

THE



Gwent Hills and Vales
Methodist Circuit

INE

Summer 2023

JOURNEYING ON...

Rev Dr Gareth Edwards

Dear Friends,

As I write this, I am remembering these words from Ecclesiastes 3:1 – 8:

*For everything that happens in life—there is a season, a right time for everything under heaven:
A time to be born, a time to die; a time to plant, a time to collect the harvest;
A time to kill, a time to heal; a time to tear down, a time to build up;
A time to cry, a time to laugh; a time to mourn, a time to dance;
A time to scatter stones, a time to pile them up;
A time for a warm embrace, a time for keeping your distance;
A time to search, a time to give up as lost; a time to keep, a time to throw out;
A time to tear apart, a time to bind together; a time to be quiet, a time to speak up;
A time to love, a time to hate; a time to go to war, a time to make peace.*

During the fourteen years of the life of the Gwent Hills and Vales Circuit (and before that in the Blackwood Circuit), in this journey together, we have probably experienced almost everything on the list – if only metaphorically! I remember the baptisms, weddings, funerals, coffee mornings, auctions, quizzes, street parties, Lenten worship, Christmas nativities, Bible studies, singing, praying, preaching, fellowship and friendship. I remember it all. There was some tearing down of old ideas and planting of new ideas, some disagreements and some resolutions, some remembering and some forgiving. We have laughed and cried, mourned and danced, and

eaten way too many biscuits and cakes! We have said goodbye to beloved members who have moved or gone on to the Church Triumphant, and we have welcomed new people as well. We have survived pandemics, experienced storms, shovelled snow, spent days in the sun, and endured the Welsh rain!



Throughout it all, we have experienced a great deal of mercy, grace, joy and love. The Lord has blessed us in more ways than we can count. The Lord has certainly been with us and has shown us that what we think is impossible, God

makes possible.

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HOUSEKEEPING

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

CIRCUIT MEETING

Thursday, 15th June 2023, 7pm
Blackwood Methodist Church

FROM BYRD TO THE BEATLES AND BEYOND

Saturday, 24th June 2023, 7pm
Llanyrafon Methodist Church
Featuring **Cwmbrân Baroque Singers**
All proceeds to Hope GB (see Branch Lines, page 6)

FAREWELL SERVICE

REV DR STEPHEN WIGLEY

Saturday, 15th July 2023, 2.30pm
Cyncoed Methodist Church

FAREWELL SERVICE

REV DR GARETH EDWARDS

Sunday, 16th July 2023, 4pm
Nantyglo Methodist Church

STRAWBERRY TEA (with Service to follow)

Sunday, 23rd July, 3pm (Service at 5pm)
Glasbury Methodist Church

SATURDAY AFTERNOON TEA

29th July, 5th, 19th & 26th August, 2pm – 4pm
Upper Cwmbrân Methodist Church
(see Branch Lines, page 5)

WELCOME SERVICE

REV ANDREW CHARLESWORTH

Saturday, 2nd September 2023, 2.30pm
Cyncoed Methodist Church

WELCOME SERVICE

REV LORETTE HINSON

Sunday, 3rd September 2023, 4pm
Nantyglo Methodist Church

GWENT HILLS AND VALES CIRCUIT ZOOM SERVICE

Every Sunday evening, 6pm. Here's the link:

<https://zoom.us/j/94168420492?pwd=cjFTbzZUejhwTFBtVXdnL1lFVkdldz09>

Meeting ID: 941 6842 0492

Passcode: 831858

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The Vine Logo

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Deadline for items to be included in the Autumn issue: 8th August 2023

WALES WATCH



Meet the new co-chair of Wales Synod Cymru – Rev Andrew Charlesworth:

A cradle Methodist, Andrew grew up in Manchester before studying Maths at Nottingham University and upon graduation, started working as a medical statistician.

When the call to ministry came, Andrew and his family (wife Sarah, daughters Phoebe and Abi), began the journey that first took him to study at Wesley House in Cambridge, before Andrew began his ministry in the Coventry and Nuneaton Circuit. After eight years Andrew moved to Nottingham to continue his ministry as a first-time superintendent.

Andrew continues to be excited to live out God's call on his life to serve God's people in the Methodist Church and far beyond. He deeply believes that church matters and doing church **well** matters.



As you will see on the previous page, there is a Welcome Service for Rev Andrew on Saturday, 2nd September at 2.30pm at Cyncoed Methodist Church.

BIO and photo courtesy of nnemethodist.org.uk

JOURNEYING ON...

Continued from Page 1

In late July, Kelly and I will be moving manse to begin a new period of ministry in the Neath Port Talbot Circuit. In her book *'The Graceful Exit'*, Mary Lindberg talks about when a pastor or minister departs a church. She reflects that when Jesus prepared to leave his disciples, he found three promises to share:

- First, Jesus promised to make a home in his disciples' hearts. (*John 14:23*)
- Second, Jesus promised to fill the disciples with a spirit of courage and comfort: "*The Holy Spirit...will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you.*" (*John 14:26*)
- Finally, Jesus promised to sustain his disciples with a special kind of peace: "*Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you.*" (*John 14:27*)

Lindberg concludes, "*So we'll open the gifts Jesus gave us – a home in him, the courage to move on, the peace that will get us through many unknowns. And we'll trust that God is staying with those we love for many more seasons.*"

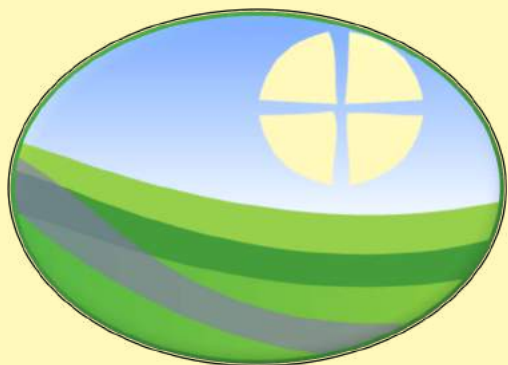
Thank you for all the patience, kindness, mercy, grace, generosity and love that you have shown me and my family. I wish you every blessing in this new season that you are about to begin. May you continue to grow in faith, hope and love, worshipping the Lord with your whole heart, mind, body and soul, and remembering to do everything for the glory of God.

I thank God for you.

With Every Blessing,

Revd Gareth

Rev Dr Gareth Edwards



BRANCH LINES

News around the Gwent Hills and Vales
Methodist Circuit

ALL CHANGE!

All of us who have been Methodists for any length of time will know that our denomination is full of “Hellos” and “Goodbyes”! This summer we will wave “Goodbye” to our dear friend **Rev Dr Gareth Edwards**, who has served in this circuit in one capacity or another for 14 years. While this parting will be sad because we will miss the Edwards Family, we are also excited for the next stage of their adventures in ministry, as Gareth takes up his post as Superintendent Minister of the Neath Port Talbot Circuit.

The “Hello”, as always, gives us cause for celebration, as we welcome a brand new member of staff to Gwent Hills and Vales – **Reverend Lorette Hinson** (*pictured right*), currently serving in the South West Wales Circuit.

Lorette was born and brought up in the West Midlands. She moved to South Wales as part of a family move in 2006 and since then, the family has grown a bit!! Having had a variety of jobs over the years she then felt called to ministry in 2009 and was ordained in 2015. She feels at home both geographically and spiritually in God’s own country of Wales. A lover of all things outdoor, especially hills and mountains, Lorette loves exploring the beautiful countryside, hillwalking and gardening, with her trusty lurchers Jess and Rory.

As you will see from the “Dates for Your Diary” section on Page 2, our circuit will be formally welcoming Rev Lorette on Sunday, 3rd September at 4pm at Nantyglo Church – we hope to see many of you there for the beginning of this new chapter!



by Joanna Saunders
(with input from swwalesmethodists.org.uk)



l-r: Babs and Dan Izzett, Hilary Gregg

GREATER HEIGHTS

by Hilary Gregg

On Sunday, 12th March, Abergavenny Methodist Church had a Local Arrangement, and invited Dan Izzett and his wife Babs to attend on behalf of the Leprosy Mission. I led the service with members of the congregation choosing the hymns and leading the prayers.

Dan has an amazing story to tell as he was diagnosed with leprosy in 1970, which was unusual as

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GREATER HEIGHTS

Continued from Page 4

he was from quite a privileged white family living in Zimbabwe. It began with him losing feeling in his fingers and took 12 years to diagnose. He had to have his right leg amputated below the knee, so has a prosthetic limb and walks with the aid of crutches. Babs was also diagnosed with leprosy seven years later, but it was treated early and she has no disabilities. They both have a strong Christian faith: Dan worked as a pastor in Zimbabwe and also as a representative for the Leprosy Mission, travelling twice to India. Now they have retired to Taunton to be near their family, but still work for the Mission, whose work we were able to support by means of a retiring collection.

A Bible verse that means a lot to the Izzetts is Psalm 91: 2 – *“I will say of the Lord, ‘He is my Refuge and my Fortress, My God, in whom I trust.’”*

The girls from the Sunday School had learned a rap....

**A man came to Jesus 'cos he was unclean
He had the worst skin you've ever seen
He knew he would help 'cos God above
Sent Jesus to show that God is love.**

**Jesus felt sad, so he stretched out his hand
And said “Be clean” to the kneeling man
At once he was healed 'cos God above
Sent Jesus to show that God is love.**



*Babs and Dan Izzett with
(l-r) Holly, Evie, Jessica and Tanaka*

Article written by Hilary Gregg, Church Steward

Join us for AFTERNOON TEA



**Ebenezer Chapel, The Square,
Upper Cwmbran** are hosting
their Saturday afternoon teas on
**29th July, 5th, 19th and 26th
August. 2pm until 4pm.**

Everyone will be warmly
welcomed!



There's a little more
**BRANCH
LINES**
On Page 6...



CONNEXION CORNER

**“Do not allow yourself one thought
of separating from your brothers and sisters,
whether their opinions agree with yours or not.”**

John Wesley

News from the Methodist Connexion of the UK

God was at Eurovision: did you notice? The Liverpool Methodist District, in partnership with ecumenical colleagues and volunteers from across the Connexion, held a creative evangelism campaign during Eurovision week under the banner **‘Imagine Peace’**. There were daily prayer walks on the Albert Dock, daily peace vigils around the city, and a **‘United in Worship’** event at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral which was live-streamed to a global audience. The Hope and Anchor* also popped up at Strawberry Field, a popular stop on the Beatles tour. Visitors were invited into the teepee to play games, be creative, and participate in real conversations. Volunteers took a large white dove down to the Albert Dock on the day of the Eurovision final and invited tourists to leave their fingerprints in the colours of the Ukrainian flag as part of a prayer for peace in Ukraine. What’s going on in your local area soon? How could you join in, offering people moments to acknowledge and welcome the presence of God?

*Hope and Anchor is a podcast hosted by the Methodist Church

A STORY OF HOPE



Trey Hall

Director of Evangelism and Growth
Methodist Church Great Britain

BRANCH LINES (Continued)

On Saturday evening, 24th June at 7pm, Llanyrafon Methodist Church is hosting the **Cwmbrân Baroque Singers**, for a concert to benefit **Hope GB**, a Cwmbrân-based charity working with all those affected by autism. They focus on building strong relationships for a solid foundation to enable and encourage positive change.

“We believe that every child, young person and adult on the spectrum has the potential to move forward. As a result, we’re committed to working with our partners and advocates to improve the outcomes of those we support.” (hopegb.co.uk)

Tickets are £10 and are available on the door, or from a choir member, in this case, your Circuit Administrator – I shall be there singing! Please come along and support this wonderful cause, not to mention enjoy an evening of fabulous music.

Joanna Saunders



PUZZLE PAGE

ATMOSPHERE
 BIODEGRADABLE
 CARBON FOOTPRINT
 CLIMATE CHANGE
 CONSERVATION
 ECO CHURCH
 ECOSYSTEM
 ENVIRONMENT
 FOSSIL FUEL
 GLOBAL WARMING
 GREENHOUSE GAS
 PLASTIC
 POLLUTION
 RECYCLE
 RENEW
 REUSE
 SOLAR POWER
 WIND TURBINE

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

Puzzle created by Joanna using wordmint.com

SPRING WORD SEARCH SOLUTION

BANK HOLIDAY	GOLDEN COACH
CAMILLA	KING
CAROLEAN	LONDON
CELEBRATION	MONARCHY
CHARLES III	PAGEANTRY
CONSORT	PROCESSION
CORONATION	ROYAL
CROWN	STREET PARTY
FANFARE	TRADITION
FUTURE	UNITED KINGDOM

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



PRAY WITHOUT CEASING...

The day of Pentecost has ended.
The tongues are quiet
The fire has faded
The prophet is silent
The crowd has dispersed
The first converts have gone
But.
But the believers live on.
The believers believe on.
Yet sometimes we feel empty, in need of your indwelling.
Trouble us again with your noisy presence.
Challenge our contentment.
Stir us by your Spirit.
We pray for a new Pentecost
For welcoming worship rich with your presence.
We pray for a new Pentecost
For a learning, growing church.
We pray for a new Pentecost
For compassion fired by passion.
We pray for a new Pentecost
For more disciples of Jesus Christ.
Send your Spirit
That she may restore, refresh and renew.
Amen.

Paul Martin, former Bolton and Rochdale District Chair

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- ♦ All those ministers and deacons in transition this summer, particularly Rev Dr Stephen Wigley, Rev Dr Gareth Edwards, Rev Andrew Charlesworth and Rev Lorette Hinson, and their families.
- ♦ All those who have been recently bereaved, especially Rev Stephen Boxall and his family.
- ♦ All those struggling with the cost of living and providing for their families, as well as organisations that support them.
- ♦ All those who are persecuted for their faith and are not able to worship freely.
- ♦ All those who have been forced to flee their homes because of war and/or persecution, especially the Ukrainian families that have been welcomed here in Wales.
- ♦ All those in positions of authority, that they would make decisions in wisdom and compassion.
- ♦ The Gwent Hills and Vales Circuit, as we move forward seeking God's face.