

# CONWAY ROAD METHODIST CHURCH NOTICE SHEET – January 2023



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Dear Friends,

*I am no longer my own but yours.  
Your will, not mine, be done in all things,  
Wherever you may place me,  
In all that I do and in all that I may endure;  
When there is work for me and when there is none;  
When I am troubled and when I am at peace.  
Your will be done  
When I am valued and when I am disregarded;  
When I find fulfilment and when it is lacking;  
When I have all things, and when I have nothing.  
I willingly offer all I have and am to serve you, as and where you choose.  
(The Covenant Prayer: Methodist Worship Book pp288-289)*



There is something beautiful but also deeply challenging about these words. They form part of the annual Covenant Service, which has been part of the life of Methodism since its beginnings in the 1700s. At this service we re-commit ourselves to our faith and remember our deep connection to the God we serve. In fact, some of these words have found their way into the marriage service, since they speak of commitment and ‘oneness’.

Saying the Covenant Prayer isn’t like making a New Year’s Resolution - making a promise to limit coffee / chocolate / internet / whatever, only to give up and binge spectacularly on the third or fourth day. If you’re reading this for the first time, and perhaps even if you’re very familiar with it, you may feel that this is at best a list of standards we can’t possibly live up to, and at worst setting ourselves up to fail and feel guilty as we would about a broken resolution; a list of things we ‘must’ do instead of an occasion for connecting with God.

The difference with these promises is that we enter into them knowing perfectly well that we don’t have the strength to keep them all by ourselves. How could we? These words present an opportunity to stop, think, and hear the challenge of the gospel; a reminder that we are all on a journey and are dependent on God and one another.

We don’t know what lies ahead of us this year; but I hope and pray that the times when we feel troubled, disregarded or lost will be very few, and the times when we feel valued, at peace and fulfilled will be many.

Our Covenant Service will take place on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January at 10.30am. All are welcome!

Love and blessings, Laura

## Sunday Services

Sunday morning worship commences at 10.30am – and includes Junior Church, who meet with us in the Church and then go down for their own activities part way through the service.

### January

Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10.30am	Mr Munawar Amaf
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10.30am	Mrs Wendy Barwise
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	10.30am	<b>Covenant Service</b> including Holy Communion led by Rev. Alexis Mahoney and Deacon Laura Evans
Sun 29 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10.30am	<b>Circuit Service</b> at Cyncoed Methodist Church Are you coming? Circuit Services provide a brilliant opportunity for us to come together as a larger group to worship God.

## Junior Church



What a bumper year in 2022 for Junior Church - we have had a great time!

We have created & harvested our own Junior Church garden; we held our own church service with Avery; many of the older children have been doing readings in the church services; the children had singing lessons and many of them did a solo at the Nativity service and their performances were all incredible in the Nativity play!

We are looking forward to planning 2023 and will be starting with our sponsored sleep over on **Saturday night, 4<sup>th</sup> February, (\*new date)** in aid of the Trinity Centre. A sponsor form is in the New Room if you would like to support us.

Happy New Year from Junior Church and thank you for all your support!

## Trinity Centre Fundraiser – ‘Eat out with friends!’



Shelagh Cannell has kindly offered to host a New Year Sunday dinner in support of the Trinity Centre.

Unfortunately, we have had to move the date of this to **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February**. Everyone is invited and if you would like to come, please let Shelagh or Heather know and advise them of any special dietary requirements.

We will be taking a £5 deposit so we can be confident of numbers.

Final date for booking will be the Sunday before – 5<sup>th</sup> February.

### Menu

**Roast turkey, Brussel sprouts, carrots and swede mash, pigs in blankets and roast potatoes - followed by apple pie and cream**

After the event there will be a bowl for donations – we ask that you donate what you would expect to pay for such a wonderful Sunday dinner if you were eating out!

## Dates for your Diary

Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> Jan	9.30am	<b>Work Morning</b> – volunteers needed to help keep the Church ship-shape and Bristol fashion! Please come along and help if you can spare an hour or two!
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	10.30am	<b>Covenant Service</b>
Sat/Sun 4 <sup>th</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup> Feb	All night!	<b>Junior Church Sleepover in aid of the Trinity Centre</b>
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	12.30pm	<b>Eat Out with friends</b> – Trinity Fundraiser – details above

## Conway Road 50+ Group

Wed Jan 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Singing in the New Year with songs from yesteryear</b> Richard Tester
Wed Jan 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>The Geology of the South Wales Coast</b> Dr John Holland: Retired GP.
Wed Jan 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Sleeping With Mickey:</b> A play by Frank Vickery. Abridged by Iona Gordon Read by Val Jones: Theatr Triangl
Wed Jan 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Songs for St Dwynwen's Day</b> The Ukulele Nights – an energetic mix of fun and song

## Warm Space Wednesdays – Volunteers needed!

Warm Space Wednesdays take place after 50+ Group on Wednesdays from 12 noon to 3.00pm. We would be very grateful for anyone willing to be one of our volunteers on a Wednesday afternoon – we need to ensure four volunteers are there each week. Also, anyone willing to come at short notice if we are down on volunteers on a particular week. Please let Heather or Marie know if you can help. Many thanks.

## 2023 – a poem by Jayne Powell

As I look at the decorations –  
 Now a bit forlorn after the New Year celebrations,  
 I think 'Let's get them put away –  
 Why wait until that time called Epiphany?'  
 Then, and only then do I realise  
 That behind cards and trees, dust has materialised!  
 Dark, rainy days have kept out the sunlight  
 But that's better I guess than the stuff coloured white!  
 We have arrived in the year 2023  
 Wondering what it will hold for you and me.  
 Health and happiness is what most wish for  
 Sadly, events happen and we at times are shaken to the core.  
 Just as the Wise Men followed that star so bright –  
 Finding the Christ Child sent to us to be our light  
 Let us be positive in 2023 and with each morning as it breaks –  
 Give thanks for that brightness shining in a world that at times feels opaque.



## Family News



Happy New Year from **Michael and Jenny Langham** – still down under!

Michael and Jenny attended the local church service on Christmas Eve - nine lessons and carols - held in the local Country Club. Whilst parts of the service were very familiar, singing Hark the Herald accompanied only by guitar was a new experience!

We were joined by Emily, Jamie and Alys just in time to see in the New Year. Alys is enjoying meeting her Australian cousins and is embracing the Aussie way of life. We're looking forward to the whole family getting together this weekend - 24 adults and children - it will be very noisy!

We have heard the news that **Eileen William's husband, Rob**, has been in hospital for four weeks now, including over the Christmas period – our thoughts and prayers are with you and Rob, Eileen – hope he is home soon!



We had some very meaningful and thoughtful Christmas services this year with **Deacon Laura Evans** and would like to thank her for all the hard work she put in to give us such a wonderful Christmas experience at Conway Road.

The church itself looked really pretty – shown here at the Christmas Eve service. There was a great atmosphere in the Church that evening and it was lovely to have communion by candlelight.

### ***And to finish:***

Lord, make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love;  
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;  
Where there is doubt, true faith in you;  
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;  
Where there is darkness, only light;  
And where there's sadness ever joy:  
O Master, grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood, as to understand;  
to be loved as to love with all my soul.  
For it is in giving unto all that we receive;  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
And it is in dying that we're born to eternal life.  
*(Prayer of St. Francis)*

