

CONWAY ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

NOTICE SHEET – April 2024



MINISTER:	Deacon Laura Evans	
	Telephone	07542 879512
	e-mail	laurajevans@me.com
CHURCH:	Telephone	2034 2939
	Website	www.conwayroadmethodist.com
BOOKINGS:	heathercox@live.co.uk	



Dear Friends,

Jesus called himself the good shepherd. In first century Palestine, and for that matter in 21st century Palestine, the image of the shepherd on the hillside carefully tending the sheep would have been very familiar and comfortable. The sheep following the shepherd. The shepherd watching over them and protecting them from harm.

Imagine. Imagine that flock of sheep in Palestine Jesus is talking about, and him as the shepherd. We come from a different place, a different time. It may be that as you imagine those sheep, that shepherd, another character finds a way into your thoughts. Jesus never included a sheep dog in any of his stories or parables. Why should he? Sheep dogs have never been used in that part of the world to herd sheep – such a concept would have been entirely unknown. All the same, I wonder if there is a place for a sheep dog in Jesus' Good shepherd narrative. Some time ago, while reading, I came across to idea of Christians as sheepdogs. Jesus refers to his people as sheep. What if we can be both sheep and sheep dogs?

For me, this metaphor is helpful because it moves us from the 'sheep's passive acceptance of God's love and care to the sheepdog's active engagement in the shepherd's plan.

The sheepdog gathers the flock to the shepherd, following his commands or instructions. The sheepdog might not always know what the overall purpose is, but they've been trained and they have learned to recognise the call of the shepherd. As anyone who has ever owned a dog will know, the training never ends – there's always something new to learn and sometimes what is taught is forgotten in the rush to get to something that is seemingly better!

How would our faith-life be different if we understood that we were always in training?

What would it mean to understand that there are new things to learn, old skills to sharpen?

If Psalm 23, another example of God as Shepherd, speaks of intimacy and security then this reading can only reinforce it. Jesus isn't just a hired hand who runs at the first sign of danger. He embodies strength, power, sympathy, kindness and mercy, and he doesn't just care for the sheep, he gathers the flock to himself.

Love and blessings,

Laura



April

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.

Sun 7 th Apr	10.30am	Mr David Kitchen
Sun 14 th Apr	10.30am	Rev. Alexis Mahoney Holy Communion
Sun 21 st Apr	10.30am	Deacon Laura Evans
Sun 28 th Apr	10.30am	Deacon Laura Evans

Junior Church



Junior Church have had a lovely month. On Mothering Sunday, the children matched the names of mothers, fathers and their children. Then painted a heart shaped sun catcher for the children to let light into their lives through the love of Jesus. Junior Church enjoyed doing the teas and coffees so much the children asked to do it again. We decorated handmade donkey and palm tree biscuits which seemed to be well received!

We are now planning for our Junior Church Garden and are hoping for a good crop this year, in time for harvest festival celebrations! In the half-term Wesley Canton put on an Easter Craft outreach morning. Some of our Junior Church also joined them. They made chocolate nests, decorated biscuits, made sun catchers, streamers and more. It was lovely to see it so well attended.

We have, at present, put a pause on sharing our Junior Church with Wesley's. We are delighted to say however, that YouthSpace at Wesley is well attended by our older children: Seb, Shane, Tomos and Morgan.

YouthSpace: 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month at Wesley Canton, year 6 and upwards, between 10am and 12.30pm – which should allow time for parents to attend their own church services.



Dates for your Diary

Sat 20 th April	9.30am	Work Morning – the ground team will be in attendance to help keep our premises and grounds well-maintained – additional volunteers very welcome so please come along and help if you can spare an hour or two!
Thurs 18 th April	7.30pm	CRMC Forward in Hope – suggestions and findings We will be joined by a Circuit Steward and a Minister for this important meeting. Those on email should have received a copy of the report, if you are not on email, please see John to obtain a printed copy. ★ It is important that as many as possible attend so we can express our opinions to the Circuit stewards who will be present
Sat 27 th April	10.00am to 2.30pm	Conway Road Vision Day - A chance to have your say on how we can best use our resources as a Church to serve God, support one another and grow our community – see poster below. ★ Really important to be there – Save the Date! Lunch will be provided and there will be supervised activities available for children
Sat 18 th May	10.00am to 12.00pm	Spring Fayre – more information below

Conway Road 50+ Group

Apr 3 rd	Easter Week Break - no session
Apr 10 th	The Great Schism, and the Orthodox Church today Fr Jacob and Dr Rowan Williams <i>This session will be held in Conway Methodist Church</i>
Apr 17 th	Coach Trip to the Newport Medieval Ship - tour led by Dr Elaine Davey <i>Book and payment in advance</i>
Apr 24 th	Wales: A Nation of Sanctuary? Dr Mike Chick – Senior Lecturer ESOL, Refugee Champion, University of South Wales
May 1 st	The Miners' Strike - a new documentary 40 years on Clare Hudson - TV and Radio Producer and BBC Commissioner



Spring Fayre
Saturday 18th May
10.00am to 12.00pm



Donations required as follows please:

Sarah - **paperback novels or children's books** in good condition please, no hardback books thanks!

Marie would appreciate any donations of **plants/cuttings**

Heather would appreciate lots and lots of **cakes and biscuits** please

Also – any **gifts** for Avril's stall and **raffle prizes**

Please pop the date in your diary and come along to support the event – always a good fun morning with plenty of refreshments, cake and chat!

Family News



Congratulations to Sarah and Gareth Davies who will be celebrating their silver wedding anniversary on 9th April. Best wishes to you both and we hope you have a lovely celebration.

Our good friend Jan Forster died peacefully on 26th March. She was surrounded by her close family and our thoughts and prayers are with Joe, Eleanor and Charlotte at this difficult time. Jan's funeral will be held at Conway Road Methodist Church at 11.30am on Thursday 18th April and then afterwards at Western Cemetery at 12.30pm.

And to finish;

A Poem shared by Shelagh entitled Getting Old!

(Is Shelagh old?!!)

*Have you given any thought
To the years ahead?
Age doesn't come alone,
You'd better be prepared.*

*The stamina of youth,
The ambition of the day.
Will be a distant memory,
When time gets in the way.*

*The hair's a different colour
That's if there's any left.
And that firm young body
Is no longer at its best.*

*Getting old isn't easy.
Take it from a pro.
Until you get there
You will never know.*



And from the Methodist Church website:

Dear Lord, Thank you for being there when we are down. We thank you for being the light that guides us through our darkest times. You are the sun that shines down on us every day. You are a star that leads us in the darkness. Amen.

Chloe, Year 6, Radcliffe Hall CE/Methodist Primary School

Source <https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/resources/prayers/prayer-of-thanks-for-guiding-us/>

