

Key Events

6th Early
Celebration,
Discovery
Church, The
Meeting Place,
Walk this Way.
#Sundaze

12th
Thanksgiving for
Charlie

13th Leaders
Meeting
Zambia
Feedback at The
Community
Church

17th Leaders'
Huddle and
Meeting

18th StepUp
Begins

20th Christians
Together in
Wrexham united
service at Rock
Chapel

31st Christians
Together in
Wrexham
Quarterly
Meeting

Relay



*Welcome to the January edition of the
ChristChurch Relay magazine.*

Scripture Focus for January - Phil 3:12-16

¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. Following Paul's Example ¹⁵ All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. ¹⁶ Only let us live up to what we have already attained.



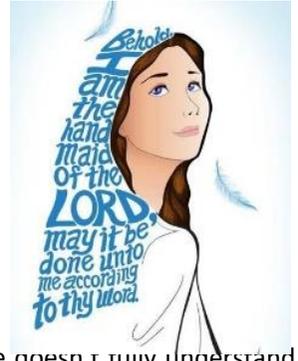
Junior Church Nativity in December

Leader's Log**Heaven touching Earth – RECALIBRATE!!**

When Jesus moved into the neighbourhood of planet earth (**John 1:14**) heaven touched earth in so many differing miraculous ways. The people involved all had to adapt & respond appropriately to the amazing things that God was doing in, around, & through them via the activity of the Holy Spirit and the angelic.

Set your minds
on things that
are above,
not on things that
are on earth.
Colossians 3:2

They didn't understand (Mary) & didn't like (Joseph) what was happening. Nevertheless, they had to change their way of thinking & get attuned, and in alignment, with what God was doing. Mary & Joseph are examples revealing to us how this can be done.



Mary welcomes the word & work of God in her even though she doesn't fully understand what God is doing or how it can happen. She embraces the mystery of God in her life & trusts the message delivered through an angel. Joseph is seriously alarmed when he hears what Mary has to say & plans to cast her aside (divorce) quietly until he gets revelation from the Lord. There is a recalibration that goes on in him so that he is able to hear the Lord clearly through dreams (3 times the Lord uses this powerfully). There is a change in both thinking & practise. Their hearts take them places their heads are struggling to go. Mary pondered all these things in her heart (**Luke 2:19**). That is the place to ponder the mysteries of the Lord – our hearts. Until we get it in our hearts our minds might keep us from the things God has for us because we usually want to understand everything before we embrace it.

What that means is we become the defining factor in what God can do in our lives where the reality is that the Holy Spirit does not want to be either controlled or constrained.

Heavenly Minded
for
Earthly Good



Whenever it comes to the activity of the Holy Spirit, we have to trust that God is a good, good Father who only wants what is best for us. He is ever ready to give us His Spirit but are we always ready to receive?

When our hearts are attuned and aligned to God's will, words, works and ways, the renewing of our minds can readily follow. Some of our precious theology and tradition has to change if we are to fully flow with God & embrace & encounter all He has for us in & through the Holy Spirit.

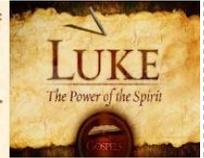
My prayer is that we would all develop greater freedom & sensitivity to the activity of the Holy Spirit in our lives & gatherings.

Jesus, RECALIBRATE, our hearts & our heads so that we might keep moving more freely with you. He did it for Mary & Joseph, & He can, & will, do it for us.

Love and prayers,
Blessings,

GARETH 

“Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?



If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

Luke 11:9-13

Do you have a ministry in praying with others?

Earlier in the year 5 of us went on the basic Sozo training in Hoole, Chester. Sozo is a Holy Spirit inspired prayer encounter with God that is life changing. I would encourage anyone who regularly prays with and for others – that is in one to one, face to face rather than for family and friends at a distance, to find out more about Sozo. To gain more experience and training we are currently exploring ways of joining together with The Community Church Sozo prayer team.

I have become more enthusiastic about Sozo as a means of encountering God in a way that works for all of us at any time. We all need and value encounters with God. Sozo is a great way for us to do this, and to enable others to do so too. We've had an invitation from the Community Church to join with them in their training for Sozo. I've attached the programme. If you would like to know more about these training sessions then please phone Andrew – 265637/ 07949530421

Training for Sozo prayer ministry. Wednesdays, 8pm @ The Community Church offices

9 th Jan – Forgiveness	6 th March – Practice the Four Doors
23 rd Jan – Father Ladder Tool	20 th March – The Wall & Presenting Jesus
6 th Feb – Father Ladder Demo	3 rd April - Practice the Wall & Presenting Jesus
13 th Feb – Practice the Father Ladder	1 st May - Presenting Issue Demo
27 th Feb – Love Languages & The Four Doors Tool	

17th and 18th May - Basic Sozo Training Conference at The Community Church.

Hungarian customs during the Winter Holidays by Szabina

In Hungary we celebrate Winter Holidays a little bit different than here in the UK.

On 5th December evening every little children have to tidy one of their boots and put it into the window or next to the front door. During the night Santa comes and fills it with a sachet, which is full of with sweets, peanuts, orange or tangerine. If somebody behaved badly during the year, beside these gifts, they can get some coals or gold coloured twigs as a symbol of punishment. The following morning on 6th December, children can open their presents and eat all of the good things which they got from Santa.

On 24th December is the most important day in Hungarian families life. This is Christmas

Eve, when we are waiting for Jesus' coming. That morning we decorate our home and start to decorate the Christmas tree, as well. Most families start to prepare their food this day, but some of them start it the previous day. Christmas menu is fish soup with fresh white bread, stuffed cabbage (pickled cabbage leaf filled with spicy minced meat) with sour cream, fried fish with mashed potato, poppy seed and walnut roll, and Gerbeaud cake (sweet layered pastry filled with walnut cream and apricot jam). We eat these dishes not only for Christmas Eve as a supper, but also for a few days. After the meal a bell rings, which signs us that little Jesus has come into our home and left some presents for us under the Christmas tree. Then we open our gifts and spend some time together. On 25th and 26th December we visit our relatives and friends.



On 31st December is New Year's Eve. Most of the families have a party at home with relatives and friends, but there are many people who like going into the heart of the city and waiting for the New Year at there. Usually the menu is jelly (made from broth), pickled cabbage soup, lentil soup or stew with frankfurter, grilled pork and fried fish with mashed potato, cheesy or salty cake (good accompaniment to beer), strudel (poppy seed, butternut squash, sour cherry, cottage cheese...) and doughnut with apricot jam. At midnight there is a little stop in the celebration when we sing the national anthem of Hungary and listen to the Hungarian president's speech for the New Year, then we continue the celebration until we can.

I hope you will have a very blessed and happy New Year! God bless all of you! :)

Note about move of the Holy Spirit

Dear CCW, A brief note follows to help us all understand & process what the Lord was doing amongst on Sunday 9th December. When the Lord's presence comes with power there are going to be differing & mixed responses & emotions that surface within us, this was the case on Sunday.

What may have been a surprise to some was to see people falling or being 'slain in the spirit' as they were prayed for.

The Old Testament is full of examples of people experiencing or reacting in strange ways to the presence, power and spirit of God on, or in, their lives.

www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/ecstasy-bible
Being slain in the spirit is in many senses an ecstatic experience with the Lord. In our experience people fall backwards, people fall flat and people fall forwards. At times people are thrown off their feet. While there are no clear-cut biblical texts justifying being slain in the spirit, there are many indicating that people fall in the presence of God.

In Jesus' ministry, how does he walk through an angry crowd about to throw him off a cliff in Luke 4 and in John 18:6 when he reveals who he truly is, I AM, everyone in the garden instantly falls flat (slain in the spirit). When the spirit falls at Pentecost in Acts 2, those affected are speaking and staggering like drunk people (no doubt falling too).

A couple of helpful articles: <https://bit.ly/29ds4yn> <https://bit.ly/2LUrcxW>

Manifestations are not indicators of what is, or what is not happening, they are simply momentary (or sometimes longer) reactions or responses.

We don't place massive weight on the manifestations but look and wait on the fruit - this takes time to grow & mature!! If it is of the Lord it will last and fruit. Like begets like.

Revival history is full of these types of things. Read Wesley or Whitfield's autobiographies for examples - people falling out of trees, trembling and falling over.

It was also a characteristic of the Welsh revival. The Quakers got their name because they shook and trembled as the power and Spirit of God fell in their gatherings. In many old Salvation Army buildings, you find big deep shelves at the back. This is where the caretaker left people sleeping under the power of God. He would go home to leave them to sleep and they would get let out the next morning!!!

We are never looking for manifestations but we would always encourage people to experience encounter with God. In our experience being slain in the spirit can take place through the laying on of hands, through spoken words or just the presence and power of God falling. A deep and lasting encounter with God is not dependant on falling or the laying on of hands. When the presence of God intensifies in a gathering & people start falling (being slain) it is however an evidence of the Holy Spirit at work.

At times like these three responses are common:

- What God is doing (the work / activity of the Holy Spirit)
- What our flesh is doing in response (physical & / or emotional reactions in us)
- The manifestation of the demonic (it can mimic / counterfeit) The gospels reveal that Jesus' presence regularly led to the manifestation of the demonic in people.

In relation to fleshly responses, people's different personalities and temperaments will definitely play a part. So, we will encounter under-reaction and over-reaction. If consistent over-reactions, or attention seeking, become a distraction then they need to, & will, be pastorally addressed.

We will continue to welcome the presence & power of the Lord & at appropriate times provide catchers & covers to provide the most sensitive pastoral environment for those responding.

We trust this note brings reassurance to all at CCW & are happy to chat further if it would help. If you can read Jonathan Edwards book Treatise concerning religious affections

Love & prayers, Blessings, CCW Leadership Team.

#Sundaze

Who we are: A missional community for youth in Year 5 upwards and those who want to be involved!

When we meet: First Sunday of the month, usually 10.30-12 at ACRC and then a mid-month social activity usually out somewhere.

What we did last term: September – chatted / prayed / made cupcakes & played board games. October – made Harvest boxes and gave them to local people on their own via ChristChurch contacts & went bowling with friends and family. November – talked about Halloween and asked each other life questions to make us think about Christian beliefs & had hot chocolate and marshmallows round a fire. December – cooked Christmas lunch for families and shared it together!

What we're going to do next term: January – craft / song sharing / life questions & Philippa Hanna concert in Stafford. February – visit another church, maybe in Liverpool & walk at Ty Mawr. March – make pancakes / share songs / life questions & Flip Out (trampolines or climbing). April - Easter talk / hunt. May – beach trip and Taize service.

Who to contact if you're interested: Andrew & Liz Williams or John & Sally Ellinson

Update from CCW Youth Worker – Adam Butterworth

Hey everyone, I want to try and keep this short and sweet. First of all, for those of you that have taken praying for the youth work at ChristChurch and for me, thank you. I understand a lot of us feel really run down this season. Which is why I'm especially thankful for those of you that are praying for us, it's been a huge benefit to us these first

few months and will be really important these coming months.

Over the last few months, God spoke to me a lot about patience and pace. Originally coming into the post, I wanted to do a huge amount very quickly, but what Gareth says is very true "we often over estimate what we can do in a month but underestimate what we can do in a year." God has blessed me with a season in which I used to understand what my role means for CCW and in which I have developed deeper relationships with the young people who have been coming to Tin Can and C2.

Tin Can hosted its first Youth Alpha which I helped host. Another great opportunity to see where a lot of the young people are at currently, with regards to what they believe, and gives us great insight with how to go forward with setting up another group with the idea of Going deeper with the C2 lot in the new year.

My work with School Pastors has given me a great opportunity to interact with the young people and to do assemblies, and I'm praying that the Lord would give me an opportunity to grow CCW's influence at Rhosnesni.

In C2 I've seen a lot of the volunteers grow enormously in confidence with the young people and their understanding of our vision going forward. We are seeing a culture change which I'm hoping will come to fruition with a new group that aims at growing deeper in the new year. I've had a lot of great conversations with some kids, I've had two specifically tell me that from the C2 challenge they've started believing in the idea of God, which is a great place to start!

Prayer pointers - These next few months are going to see more changes with my role. So, there's quite a lot to pray for!

1: Conferences, I'm hoping to further develop as a youth leader by going to conferences, please pray for wisdom with regard to what conferences and also please pray that I could get the most out of them also and use it wisely for CCW and the kingdom.

2: Camps, it's that time of year when we are starting to think about taking the young people to camps and what Camp will look like in the summer. Please pray that the lord will highlight to us who he wants us to take and that he would make the young people's hearts ready to receive him in fullness!

3: Finally, I think it would be of great benefit to us if you could pray for the new meeting we plan on setting up. That young people will come and that God would use it as a place to change these young people's lives, to bring them into the kingdom. God bless!

Update from CCW Children's Worker – Sarah Davies

I'm writing this the week before the Christmas Nativity Celebration, which Junior Church have been preparing for. It's been a busy few months with them, and as I get to know our church children better, I feel even more privileged to be in a position to teach them. They are brilliant.

Tiddlers (toddlers) is also going well. We've had 11-13 parents, and their children, each week so far. A new family came to Discovery Church because of a connection to the toddler group, which was encouraging for us. Sally and Sue have been invaluable in supporting me and the group, but we may need more help in the New Year - if anyone is available on Thursday mornings, please get in touch.

I'll also be teaming up with St Margaret's Church in January to support 'Open the Book,' which is an introduction to the Bible for primary school children. It is a programme

created by the Bible Society, acting out Bible stories. There's very little preparation and time commitment required. Please come and see me if you'd like to be involved! They would like to be able to go into two schools (Wat's Dyke and Acton), but currently only have enough people to 'man' one team. It'd be an answer to prayer to have more people on board.

Thank you all, again, for your prayer, support and encouragement; it has been much appreciated... I have needed it! Thank you again. Sarah :)

Cefn MC: Sharing with Cefn Mawr "THE SECRET OF HAPPINESS"

"The Meeting Place" opens its doors again at the CRNCA Centre on Sunday 6th January 2019. We'll have cuppas & cakes from 10.15am, for a 10.30am start. Other dates are: 3rd February, 3rd March and 7th April - please pray for us as we plan, prepare and put on these outreach events.

Our theme in the New Year gatherings will be: "The Secret of Happiness" based on the teaching of Jesus in Matthew 5: 1 –12, often called the Beatitudes. We hope to help all who come along find the way to a more fulfilling life, now and forever.

At "The Meeting Place" we dare to have fun, then chat about our reactions to a topic and learn more about it together, as we enjoy something cakey with a cuppa of your choice. We've craft and colouring, toys and a toddler area too - there really is something for EVERYONE!

"The Meeting Place" welcomes all sorts of people from all sorts of churches locally - and none! If they come, they BELONG! We also have monthly open Social evenings on a Thursday from 7-9pm. There's some snacky food (unless its Harvest!), pool and table games but mostly time to chat with friends old and new. In October we had a good number of "guests" at our Harvest Supper and a bigger meal! In November we marked the Remembrance 100 anniversary with a sculpture of the 1914 Christmas Truce borrowed from Cefn Druids FC where Paul Day is the Club Chaplain. We heard about young Percy from Cefn who died at the front only weeks before the war ended. His story was discovered when a history professor found his letters home to his girlfriend in Vron (Froncysyllte). It was very moving to hear about Percy and to share in some simple readings and prayers of thanksgiving for the sacrifice of so many and the peace we enjoy today.



Sculptured by Andy Edwards, Photographed by E. Coulson.

In December we hosted a CEFN COMMUNITY CAROLS with special guests Ysgol Cefn Mawr Choir. Nearly 80 local people of all ages enjoyed the Carols and Christmas-y refreshments that followed. A good time was had by all and the good news of God's wonderful gift of Jesus was shared!

2018 was a good year of consolidation of our mission & ministry in Cefn Mawr and we look forward to seeing new shoots from the seed we've been sowing as we approach the 2nd Birthday of "The Meeting Place". Please join with us in prayer for a spiritual harvest in the borderlands we serve.

ChristChurch Monthly Rotas

	6 th	13 th	20 th	27 th
		communion	Offering	communion
Setting Up	Gareth	Andrew	Richard	Rob
PA		Eth, Colin	Eth, Colin	Eth, Colin
IT	Rob	Dan	Dan	Rob
Music Group		Adam	Huw	John
Celebration Leader	Sue	Sue	Rob	Sue
Speaker	Sue	Gareth	Gareth	Gareth
Prayer Team	Frank, Val	Paul, Gill	Alan, Sue	Liz, Lucy
Tea	Marilyn, Elaine	Dorothy, Natasha, Lynsey	Paul, Gill, Gerry	John, Ffion, Lucy
Mega & Mini Quest	No Junior Church	Katy, Sarah	Bekki, Andrew, Liz	Sally G, Sarah
EAT		Kev	Kev	Kev

If you have any queries please call Gareth Jones - ChristChurch Senior Church Leader on 01978 354805, or see

www.christchurchwrexham.org.uk
admin@christchurchwrexham.org.uk
www.facebook.com/christchurchwrexham
 twitter @ChristChurchWxm



we meet at the following location

Acton Community Resource Centre
 Overton Way
 Acton
 Wrexham LL12 7LB



Our postal address is
 ChristChurch, c/o 7 Heol Penally, Little Acton, Wrexham, LL12 8JT