

# OLD COLWYN METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER



Welcome to our September newsletter.

This month we are welcome Deacon Linda Brown to the circuit. She will be taking pastoral care of a number of churches including Old Colwyn.

## Reminders!

*A reminder that services will be 45 minutes in length hymns will be sung through facemasks and we will have Covid measures in place.*

## Preaching List

19<sup>th</sup> September – Rev. David Ray

26<sup>th</sup> September – Rev. Janet Park

3<sup>rd</sup> October – Deacon Linda Brown

10<sup>th</sup> October – Dafydd Watkin

17<sup>th</sup> October – Frances Williams

*God Bless  
Vic*

## All about Deacon Linda Brown

I was brought up in Wednesbury in the West Midlands and I have attended a Methodist church since the age of 5 and my Christian faith has been a part of me for a long time. Living in the West Midlands for most of my growing up I began work at the age of 16 in a sales office in a manufacturing company, attending college training to be a secretary! During my time at work, I met my husband Don on a blind date, who happened to be a customer of the products I was selling! We got married a

year later and continued to attend the church I had grown up in, we both became local preachers growing in faith and service to Him.

My journey led me to be a lay worker in 2006 in our neighbouring circuit of Walsall in the West Midlands and during my time there my path began to change as I was continually being nudged by friends and especially by God into following the call of ordained ministry. In 2009 I attended college to train part time to be a Methodist Deacon. In 2016 I was stationed as a probationer minister in Plymouth, a beautiful area to be and ordained from there in 2018. I have now been sent here to another beautiful part of the world, with wonderful views around us and the sea again!

---

## From the Local Preachers Desk

September, a time of new beginnings! A new Methodist year – we met our new deacon. Church is slowly getting back to normal – at least we can sing now! The children are starting a new school year, in new classes.

There are plenty of stories in the bible about new beginnings – in the Old Testament – the rebuilding of the temple after years in exile. In the New Testament the calling of the disciples to leave behind their old lives, everything they knew and follow Jesus.

It's a new start for us too. Many people are seeing the Covid break as a time to step down from responsibilities (I am tempted myself) but if we do, what will happen to our church? I feel we may well founder, unless new people are ready to step up and take on the many jobs there are to do.

Many in the past have been reluctant to answer God's call: Moses at the burning bush, Jeremiah, who tried to run away. Nathaniel: can anything good come from Nazareth? And many more.

Most of us are getting older and it's tempting to say, "I've done my bit, it's time someone else took over". But often

# OLD COLWYN METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

there just isn't anyone else! So, do we just let our groups and activities die? That's the beginning of a slippery path that could easily see the church itself die! Please don't let that happen! We've a lovely community here, all friends together. Please do your bit to maintain it. If everyone who can, does a little bit, we can make it work. Please help!

To start with, I shall be re-starting Prayer Group shortly: Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September 10:30 am. Everybody is welcome.

*God Bless us all,  
Enid*

---

## Food Bank and Friday Fellowship

A BIG thank you from Conwy Food Bank for all the contributions from Church members which were very gratefully received. Demand for help is high again and every donation is very much appreciated. Since mid-August we have donated 15 bags of groceries and a cash donation plus extra bags that have been dropped off directly by members of the congregation. Thank you all very much. If you need me to collect Food Bank contributions please contact me on 01492 514267, thanks, Lynn

Friday Fellowship continues on a Friday on Zoom but at a new time of 4.00 p.m. Same log in details as before.

It's great to have a weekly catch up and thanks to Susan we have been able to also catch up with Kenneth Lowndes. If you would like to join us, please email me at [lynn.g.williams@btinternet.com](mailto:lynn.g.williams@btinternet.com) or 'phone me on 01492 514267 and I'll supply details and run through how it works if required.

*Thank you again,  
Lynn*

---

## Make me a channel of Your peace

Make me a channel of Your peace.  
Where there is hatred let me bring Your love;  
where there is injury, Your pardon, Lord;

and where there's doubt, true faith in You.

O Master, grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of Your peace.  
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope;  
where there is darkness, only light;  
and where there's sadness, ever joy.

*Sebastian Temple, based on the  
teachings of St. Francis of Assisi  
[Lynn]*

---

## Reflection from Rev. Janet Park

### Swimming with the Seagulls....

Early in the morning (not quite on the first day of the week) three women gathered by the large stone, with towels and the necessary equipment to descend the steps and embark on a dip in the sea. With an absence of jellyfish, though seaweed lurked in the depths, and the water as calm as the proverbial millpond, we walked together across the sand to the edge of the sea. Scarcely anybody was around to witness the event: a smattering of joggers and a few bemused dogs, taking their owners for an early morning stroll, wondered whether a new breed of seagull was bobbing in the water- occasionally taking time to judge whether or not it was worth their further investigation into deeper water. "And we live here" was a phrase heard as we swam together admiring the sunlight on the coastline, identifying buildings and watching the mist rise over the A55. We almost disturbed a group of seagulls, bobbing in much the same way as we appeared to be doing, and on the far horizon loomed striking sentinel shapes of the army that is the wind-farm in Colwyn Bay. During the second week in September, the water was warm, clear and made a wonderful way to start the day with no breath of wind, it remained warm as we emerged to the shore after

# OLD COLWYN METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

40 minutes or so of leisurely swimming. Hayley took time to encourage a small dog, nervous about the wet stuff on his paws, to dare to trot into deeper water—much to the delight of the owner. We prevented Eleanor's sticks from becoming submerged by the tide, although they had been left well inland when we first entered the water; and together we talked to a walker on the promenade who had often thought about swimming as we had, but never quite taken the plunge so further encouragement was offered. A super trio of women: Superintendent (Rev Janet Park), Supernumerary (Rev Eleanor Reddington) and our Super Circuit Administrator (Hayley James) could always be the start of a traditional-style joke, related by many comedians... 'What do you get with three Super women walk into the sea?' A wonderful inner glow and sand between the toes—really it's no joke, just great! See the photos on the circuit website... If you fancy joining in for a dip / swim in the sea, please let us know!

---

## The Methodist Podcast

The Revd Sonia Hicks, President of the Methodist Conference, discusses the Conference and the historic vote on marriage and relationships, with Jill Moody, Head of Communications with the Methodist Church. Listen here.

This link offers some helpful responses to any questions you may have followed the vote decided at Conference. If you would like to watch the debate, you can click on the "Watch Again" section of the Conference website & find "Wednesday morning, 11.30am part 2" section to see it.

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-church/marriage-and-relationships/frequentlyasked-questions-following-the-2021-conference-votes-on-marriage-and-relationships>

---

## Prayer Meeting

There is a Prayer Meeting especially to pray for persecuted Christians around the

world, held on Zoom every Wednesday evening 7:30pm for one hour. We use material from Open Doors and Barnabas Prayer diaries and magazines, so it would be useful if you had copies of these with you. We have been meeting since August and would welcome others to join with us. Our persecuted family desperately need our united prayers. For more information and Zoom link please contact:

janetejewell@icloud.com

---

## Methodist Modern Art Collection

Eight new posters (A2 size) of some of the wonderful works in the Methodist Modern Art Collection, with artistic representations inspired by Epiphany, Christ's ministry and Passion, and Holy Communion. Ideal as a focus for personal reflection and to stimulate conversation about what Christ and faith mean to us. Right from the outset, the purpose of the Collection was to encourage us all in 'seeing the spiritual'.

These complement the Methodist Modern Art Collection postcard booklet of 24 postcards arranged according to the gospel story and including portrayals of Jesus from different world cultures, and 'Seeing the Spiritual', the 2018 guide to the whole Collection.

For more information about the Methodist Modern Art Collection, please visit the Methodist Church website

---

## CEC Theological Reflections

As part of CEC's (Conference of European Churches) monthly Theological Reflections series

"Communion in Crisis: The Church during the COVID-19 Pandemic" you can read reflections from Revd Ruth Gee, Assistant Secretary of the Conference at

[https://www.ceceurope.org/cec-theological-reflections-communion-in-crisis-a-perspective-from-the-methodist-church-in-britain/?utm\\_source=Methodist%20Church](https://www.ceceurope.org/cec-theological-reflections-communion-in-crisis-a-perspective-from-the-methodist-church-in-britain/?utm_source=Methodist%20Church)

# OLD COLWYN METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

[ch%20House&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=12384599\\_The%20Methodist%20News&dm\\_i=BVI,7DG0N,35GPJW,TK8D,1.](https://www.methodist.org.uk/news/2021/06/13/walking-with-micah/)

---

## Walking With Micah project

The Walking With Micah project (<https://www.methodist.org.uk/walking-with-micah/>) launched on 13 June with a lecture by the Rt Hon Gordon Brown, entitled Justice and Hope. What does it mean for the Methodist Church to be a justice-seeking church? We live at a time of huge change when domestic and global injustices are being revealed and intensified. How can our world be renewed so that all God's creation, people and planet, can flourish? Watch the video (right) and read on to learn more about the project. You can watch it again here (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pTB2wLO4k1w> ).

---

## Recording the last synagogue of the Welsh valleys

You may be interested to hear that the oldest surviving synagogue in Wales has now been recorded for posterity to millimetre accuracy as a result of work commissioned by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) in partnership with the Foundation for Jewish Heritage. <https://www.foundationforjewishheritage.com/post/recording-the-last-synagogue-of-the-welsh-valleys> You can also watch a short video of the Prince of Wales' visit to the synagogue in May 2021. <https://www.foundationforjewishheritage.com/post/hrh-the-prince-of-wales-visits-merthyr-tydfil-shistoric-synagogue>

---

## The Methodist Podcast

The Theology of Safeguarding report received by the Methodist Conference considered safeguarding in the context of faith. To discuss the report, the Methodist Podcast talks with Tim Carter, Director of Safeguarding; Vivian, a survivor of abuse, local preacher and member of the Methodist survivor's group and Nicola Price-Tebbutt, the Secretary of Faith and Order Committee.

Listen here

[https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/news/podcasts/the-methodist-podcast-episode-62-theology-of-safeguarding/?utm\\_source=Methodist%20Church%20House&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=12518145\\_The%20Methodist%20News&dm\\_i=BVI,7GB29,35GPJW,UAEHY,1](https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/news/podcasts/the-methodist-podcast-episode-62-theology-of-safeguarding/?utm_source=Methodist%20Church%20House&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=12518145_The%20Methodist%20News&dm_i=BVI,7GB29,35GPJW,UAEHY,1) )

---

If you would like to send anything for another edition please feel free to call me on 07716172406.

If you have an e-mail address and would like to receive the Newsletter online please send your address to: [vic\\_hitchings@hotmail.com](mailto:vic_hitchings@hotmail.com)

Vic