

CONWAY ROAD METHODIST CHURCH NOTICE SHEET – January 2022



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Dear All,
Christmas Day has come and gone. I hope you found it enjoyable. Still, we are in the season of Christmas even if the excitement is a little less than it was on the big day.

I am not a regular watcher of the News at Christmas. This year has been a bit of an exception with the passing of Desmond Tutu on Boxing Day. Rightly there have been many tributes to him. In his native South Africa, he was a formidable fighter against the injustices of apartheid and more recently against the problems of corruption. Beyond his own land, he spoke for people badly treated in other lands and did so with a smile and a rejection of violence. His voice was a voice for reconciliation and his writings on subjects such as forgiveness were very powerful. Indeed he was an advert for Christianity who touched people of other faiths as well as those of no faith.

Desmond Tutu was part of a line of prophetic voices who pointed us to God's future. This means us carrying the positive message of Christmas into the future. Nowhere have I found this expressed more wonderfully than by the American pastor and civil rights activist, Howard Thurman in his "The work of Christmas;"

*"When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost, to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart."*

May we who have marvelled at God becoming flesh in our Christmas story, do our best to take Christmas into our places of dwelling and working.

Your friend and minister,
Paul

Sunday Services

For Sunday morning worship the church doors will open from 10.15am and worship will commence at 10.30am.

Please ensure you adhere to all social distancing requirements and wear a mask – many thanks

- Sunday 2nd January – Rev. Paul Martin
- Sunday 9th January – Covenant Service led by Rev. Paul Martin
- Sunday 16th January – Mr George Craig
- Sunday 23rd January – Rev. Robin Wood
- Sunday 30th January – Rev. Paul Martin

Other **Evening Services** are currently postponed for this quarter.

There will be a Circuit Zoom Service on the last Sunday of every month.

Singing is now allowed during the services provided you are wearing a mask.

Nativity:

The children did a wonderful performance. Tomos was in the pulpit as a engaging narrator. Morgan & Antonia were the proud new parents of baby Jesus. We had 3 angelic angels: Emmie (who was outstanding at remembering her lines), Céce (who did a strong delivery on her line) and Elora who was incredibly confident for the tender age of 3. Annabella & Ella were the Magi, they remembered their lines excellently and both acted their journey of following the star brilliantly. Shane was convincing when he changed guises, as he took on the roles of 3 different Inn Keepers and performing a wonderfully regal King Herod. Last but by no means least, were our fantastic funny duo of Gracie (Shepherd) & Sebby (Sheep). Sebby engaged in some Method Acting as he moved around the church on all fours and Gracie did an outstanding job of delivering her lines with strength.

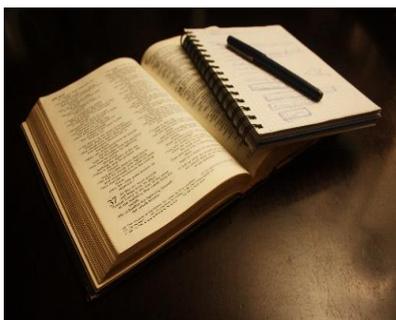


After the nativity the children played downstairs and then re-joined the Church in the Choir Gallery with Roger, where they sang Away in a Manger & Shine Jesus Shine. Both Ella and Antonia performed beautiful strong solos of the 1st verse of each song.

We wish you all a Happy and Healthy 2022,

From Junior Church x

Bible Study



Our Bible Study group will recommence on Thursday 13th January from 7.00 until 8.00pm and will continue on a fortnightly basis.

The topic is "Walking with Micah" and is an opportunity to explore the vision of Micah nearly 3,000 years ago which reminds us that working for justice is an important part of being the people of God.

The group is being held through the medium of zoom and joining instructions will be available from Heather Cox earlier on in each week when a study is due to occur.

Dates for your Diary

Sun 9 th Jan	10.30am	Covenant Service led by Rev. Paul Martin
Sun 23 rd Jan	3.00pm	New Year Party – fun and games followed by afternoon tea. All welcome whatever your age! 
Wed 26 th Jan	7.30pm	Property and Finance Meeting held in the New Room
Sat 29 th Jan	9.30am	Monthly work morning – all help greatly appreciated!
Wed 9 th Feb	7.30pm	Church Council held in the New Room but with opportunity for those who wish to join by Zoom

Conway Road 50+ Group

Wed 5 th Jan	Ring out the New Year Bells in song and good cheer Richard Tester: Vocals and guitar
Wed 12 th Jan	Problem Gambling: Adferiad / Recovery Nick Shepley
Wed 19 th Jan	Progress on re-opening the Rhondda Tunnel Tony Moon
Wed 26 th Jan	Holocaust Memorial Day Rev Paul Martin, Conway Methodist Church

Social distancing requirements will continue as before – and all attendees need to have had both their vaccinations. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

THE NEW YEAR (by Jayne Powell)

And it came to pass – that day we call Christmas
 The weeks of planning came together,
 For 24 hours we ate, drank and some made merry.
 All of that and more, spoilt only by the weather!
 The hours spent wrapping odd shaped parcels –
 Only to be ripped apart so fast causing a wide dispersal!
 ‘That’s mine,’ ‘No, it’s got my name on’, became a theme –
 As children excitedly devoured the Sellotape etc with voices rising into a scream!
 But what a joy it is to see the look on children’s faces
 And what a relief to have back all those wardrobe and cupboard spaces!
 Another year about to start, even though we’ve seemed to have lost the last two
 With isolations, no holidays, no seeing loved ones, everyone wondering what it’s best to do.
 Surely 2022 will bring some desperately needed relief,
 From all the tests, staying 2 metres apart and the loneliness of some, causing us to weep.
 The old year will be ended and 2022 begun
 So let’s put our faith in God and hope it’s a Happy, Healthy one.



Thanks - to all who kindly donated chocolate for the Monday folk. We handed out what we could, and the remainder was donated to the Salvation Army for their Christmas collection which goes to various people in need.
Shelagh



Family News

Early Christmas Celebrations - at the end of October, the extended Perkins family gathered for a 5-day break in West Wales as a combined celebration for a belated 30th birthday, Hallowe'en, and a pre-Christmas get-together. Not having been together for at least two years, the opportunity was too good to miss (particularly as our COVID-affected Christmas plans subsequently had to be significantly altered!)

We stayed in a large, converted farmhouse near Narberth, but the expected 13 occupants were suddenly augmented by two more adults (plus a bump!) when the Californian branch arrived unannounced (to general delight) as a result of secret shenanigans organised by devious siblings!

We made the most of Tenby and its environs for five rather damp days, before returning to Cardiff where the Californian branch stayed another week to be able to take in Carol's birthday.

It is to be hoped that by Christmas 2022, when our next family reunion is planned, travel restrictions will have eased again, and family get-togethers can be reliably arranged - keep everything crossed!

Carol & Derek Perkins



Birthday wishes to Irene Francis who will be 96 on January 3rd – best wishes for a lovely day Irene!

Pat Little (daughter of the late Joyce & Geoff Reynolds) and her husband Roy send Season's Greetings to all at Conway Road from Hereford.

Happy New Year:

*May the Lord bless you and keep you,
May the Lord make His face to shine upon you
and be gracious unto you,
May the Lord lift up the light of His countenance upon you
and give you peace,
Amen*

