

CONWAY ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

NOTICE SHEET – January 2021



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Dear All,

As I write this 2020 is coming to a close. It may leave behind it some precious personal memories but in the main it has been a uniquely awful year. Hopefully, the advances in vaccination will enable us to move out of the pandemic during the first half of 2021.

In a fortnight I begin a sabbatical in which I will seek to wrestle with the question of where do we find hope when the world seems to be in chaos. I shall be studying insights of a number of thinkers and hopefully engage with organisations that bring hope where there is despair. I look forward to sharing what I have learned when in April I return to active work in the Circuit.

I hope to have some time for relaxation. Sadly, I do not expect to be able to enjoy any real travel but as things open up I may take some opportunities of personal enrichment. I shall be living at the manse but not engaging in church matters. Please do not be shy of approaching me if you see me around, but Rev Alana Lawrence and Rev Alexis Mahoney will be providing pastoral cover in my absence.

I do not make New Year's Resolutions as my success rate in keeping them is precisely nil. I do though have hopes for the coming year. As a nation I hope that as we rebuild, we shall be strongly prioritising the needs of the poor and vulnerable. We cannot rebuild ethically on the basis of their continued suffering. As church I hope we will rebuild by recognising that our future lies in looking ahead with flexibility. During the pandemic we have held together and supported each other. We shall need as we go forward to explore how we communicate our faith. I hope that we can begin the process of developing our prayer and Bible study life further. We need to be able give a reason for the hope within us. This means coming to appreciate that the pandemic is not just a challenge to our faith but actually something through which we are led to reinvigorate that faith. Finally, I do hope that in our communities we shall continue to be more appreciative of those who in the past were not appreciated as much as they ought to be. I believe that with kindness we can see how we are all connected to one another.

Anyhow that is enough for now. Please stay safe so that we might be able to appreciate the better times that lie ahead.

Your friend and minister, Paul Martin



Sunday Services

There will be no services at Conway Road Methodist throughout January. Services for the first three Sundays in January (3rd, 10th and 17th) will be led by Rev. Paul Martin and can be accessed via the usual Facebook link:

<https://www.facebook.com/reverendpaulmartin/videos/>

Paul will then be going on sabbatical and the congregation at Conway Road are welcome to join either the Cathays or Radyr Zoom services for Sunday worship.

Alternatively, there is a Eucharist Service at St. Catherine's, Canton, on a Sunday morning at 10.30am and Llandaff Cathedral is open for Sunday morning worship at 9.00am and 11.15am.

We wish Paul well as he goes on sabbatical and hope he finds it a rewarding experience with time for personal development and enrichment - and no doubt just a little time to follow all that is Manchester United.

And on his return - with batteries fully recharged and bouncing with energy - we're expecting him to give Tigger a run for his money - no pressure!!!!



Lectionary for January

3rd January - Second Sunday of Christmas

Jeremiah 31:7-14 Psalm 147: 12-20 Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1:(1-9) 10-18 or Sirach/Ecclesiasticus 24:1-12
Canticle: Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-21 Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1:(1-9) 10-18

6th January - the Epiphany

Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12

10th January - Sunday after Epiphany and the First in Ordinary Time

Genesis 1:1-5 Psalm 29 Acts 19:1-7 Mark 1:4-11

17th January - Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20) Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 John 1:43-51

24th January - Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Psalm 62:5-12 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20 3

31st January - Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Psalm 111 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Mark 1:21-28

Conway Road Methodist Church Gift Day

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our Gift Day Service on Sunday 6th December.

In total we raised:

£4,309.40

An excellent amount - so many thanks for your support in person, through your ongoing prayers for the life and witness of our Church and through your monetary gifts.

Food was also collected for Space4U, a charity who are helping refugees and asylum seekers in Cardiff, at this particularly difficult time. Thank you for the very generous quantity of food donated - Sister Ruth, one of the lead volunteers at Space4U, has asked me to pass on her thanks and to let you all know how much the food parcels will have been appreciated.

Opportunities for Worship

BBC One Sunday Worship at 10.00am
This week from Down Cathedral in Northern Ireland

BBC One Songs of Praise on Sunday at 13.15pm
This week from St Paul's Cathedral – music to include hymns sung by the Cathedral Choir.

BBC Radio Wales Celebration on Sunday at 7.30am
A service led by a minister in Wales.

BBC Radio 4 – Sunday Worship at 8.10am

Timings relate to the first Sunday (3rd January) and may change throughout the month.



Sororitas Choir – Carols on the Steps



Sororitas Choir who were fab-u-lous on Monday 14th December with a wonderful festive selection of Christmas carols and songs. Amazingly, despite the inclement weather, they somehow managed to completely skip the rain and even got a honk on the horn from a passing bus!

For those who missed it - here's an additional treat. On the link below is a video of the choir that Jo has put together for Christmas:

<https://youtu.be/7kUriLRgtJo>

(Apologies to those without computers!)

Jayne Powell writes:

Thanks to the Sororitas Choir for their Festive Singing on the Steps. They most certainly entertained the people gathered around the Church and it seemed to put a good feeling into everyone's hearts. Just to hear 'live' singing was wonderful!

Sad News

Firstly, Joan Ham, who died in early December – a devoted Church member at Conway Road and a regular attender until recently, due to ill-health, - our sincere condolences go to her husband, Les, and all the family.

Also, Pat Marshall – a Church Member at Conway Road and a long-time member and helper at Meeting Point, where she will be sadly missed – our heartfelt sympathy goes out to her family at this time.

Lastly, our condolences go to Carol Jones on the recent death of her beloved husband, Reg. Our love and prayers are with you Carol.

Family News



Jenny, Michael Emily & Alys managed to have a social distanced meeting halfway between Cardiff and Norfolk with my sister Jane and her husband John in mid-December before the latest round of restrictions came in. We met at Stowe Park near Bicester and as the weather was kind enjoyed a brisk walk round the gardens before exchanging presents. We then met up with my cousin Owen to say goodbye before he returned home to Australia after his two-year stint at Bruern Abbey school.

He flew out on 18 December – just making it before the latest Covid variant put paid to most people's travel plans. On arrival he had to go into 14 days quarantine in a hotel in Sydney – paid for by the Australian Government as his flight was booked at the start of the year, pre Covid. Meals are delivered to the room - he is not allowed out at all which has been boring, especially over Christmas. Provided he tests negative again (he's had one test) he should be reunited with his family as you read this – much to his mother's relief.



We were fortunate to be able to spend part of Christmas Day with our lovely granddaughter Alys who soon got the hang of opening presents despite only being 8 months old. We wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year.



There will be big birthday celebrations on Sunday 3rd January for **Iris Francis** who will be 95 years young.

We all wish you a very happy Birthday Iris – and hope you have a lovely day!

2020 - Lockdown Behavioural QUIZ

Put together for us by Catherine Dodd - decide which answer most closely fits your actions.

Housework

- You spring cleaned the house in the 1st lockdown, so it hasn't needed doing since.
- You have continued to clean, as normal, every week.
- Now it's January, you plan to make a start on this year's Spring Clean.

Hobbies

- You have lots of unfinished crafts / once used musical instruments / cake decoration books.
- Your - productivity of jumpers / musical performance skills / cake decoration intricacy - has come on in leaps and bounds.
- Top of your New Year Resolution list – 'develop my skills during this lockdown'.

Data/Statistics/News

- a) You stopped watching the news in March.
- b) You listen to the news once a day to keep abreast of the latest situation
- c) You take great delight in telling everyone that Wales is second only to Lithuania as the worst place in the world for COVID 19.

Church

- a) You tried one on-line service but the connection was so bad it's been 'Songs of Praise' every Sunday since.
- b) You have enjoyed the mixture of live streaming/ZOOM services plus attending Church when open.
- c) As b) but being able to stop the video to do your nails while on ZOOM has its advantages.

Cooking

- a) After a week of using up everything in the cupboards, you found every takeaway available locally, and ate out whenever allowed.
- b) The weekly delivery has enabled you to deliver a balanced diet.
- c) You hate cooking but going shopping for food is the highlight of the day, so you've managed.

Family

- a) Fortunately, you are front line workers, so the children have been in school most of the time.
- b) Just before lockdown you bought iPads for all the family so you could easily keep in touch.
- c) Meeting on the doorstep/ in the garden / at a distance has been good.

Exercise

- a) You managed a week with Joe Wicks, and then gave up.
- b) You continued to walk every day and started doing an on-line exercise class.
- c) You have tried to do your 10,000 steps a day but get mad at all the people/dogs/bikes/ who get in your way.

Outdoors

- a) You dug up the lawn to make a vegetable garden and now have a large muddy bog.
- b) An hour out of doors every day has long been a family tradition.
- c) Accidentally on purpose, you have met friends for a walk and an outdoor coffee.

Reading

- a) You are up to Chapter 10 of 'War & Peace'.
- b) You read all the works of Dickens & Shakespeare and are on Chapter 10 of 'War & Peace'.
- c) You have read a range of books on a random basis.

Computers

- a) See Church. (It's fine if we have a signal.)
- b) You quickly learnt how to use ZOOM, WhatsApp & Facetime and also use the telephone.
- c) ZOOM is good, but the free version which only allows 40 minutes is great!

ANSWERS

- Mostly a) - At the start of lockdown, you were determined to make the best of it! Unfortunately, it didn't last!!
- Mostly c) - You fluctuate wildly between trying to make the best of it and of letting it get you down.
- A mix of a) and c) - You are very confused and change with the wind / mood / latest news item.
- Mostly b) - You are a truly well- balanced individual. CONGRATULATIONS!

Ring out, wild bells

[Alfred Lord Tennyson](#) - 1809-1892

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light:
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.
Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.
Ring out the grief that saps the mind
For those that here we see no more;
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.
Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.
Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes
But ring the fuller minstrel in.
Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.
Ring out old shapes of foul disease;
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.
Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.



I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year,
'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown
And he replied, 'Go out into the darkness and put your
hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better
than light and safer than a known way.'

Minnie Louise Haskins

THE NEW YEAR

Well, that is 2020 definitely gone
Here we are now in 2021.
The last year appeared to be long
And everything seemed to go wrong.
We had lockdowns, tiers and firebreaks -
And there were no holidays to take.
Planes were grounded, no destinations to fly to.
For the world had a virus and no one knew what to do!
People could work from home, a modern wonder in itself.
Zoom, Facebook, and WhatsApp, we taught ourself.
Grannies, granddads, families all keeping in touch
Distance no object and talking never too much.
Then we have the folk who have lost loved ones
Not being able to mourn as in days, it seems long gone.
We see the looks of their despair
When their loved ones are no longer there.
Suffering, uncertainty, seems to be the order of the day
But we go forward and try to believe in the vaccine which is on its way.
So, to 2021 we stride purposely towards
Hoping people will obey rules and not ignore,
The advice on how to stay safe. Wear those masks -
Wash those hands, after all it's not such a disagreeable task.
There are things in life we do not like, but surely -
We would like to be out and about enjoying our lives more securely.
Do your best, stay positive, keep talking, smile and keep well
And this Covid 19 virus together we can quell.

Written by Jayne Powell



**WHY WAS 6
AFRAID OF 9
ON NEW
YEAR'S EVE?**

★

Because 9, 8, 7 ...

GH



2021

When Corona is a beer again
When Donald is only a duck
When tiers sit on cake
And when bubbles only exist in champagne

for New Year's Day

Do all the good you can
By all the means you can
In all the ways you can
At all the times you can
To all the people you can
As long as you can.

(Based on the Rule of John Wesley)



He was pretty searching, wasn't he, Lord? Your servant John Wesley? Not just a brilliant preacher and a great man of prayer, but one who translated 'the way that leads to eternity' into what it means for us in the way we live. He offered, instead of the incipient revolution of violence, the silent revolution of understanding and living which comes from hearts wholly fixed on you.

Vision is needed, to remind us of what transforms the heart: renew as I need it my vision of you, Lord.

Faithfulness is needed, to stay thankfully within God's grace: renew as I need it my faithfulness to you, Lord.

Obedience is needed, for all these: our fragile love for you, Lord and your strong love of us; renew as I need it the depth and passion of my love for you, Lord, and O! do it by the urgent flow of your mighty love for me.

Then I shall, in your name, do all the good I can, as long as – through you – I can. In the name of Christ in whom – only – I can. Amen

Ruth Etchells, Safer than a Known Way.

A prayer for the New Year

Dear Lord, this is the first week of the New Year.

Like a child new-born it has an uncertain future.

Much is under my control, but some beyond.

May it be a year in which I grow to be –

more loving, more helpful and more forgiving,

more prayerful, more faithful and more honourable,

more generous, more steadfast and more sincere,

more truthful, more just and more Christ-like.

Grant me the strength of your grace to grow the way I should,

avoiding wrong and doing good to all I meet each day.

Lord, may I walk this New Year with you and for you.

Amen

James M Fitzpatrick O.M.I, Prayers for the Journey

