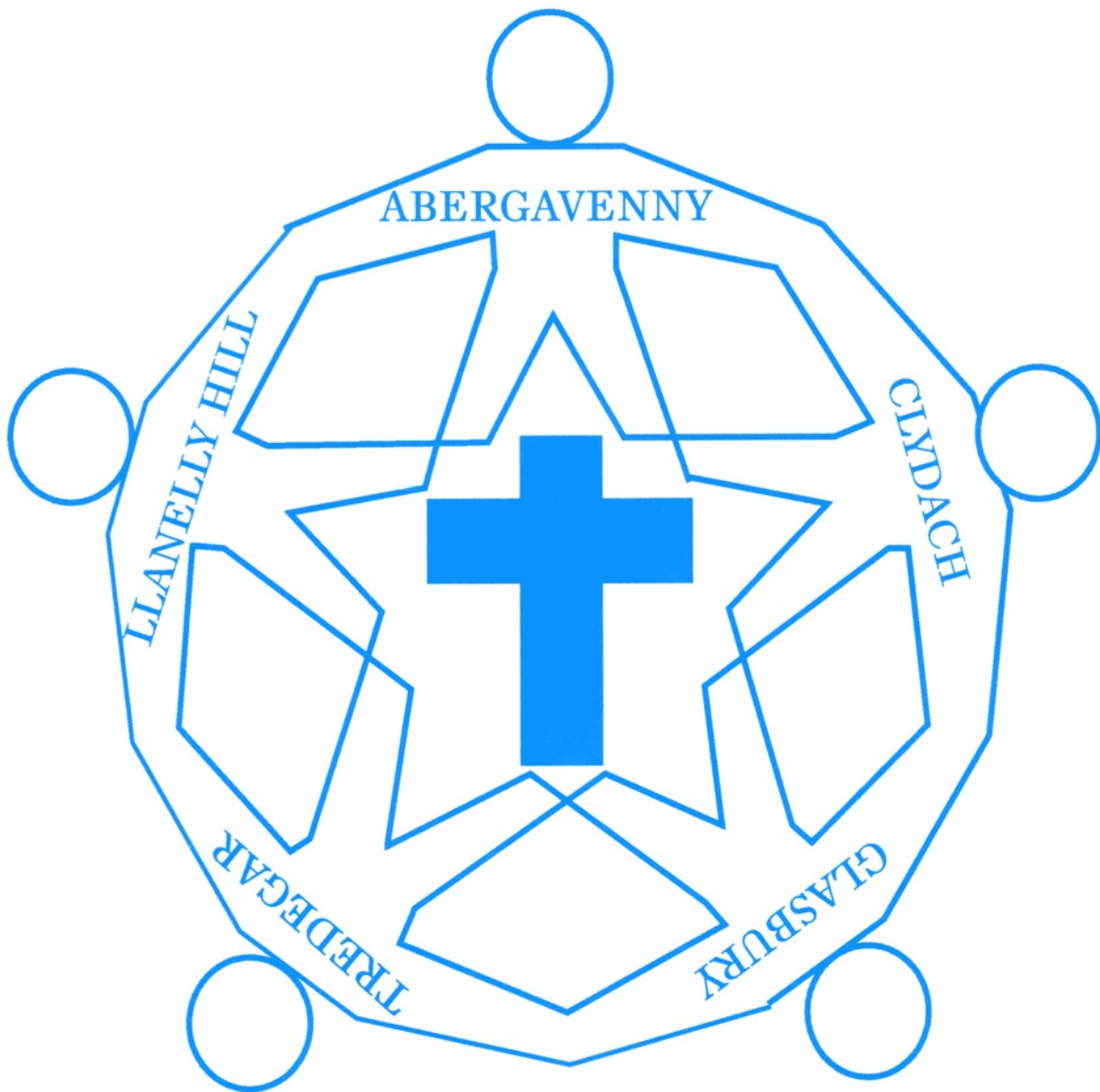


LINKS



**Newsletter and Magazine of the
Abergavenny Group of Methodist Churches
in the Hills and Vales Circuit**

**MONKEY
MADNESS**



Saturday 24th September 2011

Children: 4 – 11 years

Time: 1-4pm

Place: Castle Street Methodist Church

Tea/coffee

FACE PAINTING

Free entry

bouncy castle

dance workshop

PUPPET SHOW

**Chocolate
fountain**

From the Manse

A YEAR!

I will have been here just over a year by the time you read this. It has been great. A year of new experiences, new people and friendships. God has spoken so many times and I have certainly grown spiritually. I have also seen so many of you growing in God and embracing what He has for you.

Let me give you my year of impressions:-

All of the chapels have excellent musicians and I love the singing. I feel it is an honour to be able to share people's lives, to encourage you in faith and at times have to challenge you. With a new family it was bound to involve some change and stretching for all the churches. The changes, exploration and growth will continue.

I love the drive to Glasbury and it is so beautiful. The chapel is so peaceful and has a sense of the awe of God, it has character and history and I find such a warm and welcoming fellowship.

Llanelly Hill is breath taking; I could happily stand for hours and look over the valley. It was interesting in the snow! The people have such a faith and have a real gift of encouragement.

Clydach on my first visit I drove straight past and couldn't find it. The Maundy Thursday service was a significant moment for me. The children are lively and they always make me smile.

Tredegar. It is impossible to put into print the pain that both congregations will be feeling and will feel in the next year or two. There are many memories in Harcourt and Vale and many tears will be shed. There is though a joy and excitement about worshipping together and being one church. Harcourt and Vale have ceased to exist and Tredegar is born. With Keefe and Faith leading the church we look forward to seeing many people come to know Jesus.

Finally, but not least Castle Street. It has been a privilege and joy to welcome new members and people. People are growing in faith and the work with Churches Together/Close Encounters continues to encourage me. We have Bible Studies, prayer meetings and the worship is a joy. I look forward to the future with excitement.

Blessings

Andy, Jan and the many girls.

Castle Street Methodist Church : A Year of Worship

As we begin a year of focusing on worship please consider the following words:-

*Jesus, all for Jesus,
All I am and have and ever hope to be.
Jesus, all for Jesus,
All I am and have and ever hope to be.*

*All of my ambitions, hopes and plans
I surrender these into Your hands.
All of my ambitions, hopes and plans
I surrender these into Your hands.*

*For it's only in Your will that I am free,
For it's only in Your will that I am free,
Jesus, all for Jesus,
All I am and have and ever hope to be.*

To worship God is such a privilege. He is the Creator, the Almighty, all powerful and the one is the beginning and the end – yet he longs for our worship. In worship we offer ourselves to God. All of our hopes and ambitions, we surrender who we are and offer. The language is that of a marriage, we willingly give ourselves to God, why? We love him and are grateful for all that He has done for us. Are we willing to lay our ambitions, desires and dreams to worship God and give Him our all?

This year is going to be exciting.

A.W.

Sing Hosanna

Some people feel they cannot sing loudly in church, as they find keeping in tune difficult (if not impossible). This poem is dedicated to them.

*Praise the Lord in merry song,
Praise him, praise him all day long.
But what of me? I cannot sing -*

I have no melody to bring.

But in the Bible, joy of joys,

The Lord says: "Make a joyful noiseunto the Lord"

(Psalm 98 : 6 - 8)

Castle Street

Members of the Church Council for 2011/12

constituted under Standing order (Book III, pages 496-8)

Rev Andrew Williams (Minister and overall Chair)

Jaya Deshpande (Treasurer)

Leadership Team

Elaine Rogers (Secretary)

Hugo Potgieter (Senior Steward and Circuit Steward)

Chris Everitt (Chair of Evangelism)

Peter Millward (Chair of Worship)

Diane Cooke (Chair of Service)

Hilda Turnbull (Chair of Learning and Caring)

Margaret Pipe

Gareth Holyfield

John Beaton

Representatives from Congregation

Rylda Wallace

Margaret Morgan

Hilary Gregg

John Marsh

Tui Clapp

Pat Millward

Areas of Church Life

Rebecca Williams (Youth Church)

Gwenllian Knighton or Freda Wells (Churches Together) -
only one vote.

Total Membership for voting purposes : 19 (20 if the Minister
has to use casting vote)

Rev Andy Williams

Cliff Phillips: from Abergavenny to Guildford



Cliff Phillips was the oldest member at Castle Street Church and recently moved, at the age of 96, to live with his daughter's family. He has settled in quickly and we take the opportunity to wish him well in these pages, and give thanks for his friendship and service in this Circuit.

Born in Abergavenny, where he lived for all his life except for his Army service during the Second World War, Cliff is now settled with his older daughter Susan and her husband John in Guildford, Surrey. Always an active man who enjoyed working with his hands, Cliff worked for ICI after the war, while raising his family of two daughters, with his wife, in Llanfoist. Following his wife's premature death while their children were still young, Cliff became the main carer for his two girls. He raised them in a happy and loving environment, with support from their good friends and neighbours, Charles and Jean James, who still live in the same cottage 'next door' in Llanfoist.

When Barbara Saunders moved to Abergavenny in 1985, having been widowed, so began a friendship with Cliff that would lead to a very happy second marriage for them both, in what Barbara's family later described as the Indian Summer of their lives.

In supporting Barbara in her preaching work, Cliff was as busy as ever, driving around the Circuit and attending many chapels, not only in our own Circuit. He enjoyed meeting people in the other chapels and would often take the prayers while Barbara was preaching. In doing so, he retained a hand in some of the many duties he had previously undertaken as church steward and a faithful servant at Church Council and Circuit meetings. Both enjoyed the beauty of flowers and, with Barbara's encouragement and appreciation, Cliff remained fit by taking care of their lovely garden at "Emmaus" in Abergavenny, and involving himself in small and large DIY projects, including building a garage at their bungalow.

Finding that living on his own was becoming more demanding since Barbara passed away two years ago, Cliff gradually took the difficult decision to leave

Abergavenny, to live closer to his daughters. He was content to be moving to his family, it was only the disruption and emotion of moving that troubled him.

However, when the time came, he was ready to go and was very moved and humbled by the gift, many cards and good wishes he received before he left. He enjoyed the church lunch in his honour at Castle Street on his 'final' Sunday and confessed afterwards that he felt he'd been 'spoiled' and had been treated 'ever so well'. Regular correspondence since he moved assures us that he has received a warm and loving welcome into Susan and John's home, and their church, with hardly a day going by without receiving a visitor. We're not sure how one tells if a tortoise is happy, but Cliff tells us that his little garden companion, Fred, has also settled in and is perfectly content in his new garden.

We shall miss Cliff from our chapels, but we wish him happiness and health in his new surroundings. We remember him with affection and admiration, and give thanks for the wonderful example, that both he and Barbara gave, of Christian friendship, love and service.

"Heavenly Father, who loves His children wherever they are, we ask your blessing on Cliff in his new home, that he will feel the joy of Christian friendship that he has so readily given to us." Amen.

Study the Champions

David was a champion. Samuel was a champion. They walked the path of obedience. Learn from their mistakes, their successes, their lives. Losers build their lives around their weaknesses. Champions build their lives around their strengths. You are destined for greatness, too. Talk it. Believe it. Live it. Champions simply use the Master Key of Obedience.

""And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gideon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions. Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the enemies." (Hebrews 11:32-34).

What is true worship?

The Apostle Paul described true worship perfectly in Romans 12:1-2 : "I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable, or well pleasing and perfect."

This passage contains all the elements of true worship. First, there is the motivation to worship: "the mercies of God." God's mercies are everything He has given us that we don't deserve: eternal love, eternal grace, the Holy Spirit, everlasting peace, eternal joy, saving faith, comfort, strength, wisdom, hope, patience, kindness, honour, glory, righteousness, security, eternal life, forgiveness, reconciliation, justification, sanctification, freedom, intercession and much more. The knowledge and understanding of these incredible gifts motivate us to pour forth praise and thanksgiving – in other words, worship!

Also in the passage is a description of the manner of our worship: "present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice." Presenting our bodies means giving to God all of ourselves. The reference to our bodies here means all our human faculties, all of our humanness – our hearts, minds, hands, thoughts, attitudes – are to be presented to God. In other words, we are to give up control of these things and turn them over to Him, just as a literal sacrifice was given totally to God on the altar. But how? Again, the passage is clear: "by the renewing of your mind." We renew our minds daily by cleansing them of the world's "wisdom" and replacing it with true wisdom that comes from God. We worship Him with our renewed and cleansed minds, not with our emotions. Emotions are wonderful things, but unless they are shaped by a mind saturated in Truth, they can be destructive, out-of-control forces. Where the mind goes, the will follows and so do the emotions. First Corinthians 2:16 tells us we have "the mind of Christ," not the emotions of Christ.

There is only one way to renew our minds, and that is by the Word of God. It is the truth, the knowledge of the Word of God, which is to say the knowledge of the mercies of God, and we're back where we began. To know the truth, to believe the truth, to hold convictions about the truth, and to love the Truth will naturally result in true spiritual

worship. It is conviction followed by affection, affection that is a response to truth, not to any external stimuli, including music. Music as such has nothing to do with worship. Music can't produce worship, although it certainly can produce emotion. Music is not the origin of worship, but it can be the expression of it. Do not look to music to induce your worship; look to music as simply an expression of that which is induced by a heart that is rapt by the mercies of God, obedient to His commands.

True worship is God-centred worship. People tend to get caught up in where they should worship, what music they should sing in worship, and how the worship looks to other people. Focusing on these things completely misses the point. Jesus tells us that true worshipers will worship God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). This means we worship from the heart and the way God has designed. Worship can include praying, reading God's Word with an open heart, singing, participating in communion, and serving others. It is not limited to one act, but is done properly when the heart and attitude of the person are in the right place.

It's also important to know that worship is reserved only for God. Only He is worthy and not any of His servants (Revelation 19:10). We also should not be worshiping for the expectation of something in return. Worship is done for God – because He deserves it – and for His pleasure alone. Worship can be public praise to God (Psalm 22:22 , 35:18) in a congregational setting, where we can proclaim through prayer and praise our adoration and thankfulness to Him and what He has done for us. True worship is felt inwardly, and then comes out through our actions. "Going through the motions" out of obligation is displeasing to God and is done completely in vain. He can see through all the hypocrisy, and He hates it. He demonstrates this in Amos 5:21-24 as He talks about coming judgment.

True worship is not confined to what we do in church or open praise (although these things are both good and we are told in the Bible to do them). It is the acknowledgment of God and all His power and glory in everything we do. The highest form of praise and worship is obedience to Him and His Word. To do this, we must know God; we cannot be ignorant of Him (Acts 17:23). Worship is to glorify and exalt God – to show our loyalty and admiration to our Father.

A.W.

Worship
“How do we praise God?”
September 2011 – August 2012
Castle Street Methodist Church

For a whole year we focus as a church on learning about worship and growing in our relationship with God.

The goals of the year

For all of us to understand more about worship

i) To have a series of fellowships about worship that discuss the previous Sunday’s sermon. These will begin the week commencing the **2 October**

ii) To have three sessions of preaching with a theme:

a) October 2011

- i) 2 October – Worship - beginnings
- ii) 9 October – Worship Response to the Love of God
- iii) 16 October – Worship Response to Salvation
- iv) 23 October – Worship response to Eternity
- v) 30 October – Rededication of the church

b) January – March 2012 Preaching through Colossians

- i) Thanksgiving 1:3-14
- ii) Singing our faith Colossians 1:15-20
- iii) The mystery of God 1:21-29
- iv) Stumbling blocks to worship 2:16-23
- v) Setting your mind on heaven 3:1-17

c) May – July 2012 Different styles of worship:-

- i) Silence
- ii) Celtic
- iii) Charismatic
- iv) Traditional
- v) Taize (Gregorian Chants)

The main aim of the year is to raise the awareness of worship.

A.W.

Castle Street

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Weekend 17th/18th September.

The Church will be open to visitors on Saturday 17th from 9.30 am. to 5.00 pm. Refreshments will be served in the hall.

Volunteers for stewarding duties will be needed please If you can offer your services please let me know by putting your name to the list on the notice board with time(s) you are able to cover. Thanks.

Harvest produce to decorate the church flowers, fruit, vegetables, groceries, bread etc can be brought between Wednesday to Friday of that week. Late contributions will be received on Sunday morning if quite impossible to bring earlier.

The harvest thanksgiving is our thanks to God for His provision for us. We think of the starving, dying people in other lands as a result of wars and famine. In particular those children in Kenya who need our help so badly at this time. Through your generous gifts of produce and support we can make our Harvest Festival a worthy offering of thanks to God for all His blessings bestowed upon us.



Margaret Pipe

... 'And God, who supplies seed to sow and bread to eat, will also supply you with all the seed you need and will make it grow and produce a rich harvest from your generosity. He will always make you rich enough to be generous at all times, so that many will thank God for your gifts which they receive from us. For this service you perform not only meets the needs of God's people, but also produces an outpouring of gratitude to God'. (2 Corinthians 9 : 10- 12) GNB

THE METHODIST CHURCH IN KENYA

MAUA METHODIST HOSPITAL



Tuesday, August 16, 2011

To all the friends of Maua Methodist hospital-Kenya

Dear Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Receive very warm Christian greetings from all of us in Maua Methodist hospital in the name of our lord saviour Jesus Christ, our redeemer. It is my prayer that this letter will find you well in the lord

If you received my letter a week ago or read from my face book, I had indicated that the hospital chaplaincy department had launched an appeal to collect food to take to Samburu and Turkana communities where people are dying because of the famine. The drought in these many places including the lower marginal areas of Meru North where the hospital is located and Tharaka district people are dying because of lack of food and children getting severely malnourished, two weeks ago three children in Mutuati died as result of eating wild fruits which were poisonous- this is very pathetic situation occasioned by the prolonged lack of adequate rains. Meru County normally has plenty of food when the rain comes on time and long enough to allow the crops to grow. Places like Ndoleli could be like the bread basket of Igembe constituency when the rains are enough but now the people in the communities are experiencing hunger and famine, the schools in the areas need to be assisted with emergency food relief to stay in school for the next few months

I recently received a letter from the head master of Giika primary school asking for food (flour) for children to take porridge during lunch time so that they can stay in school- when there is no food children are the first

to get out of school and suffer the greatest as well as the elderly women--- the letter from the teacher read----

“Due to the current situation of the drought, I kindly ask for assistance for providing simple lunch for our pupils mostly class 8. The class eight does not come to school regularly. This irregular attendance has been caused by the famine in the area. I am worried if something is not done these pupils might drop out of school and come to the final exam in November, and the results might be discouraging”

It is estimated that nearly 5 million Kenyans are at the verge of starvation, if they are not given food- for the next 8 months the country will be food insecure the influxes of the Somali refugees in Kenya make the situation worse. Our Church presiding Bishop has written a pastoral and an appeal to all the members in the local church to support **the stop hunger appeal** with food staffs or money. The media in Kenya and internationally is highlighting the worsening food condition every day in the country and especially in the affected areas. Food cost is getting worse and unaffordable, due to the worsening devaluation of Kenya shilling and the increased price of oil, in world market has increased the cost of transport and all these are affecting the ability of the individuals to afford food prices- the inflation rate in Kenya is on record high 14.5 %

Because of this famine and drought, livestock are dying, crops, Children and Adults, in our catchment area and the neighbouring countries and districts, we would like to appeal to our friends to offer support towards purchase of dry food and other supplies to offer relief to our starving mothers and children in the catchment area of the hospital and its environs- will you join us in financial support of this important program?

Yours in Christ Service

Stanley Gitari
Coordinator CHD
Maua Methodist Hospital

Snippets

Keswick speaker criticises UK youth ministry

Veteran youth minister Dave Fenton called the quality of youth work 'patchy' and said 'the great weakness' is that young people are not being taught the Bible properly. Speaking at the Keswick Convention, Fenton questioned why churches don't consider older workers for youth ministry, and said: 'We need to prepare young people for discipleship ... Why are we so reluctant to teach them the Bible?' Fenton, who leads the Root 66 youth ministry, challenged churches to involve more mature people in youth ministry. Meanwhile, a ComRes poll commissioned by Premier Christian Media has found a huge contrast between what younger and older Christians believe are important issues. Young Christians are more concerned about abortion and euthanasia, whereas older believers care more about youth related issues than young people do themselves.

Sources: *Christian Today* (2/8); *Inspire Magazine* (3/8)

Methodist Church must change to fulfil its calling

The General Secretary told the 2011 Methodist Conference that 'some tough decisions' need to be taken if the church is 'to become the church God wants us to be'. Revd Dr Martyn Atkins said: 'We must work hard to become a church that demonstrates our faith through a commitment to justice and serving our local, national and international communities.' Dr Atkins presented a report entitled *Contemporary Methodism: A discipleship movement shaped for mission which prioritises 'the work of God's kingdom' over sustaining 'too many church buildings'*. Another report, *Hope in God's Future*, committed the church to cutting carbon emissions by 80 per cent by 2050. Also at the Conference, Ruth Pickles' first speech as Vice-President urged the church to help 'ordinary people to develop into extraordinary people'.

Source: *Ekklesia* (4/7, 6/7)

A Four Year Plan For Castle Street Methodist Church

“To identify clear, definable, achievable goals and to see the church grow spiritually and numerically. ***To reflect constantly on where we are going and to be open for God to change our vision.***”

The four years consist of:-

1. Season of Worship “How do we Praise God?” Sep 11 – Aug 12
2. Season of Fellowship – “Let us love one another” Sep 12 – Aug 13
3. Foundations – “What do we believe?” Sept 13-Aug 14
4. Season of Evangelism “How do I share my faith?” Sep 14 – Aug 15

On the 1st Sunday in September the vision for the coming year will be preached about, each quarter a sermon will be preached restating the goals of the year and encouraging people to grow in God. Constantly reminding the congregation where we are going with God. (This would be in the normal Sunday Morning service at 10:30 am.)

Each month an article will appear in the magazine upon the relevant subject and different members of the congregation would be encouraged to contribute.

Every two to three months the Leadership Team will reflect on the vision (by listening carefully, observing and praying) and will make any recommendations needed to the Church Council. Each August we will have one service when we reflect on the past year and we celebrate what we have achieved.

The seasons are designed to build upon one another, worshipping together, moving to fellowship, deepening of our faith, causing us to pray for one another and finally to share our faith.

Our growth targets need to be achievable and I would imagine we could have a vision for 5 new people in the first year – 10 in the second, 20 in the third year and maybe 40 in the fourth year. This would add something like 70 people to the church in four years. However, to grow involves risk and a willingness to step out. **TO BE BOLD.**

“However, it is better to try, than to have never dared to believe **that God could do something amazing in our church**”.

A.W.

TO: God.com

Dear Lord,

Every single evening
As I'm lying here in bed,
This tiny little Prayer
Keeps running through my head:
God bless all my family
Wherever they may be,
Keep them warm
And safe from harm
For they're so close to me.
And God, there is one more thing
I wish that you could do;
Hope you don't mind me asking,
Please bless my computer too.
Now I know that it's unusual
To Bless a motherboard,
But listen just a second
While I explain it to you, Lord.
You see, that little metal box
Holds more than odds and ends;
Inside those small compartments
Rest so many of my friends.
I know so much about them
By the kindness that they give,
And this little scrap of metal
Takes me in to where they live.
By faith is how I know them

Much the same as you.
We share in what life brings us
And from that our friendships grew.
Please take an extra minute
From your duties up above,
to bless those in my address book
That's filled with so much love.
Wherever else this prayer may
reach To each and every friend,
Bless each e-mail inbox
And each person who hits 'send'.
When you update your Heavenly
list on your own Great CD-ROM,
Bless everyone who says this
prayer

Sent up to *GOD.Com*

Amen



Did You Know ?

- + This magazine can be read on-line at www.gwenthillsandvales.org.uk
- + If you have anything for publication in LINKS please send to nigelpipe@uwclub.net or contact on 01873 830984. Closing date is the penultimate Sunday of the month preceding month of publication.

An Extract from the CV of Keefe Owen the new Lay Pastor at Tredegar

I have a positive attitude and an adventurous spirit. I am a keen mountain biker (Previously riding competitively, now purely for pleasure!) On visiting Tredegar recently, I was excited to discover that it has the only national standard BMX track in Wales. I have a special rapport with BMX, Mountain bike and skate culture and I find evangelism within these contexts a very natural progression of my hobby.

I have a real heart for discipleship and an ability to connect with people of different ages, backgrounds and personalities. Although I currently work as a Youth Pastor, through my ministry I have contact with and pastoral responsibility for people of all ages. These have included some more challenging individuals such as drug addicts, prisoners and those with mental health difficulties. I have experience with elderly church members and have experience of pastoral visitation. I am a team player, whilst also comfortable working on my own initiative with a clear vision.

Faith is a lovely full time mother of 3 (Abigail – 6, Reuben – 4, Josiah -2)! We really enjoy working as a team. Faith is the daughter of an Elim Pastor. She is a gifted and experienced worship leader and singer. She has a particular passion for seeing people released into authentic expressions of worship, rather than ‘going through the motions’. She leads with sensitivity to the Holy Spirit. She is an enthusiastic Children/Youth worker. She also has experience of mentoring, leading Toddler groups, Ladies’ fellowship/Bible Studies and other Church activities. She is very creative, enjoying art and craft, especially when it can be used to glorify God. She has a degree in Welsh and Linguistics (Bangor) and also an Associate of Arts in Christian Studies from Prairie Bible College (Alberta, Canada). She has recently qualified as a Tutor of Welsh for Adults. Since her teenage years, Faith has felt a specific call to be ‘a light in the darkness’ here in Wales and among its people.

Did you know ?

+ Sunday morning services at Castle Street are recorded on CD and copies can be made. If you would like a copy of any service, please let the Song Pro./Sound system operator know. A small charge of £1 will be made to cover cost of disc and sleeve. *[No charge for the housebound, sick, or leaders of Young Adventurers Group].*

A REVIEW

Thursday 20 October Llanelly Hill at 7:30 p.m.

All stewards, treasurers, property and pastoral secretary's from Castle Street, Tredegar, Llanelly Hill, Glasbury and Cyldach.

Many years ago in Tredegar there was several Methodist chapels (at least seven) now there is only going to be one. Harcourt and Vale through a year of tears, prayer, many discussions and selflessness came to a decision to merge. I was very moved with the bravery, courage and sensitivity of every person involved.

We trust now with the appointment of the Lay Pastor that we will see growth in the next few years and what has been dramatic decline in the last 50 years will be reversed.

However, every church in my section now needs to look at the future and see what God is saying. Maintenance and the minister being a chaplain/caretaker is not an option. Methodism is the ministry of the whole people of God.

Maintenance simply brings spiritual death. Prayer, every member ministry and evangelism are essential for growth.

On the 20 October we will be having a sectional review meeting. We will look at the following questions for each church:-

1. Where will you be in 2015?
2. What are your plans for growth? How will these be achieved and how will you implement these changes.
3. Do you need to merge with another church or declare Mission Accomplished?

We will meet at Llanelly Hill at 7:30 p.m. Thursday 20 October.

A.W.

BACK TO CHURCH SPECIAL

10.30 am 25th September at Castle Street.

A reminder of what to expect at our 'Back to Church' special service on Sunday 25th September. As many as possible are asked to assist by using their gifts on the day: Greeting, seating, introducing, making welcome any new-comers and generally looking out for others.

There will be a small team of 4 - 5 people wearing special T-shirts acting as hosts before, during and after the service. Any new people should be asked to sign the visitors book, or fill in a card with their names. A gift pack will be given on leaving to those especially invited, or who have just come on their own.

Refreshments - light bites, nibbles, tea, coffee, biscuits - will be served after the service. Offers of pre-lunch nibbles will be gratefully accepted.

We need to:

1. Expect any new people to come back the following Sunday.
2. Make the invitation.
3. Be prepared to sit with them. Walk, or pick them up. Be a friend.
4. Most importantly, do not stay away yourself just because you haven't asked anyone, or you have asked but they are not coming to the service. If you have asked, you have 'sown the seed'. You have been obedient. Rejoice, take heart - God will be pleased with You! Above all, enjoy the service.

We don't talk of success or failures. In God's eyes there is no such thing; we are just doing our job as His ambassadors. You will be blessed.

Margaret Pipe

Another busy month has flown by!

So what have we been up to? Well, we have held two soap-making workshops since I last wrote, one at Trinity Church Hall, which was in support of Zimele UK, and one at the Communities First office in North Abergavenny for their young people. Two of our young people ran the one at Trinity Church Hall on their own. They had worked with Ange on several workshops previously and felt confident to go it alone! Both workshops were very successful and they seem to appeal to young people of all ages. They are in fact so successful that we have secured funding through Communities First to run several more.

We have another Urban Hymns planned on 21 August, 6.00 to 8.00 pm in 7 Corners Lane. This will be taken by Dai Hankey from Pontypool who is a very effective speaker and should be enjoyed by all.

The Salvation Army Essential girls, as we call them, who have been working with us for the last year, graduated in July and Ange and a few of our young people went to Sunbury House in London to attend the graduation. Another splendid occasion. The Essential programme is a Salvation Army gap year programme which gives people aged 18 - 24 the opportunity to go deeper in their discipleship whilst getting involved in mission and service in a Salvation Army placement.

Well, that's all for now, until next month.

Judith E.

The New Team Structures at Castle Street

Evangelism

Chair: Chris Everitt
 Secretary:
 JMA
 Missions – Home & Overseas.
 Alpha
 Rep from service.
 Rep from Learning and Caring.
 Social Responsibility.
 Christian Aid.
 NCH.
 Methodist Homes.
 +anyone with a heart for evangelism

Learning and Caring

Chair: Hilda Turnbull
 Secretary
 Reps from:
 Pastoral Housegroup leaders.
 Sunday School.
 Friendship Group.
 Pastoral Support.
 Rep from Evangelism.
 Pastoral Visitors.
 +2 to be elected when needed

Service

Chair: Diane Cooke
 Secretary
 Special events organiser.
 Treasurer.
 A Rep from Each Team.
 Deputy Property Secretary.
 Deputy Treasurer
 +2 to be elected when needed
Housegroup Leaders
 Chair: Minister
 All Bible Study and Housegroup Leaders/ Pastoral Support.

Worship

Chair: Peter Millward
 Secretary
 Reps from:
 Band.
 A Organist.
 All Castle Street Local Preachers.
 Senior Steward.
 Sunday School.
 Communion Steward.
 Readers Secretary
 Door Steward.
 All the ministry Team.
 Audio/Visual Person.
 Member of evangelism team.
 Supernumerary
 +2 to be elected when needed

The minister is a member of all Teams. Written reports to Church Council and AGM.

A Leadership Team person is a member of every team.

Each Chair is responsible for their area and is the initial contact. So for example if there is an issue with the building – please contact Diane.

Dates for your Diary



Please pray for Keefe and Faith Owen at Tredegar and their three children as they settle in and begin the new work.

Welcome of the new Lay Pastor Keefe Owen and the forming of the new Tredegar Methodist Church Sunday 4 September 4 p.m. Chair of the District preaching.

Circuit

Harcourt Terrace final service Sunday 28 August 6 p.m.
30 August 7:30 p.m. Circuit Leadership Team

September

Welcome of the new Lay Pastor Keefe Owen and the forming of the new Tredegar Methodist Church Sunday 4 September 4 p.m. Chair of the District preaching.

8 Thursday Local Preachers 7:30 p.m.
10 Saturday Synod
15 Thursday Circuit Meeting
27 Tuesday Circuit Leadership Team

Castle Street

31 August 7:30 p.m. Leadership Team meeting.
4 September 10:30 a.m. The Vision
6 September 7:30 p.m. House group Leaders and Pastoral Visitors meeting.
11 September 10:30 a.m. Commissioning of Leadership Team
17 September 9.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. Church open for visitors and refreshments.
18 September Harvest Festival 10:30 a.m.
18 September Close Encounters @ Family Church 6 p.m.
Rev. Chris Walters preaching – Claiming the Town
24 September 1 p.m. ‘Monkey Madness’ Children’s fun day.
25 September Come Back to Church 10:30 a.m. Are you praying and inviting someone?

