



December Key Events

4th Community
Sports Plus

4th Evening
Service at ACC

11th Carol
Service at
Sylvester Court
Hightown

16th Lunch Club
Christmas Meal
at ACC

18th All Age
Service led by
Junior Church

18th Carol
Service at ACC

25th Christmas
All Age service

Relay



This month our report is about Prayer from Frank and Val Collins. There is information about the Carol Services and an article about the weekend away - Have you booked your place!!

Scripture Focus for December Luke2:10-12

¹⁰ But the angel said to them, Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

¹¹ Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

Galatians 6:9-10

⁹ Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.



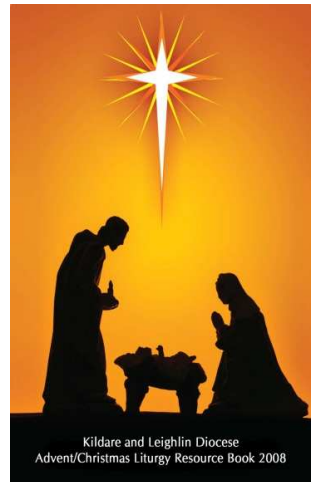
Leader's LogBe `ACTIVE` in Advent!!

We have just entered the Advent season - a time to reflect and prepare for the coming of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ. Whilst we often encourage each other to slow down and take time out during this period the reality is that it tends to fly by – life seems to accelerate with school concerts, carol services, Christmas shopping, catching up with family and relatives etc,etc and before we know it Christmas day has come and gone.

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him **Immanuel.**” **Isaiah 7:14**

“The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him **Immanuel**” —which means, “God with us.” **Matthew 1:23**

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”
Luke 2:10-12



Advent provides an opportunity for us to meet with God and tabernacle (dwell, fellowship) with him in a special way. How do we get the most out of it? We have to – as Captain Picard on the starship ‘Enterprise’ would say – ENGAGE. We have to intentionally make ourselves active in seeking the Lord.

We began Advent by thinking of and thanking God for, the Patriarchs and our ancestors in the faith – those who have gone before and given their lives to bring about God’s plans and purposes. Sometimes it helps to look back, as a spur, to going forward. Many of our ancestors in the faith would have used the Advent period as a means of preparing themselves for the high Holy day where the Christ Mass would be shared. This preparation would often express itself in a

period of fasting and prayer in the lead up to the high feasts of Christmas. Whatever it was that helped people to engage and be active, it was usually an outworking of Spiritual Disciplines.

Without Prayer - we go NOWHERE!!!!

Though not popular to moderns, historically Spiritual Disciplines have repeatedly been used as a means of maximising God's grace in the Christian life. They are tools designed to better equip us to live in God's world, God's way. They train and sharpen us in our on-going walk with Jesus. Without regular use we live impoverished Christian lives.

My strong encouragement and recommendation during this Advent is that we all intentionally look at engaging and being active in Spiritual Disciplines throughout this time of preparation. Let's do this so that we can truly meet with the Christ child 'Immanuel' this Christmas time.



In taking up this challenge, our lives, our worship, our witness, will all be blessed and more effective as a result.

ENGAGE – BE ACTIVE throughout Advent.

Love and prayers,

Every Blessing,

GARETH

Friday Morning Coffee and Craft

We have had a good start in the first month and have made Christmas Cards and gift boxes so far. We have 3 from Hightown and 3 young mums from ChristChurch who are regular attendees and would welcome any who would like to join us, either occasionally or otherwise. We meet at Sylvester Court every week at 9.30ish and finish 12ish! Bring your own work, cross stitch or knitting or whatever or join with us and learn a new skill. We give £2 into the fund for new materials.

Ros Whitaker

ChristChurch Weekend Away!



'Releasing a People of Power'

24th - 26th February 2012

Christmas is fast approaching (not that we all need reminding). Well, after that our weekend away will soon be here. If you haven't yet booked by giving your £20 deposit, Sally Griffiths is happy to relieve you of your money!

Joining us this year as our guest speaker is Abi Willetts of Ichthus, following our excellent weekend back in October. She will be speaking on the topic of 'Releasing a People of Power'. Russ and Lesley Howell will also be joining us to lead prayer sessions as well as to host seminars. They will also be available to talk over any pastoral needs we may have.

Meg and Gareth are going to provide some activities for our 0-4 yr olds and supervise them while they play. This will mean that all parents will have the opportunity to participate in the main speaking sessions with Abi. Ian Coules, from the Coverdale puppets will be joining us for our older children, with puppets too! There will be sessions for our older children during all of the main sessions for the adults including the evening sessions.

There will also be a chance for fun and fellowship during our mini Olympics on Saturday afternoon. There will be activities for all ages to compete and earn points for their teams!

We have booked the Pioneer Centre again. We have our own meeting room and all the accommodation is close by. The rooms all have en-suite facilities and there are 4 beds to a room. On each floor there is a lounge area and small kitchen.

"The weekend away is a good opportunity to step away from the home routine and chill out with church family and God!" Sally Ellinson.

To secure your place talk to Sally Griffiths. She will be able to tell you about the facilities and arrange to inform the Centre about specific dietary requirements. If you want more information about what's happening, about the provisions being made for children or about seminars or worship then speak to Lesley.

The weekend is an excellent time of worship, teaching, fun and fellowship and I encourage everyone to get involved!

Lesley Ap Dewi

PRAYER**December 2011**

In Nov 1995, not long after CCW was set up, Russ Howell came to speak on 1 Chronicles 12, the theme being Issachar people – he spoke on that theme again in Nov 2004 and again in Nov 2011. Each time he spoke, he highlighted the people ‘who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do’. When God says something 3 times to His people you know that it is not to be treated lightly.

We were reminded on Sunday that ‘without prayer we go nowhere’. When it comes down to it, there is no better way to determine our individual role and our corporate role as an Issachar people who understand the times, than to pray. As we now start the season of Advent, a time of waiting, we have the opportunity to wait for God and we are encouraged to find a time and place of quietness, and to pray. If we find that difficult, just pause before the beginning of what will be a busy day, and sit quietly and read Matthew 6 v 5 – 13; and having read it, pause, read it again slowly, and see if there are any words or phrases that stand out for you. If they do, write them on a card or little piece of paper and remind yourself of them again during the day. And at other times do the same with the prayers that Jesus prayed in John chapter 17 and allow God to show himself to us in His word.

So I pray that each of us would in this time of waiting, gain some small idea of what God has to say to us. And as you receive that, however small you feel it may be, please come and share it with us so that we may together join the pieces together and help us as CCW to understand together the times we are in.

Remember that there will always be people praying in the prayer room before the service on Sundays, and there are places set aside at the back of the hall where the team will be available to pray with us and encourage us.



Frank & Valerie



Take a look at www.north-wales-christian-events.co.uk – for Christian events across North West Wales

December Events



ACTON CAROL SERVICE

On Sunday December 18th CCW is hosting a Christmas Carol Service at Acton Community Centre for the residents of Acton. The service will be from 4 to 4.45pm followed by cakes and drinks. It will be for all ages, including activities for children. We will be inviting people who attend Catch, C2 and Lunch Club as well as local residents. If you would like to be involved with this service in any way e.g. setting up, reading, singing, providing cake, serving drinks, AV, PA; please let Sally Ellinson know.

CAROLS AND FESTIVE TEA AT HIGHTOWN

We are able to have our Carol concert at Sylvester Court, free of charge, and have a ready audience of residents who are thrilled we are holding it there.

As an outreach to the folks of Hightown we have invited them to choose their favourite Carols and two of the residents will give readings. If any of you are able to provide something towards tea we would be grateful and please see Ros. So please join us on Sunday 11th December at 4.30 p.m with tea to follow after our carols.



No Room at the Inn

**“No room at the Inn!
You can’t mean it God!
There’s no place to stay
after walking all this way?
You say there’s a stable
where we should be able
to manage the Birth?
Oh no! That’s for a horse!”
We might have said that,
they didn’t of course.**

**They were God’s Chosen Ones,
Mary and Joseph, the elected ones.
They, with unswerving devotion,
would nurture the Saviour
Who would set in motion
God’s Grand Plan
To save all His children
Lost in the dark.**

Mary Birch

OUR HYMNS: THE GREAT SONGS OF FAITH

Soon we will be singing the familiar words of carols to celebrate the birth of Jesus, so this time of year seems just right to start a series in RELAY on the traditional hymns of our faith. In this series we will be looking at some of our congregation's favourite hymns, to see how they can enrich our worship, and we can learn something of how they were written and why today they are someone's favorite! We are hoping then to use these hymns in our worship during the months ahead.

It was 1739, the year after his wonderful conversion that Charles Wesley, hearing the bells ring as he walked to church on Christmas Day, wrote 'a hymn for Christmas Day'. We know it today as 'Hark the herald angels sing'. The words are packed full of the truths of our faith, helping us proclaim just why Jesus was born, and how His birth means we ourselves can today be 'born again'.....

...Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings; mild, he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die, born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth!

Wesley invites every singer to marvel at what God has done for them. Just think about these words.....

**Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies,
With the angelic host proclaim.....Christ is born in Bethlehem!
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with men to dwell.....Jesus, our Emmanuel.**



I used to love singing these words at school carol concerts (with 4 children, we went to loads of those concerts!). It was a great opportunity to pray for all the parents, staff and pupils as we gathered around, singing the words of faith with great gusto....'Oh Lord please help us all to experience and know something of these wonderful truths'...
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!

Now for a secret! Wesley wrote two extra verses, which today we rarely sing. Perhaps having told you about them, we could ask our Worship leaders to insert the verses in some of our Advent services. The verses are full of more of the wonder of what God did for us that first Christmas, and our Christmas prayer for our world today. Here they are!

**Come, Desire of nations, come, Fix in us thy humble home;
Rise, the woman's conquering seed, Bruise in us the serpent's head.
Now display Thy saving power, Ruined nature now restore;
Now in mystic union join Thine to ours, and ours to Thine. Hark the herald....
Adam's likeness, Lord, efface; Stamp Thy image in its place.
Second Adam from above, Reinstat us in Thy love.
Let us Thee, though lost, regain, Thee, the life, the inner Man:
O! to all Thyself impart, Form'd in each believing heart. Hark the herald....**



Let us ponder the truths within these words and this year, use them to make our Advent services times of great expectation.....for it won't be too long before God willing, we can sing again on Christmas Day.. **'Glory to the new born King!'**

Art

ChristChurch Monthly Rotas

	4 th Dec	11 th Dec	18 th Dec	25 th Dec
		communion	offering	communion
Setting Up	Richard	Gareth	Art	Peter
PA	Rob & Adrian	Eth & Colin	James & Meg	James & Meg
IT	Lucas	Lucas	Campbell	TBC
Music Group Leader	Huw	Colin	Rhys	Huw
Service Leader	Mike Elliott	Lesley Ap Dewi	Junior Church Liz Jones	Gareth
Speaker	Gareth	Gareth	Junior Church Liz Jones	Gareth
Tea	Glenys, Marilyn, Rosemary	Andrew, Elizabeth	Lucy, Meg	No tea/coffee
Crèche	Lucy	Sally E	All Age Service	All Age Service
Little Ones	Sally G	Andrew & Liz		
Junior Church	Community Sport Plus	Glenys Liz Jones	▼	▼

If you have any queries please call Gareth Jones - ChristChurch Team Leader on 07545 866597 (01978 354805),

see our website www.christchurchwrexham.org.uk,

or see www.facebook.com/ChristChurchWrexham

or send us an email - admin@christchurchwrexham.org.uk

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