

# ChristChurch Wrexham



January 2020

## Relay



Welcome to the January edition of the  
ChristChurch Relay magazine

### Key Dates

5<sup>th</sup> Early  
Celebration,  
Discovery Church,  
The Meeting place,  
Walk this Way,  
#Sundaze

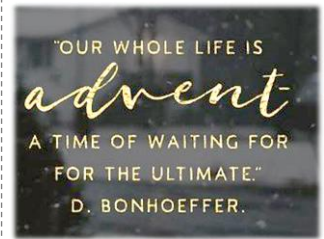
12<sup>th</sup> Leaders  
Meeting

16<sup>th</sup> Leaders  
Huddle

19<sup>th</sup> Zambian  
Feedback  
Christians Together  
United Service

### Scripture Focus for January - Jeremiah 29:11-13

<sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. <sup>12</sup> Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. <sup>13</sup> You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.



Junior Church led the Celebration on 22<sup>nd</sup> December with great songs, brilliant sketch by Lesley and Sarah, the Nativity by Mega Quest and Mini Quest and a fun sketch by the EAT group. Here are some photos

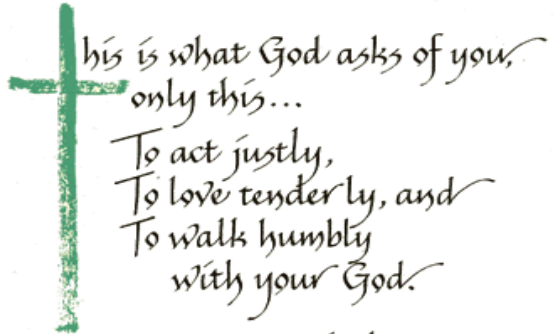


## Leaders Log

**Walking with the King of Kings.**

As we head into the New Year that is 2020, I am sure that many churches will be highlighting & launching 2020 visions. For me it is about keeping things simple & getting back to basics. Everything must stem & flow from our relationship with God. That is why I commend to you this well-known & much-loved verse from Micah 6 as a focus for 2020.

He has shown you, O man,  
what is good; And what does  
the Lord require of you. But to  
do justly, To love mercy, And  
to walk humbly with your  
God? **Micah 6:8**



*micah 6:8*

Through Christ's redeeming sacrifice we have the awesome privilege of having a relationship with the King of Kings. We walk with Him, we talk with Him. If we get that core relationship right then we will get life right too. Favour & blessing will follow us & flow out to bring blessing to others. Walking in loving kindness (mercy) & acting justly flow out of humbly walking (communing) with our God. If we get these three things right, we will be getting a lot right & putting a lot of things right. That is something I can get excited about.

To aid us in getting our relationship with God right we need to be a praying people. People that relearn what it is to pray with passion, zeal and fervency. Prayers that move us if we expect them to move God. We must increasingly lay aside our fear & mistrust of emotion so that we can give ourselves more fully to prayer. Prayer that is full of passion, energy & raw emotion. We are provided many examples of such prayer in the psalms. It seems a world away from the prayer we often share together which is so sedate & polite!! Prayer that makes and brings breakthroughs will cost us time & energy but that is a price we must be willing to pay

The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. James 5:16b.

Prayer - secret, fervent,  
believing prayer - lies at the  
root of all personal godliness.

William Carey

The prayers and supplications that Christ offered up were, joined with strong cries and tears, herein setting us example not only to pray, but to be fervent and importunate in prayer. How many dry prayers, how few wet ones, do we offer up to God! **Matthew Henry**



## Feedback from trip to Zambia

Going to Zambia was an incredible journey for me. To see God's faithfulness and His daily steadfast love and mercy increased my faith and delight in Him.

It was such a big decision to go. God has always promised to be with me, that I had nothing to fear and that I needed to trust in Him. But my challenge was to really believe His promises to me.

From a personal view I was aware of God's strength sustaining me, keeping me healthy, and protecting us during some long journeys. Every day I knew He was with me and His presence real.

We were so welcomed by the people in Zambia and the Congo. The families we stayed with were so generous and open.

It was lovely working in a team with Gareth, Alan and Sue. God used each of us to speak His word and minister and pray for many people.

It was so amazing to join the worship in each church we attended. There is much less inhibition in their praises to God. In an atmosphere of deep worship, God was able to move in power. It was so wonderful to see people saved, healed and delivered.

I thank God for this opportunity and His faithfulness to me. I also thank you for all the many prayers prayed for us.

God is working His purposes out in each of our lives and in the people and churches of Zambia and Congo.

It was a privilege and humbling to be a part of the work going on in that part of Africa. Thank you, Jean



**Encouragement shared by Natasha Morris on Facebook** - When you suffer from a mental illness like depression, you often see the world differently and perception is definitely altered. Attention and memory is also altered. One thing that has really helped me is knowing the Lord, Jesus. My last post was about Jesus changing me and that can only be a good thing. If you have not given your life to Christ, that is ok, but it would be so cool and awesome if you did. The benefits do outweigh any cost... as all costs are paid for on the cross. I hope everyone has a great new year and if it's a resolution you want, then come to Christ, get to know Him. There is so much more to being a Christian than reading the Bible and praying. For me it is a relationship with my heavenly father. I know people who have known me for a long time may find this a little strange as I was a secular person for about 20 years, but God does change you and your outlook. I will be praying for His vision in and on things for 2020. True enough there are days when I feel I cannot cope, but God is always there, He's there for me and there for you too! :) Bless all of you.





In December we held a Christmas Fun Day at the community centre. We had a number of people attend from church and from outside the church, including some work colleagues of Discovery MC.

We had a number of “stations” with Christmas craft along with a great selection of cakes! Half way through we did an interactive nativity with the kids and shared the Gospel!

It went very well and we received a number of positive comments and feedback, and we were able to have good conversations with the parents and tell them about Discovery Church.

Thank you from all the members of Discovery MC for all your support and prayers over 2019. We feel very blessed.



**CEFN MC UPDATE** - We had a busy time approaching Christmas as shared in church a few weeks ago. Our **Cefn Community Carols** was later than usual, on the 19<sup>th</sup>, to accommodate our regular “guests”, the Ysgol Cefn Mawr Choir. Sadly, a virus reduced the number of children who could come (from up to 30 down to just 9!) – some were unwell and others were at the DanceZone Party that had been moved to the same evening because of the virus! However, the Choir still gave of their best and were much enjoyed, though of course there were fewer supporting parents and grandparents. Even so, the Nativity story and its true meaning were shared with nearly 30 community members, through Readings and Carols, the Talk, and the Hope for Christmas magazines we gave away. One of our long-term “associates” was very taken with the Lauren Daigle song, “Noel”, that we used... but still hasn’t joined us at *The Meeting Place* cafechurch – YET! We pray on!

There were fewer residents in the lounge at Plas Bod Llywd for our annual Carols and Christmas message on the 12<sup>th</sup> December, but our visit was much appreciated, as were the little gifts a MC member had made, and the Hope magazines we gave them. The MC regulars enjoyed a warming fellowship supper afterwards and were encouraged by a film clip and song that reminded us that the little light of God each of us carries can penetrate the darkness, and is more powerful still when we join our light together.

I spent Boxing Day afternoon in my **Chaplaincy role at Cefn Druids AFC** and would value prayer for this servant ministry, which will have had 10-11 hours of my time this week, with two midweek training sessions and a match on Saturday. I’m praying about this “extravagant” use of time and about the best use of my time serving the MC as well.

At *The Meeting Place* we’re taking a break from the “I am” Sayings as we think about Love on 2<sup>nd</sup> February and then St. David (and the Welsh nation) on 1<sup>st</sup> March. This allows us to look at Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life, on Palm Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> April.

Meanwhile, in our weekly Thursday night gatherings I hope to be leading us in an exploration of our personal and corporate witness/evangelism, focusing on the Engel Scale (assessing where people are at spiritually and seeking to move them forward step by step); sowing, reaping, keeping (what relationships, methods, events, etc. are sowing opportunities, which are reaping opportunities, and how we disciple people and keep them in the church gathering) and the Octogon LifeShape (from the Missional Community stable) looking, amongst other things, at finding the “persons of peace” in our community. Hopefully, this will equip us individually and help to shape our future outreach together as well as amongst our personal circles of influence and engagement. If you would like to share in this “course” and are free on Thursday evenings, please speak to me or email me at paulgday@btinternet.com

Thank you for your prayer support and interest which we still need and appreciate.  
Paul (and Gill) Day

### **A small blog of my trip to Romania! By Dorothy Watson**

Team all arrived safely with no catastrophes, good plane journey but long minibus journey of 3 hrs to get to our hotel in Braila. After a good night's sleep and hearty breakfast, we set off to load the boxes into a trailer on the back of the bus. We then drove to our first distribution in a kindergarten, they were very excited and the noise deafening as they opened their boxes. Then we saw a little girl crying in the corner and the teacher said she was upset as she didn't get anything she had asked Father Christmas for!! I found another box, sat her on my knee and hoped she would be ok with this one. Fortunately smiles and no more tears! I never did find out what she wanted!!



We went into some very poor schools with mainly gypsy children, again the boxes giving great joy, suddenly a lot of poorly dressed parents came into the classroom and the teacher explained that they wanted to thank us for bringing the gifts for their children. They then came across to hug us (I avoided the men!) and got kisses on the cheek from the big mamas!! Tomorrow we have an early start and drive on to Tulcea, approx 2 hrs with a thirty minute ferry ride. We stay here for 3 nights and will be going into the villages and churches

**Blog 2!** Busy day visiting schools and gypsy communities. Whoops of joy from the boys when they find a car in their box! Later we visited another gypsy community in a very small church where it was not very organised chaos, again the big mamas push forward to get more boxes, they glare at you when you refuse! Today off to the gypsy villages to go into their houses, we are splitting into 3 groups so we can interact with the children, it will be very muddy so hope I remain vertical!!



**Blog 3!** Very full day today, up 7am out 8 am, first to a school for children with learning difficulties, they did a lovely concert for us with singing and dancing, they also gave us all beautiful handmade Christmas cards. We then started distributing the boxes. The children all went into their various classrooms and we just mingled. I went into one room with just one little boy and his teacher. She recognised me from last year and told me the little boy was

George who got a Thomas the tank engine last year called George! Out of all the children, 800 in all with 400 teachers I got George, coincidence, I don't think so!

We went from there to the gypsy villages, horrendous mud, very dodgy, the children were in their houses and we took the boxes to them. It was a very dull and misty day today and no lights in the houses but managed a few pics. One house had 14 children looked after by 2 grandmas as the parents had gone to Portugal and Sweden to beg! The grandma came in and gathered up all the boxes to hide as we were told others would come and steal!

We went in the afternoon to another very poor school and again more singing with the teacher playing a beautiful violin. Then more villages and more mud but it was beginning to get dark so next was a distribution to a lot of foster children, back to hotel 8 pm.

Tomorrow we are off to visit some islands with 150 boxes, couldn't go last year as poor weather, it should be an experience. Another couple on the team are Christians so we manage to have a short prayer time each day, God is good and very faithful, He is with me all the way.

**Blog 4!** Another fun packed day, up and out early to catch a small boat taking us to a school on an island on the Danube. The boxes were loaded onto one boat and the team on another. It was quite choppy as it went at speed! In all it was an hour there and the same back. It was only a small school with about 150 children. They were dressed in traditional costume and sang some songs for us. We left there to go to another gypsy school where we gave out more boxes. Tomorrow we do our last distribution before going on to our last hotel near Constanza. Whilst there I am booking in for a massage and a dip in the pool, my body needs it!! All in all great trip, no major problems, but looking forward to my own bed! Hope to see you all Sunday



**Final blog!** Once again up and out early, first to load the cartons on the trailer then drive to the first school. Because they knew we were coming they had prepared loads of food, some in the picture, and also some lovely traditional dancing. We gave out the boxes around the various classrooms and as we go around to cut the sellotape they open the lid and the noise erupts! The most popular item for any age boy is a car or tractor in fact anything with wheels! They all love a cuddly toy whatever their age. We then went into a huge hall absolutely packed with children and parents as they were doing their Christmas show. From the tinies in white ballet dresses and the boys in white who stole the show! It then progressed up the classes, we had to go so left the boxes for the teachers to give out.

We have now moved to near Constanza in the Danube delta in a very posh hotel as our reward for all the hard work! We only stay a night as tomorrow we drive to the airport in Bucharest for our flight home. To sum up, I have seen desperate poverty and filth but giving out a small box full of goodies brings such joy. When teams4u decided to do shoeboxes again 6 years ago we only had about 4,000 and this year from around 25 various warehouses up and down the country we had around 63,000!!

We are doing shoeboxes in Uganda for the first-time next April and I am fortunate to be going, in fact flights are already booked! Thanks to all who did a shoebox this year, they really do make a difference in a child's life. God is good all the time, all the time God is good !

	5 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>
		Communion	Offering	Communion
Setting Up	Gareth	Andrew	Richard	Rob
IT	Rob	Dan	Dan	Rob
PA		Huw/Rhys	Adrian/Rob	Huw/Rhys
Music Group	Natasha	Adam	John	John, Liz
Celebration Leader	Sue	Liz	Rob	Sue
Speaker	Gareth	Andrew	Gareth	Gareth
Prayer Team	Frank, Val	Marilyn, Lucy	Paul, Gill	Alan, Sue
Tea	Andrew, Liz	John, Ffion, Lynsey	Lucy, Angela, Rhianna	Jennie, Bill, Natasha
Mega Quest	No Junior Church	Sarah, Genni	Jean, Bekki	Sarah, Katy
EAT		Kev, Sally	Kev, Sally	Kev, Sally

If you have any queries please call  
Gareth Jones – ChristChurch Senior Church Leader on 01978 354805

[www.christchurchwrexham.org.uk](http://www.christchurchwrexham.org.uk)  
[admin@christchurchwrexham.org.uk](mailto:admin@christchurchwrexham.org.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/christchurchwrexham](https://www.facebook.com/christchurchwrexham)

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

