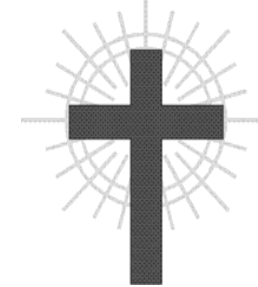
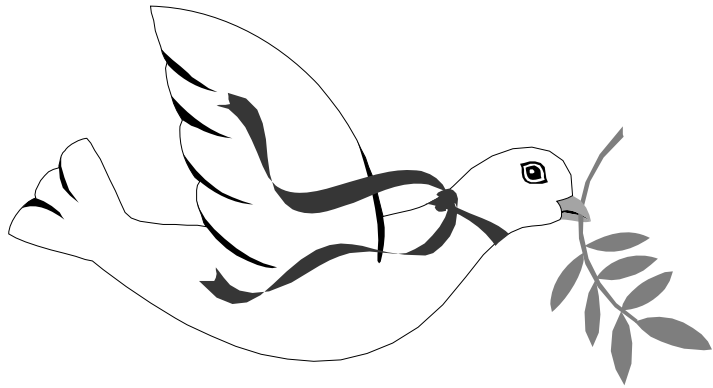


# THE MESSENGER



**Monmouth  
Trellech  
Broad Oak  
Gwern-y-Saint  
Llancloudy**

October/November 2011



*As you will have seen in Barry's  
letter this is the last Messenger in  
it's bi-monthly form.*

*May I thank all who have  
contributed over the past few years .*

*Patrick Mills*

**The Methodist Church in Wales  
Wales Synod**

An invitation to attend  
**A QUIET DAY**

26th October 2011  
at

Llangasty Retreat House  
Brecon Powys

from  
10:00 for 10:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

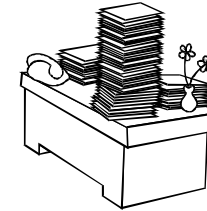
*Each day will cost*

*£20:00*

*which includes  
Morning Coffee  
Cooked Lunch  
Afternoon Tea*

*If you wish to attend  
Please inform **Judy**  
in the Synod Office  
Tel.. 029 2048 2006*

*[office@methodistwales.org.uk](mailto:office@methodistwales.org.uk)  
no later than two weeks before  
the Quiet Day*



### **From the Minister's Desk**

It is with some relief that I write this since, the Circuit voted to invite me to stay a further three years. This means the Circuit hasn't had to have a mad dash to think about profiles to submit to stationing and I haven't got to spend part of November looking at a possible appointment.

While I hoped to stay, there is always the wonder if you can get 75% of the vote. I once got 74.36% and had to leave a Circuit. However as a family we took the line that I was in the hands of the Lord and felt if He wanted me to stay I would and if He wanted me to leave I would. There is still much to do.

One of the key areas for the Circuit in the next 10 months will be to look at our staffing levels. We need to know if we have the right number of staff, are they in the right place, can we make better use of the skills we have in the ministerial team.

On a different level we will need to do professional asbestos checks on all the buildings. This will happen in early 2012.

This will be the last Messenger for some time since it is getting harder and harder for Patrick to get contributions. I would like to thank Patrick for all his work and Ann for the support she has given him in getting each issue out. Their work has made this magazine possible.

Finally a prayer that we may all continue to talk the talk and walk the walk with Christ.

God Bless

**Barry**

# HARVEST FESTIVAL

Our Harvest weekend was a most enjoyable time with all age groups joining together. On the Saturday morning the Church was beautifully decorated with flowers and fruits of the field, and Saturday pm the kitchen was taken over to prepare the Harvest supper. The cottage pies were soon devoured with many enjoying a second helping, and the selection of puddings were exceptional --- a big thank you to all that were involved that day.

The evening Beetle drive caused much fun and laughter, the great thing about Beetle is that all ages can enjoy it together - I did ask at one point for a "little decorum" --needless to say I did not get it! It was good to have a full Church for our Harvest service and to praise our Lord together. This was followed by the sharing of the Harvest loaf. We are so fortunate to live where we do, let us not forget the needs of people much less fortunate than ourselves in other parts of the World.

*Ann Smed*

## ***Women's Fellowship***

### ***October***

- 4<sup>th</sup> Mrs Barbara Isaac
- 11<sup>th</sup> Mrs B Watkins – Update on Hope for Tomorrow
- 18<sup>th</sup> Mrs Ros Leslie – The Lord is my Shepherd
- 25<sup>th</sup> Jennifer Copestake & Ann Mills

### ***November***

- 1<sup>st</sup> Members Afternoon and Bring & Buy
- 8<sup>th</sup> Mr Arthur Isaac
- 15<sup>th</sup> Mr Mike Roberts – Flitting Round the World
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Mrs M Nicholas – A Story from Bolivia (Christmas Cards)
- 29<sup>th</sup> Christmas Shopping

### ***December***

- 6<sup>th</sup> Christmas Carols, Readings and Mince pies
- 13<sup>th</sup> Christmas Tea at Smeds

## **Trellech Methodist Church**

At Trellech Methodist Church there is an opportunity to come and admire our new windows and the redecoration at two Coffee afternoons.

Saturday 1st October Coffee Afternoon 2.0 pm in aid of SMILE the charity for Children's cleft palates.

On Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October a Coffee and Sale Afternoon will be held at Trellech Chapel beginning at 2.00pm. The refreshments will, of course, be to the usual high standards and the various goods for sale will be of superb quality. Peggy Hilu is the organiser for the afternoon which is in aid of Trellech's Church Renovation Fund. Don't miss the exciting event!

On Sunday 30th October, which is a 5th Sunday, there is a joint service with the Anglicans and the preacher will be the Rev Anne Ellis.

Looking ahead there will be a Carol Service on Sunday 18th December at 6.15 pm and a Christmas eve service at Trellech on Saturday 24th December at 4.0 pm.

*Keith Wrightson*

## From Pharaoh to Freedom

### *In Thanksgiving for our Harvest*

*Now join we, to praise the creator, Our voices in worship and song;  
We stand to recall with thanksgiving, That to him all seasons  
belong.*

*We thank you, O God, for your goodness, For the joy and  
abundance of crops, For food that is stored in our larders, For all  
we can buy in the shops.*

*But also of need and starvation We sing with concern and despair –  
Of skills that are used for destruction, Of land that is burnt and laid  
bare.*

*We cry for the plight of the hungry While harvests are left on the  
field, For orchards neglected and wasting, For produce from  
markets withheld.*

*The song grows in depth and in wideness: The earth and its people  
are one. There can be no thanks without giving, No words without  
deeds that are done.*

*Then teach us, O Lord of the harvest, To be humble in all that we  
claim, To share what we have with the nations, To care for the  
world in your name.*

*Fred Kaan*

**Jean Morgan**

Another exciting musical drama by Roger Jones, *From Pharaoh to Freedom* is to be performed in Monmouth Methodist Church on Passion Sunday and on one other evening near that date.

A quote from the author - "In the quiet opening music there is an echo of the negro spiritual *Go down, Moses*, reminding us of a people in slavery. The words then takes us back in time to the Israelites slavery in Egypt, and the song develops into a lively celebration of their liberation through the Passover, setting the scene for the story of the musical. The Passover is established as a festival to be celebrated for all time and the songs move to the New Testament. Jesus, with the disciples at their Passover meal, sings, 'Take, eat, this is my body, broken for you'. *Man of sorrows* follows, a song about Jesus' ultimate sacrifice. The words of Paul, 'Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed for us. So let us celebrate!' lead into the final song and the musical ends in triumph with the affirmation, *His love is eternal*."

If you are interested in taking part please contact **Jennifer Copestake** on 01594 836405 or **Ann Mills** on 01594 530690. If you love to sing, or play an instrument the are musical numbers are really great, and there are good parts for actors both speaking and non-speaking, and dancers too. If you enjoy sewing, then we'd love to hear from you as there are, of course, costumes to be created. Also stage settings to create. This is another all-age production, so age is no barrier here!! Rehearsals will begin on the 21<sup>st</sup> October at Monmouth Chapel at 7.00pm.

## Book Swap

Monmouth Chapel are having a Book Swap evening on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October from 7.30pm. Tea and coffee will be available and 'nibbles' too. Entrance will cost £1.00 and as the title implies, bring as book you have enjoyed and swap it for another which has been enjoyed by someone else!

*Ann Mills*

## The Briefing: Recommended Reading

I have recently subscribed to a Christian magazine called “**The Briefing**” available from [www.thegoodbook.co.uk](http://www.thegoodbook.co.uk) or ordered from The Olive Bough. The website describes the content as “Bible-centred”, thought-provoking and stimulating, encouraging and equipping us to live fruitful lives as believers while we await the return of our Lord Jesus”.

It is packed full of thought provoking articles and teaching. The latest edition includes: 2 of 101 Bible passages “every Christian should understand”, suffering and why we shouldn’t be surprised to suffer, teenage hostility, the importance of knowing what Jesus is doing now, making conversation with Muslims, a statistical analysis asking “Does the future have a church?” and an article looking at ways to achieve growth, the importance of the resurrection and a book review on “Joined up life, a Christian account of how ethics works”.

It costs just £12 for a year’s subscription of six editions. I have found the content to be challenging and helpful, both in personal growth and discipleship and to provide stimulating ideas to move our church forward. It helps you to keep up with current church thinking, measured against the ‘yardstick’ of scripture. If this appeals to you, I would recommend you read The Briefing for yourself.

Here are some comments by readers on the website:

“ The briefing is a fantastic magazine. Written with strong Biblical views on key subjects, it is informative and doctrinally sound yet is also personable. Sometimes you read sound doctrine but it doesn't have the heart of Jesus behind it and as the reason for what is being said. The other danger is you just have a strange un-Biblical luvvie duvvie Jesus that comes from a mix of Santa and Hollywood and not from God’s word. The Briefing is brilliant at giving clear doctrinally straight responses to key issues and yet on every page the heart of Jesus is clearly the motive.

“ The Briefing magazine was recommended to me by a friend. I like the diversity of topics covered but also the shameless openness about problems Christians struggle with today. It is a great help for my everyday walk with God but also makes for a really good read!



I would also like to encourage people to write book reviews for the Messenger to share your own recommendations.

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**A CARE FOR THE FAMILY UK** Tour: "Getting your kids through Church without them ending up hating God" For every Christian parent, church leader and youth worker Thursday 24th November Colston Hall, Bristol, 7.30 Call 02920810800 to book or ask Olivia for more details.

*Olivia McLachlan*