



THE CHURCH MOUSE
A Quarterly Magazine from the members
And friends of Nant Hall Road Church
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A Message from the Mouse!



The Still Small Voice

The Book of 1 Kings suggests that God speaks to us with a “still small voice”. Maybe that’s mostly true. However, occasionally He SHOUTS at us! He certainly shouted at me when following the evil October 7th attack on innocent Israelis, God shouted at me to at least do *something* more than just praying - to try to help these innocent victims in Gaza caught up in Israel’s revenge. And thanks to the amazing generosity of friends and strangers both within and without the Church, we were able to help raise around £6,000 to send to some of the most vulnerable families in Gaza to buy food or blankets or medication.

Now I feel God is shouting at me again, urging me to stop whatever I’m doing and to take time to reach out to certain families in need, but this time within the UK. Many will know that we are the parents of 7 children, 6 of whom are adopted from four different families. And some will know of the extreme challenges we faced back in 2012 when we had to request help from Denbighshire Children’s services. We then discovered that there was a ‘blame culture’ rather than a “supportive” one for adoptive families who had reached crisis point with an adopted child. If not for the loving support of Nant Hall Road Church friends, we would certainly have not survived this harrowing experience. However, this highly traumatic time left me with PTSD for many years and really tested my faith as it seemed, at times, that God had abandoned us. It was only this year that a well respected family lawyer, Damien Dobson, spoke on the BBC. He revealed that **many** adoptive parents had been treated in the same way, being blamed for their adopted child’s uncontrollable behaviour. This finally brought me some closure and I found myself able to reach out to other parents facing trauma with their own struggles with Children’s Services.

I also discovered that it wasn’t just adoptive parents who were being subjected to the Children’s Services fabricating and distorting their alleged ‘evidence’ of significant abuse of children, but thousands of ordinary families facing such a crisis. Of course not all parents are innocent and there are certainly times when they are very guilty of harming their children. But many other families, like ourselves, suddenly find themselves locked into a nightmarish legal battle when they are so

traumatised that they have no idea where to turn and with some, their lawyers have abandoned them due to lack of funding. This is where I become their very last hope. Because, since our own first-hand experiences, I have gained enough legal knowledge to help them to be self litigants in their final appeals to try to stop their children from being adopted. If they can recognise a loop-hole in the law where the judge failed to take some vital point into account, then they have some hope that there will be a re-trial. But there is only a small window as everything needs to be submitted within 21 days from the last court hearing and the responsibility is huge and involves focussed, intensive work. But I feel so compelled, as so many have become suicidal and desperate and say that just knowing they've tried helps them to breathe again. I now pray that I can find local retired lawyers or other professionals who are willing to help advise and solve some of their challenges.

Appealing against adoption is such a precarious, minefield journey and more families than I alone can cope with, are reaching out daily, desperate for that last chance to appeal before their children totally vanish from their lives. Just today a desperate father messaged me to say that he's now found God in his journey with me.

I can't reveal any names. However, I would ask for your prayers for those struggling parents who, through reaching out for help, now face the trauma of losing their beloved children.

Mouse

Knitting Group

Thank you to all who have continued to knit during the winter months. You have provided many items for Baby Basics, hats & blankets for the Premature Baby Unit in Glan Clwyd, Twiddlemuffs which were sent to Ty Morfa and, just before Christmas, many gloves, hats and scarves for the Food Bank.

Please let me know if you have any more items to send out.



Thank you all for your hard work - keep knitting!! **Chris Rendall**

Christmas Services at Nant Hall Road Church

Our services this last Christmas featured a Nativity Play, a Carol Service, a Christmas Day Service and a “Members Led “service of Carols, prayers and homilies.

The Nativity Play (14th December)



It was wonderful to see a Church packed out with members, visitors of all ages as well as the Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Squirrels and their Leaders.

Almost immediately, the service was interrupted by a Sky News broadcast from

Nazareth featuring the early morning studio link man **-Earl Lee**, the Breaking News Reporter **-Justine Tyme** and the Science Reporter **-Molly Cule** (all played by Rev. Mike & Coral) . The Sky news cameras were there as Gabriel (Freya) spoke to the young and beautiful Mary, as well as the old and not so beautiful Joseph (many thanks to Al & Mo for being good sports). Following an announcement by the Tribune (Simon), the camera followed Mary (Mo) as she rode precariously around the Church on a “Donkey.” Shepherds Len & Jen (Len & Jenny) were next to be interviewed and of course the sheep (the Scouts etc) had to put a word in!. We were then blessed by the appearance of the angels (the Jones’ girls). Wise Persons, Alex, Katie, Anna, Addison, Alleyah and Athalia explained the mystery of the Star before being led by the little Star Bearer (Rhianon) and the giant camel to Herod’s Palace (Herod played by Cec).



The story ended well with everyone gathered at the stable where Clwb Hwyl Hwyr graced us with a rendering of Away in a Manger (thanks to leader Clare). We closed by the candle-light of 100 “Christingles” as we contemplated the true meaning of Christmas by sitting quietly and listening to the song, “Mary Did You Know?”.

Mary (Mo) and the baby Jesus (Rosalie)

Carol Service (21st December) - The Carol Service was led by our Minister – Rev. Gareth Roberts – and followed the traditional format of alternating Carols and Lessons. The Service concluded with a celebration of Holy Communion and included a jolly song by the Choir (Christmas Alphabet).

Christmas Day Service - The short Christmas Day Service included 2 Carols and a Reading. We were visited by the “Elf” who spoke with the children (and others) about their Christmas presents. We also had received a letter of complaint from the Ox who felt that the use of his hay manger as a bed shouldn’t have prevented him eating his Christmas dinner. A bright and happy well-attended service in celebration of a special day.

Service Decemeber 28th - This members led service was arranged by Chris Rendall. Carols were interspersed with poetic readings featuring various characters in the Christmas story. Perhaps one of the most moving of these readings focussed on “Mary of the Christmas Card”.

This made the point that Mary’s life was never the sugar coated image portrayed by Christmas Cards. A difficult journey during pregnancy, fleeing the wrath of Herod, losing the boy Jesus in the temple, being seemingly rejected by Jesus – standing at the foot of the cross watching her son die. Chris also offered some short, simple but very meaningful prayers.

The service exuded a quiet dignity which was much appreciated by all. Many thanks to Chris.

Christmas Eve Dinner

We arranged for our monthly £3 meal deal dinner for December to fall on Christmas Eve. Our aim was to turn this special day into a super-sized “family” Christmas celebration. Preparation involved the carving of 6 turkey crowns, an oven full of roast potatoes, sliced carrots (kindly provided and prepared by Mo & Al) and of course, brussel sprouts. This was followed with Christmas pudding and cream, Christmas cake, fruit cocktail and tea and coffee. There was a raffle, and gifts from “Mrs. Santa” (Coral) There was a pass the parcel where, at each unwrapping, the recipients were required to “walk like a robot” or “howl like a wolf” etc. etc. A total of 36 guests attended, mostly from outside of the Church. Many thanks to Len and Jenny, Tyna, Sue and Lucy for all your support in serving and tidying.



Supporting our Community Work

We have already expressed our appreciation to the PCW Women's Committee for helping to fund the cost of food and supplies in relation to our Community Outreach. We would now also like to offer our thanks to the COGNOG Grants Scheme which has awarded our Church £1500 to help cover the energy expenditure associated with community work.



Our Church has events going on throughout the week of which only 4 hours is devoted to what we might describe as being “Mary” rather than “Martha” events. Therefore majority of our time and our energy consumption is attached to practical community outreach. This grant enables us to continue to fund our Community outreach efforts.

Many thanks to COGNOG.

Visionaires Programme (Spring 2026)

April Mr Robinson talk on Disaster at Rhyl

May Bingo

June

Day Trip

A Day in the Life.... By Rev. Gareth

Hello everyone. Rev. Mike asked me- on behalf of the Editor- if I could contribute a short piece to the next Church Mouse Newsletter based on the title 'A Day in the Life of a Minister'. I was happy to do this, but the first challenge I faced was that there is no typical day in the life of any minister. Each day brings fresh opportunities and unexpected challenges.

The popular imagination often paints the ministerial life as serene and unhurried—a quiet stroll to church, a brief meeting followed by tea and biscuits, reflective periods spent in tranquil contemplation. The reality, however, is considerably more dynamic. A minister's day, though rarely predictable, is rich with meaning—shaped by community, sustained by faith, and illuminated by moments of grace that emerge quietly amid the ordinary.

My day begins just before 6am when I make a cup of tea and head into my office for an hour of Bible study and prayer. A few years ago the Church of Scotland issued guidance to all its ministers saying that a specific time set aside each day for personal devotion was an essential part of their ministry, and I try to follow this guidance in my own life.

By 7am the rest of the family are up and so I spend time with them, enjoying the normal hustle and bustle of family life.

8.30 am is an important time of the day because it is when the funeral directors start to phone. I deal with eight different funeral directors on a regular basis and only after I have received their calls (or not, as the case may be) can I begin to properly plan my day. Preparing and leading funeral services can take up a good deal of time. In the Theological College, as candidates for the ministry, we were advised to try not to get too emotionally involved when taking funerals. But I can't be cold or detached in this way and I feel sad when taking the funeral services of church members whom I have been fond of and known for many years.

Mornings and afternoons are taken up with meetings, general visiting and hospital visiting, funerals, etc. Each day is different, though there are certain meetings in each church which I try to attend. For example, I always endeavour to be at our Coffee and Prayer Circle each Tuesday morning because I find it such an enjoyable and uplifting meeting, full of laughter, fellowship and spirituality. Evenings can sometimes bring meetings, but if not, I usually go to my office around 7pm and work until

midnight. For me, this is the best time of the day to deal with general paperwork and administration, as well as sermon preparation. Between 10pm and midnight, in particular, is normally quiet, with few telephone calls or other interruptions (though there was a funeral director some years ago who would insist on phoning me at 11pm!), so this is the time when I can particularly focus on preparing my sermon and service for the coming Sunday. I try to be in bed just after midnight. Occasionally there are emergency telephone calls late at night or in the early hours of the morning asking me to visit a hospital or a care home to bring spiritual comfort to someone who may be dying. Being with someone as they are passing away feels like stepping onto sacred ground, where every breath and every silence carries a deep significance. In those tender moments, love becomes beautifully simple—holding a hand, smoothing a pillow, whispering words of comfort and eternal life. There's a true blessing in being trusted with such closeness at the moment when the soul loosens its final ties to this earth and steps towards eternity.

So there we are. A basic outline of my day as a minister. Yes, days can be long and busy, but beneath it all there is a deep joy. A minister's day is stitched together with moments of meaning—glimpses of hope, kindness, and community. It is a life lived among people, for people, and with a constant awareness of the sacred woven through the ordinary. It is a life that is sometimes chaotic, frequently surprising, but endlessly rewarding.

Scouting at Nant Hall.

The Scout Group has had a transformational end of last year as we started two new sections for the younger members. We now have Squirrels (age 4-6), Beavers (6-8), Cubs (8-10) and Scouts which is amazing to see.

The four sections have been working through some badges over the last few months and the leadership group have been getting to grips with the administration over 40 young ones and their parents.



We have increased the leadership team with Jess and Rhys now fully fledged leaders, we are still below where we ideally want to be for the size of the group but having the pair of them makes nights a lot easier. Both of them come from being in the group as young people so it is amazing to see how far they have both come.

The sections have recently been working towards a number of badges including Space Explorer, Lets Celebrate, Communicator, Pioneer, Chief, My Faith and Craft badge. Ordering badges has now almost become a full time job for the leaders!

As we head into the spring, we naturally look forward to being able to start being outside after what feels like many months of arriving and leaving the hall in the dark. We have lots of plans for places to go and things to do over the spring and summer months. The first one of our outside trips is a visit to the lifeboat station shortly followed by a plan to go to DangerPoint to learn about home safety.

As always, my role as the Group Lead is the easy one and I am thankful to the leaders for their weekly dedication and ideas for fun and educational activities we can run each week as well as the support of the Church and the Elders.

Yours in Scouting – Simon (Group Scout Leader)

Secretary's Rambles

We have already been on our travels this year. As usual, we went to visit our friends in Weybridge for New Year which we have been doing for many years apart from the period of COVID which seems an age away now. Due to National Rail deciding to cause chaos over the Christmas and New Year in London with rail repairs, we almost aborted the trip. Having done a bit of research, we decided it was possible to change at Birmingham and then get the train to Marylebone. It went very well on the way but the return journey was a bit stressful and just managed to catch our connecting train. We had a lovely time in Weybridge and had an overnight stay in London so we could visit my aunt in Essex.

Sadly we were unable to see her as her health had deteriorated and was going into a home on the day of our planned visit but intend arranging another visit to see her in her new home.

Instead we had an early morning walk and then on to visit our friends in Weybridge. Surprisingly it was much colder in London than in the wilds of North Wales makes a change. On returning to our hotel, we found three policemen in the foyer which was a bit surprising who were checking for illegal immigrants working in the local hotels.

We have just returned from a trip to Madeira and had a beautiful week of great weather, 20 degrees each day. Makes a change for us to have such lovely weather bit as we always says the sun shines on the righteous 😎😎😎 It enabled us to do plenty of walking and we went on an organised trip to the Levadas which runs throughout Madeira channelling water from the North to farms in the South. It was an easy flat walk stopping for a coffee on our way.

On the quay in Madeira, there are regular visits from Cruise Liners which are enormous and we knew Jackie Irving would be visiting on her way to the Caribbean. Sadly we missed her by a few days. Not being one of the cruising set, I couldn't believe the size of them, releasing crowds of people into the streets surrounding Funchal. We did enjoy a walk going in the opposite direction to Camara de Lobos which is a small fishing village where Churchill painted in 1950. There is a plaque commemorating his visit in a corner and this was now occupied by a group of local men playing a very flamboyant game of cards. I also visited the Cristiano Ronaldo museum whilst Mo sat on the quay eating an ice cream. It was only one large room but absolutely full of trophies, medals and shirts. There was even one from India was a replica of the Golden Temple of Amritsar. How much wealth he has garnered from kicking around a leather ball, it makes you wonder! He is now in Saudi Arabia earning even more money. I do hope and pray he is donating to the many deserving charities there are in the world. I think our travelling will be curtailed for a while as we have finally decided that we should have another dog which is joining our mad family very shortly. She is a whippet called Dot but we intend calling her Doti (Welsh spelling). She has a white dot on her back and tail. Not surprisingly, there is much excitement in the Jones family and we are taking bookings for visits to see her!

Paying our Way – The Editor

I happened to come across a news article which described how the inhabitants of a small English village had become enraged upon learning that their village Church was closing. Church membership had declined and those members remaining were getting older. Therefore the decision was made to close the Church. However, the rest of the villagers were offended by this decision. *“There has always been a Church in our village. Where will we take our babies for baptism? Where will we get married? Where will we arrange our funerals? How dare they close down!”*

These villagers shared a common misconception – that the “Church” is financed by some mysterious benefactor. Maybe the Denomination, or the Government or the Local Authority – and should be maintained for their use as and when required. The truth, as we all know, is that every cost associated with the Church is borne by it’s Members, Associate Members and Adherents along with any money raised through events or grants. For every member in our own Church we are required each year to pay our Central Office £289 as a contribution towards the cost of Ministry. Add in the costs of electricity, Ministry fees, expenses, repair costs etc. and the annual bill soon becomes significant.

We are grateful to our Members, Associate Members and Adherents for their giving. Without this generosity, we would face the same crisis as faced that small English village Church. And how sad that would be.

Please Pray for:

Kath, Janet and Rob on the passing of their dear sister Susan.

The Steel family (Clwb Hwyl Hwyr) in their sadness surrounding the passing of Mark’s dad Walter.

Jenny on passing of her brother

All our old friends who are in care homes or housebound.

Chris, Emma and the girls.



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Ministers: (All services begin at 10.45 am) © = Communion Sunday

APRIL 5 th	Rev. Mike and Coral (Easter)	12 th Rev. Linda Pearce
	19 th Rev. Gareth Roberts ©	26 th Mr. Andy Smith.
MAY	3 rd Café Church.	10 th Rev. Brian Huw Jones.
	17 th Rev. Gareth Roberts. ©	24 th Rev. Gareth Roberts.
	31 st Rev. Neil Kirkham.	
JUNE	7 th Mrs. Coral Smith.	14 th Café Church.
	21 st Rev Gareth Roberts ©	28 th Rev. Linda Pearce.

Coffee Mornings:

APRIL	3 rd Good Friday (No CM)	10 th Rotary
	17 th Bible Society	24 th Church
MAY	1 st Dyserth WI	8 th Inner Wheel
	15 th Rehoboth C. Aid	22 nd Friends of Fr.
	29 th Church CM	
JUNE	5 th Gronant WI	12 th Rotary
	19 th TBC	26 th Church CM

Duty Elders

Communion Servers:

APRIL	C. Butler/C.Rendall	M. Smith/R. Roberts
MAY	V. Evans/H.Lloyd	J. Carpenter/J. Bailey
JUNE	J. Carpenter/D. Tamblyn-Jones.	D. Barber/C. Butler

Facebook: Nant Hall Road Church

Website: nanthallchurchprestatyn.org



**If anyone is able to help with Christian Aid
Week collections (May 10th - 16th) please
contact Jenny Carpenter (01745 850904)**