherries. All produce is freely available for anyone to pick as per the ethos of the Incredible Edible movement.

Mel and Simon, Old Colwyn.

NIV 1 Peter 4:10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

ARISE AFRICA

‘Christians come to church with fear in their eyes’, says a Pastor in Democratic Republic of Congo, a survivor of eight attacks by Allied Democratic Forces militants.

Arise Africa is a four-year campaign by Open Doors, an international ministry serving persecuted Christians and churches worldwide, in response to the increasing violence against Christians in sub-Saharan Africa. It is a global campaign aiming to raise awareness by encouraging media to report on the violence against Christians and launching the Arise Africa petition, financial support, advocacy and prayer. We need to stop the violence and start the healing.

Millions of Christians and non-Christians across sub-Saharan Africa have been displaced by violence and conflict. The global Arise Africa petition aims to stop the violence by calling upon the global community to ensure that Christians and other vulnerable individuals in sub-Saharan Africa are treated with dignity and respect by

Protection - providing robust protection from violent militant attacks

Justice - ensuring justice through fair prosecution of the attacker

Restoration- bringing healing and restoration to all affected communities.

It is intended the global petition be presented to the EU, the UN, the African Union and local governments around the world, including the UK Government

Open Doors produce an annual World Watch List, the top 50 countries where following Jesus costs the most. Millions of Christians face violent persecution for their faith; they are murdered, raped and kidnapped, displaced from their homes. Most of the displaced people are living in camps for internally displaced people (IDPs) either in their own country or neighbouring countries. Islamic extremists target believers and want to destroy the church. The rising violence is being driven largely by Islamic extremists taking advantage of political instability in the region.

Sub-Saharan Africa includes all African countries below North Africa, though Open Doors focuses its support on sub-Saharan African countries reporting ‘high’, ‘very high’ or ‘extreme’ levels of persecution in the World Watch List (per the World Watch List methodology) – that is, Somalia,

Eritrea, Nigeria, Sudan, Mali, Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Niger, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Mozambique, DRC, Cameroon, Kenya, Tanzania, Djibouti, Chad, Rwanda, Burundi, Togo, Guinea, Uganda, Angola, Gambia, South Sudan and the Ivory Coast. In 2014, far fewer sub-Saharan African countries had 'high', 'very high' or 'extreme' levels of persecution: only 12 of the 26 countries listed above.

Open Doors local partners provide emergency relief (food, clothing, hygiene products and medical care), emergency shelter, training for church leaders to equip them to disciple believers, and trauma care and livelihood skills training to support long-term self-sufficiency. They also encourage displaced believers and show them that they are not alone.

Please

- Pray, a special month of prayer leaflet has been produced by Open Doors
- Sign, the Arise Africa petition

[Serving Persecuted Christians Worldwide Africa Petition - Open Doors UK & Ireland](#)

- Give, to help support persecuted and displaced Christians across the region.

More information can be found at Open Doors Arise Africa

'Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.
See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the Lord rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.
Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn'.

Isaiah 60: 1-3

NB There will be a special service with a delegate from Open Doors at St David's Methodist Church, Craig Y Don on the 18 May 2025 at 10am.

Please do come along to support their work and our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ with worship and prayer.

Mary Jones, Open Doors Representative St John's Llandudno.



SO WHAT DO YOU THINK ?

Is it genuine, that image imprinted on a shroud in Turin?

Some say the figure is the portrayal of Christ lying in the tomb and as such, a mainstay of their Faith.

Others say it is a fake, a linen cloth upon which medieval monks painted an image.

Radiocarbon dating put its age between AD 1260 and 1390 but believers counter with the fact only a small corner patch was tested.

There is no conclusive answer as yet about the how the image of a man came to be imprinted on the fabric.

What is not contested is the fact it is a linen weave cloth, approximately 1 metre wide by 4 metres long. And it was once growing in a field!

Linen is made from the fibres of Flax which through time, has been the only source of linen. Even the pharaoh Tutankhamun was buried with 145 pairs of underwear made from flax fibres for his journey into the afterlife.

The sixth plague of Egypt, the Hail, must have been a pants disaster when the flax was in bloom and destroyed (Exodus 9:31)

The drying flax stems also served as a hiding place for Joshua's spies on the roof of Rahab's house (Joshua 2:6)

To make linen from flax stems takes several processes.

Sowing, weeding, pulling, retting, drying, scutching, hackling, spinning and finally weaving.

Flax or as we know it in modern times Linseed is a delicately blue flowered plant widely grown in Europe mainly, however, for the crushed seeds which contain 40% oil, handily preserving your cricket bat or adding to your diet with omega -3



Ireland would be the place to visit flax fibre crops, in fact Belfast, in the early 19th century was known as 'Linenopolis' as it was the biggest linen producer in the world.

Much of the processing then was done by hand. One hundred days after

sowing came the harvesting or 'pulling', the stems are too tough to cut. Bundles were then submerged in a muddy ditch for retting. A week later they are hauled out to be spread out on a field for drying.



Once dry they are gathered up and savagely beaten with a 'scutching stick' to break the sheath exposing the fine inner fibres which are combed with a 'hackle' - hence the term "get ones hackles up".

After many hours of painstaking work the stems are now ready for the spinners to begin and the final thread would at last be sent to the weavers to produce a linen cloth.

So the linen shroud, with its ethereal image, now encased in the *Cappella della Sacra Sindone* at Turin, and is for many a source of dissent and debate is, for me, a source of encouragement.

My Saviour is not represented by an image on an ancient piece of cloth, however formed, but in the analogy of the toils of ordinary folk working together to produce something of value and worth. My Saviour is part of my life today, and now.

Every task, however simple, sets the soul that does it free;

every deed of love and mercy,

done to man is done to Me.

nevermore thou needest seek me;

I am with thee everywhere;

raise the stone, and thou shalt find Me;

cleave the wood, and I am there.

Methodist Hymn Book 1933 #601

Graham Bunn, St David's

Isaiah 53:2 'For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as A ROOT OUT OF DRY GROUND, He has no form or comeliness, and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him.'

Isaiah 53:3 'He is despised and rejected by men, A MAN OF SORROWS AND ACQUAINTED WITH GRIEF. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.'



'THREADS THROUGH THE BIBLE'

We heard from our Circuit Administrator, Hayley, in one of her weekly newsletters, that an exhibition was taking place at the Anglican Cathedral in Liverpool, entitled 'Threads through the Bible'.

We thought it would be good to have a Circuit coach to the event, but we then discovered that our neighbouring Circuit of Bangor and Holyhead, had the same idea, so they organised it and arranged to collect our folk on the way. We managed to persuade them to have a pick-up at St Paul's Abergele, where the car parking would be free, safe behind the barrier and convenient.

We arrived at Liverpool in a downpour but once inside we forgot about the weather.

The exhibition consisted of 44 silk panels which included 25 million stitches – one thing we didn't or couldn't do, was to count the stitches !! The whole show had been done by one lady (Jacqui Parkinson – the widow of Rev. Rob Frost - national evangelist for the Methodist Church from 1986 to 2007.)

It took Jacqui 10 years to produce this wonderful work. It is in 3 sections – 'Threads through Creation', 'Threads through the Cross' and 'Threads through Revelation'. They told the story of 'all is initially good in Genesis', 'the life and sacrifice of Jesus' and 'all is good again in Revelation'.

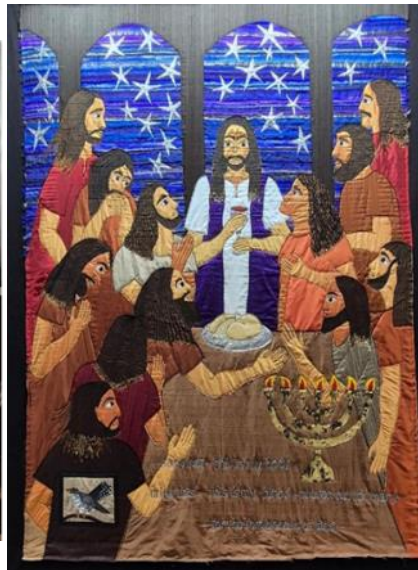
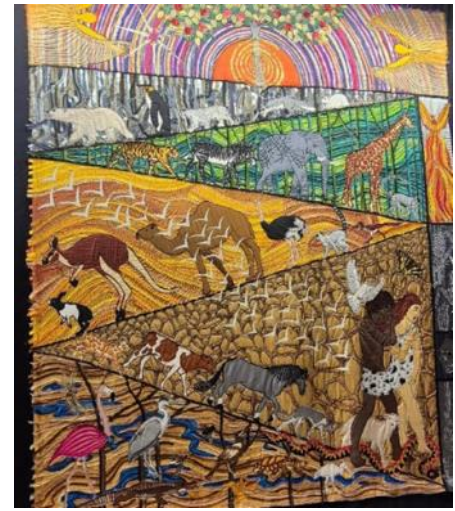
This is probably not only the largest textile project by a single artist ever, but also the largest textile project for 600 years. It is astonishing in its scale and variety.

Two sections had been on show at other UK venues but this time at Liverpool was the first time all three sections had been exhibited together. After Liverpool the exhibition goes on tour for a further ten venues up to the end of 2027.

It is not possible to show you all of the display but on the next page are some of the designs. The first one shows one of the sections.



The Gallery



And so on to the third section. A new heaven and a new earth, Revelation 14

This truly was an amazing exhibition, and if you didn't manage to see it at Liverpool, I hope you might have the opportunity to see it at one of the other venues in the next 18 months. After Liverpool it goes to Southwell , just outside Nottingham for about 2 months.

Pat Preston, Llanddulas, Abergele.



2020S



THE CHALLENGE OF BEING POLITICAL BUT NOT PARTY POLITICAL FOR METHODIST CHURCHES

Methodist churches, like all Christian communities, are called to live out their faith in the world, which often involves engaging with social and political issues.

However, this engagement is delicate—churches must address political concerns while remaining independent of any political party.

How do we navigate this ‘fine line’? Here’s one approach.

The Call to Be Political

The Methodist Church has a strong tradition of social justice, rooted in the teachings of John Wesley, who was deeply concerned with poverty, inequality, and workers' rights. This tradition insists that faith must lead to action—addressing societal issues is an essential part of living out the gospel.

For example, the church is called to:

Advocate for the Marginalised – Speaking out against poverty, homelessness, and systemic injustice.

Care for Creation – Supporting environmental stewardship and climate justice.

Promote Peace and Reconciliation – Advocating for peace in conflict situations and standing against war.

Engagement in these areas often involves questioning laws, policies, and social norms, making it inherently political.

Avoiding Partisan Alignment

While the church is called to engage politically, it must remain independent of any political party to maintain its credibility, inclusivity, and ability to minister to all.

The risks of perceived political bias include:

Alienating Congregants – Church members hold diverse political views; aligning with a party could exclude or silence some.



Distracting from the Gospel – The church’s primary focus is Christ’s message, which should not be overshadowed by party politics.

Undermining Prophetic Witness – A church seen as aligned with a party may struggle to challenge that party when necessary.

Principles for Navigating the Challenge

Focus on Issues, Not Parties The church can advocate for justice, peace, and stewardship without endorsing a party. For example, speaking out against poverty does not mean supporting a particular economic platform but rather standing for those in need.

Remain Rooted in Scripture and Theology All church statements and actions should be grounded in biblical teaching and the Methodist tradition of social holiness. This ensures that engagement reflects the church’s mission rather than partisan concerns.

Encourage Open Dialogue Churches can create spaces for respectful discussion, allowing members with different political perspectives to explore issues through the lens of faith.

Collaborate Across Boundaries Partnering with non-partisan organisations, charities, and interfaith groups can amplify the church’s voice without political entanglements.

Educate, Don’t Endorse Church leaders can inform congregations about social and political issues, encouraging thoughtful, faith-based decision-making without steering them toward a particular party.

Final Thoughts

As Methodist churches engage with the world, we are called to be bold in standing for justice while ensuring that our voice remains independent of political parties. By focusing on issues through the lens of faith, we can make a meaningful impact without compromising our mission.

What do you think? ***Graham Morgan, St David’s.***



*Faith in God
includes faith
in His timing*



CHRISTIAN AID IS 80 YEARS OLD!

2025 marks 80 years since the creation of Christian Aid in 1945 and this year will see lots of celebrations.

In 1957 twenty places organised collections during the first Christian Aid Week and among those twenty was Llandudno there is a certificate in Capel Seilo Unedig Cymraeg marking this. This group is still going strong under the Llandudn Cytun umbrella and has representatives from almost all the Cytun churches. The very first groups were organised by a remarkable woman Irene Williams, a minister's wife from west Wales who died recently aged 102. In memory of Irene her grandson Iwan Williams recently climbed Pen y Fan, Cadair Idris and Yr Wyddfa in one day to raise money for Christian Aid.

Christian Aid Week 2024 was one of the two most successful of the last decade, people walked, jogged, danced, praised, brewed, baked and collected raising over £5 million. Almost 3000 churches supported Christian Aid last year helping to raise over £80 million.

The appeal for the victims of the war in Sudan had the largest response ever for a Christian Aid Christmas Appeal. Sudan has the worlds' largest displacement of people, a hidden problem.

The US suspension of foreign aid has affected Christian Aid projects in Bangladesh, Honduras, Dominican Republic and Nigeria which are temporarily halted whilst refunding is found.

The Restore Campaign which Christian Aid is launching on March 26th is asking Governments to clamp down on International Companies that pollute other countries by deforestation and the building of huge factories. Please sign the online petition or the paper petitions which will be in our churches.

Christian Aid has signed a petition with over 130 other organisations

pointing to the devastating impacts that will arise from the UK Government cutting development aid, pointing out the unacceptability of balancing the books on the back of the worlds' most marginalised people instead of taxing extreme wealth.

This year **Christian Aid Week is 11th-17th May**, please support if you can.

Thank you. *Janet Hughes, St John's Representative for Christian Aid.*

'Christian Aid exists to create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty.'

REASONS FOR OPTIMISM: HOORAY! FOR GOD. ALLELUIA!

In a world that often feels uncertain and challenging, it can be easy to focus on what is going wrong. However, as Christians, we are called to be people of hope, trusting in God's love and His promises for the future. Here are some reasons for optimism that we can hold onto as a church community.

1. Faith in God's Promises

The Bible is filled with assurances of God's love, guidance, and faithfulness. Jeremiah 29:11 reminds us, 'For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.' This promise reassures us that even in difficult times, God is at work for good.

2. The Strength of Christian Community

One of the greatest sources of optimism is the love and support we find in our church family. In times of joy and struggle alike, we walk together, helping one another through prayer, fellowship, and acts of kindness. The warmth and generosity of our Methodist community here in North Wales is a powerful testament to God's presence among us. None more so than Cytun's week of Christian Unity which saw well attended services right across the town in our oldest church -St. Mary & St. Abaskhyron's Coptic Orthodox Church and our newest - The Lighthouse Community Church

3. The Resilience of the Church

History has shown that the Church has endured and grown despite challenges. From times of persecution to moments of renewal, God's

people have remained steadfast. This resilience is a reason to be hopeful, as we trust that God will continue to lead His Church into the future.

4. Small Acts of Kindness Make a Difference

Every day, people are making the world a better place through simple acts of love and service. Whether it's a kind word, a shared meal, or support for a neighbour in need, these small gestures reflect God's love in action and remind us that goodness is all around us. Our congregation are experts!

5. The Beauty of Creation and Renewal

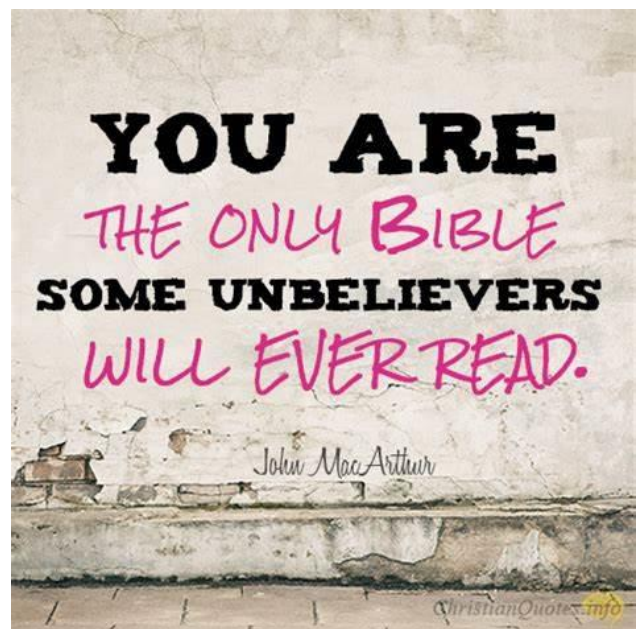
Nature itself is a sign of God's renewal and faithfulness. Winter into Spring reminds us that no matter how cold and dark winter may seem, spring always follows with new life and growth. This is a powerful metaphor for our faith—God is always at work, bringing renewal in ways we may not immediately see. Just look at our garden !

6. The Presence of the Holy Spirit

Even in times of uncertainty, we can be optimistic because God has not left us alone. The Holy Spirit is with us, guiding, strengthening, and inspiring us. When we take time to pray, reflect, and seek God's presence, we can experience peace and encouragement that surpasses all understanding.

As we move forward as a church and as individuals, let us hold on to these reasons for optimism. We are not alone—God is with us, His promises are sure, and His love never fails. May we continue to be a light in the world, sharing hope and faith with all those around us.

Optimistic Graham Morgan, St David's



NIV Psalm 43:5 Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Saviour and my God.

CONNECT WITH US

STAY UP TO DATE & JOIN THE CONVERSATION

CLICK ON THE LINK—[CONWY & PRESTATYN CIRCUIT](#)

WAYS TO WORSHIP IN OUR CIRCUIT



Sunday worship



Messy Church



Coffee Mornings



Reflections



Prayer meetings



Warm spaces



Toddler groups



Healing service



Open Churches