



Cardiff Methodist Circuit

The Methodist Church in Cardiff & Caerphilly



To get in touch with anyone mentioned in the newsletter please contact the Circuit Office on:

office@cardiffmethodist.org.uk
Tel: 029 2039 3436

www.cardiffmethodist.org.uk
www.methodist.org.uk

OUR CALLING

The calling of the **Methodist Church** is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.

It does this through:

Worship
Learning and caring
Service
Evangelism



WERE YOU THERE?!

On Sunday 28th May we celebrated Pentecost with a Circuit Service, gathering at Wesley Methodist Church, Caerphilly.

The service began with a lesson on making the perfect grilled cheese. No, really! The young people - with a bit of help from youth worker, Gareth - spoke about the goings on at Youth Space and the importance of eating together, just as Jesus did. We also saw a sparkling white t-shirt transformed with a tie-dye pattern and were reminded that, although we all start off unblemished, the things that happen in our lives change us as people. We can end up feeling bound by our past, but the love of God can set us free. There was the opportunity to buy the t-shirts to raise money for the Trinity Centre. The young people then went off to have breakfast in the park, while the children went downstairs to enjoy all manner of Pentecost-related crafts and games.

The rest of the service was led by all the ministers. Evelyn welcomed us and set the whole service in the context of thanksgiving for the coming of God's Holy Spirit. Judith reminded us that we are a diverse bunch, using the traditional Acts 2 reading but encouraging people to shout out where they came from in place of the usual 'Mesopotamia', 'Judea', 'Cappadocia', etc. There was a real sense of the Spirit in the air. Alexis took a roving microphone and ran around the congregation so that people could share the things we were grateful for. In fact, given the opportunity, we talked so excitedly among ourselves about what God is doing in the church that Cathy had trouble getting our attention when the time was up! In our prayers, Laura encouraged us to pray for one another's needs at this time of change, and we shared the Lord's Prayer, not altogether in English as we usually do, but each using any language with which we felt comfortable. A carcophany reminiscent of that first Pentecost. Finally, Kofi led us in the blessing, using four languages.

It goes without saying that over one hundred Methodists together in one building raised the roof with the singing. Several people commented afterwards how moving it was to worship among so many people and be reminded that 'the church' is bigger than their own Sunday congregation.

The morning ended, as all good events should, with tea, cake and fellowship in the hall.



DID YOU KNOW?

A thousand years ago some cathedrals were built specifically to express the meaning of Pentecost.

Their painted ceilings contained small, cleverly concealed doors. During the worship at Pentecost someone would climb up onto the roof of the cathedral and release a live dove through one of these doors – a living symbol of the Holy Spirit! Immediately after this the doors would open again and buckets of rose petals would be thrown out, representing tongues of flame showering the congregation.

We can scarcely imagine the effect this sensory spectacle would have had on the difficult lives of these Christians at the time.

Any volunteers?!



The next Circuit Service
will be on
Sunday 24th September

WHAT HAPPENED AT CIRCUIT MEETING?

The Circuit Meeting took place at Radyr Methodist Church on Tuesday 22nd May at 7.30pm.

Cathy opened the meeting with devotions, reflecting on journeying and change as being part of our lives as Methodists. As we know, a number of circuit churches are experiencing a change in ministerial oversight, with Stephen arriving in September and Kofi moving on in July. Joyfully, Cathy reported that last weekend 56 people attended a national 'Discerning Vocation' conference to explore a calling to various forms of ministry. Two of our own Local Preachers attended. We often associate words like 'calling' and 'vocation' with ordained ministry, but the Methodist Church is getting better at recognising that people may be called to serve the church in a variety of ways, all of them equally necessary.

We remembered the community of Ely following the tragic deaths of two young people and a subsequent disturbance the night before.

Cathy will be away on sabbatical June/July/August and Judith and Kofi will be sharing the superintendency and the ministers have staggered their holidays to ensure there are always people available.

The Circuit Leadership Report confirmed that Laura has been appointed to continue to serve the circuit, in a two-thirds appointment, for a further two years. Judith has offered a five year re-invitation and consultations are in progress. It is key that Judith's pioneering work is represented in this process, so following Connexional advice, we have formed an Invitation Committee that reflects the diversity of Judith's ministry.

The **community** strand of the 'Forward in Hope' strategy reported an encouraging amount of interest and positive, constructive input. They plan to produce a side of A4 about each congregation including demographics, statistics on people, church activities and how it feels about the future. This will feed in to decision making at a later date. Churches will be consulted on the content of these reports.

Steve thanked Peter and Eric for joining the **property** group but needs more volunteers in order to collate evidence about how we're managing our property and finances as churches and as a circuit. The team will visit each property to do a brief assessment on how buildings are being used and their potential for developing work.

It is impossible to move forward with **vision** until we have this information.

Muriel has stepped down as a Circuit Steward, and Wendy will at the end of this church year. Wendy has also stepped down as Circuit Treasurer. Any member of the Methodist Church can explore this possibility. This is a challenging but exciting time and those with a vision for the future should speak to their minister about applying.

The Treasurer's Report was received, and Wendy thanked the Church Treasurers for their work. The meeting was reminded that, if the churches wish to continue with the same level of ministerial support, assessments must increase. However, this must happen in a way that is fair. The next Circuit Meeting will receive a recommendation for a formula to calculate the assessment. This is an urgent situation as for the last three years we have taken over £50,000 per year from reserves.

The meeting received the Property Report and voted to refurbish Chagot Road to rental standards due to uncertainty about whether the property would be needed at a later date. Rectory Road remains on the market, but St. Paul's and Splott are at contract stage. Funds from the sale of Splott will support the Trinity Centre.

The meeting heard that

Ely Methodist Church

have taken the decision to cease to meet. The final service has already occurred as the congregation had already decided not to meet over the summer.

The meeting acknowledged their bravery in taking this decision and gave thanks for the work of the church over many years. Our love and prayers are with our friends at a difficult time.

WHAT HAPPENED AT CIRCUIT MEETING? CONT...

There are ongoing conversations about selling buildings to release capital for mission. Steve reminded us that this is part of the remit of the Property Strategy Group.

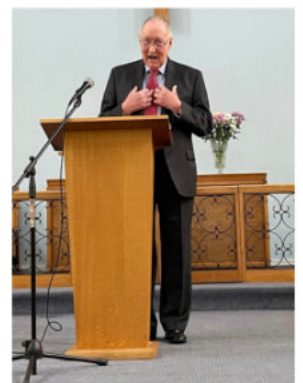
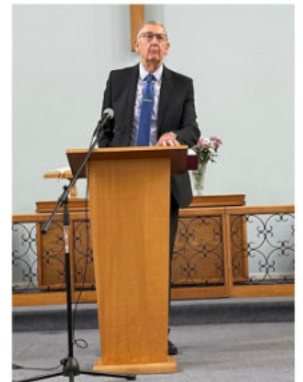
Gauri reported that we have had two new people ask for a note to preach, and we celebrated the work that God is doing among us. We recently celebrated Anthony Thomas, who has served for 40 years and Roger Yeo who has served for 60 years. An inspirational service that included Gerald Ballard's usual humorous stories and Jim James' one word answers of 'WOW!' (*thanks to Lisa for the photos!*) After the Grace, members of the meeting joined hands to pray for Munawar and Wendy as they set off for the 'Discerning Vocation' conference.

The Trinity Centre Committee reported that all user groups have now found temporary homes, with the majority moving to Parkminster URC. It is hoped the relocation will begin at the end of May. The toiletries bank will continue to operate out of Parkminster and donations are appreciated. We welcomed two new members to the committee and thanked the team, especially Heather and John, for their hard work at this time.

The meeting was reminded that all office holders need to undertake EDI training by the end of this calendar year. Arrangements are ongoing to do this in groups if preferred.

On Tuesday 30th May a group will convene to discuss the possibility of becoming an Eco Circuit. Watch this space!

The meeting closed with prayers. We remembered our friends at Ely Methodist Church as they have made the decision to close. We gave thanks for their ministry over the years.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Service of Thanks for the Rev. Dr. Stephen Wigley as Synod Co-Chair:

Saturday July 15th, 2023, 2:30pm at Cyncoed

Service of Thanks for Rev. Dr. Kofi Ammisah:

Sunday July 30th, 2023, 3pm at Cyncoed

Service of Welcome for the Rev. Andrew Charlesworth as Synod Co-Chair:

Saturday September 2nd, 2023, 2.30pm at Cyncoed

Word Bothering: A Local Preacher-led service

Sunday September 10th, 6pm, venue TBA

Circuit Service:

Sunday September 24, 2023, venue TBA

At the December Circuit Meeting we will take feedback on whether we wish to continue holding Circuit Services and how often.

WHAT IS METHODISM?

Who was John Wesley and how did Methodism begin?

John Wesley was born on 28th June 1703. Though his father, Samuel, was an Anglican priest, it was John's mother, Susanna, who often held sway during theological and political debates with her husband and would offer preaching and support to the local congregation in her kitchen if her husband was unavailable. Susanna also held the comparatively modern belief that "no girl should be taught to sew until she can read very well," and insisted on spending time disciplining and helping each of her children to grow spiritually.



At the age of five, John was almost killed when a fire engulfed their home at Epworth. As Samuel Wesley knelt in the courtyard praying for his little son's soul, two men managed to pull the boy to safety. The experience marked John for life and he came to refer to himself as 'a brand plucked from the burning.' Saved and set apart by God.

John attended Christchurch, Oxford and was ordained Priest in 1728. Apart from a brief stint as his father's curate he remained at the college until 1735 and in that time he and his brother Charles founded what became known as 'The Holy Club'. The group met regularly believing they must live as sacred a life as possible in order to achieve salvation. They visited prisoners, cared for the sick and relieved the poor; but their methodical prayer life earned them the unkind nickname of "Methodists".

Despite his outward commitment, John struggled with a sense of unworthiness and lack of connection to God. In 1735, on route to a role as missionary in Savannah, Georgia, he witnessed and envied the calm piety of his Moravian companions during a severe storm at sea. Wesley would remain in America for two years before returning to Britain with little to show for his time away.

On 24th May 1738 John Wesley went unwillingly to a church gathering in Aldersgate Street in London. According to his journal the day had been a long and difficult one. To add insult to injury in the previous few days he had received a letter from his younger brother Charles (also a priest) telling him that Charles had had what he described as a 'conversion experience' and was full of love for God and renewed strength to follow his call. The very things John had sought all his life. While at Aldersgate John's own heart was 'strangely warmed' and for the first time he felt the truth of his own salvation.

'I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.'

From John Wesley's Journal: 24th May 1738

In the three months that followed this experience, John visited the Moravians in Germany, learning all he could about developing a personal relationship with the divine. Returning to Britain he preached about salvation by faith alone and spoke of God's grace for all, but this message was unfamiliar and unwelcome. He was chased out and banned from most parish churches.

WHAT IS METHODISM?

It was then, by necessity, that John Wesley took the step for which he is probably most famous. Following the example of his friend and fellow evangelist George Whitefield, John took to the fields to preach. It went against everything he had ever believed about 'doing church' and he would even describe it as 'submitting to be even more vile...' in a journal entry. Yet the people came. Including those, like the miners, who were unable or unwelcome to attend church buildings.

When asked to give an account of himself by the Bishop of Oxford he responded by saying 'I believe the world is my Parish'. Extraordinary behaviour for a man who once believed 'saving souls almost a sin if it had not been done in church.' His disregard for boundaries, ministry to the poor, and conviction that all should hear the gospel made him, and his growing movement, increasingly unpopular with the Established Church. Particularly when, in about 1740, John began training men who were not ordained to act as 'Local Preachers'. In 1771 he would, somewhat reluctantly, accept the need for women to become preachers. This had already been going on for some time unofficially.

Although by 1739 some Methodist groups had begun to acquire buildings in which to meet they were still societies within the Church of England, not churches in their own right. Similarly to today, societies were grouped into circuits with preachers travelling between them. Preachers were appointed to a circuit for two years, and met regularly with John and Charles Wesley to discuss doctrine. Members of the societies were grouped into classes, which met once a week, and received a Class Ticket, signed by John Wesley, which was renewed every three months providing they remained 'of good character' and attended their meetings.

DID YOU KNOW

John Wesley was the friend and mentor of William Wilberforce.

Less than a week before his death, Wesley wrote to Wilberforce, calling the slave trade the 'inextricable sum of all villainies,' and encouraging him in his work towards the abolition of slavery.

NEXT TIME...

**Charles Wesley:
Music in Methodism**

What we sing and why it matters.



SO? LESSONS FROM OUR HISTORY.

- Other people may look at our actions, but God looks at our hearts.
- God's love is not something we can earn or work for. It's ours already.
- 'Taking the church to the people' is not a new thing. It's at the heart of what it means to be a Methodist.
- Doing things that make us uncomfortable for the sake of our faith is also a key Methodist trait.
- We must not forget those on the outskirts of society.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

If you're out and about near Caerphilly on

15th - 18th June

why not drop in on the Caerphilly Flower Festival?

More than ten venues will be bedecked with glorious arrangements, including **Wesley Caerphilly Methodist Church.**

Venues are open 10am - 4pm each day.

Tea and coffee will be available at the church.

For more information see
www.caerphillytowncouncil.org.uk

Members of **Wesley Caerphilly** met together for a Coronation Lunch on Sunday 7th May. They enjoyed a delicious 'Bring and Share' feast, toasted the King and took part in activities such as crown making, royal quizzes and 'Pin the Jewel on the Crown'. A good time was had by all!



The children of **Wesley Canton** have been making cards at Easter and Christmas for those members unable to attend services in person. This has been a great way to show to the children that it is important to remember these members and to show these members that they are still remembered and a part of our Church family.

Also, some of our young people use Makaton to help them communicate. At Christmas last year for our carol service we sang and signed Little Donkey. Since then we have sung and signed several well known hymns together as a congregation including Be Bold, Be Strong, Shine Jesus Shine, and One More Step Along the World I Go.



Makaton is a system of signs and symbols used by people of all ages to aid communication.

For more information visit
www.makaton.org

We want to hear your news!

Don't wait for someone else to write something about your church or event.

You never know who might read it and come along, offer support or commit to praying for you.
If you think it's worth doing, chances are others will too!

Email me at laurajevans@me.com with your stories by 16th September or give me a ring on 07542 879512.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

Over Thursday 30th and Friday 31st March **Radyr Methodist Church** members delivered thousands of daffodils across the new build housing estate of Plasdwr and the surrounding area.

I am sure you know that daffodils are the national flower of Wales and a lovely sign of hope. So we made the decision to deliver a small bunch of these with an Easter card that gave our greetings and details of who we are to as many new homes and our own neighbours as physically possible. We have delivered 1000 cards and as many daffodil bunches.

We had a team of preparers and assemblers and a team of distributors so that many of the bunches were delivered whilst the team were still assembling the rest.

The Methodist Way of Life

Radyr Methodist Church would be really keen to hear from anyone who has experience of using 'The Methodist Way of Life' in groups.

We are trialling two different ways of learning together from the MWOL materials, with a fortnightly group meeting face-to-face and a weekly gathering on Zoom. The Zoom meeting attracts people from a variety of places, not all of them in Britain!

If anyone has any experience of using Methodist Way of Life in groups, we would be grateful to hear your stories, at radyrmc@gmail.com

Thank you.

To find out more about the Methodist Way of Life, or to download resources for groups or personal use, visit the website at:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/MWoL>

Here's some feedback from our deliverers:-

- Met a young man I'd spoken to on my first visit to Cwrt St Ioan and he recognised me...felt like a friend, laughed and asked if he could give me the daffs instead. Told him to give to his sister as he was going to ask her to bring nephews round for our Egg hunt.
- Two elderly gentlemen were overwhelmed by our kindness.
- In the flats one lady was in tears and a pug came with me to deliver to all the doors on her level.
- Gave daffs to Cicchetti, Estate Agents and elderly ladies in Cicchetti who were enjoying coffee. They were overwhelmed at the kindness and put them on display.
- Chatted with a few parents about Lego church, they said their kids would love to come
- Flowers and cards delivered to Western Leisure Centre in Ely and Fairwater Leisure Centre.
- I gave some to my neighbours, the one opposite was in tears as she's never had anything like that happen before
- one of the builders was overwhelmed and said he had never been given flowers before



Radyr Methodist Church are holding a
Green / Eco Fair

9am - 1pm
on Saturday 3rd June

and an
Environment Sunday Service

10.30am
on Sunday 4th June

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

On the second Saturday of the month at **Conway Road Methodist Church**:

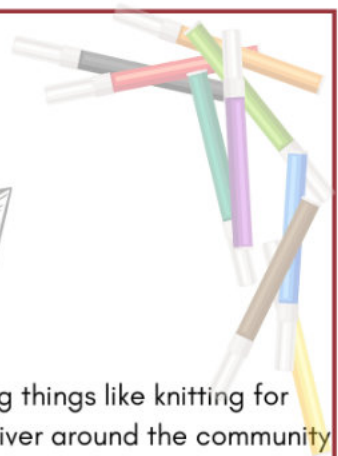
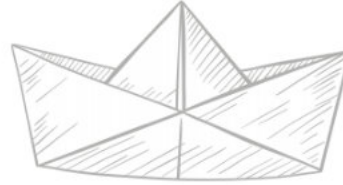
Creativi-Tea

10th June

8th July

12th August

9th September



2 - 4pm (drop in any time) Tea, cake and materials provided

A make and do session to support the work of the church in the community. We'll be doing things like knitting for charity, re-vamping the noticeboards, creating props for worship and making stars to deliver around the community at Christmas. Something for everyone.

Adults and accompanied children are very welcome. No skills or experience necessary. Come along and have fun.

Oh, and there will be tea and cake!

THE ROUNDABOUT CAFE

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY

As you may know, **Whitchurch Methodist Church** run a coffee shop, "The Roundabout Cafe". This fantastic venture, which provides tasty food, a warm welcome and friendly company to a large number of visitors, is an asset to the community it serves and very much part of the church's mission.

The cafe is open 10am - 3pm Monday-Saturday. There is always a cafe employee (supervisor) present but we can only run with the help of our band of volunteers, and we need more!

We are looking for:

People who would like to learn to operate the coffee machine. It's not difficult but there is a knack!

People who can be called upon to cover at short notice if another volunteer can't make it.

People who'd just like to chat with our customers, clear tables and load and unload the dishwasher.

You don't need any experience or qualifications.

For more information pop into the coffee shop or contact Laura.



NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

Palm Sunday saw Copleston Road, Llandaff North sharing a United Service at Whitchurch.

However, to continue our community outreach we decided that afternoon to deliver individually addressed envelopes to our neighbours in Copleston Road enclosing a Palm Cross and greeting card giving details of our Easter Services, including our Sunrise Service at the Taff Weir at 6.30a.m. followed by breakfast at Copleston Hall and our Easter Morning Service at 9.00a.m.

On our Church railings we had illustrated pictures of the events of Holy week and in the Church porch window an "A-Z" covering every letter relating to the Easter story.

It was so pleasing to see some of our neighbours joining us for our Easter Morning Service. They enjoyed sharing in fellowship led by Rev. Cathy and remarked how they welcomed the delivery of the Palm Cross, the Holy Week story on the Church railings and now the joy of seeing the decorated "Jesus is Risen" cross and the Easter garden.

We continue to reach out and share the Good News Gospel with our neighbours and community.



ONLINE WORSHIP

Several churches in the circuit hold worship that is accessible online.

On Zoom:

Weekly from Radyr Methodist: for log in details contact radyrmc@gmail.com
Once or twice monthly from St Andrew's Methodist: for log in details contact office@cardiffmethodist.org.uk

On Facebook Live

weekly from Wesley Methodist Canton.
Details can be found on their Facebook Page
www.facebook.com/wesleycardiff

On YouTube (Live)

Weekly from Church of the Resurrection, St. Mellons. You can join from their website www.cotr.org.uk



THE TRINITY CENTRE: AN EXCITING UPDATE

We are glad to make this very exciting and long-awaited announcement! The Trinity Centre is about to initiate the long-awaited 'Sanctuary for All Project', which will see the building transform in a way that would provide our users with the best experience possible. On Tuesday 28th March, the National Heritage Fund announced a substantial grant to help us achieve our goal for wide ranging improvements to the building, to support more than 20 groups who are actively associated with us. Since then, several other major grants have been awarded, enabling us to inch towards our goal.

Standing tall in the City of Cardiff for over 126 years, our building is now in dire need of redevelopment in order to be fit for its purposes - to be a welcoming place for local communities to come together in a safe environment to share their experiences, access support, make new friends and learn new skills.

Some of the new features we hope to see in our redeveloped building will include:

- Improved access into and around the building
- The addition of a lift
- More and better toilets and baby-changing facilities
- A larger kitchen equipped to feed 80-100 people
- Creation of consultation rooms to allow for privacy
- New Food Bank access route for when other areas are in use or locked
- Flexible spaces with foldaway seating and tables to allow space to be adaptive
- New flooring and heating system
- Improved storage facilities, lighting and ventilation

We are incredibly grateful to our friends at Parkminster URC for agreeing to host the majority of our groups while Trinity is closed for the refurbishment. Their support has been overwhelming. Space4U will be relocating to St. Germans, and is accepting donations of food and clothing as usual.



The circuit-run Wednesday coffee morning and the toiletries bank will continue to operate out of Parkminster. So all will be within easy access of the city centre and Newport Road.

At time of writing we hope to begin decanting towards the end of may and into June. The team would be very grateful for your prayers at what will be an exciting but potentially challenging time.

If you would like to know more about the redevelopment, or learn how you can support the Centre, visit the new website: www.trinitycentre.wales

SPOTLIGHT ON:

Deacon Laura Evans

What job do / did you do?

Before training for ministry I worked at Morel Court MHA Care Home in Penarth, first as a care assistant and later an activities co-ordinator and chaplain.

After two years at theological college I was stationed to the south coast of England where I stayed for seven years.

These days I'm still causing trouble as a part-time Circuit minister in Cardiff, working with Conway Road and Llandaff North (from September). I also support the Trinity Centre and write the Circuit Newsletter.



What are your hobbies?

I love to grow vegetables, go camping, walking and/or kayaking – just being outside is wonderful. I also read history books, and write devotional books

Tell us one surprising thing about you:

I collect copies of 'The Guinness Book of Records' and have every edition produced since 1965, and most of the earlier ones, too. They're fascinating, especially when comparing records like 'smallest mobile phone' over time.

What is your favourite food?

Did someone say 'food'?! As long as it doesn't contain red meat or mushrooms I'm in. Bonus points if it's topped with cheese. Cake also features heavily.

How would you spend an unexpected £1000?

There would be books. Lots of books. Or possibly I'd start a model railway.

What is your favourite verse in the bible?

Zephaniah 3: 17. God delights in us even when we don't delight in ourselves.

What is your ambition?

To walk from Lands End to John O'Groats.

Who do you most admire?

A lady called Peggy. Peggy was a Sister in the NCH (now Action for Children). Wise, kind and honest, she never had her own children but received dozens of Mothering Sunday Cards from 'her boys and girls' around the world. A true Christian woman in every sense of the world and a real role-model to me.

What are your favourite books?

'The Lord of the Rings' is at the top of the list, but I have a huge soft spot for 'Oliver Twist'. It appeals to my passion for social/political history.

What is the best advice you've been given?

Never be afraid to ask a silly question. Others will have the same question but not the courage to ask.

What is the best thing about being part of The Cardiff Methodist Circuit?

People ask 'How are you?' and then wait for an answer. There is a real sense of community.