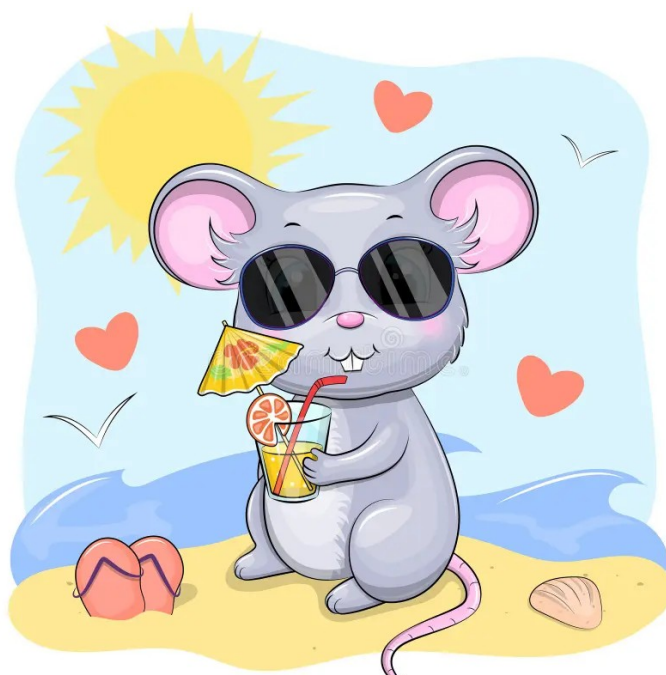




THE CHURCH MOUSE
A Quarterly Magazine from
the Members and friends of
Nant Hall Road Church
SUMMER EDITION 2026

Vol. 68 No. 3



A Message from the Mouse!

You may remember that my Editor's message in the Spring Newsletter emphasised a concern for families – often single mothers –who found themselves under the spot-light of Social Services - who had forcibly removed their children. Of course, in some cases, such actions are fully justified and necessary. However, this is not always the case.

Distressed families such as these, often feel powerless against the might of the establishment and need help to understand and fill in court forms and lodge appeals. Above all, they need someone to take time to LISTEN to them so that they can share their concerns and grief within such trauma.

Is our Church able to offer such a “listening and supportive” ministry to families such as these?

Thankfully, the Elders have agreed that we could “give it a try”.

The initial intention is to establish a new “group” under the title “Happy Families”. This would coincide with and be linked to our Sunday Morning Worship.

Families would be invited to “dip into” our worship. But there would also be a provision in the Hall where children could play and Church volunteers would join the parents and offer them a “listening ear”.

We can't be sure if and how this might work out. We CAN be sure that if we don't “give it a go” we will never know.



Christian Aid The first Christian Aid Week was in 1957 and raised £26,000. Last year the figure was £4.4 million. This year's aim is to help women in Kenya grow food, earn an income and care for their children in the face of hunger and rising living costs.

Every year we in Nant Hall Road Church play our part. Volunteers from the Church deliver envelopes to homes across Prestatyn and those who are not able to deliver make their contributions through envelopes left in the Church. The sum raised this year is £700

Thank you everyone who was able to help. (*Jenny Carpenter*)

Caring for God's Creation – a Report from Jenny Carpenter.

A Rocha UK is part of an international Christian environmental organisation which was instrumental in setting up the Eco Church programme. During April, I attended a meeting where the speaker was Delyth Higgins, Eco-Church Officer, Wales.

There were two strands to her presentation; the first dealing with climate change and the other with biodiversity. A Rocha UK's Eco Church programme equips churches in England and Wales to care for creation. It provides a framework to support Churches in taking practical action on caring for God's earth. This includes a toolkit of resources and an online award survey.

The Eco Church survey, with its suite of supporting resources, will help churches 'go green' in all areas of their church life. It covers Worship and Teaching, embedding creation care in worship, prayer and learning; Buildings and Energy, finding energy-efficient and innovative ways to manage our places of worship; Land and Nature, nurturing spaces for people and nature; Community and Global Engagement, transforming local and global communities and ecosystems; and Lifestyle, living joyfully and sustainably as followers of Christ.

The work will all count towards a bronze, silver or gold Eco Church award. The first gold Eco Church award in Wales has gone to St Peter's Church, Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd, near Ruthin and the Anglican Churches in Llanasa and Prestatyn have achieved silver awards.

If you would like more information please see the website:
<https://arocha.org.uk>

Women's Rally 2026



Nant Hall Road Church was very pleased to host the 2026 Women's Rally for the Northern area of the Association in the East. The Rally was held on Thursday 14th May with a service arranged by Chris Rendall and the address delivered by Nant Hall Road Church's minister, Rev. Gareth Roberts.

The theme was "the Grace of God" - based on 2 *Corinthians 13.14. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

The Service included a presentation of the history and work of Nant Hall Road Church followed by the Choir singing "I stand amazed in the presence".

We were told about the work of the Women's Committee, and shown a copy of the Service Guide which had been prepared for use in the Churches. The service was followed with refreshments in the Hall.

This was a wonderful occasion, appreciated by all who attended.

Nant Hall Road Church would especially like to thank the Women's Committee for their generous support of our work with Mums & Tots, 'Souper Saturdays', the £3 Meal Deal and our support for the families of Gaza. We couldn't have done it without you!

Rev. Mike Smith

Chat 'n' Chill



Chat 'n' Chill is a new Church initiative being offered under the care of our Church member, Rob Evans.

Folk from within and without the Church are invited to come along for a chat, a cuppa or just to meet up. Activities can be planned between the guests as they deem fit.....whether it is walking trips, social evenings or whatever!.

It's maybe a little bit like our old Guild meeting but for a wider range of guests. The Sanctuary will be open for anyone wishing to pray or just have a time of peace.

Initially, meetings will take place on the 3rd Saturday of each month beginning on Saturday June 20th at 2 pm. We can't say how this will develop – but if you never begin – you never know!

Every Blessing on this venture Rob!

PHONE ROB EVANS ON 07534062797

A Day in the Life of a Minister.

In our previous newsletter, our Minister Rev. Gareth Robert described a typical day in the life of an ACTIVE Presbyterian Minister.

In this follow up newsletter, the Rev. Brian Jones describes the life of a RETIRED Minister.

Perhaps this story is best entitled:

THE STIPEND ENDS – BUT THE WORK GOES ON THE SAME!

Rev. Brian says:

I retired from being a full time minister at the end of 2025 after 5 years as Youth Chaplain and Coleg y Bala manager and 27 years in the full time ministry with the Presbyterian Church of Wales.

I continue to spend time in personal devotion before bedtime following the Welsh daily devotional book “Gair y Dydd” (Daily Word), and time in the study preparing sermons.

I continue to preach every Sunday and have already officiated at 13 funerals and a wedding this year. I am currently treasurer of Rehoboth Chapel, Prestatyn Cytûn and Prestatyn Bible Society Action Group. I am also chair of the Clwb Hwyl Hwyr Management Committee and help out in the Club once per half term.

I was also part of one of the teams from Rehoboth involved with Souper Saturday.

I have also taken up the role of Clerk and Statistician and yearbook editor of Dyffryn Clwyd Presbytery. I continue to be a trustee of the Denomination and am minute taker of the General Assembly. I am also a member of the panel preparing the recommendations to be put before this years General Assembly regarding the re-structuring of the Denomination following the consultation period.

In the community I am still very active being Chair of Llais Prestatyn, a group which promotes the use of Welsh in the community. I am Vice President of Prestatyn Rotary Club and President of Cylch Cinio Sir Flint which meets every other month for a meal and listen to a guest speaker. I am also a member of Rhyl 41 Club - meeting monthly to listen to a speaker and raise funds for various charities.

I try to find time to pursue my hobbies which include diamond painting, walking and reading thrillers!!!! and spending more time with my wife, Helena, children and the grand children.

You do not really retire as a minister.

Editor's Note: *Good to be able to put your feet up, ain't it Brian!*



Secretaries Rambles



No holidays recently other than two trips to Ulverston in the Lake District. Once you have had a dog, you always want another, hence our car trips to Ulverston, where Stan Laurel was born. Ever since we lost our lovely Lab/Collie Bella, our daughter Emma has bombarded us with details of dogs to be rescued. We did think about having a rescue greyhound and the majority you see walking the streets are rescuers, poorly treated and often quite nervous, they often have a tattoo behind their ears for identification.

Having done some research, they are sight hounds and the majority hate cats. Sadly our large family have four at present with likelihood of more so greyhounds were a definite no. Whippets although sight hounds seem to be a bit more placid (haha!). Emma sent us details of whippet in Cumbria which was almost two years old, house trained and very well behaved. Dot as she was called was owned by a lovely lady who also had two other dogs but due to a change in her circumstances had to return to work and felt it was unkind to leave this young whippet on her own.

So we made the long journey to see her and then collect her from Carole, the owner. Carole gave us a mass of equipment and was so kind. It was a bittersweet visit as Carole was very upset at saying goodbye to Dot. Needless to say we had a lovely Sunday lunch in Ulverston and then Emma drove us home. We have sent photos to Carole to reassure her that all is well.

Dot has settled down beautifully and enjoys her daily walks, usually two a day. Whippets are unlike other dogs as they tend to sleep for the remainder of the day and enjoys a snooze, who doesn't! She was named Dot as she has a white spot on her neck and tail. Having lost a dear friend of ours, Doti a few years ago, Mo decided to change her name to Doti, Welsh spelling if you please and she does respond to the slight change fortunately. Doti does not like squirrels so they keep away from our garden. We had one cat visitor and it was the first time she barked, a great fur ball in the garden who soon beat a hasty retreat.

Here's hoping we can persuade Gareth/Mike to have a Pet Service .The last was a great success done years ago but mainly dogs turned up. Wouldn't it be fun if cats came too and some other furry friends 🤪🤪🤪

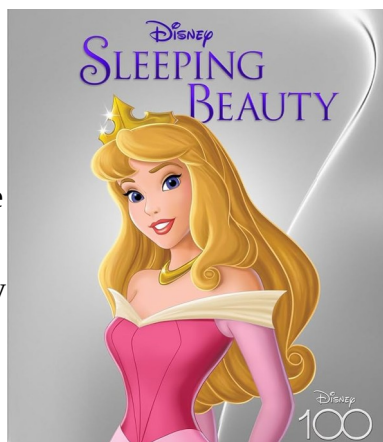
Only kidding, they are holding one in Rhuddlan Church soon and we all do love dogs, don't we Mike? I am finishing now and as I look over Doti is sound asleep on the sofa dreaming of furries or nuzzling Mike in the unmentionables!

Alun

Carnival News

For the fourth year in a row, Nant Hall Road Church will be reviving it's long held tradition of participating in the July town carnival. Over the last three years, each entry has won us a Top prize – let's see if we can make it four in a row!

Our entry this year will be based on the story of Sleeping Beauty - though we may need to be a bit imaginative on the characters included as we're (wonderfully) often over subscribed with volunteers.



Our parade will include a golden horse-drawn carriage (though the horse may look very much like the Nativity Donkey that carried Mo around the Church.)

Wish us luck!

A Blast from the Past



Nant Hall Road Church – 1976 Carnival Entry – “Cinderella”. (Try to spot Cec as one of the ugly sisters!)

Last Super Saturday

The last of our Souper Saturday events for 2025/6 was held on 28th March. Those who attended kindly presented us with a card expressing appreciation for the warmth of welcome they had received throughout the winter months. We too would like to thank all those who gave their time to serve the Community including folk from Nant Hall, Rehoboth Chapel, Bethel Chapel and individuals from outside of the Church.

Our guests contributed generously, raising £690 which was divided equally between 3 charities - The Foodbank, Richard Kendrick Homeless support and Gofal Dydd y Waen Day Care (day care for seriously ill adults).

Will we repeat the exercise next winter? We'll have to see!

Holy Week Services

Holy Week was celebrated through 3 services in Nant Hall.

Palm Sunday

On Palm Sunday we hosted the Scouts, Cubs, Beavers and Squirrels who were puzzled by Jesus' words "The stones will cry out!"

Can stones speak? We were joined by Mrs. Stone who stubbornly refused to answer any questions. It was explained that the "stones" that Jesus referred to were the stone monuments that had been set up to mark an appearance of the living God or momentous times in Jewish history. Those who spoke against Jesus spoke against history and so the stones would "cry out" in complaint.



The youngsters made dancing stone puppets all of which reappeared at the end the service crying out "Hosanna in the Highest"

Palm crosses were then distributed to all present (and some not present!)

The Last Supper – Passover



A service commemorating the Last Supper was held in the Hall by candlelight. The small number of Church members attending was supplemented by a some good friends of the Church. The service began as a Passover Feast consisting of lamb, unleavened bread, parsley, salt water, bitter herbs, sauces and wine – this then metamorphosed into a "Last Supper" Communion Service – just as happened 2000 years ago.

Easter Sunday



As we would expect the Easter Sunday Service was a bright joyful service – though it opened in sad reflection of the Last Supper through the sacrament of Communion.

The wonderful Jones girls enacted the story of Easter Morning as recorded in the gospel of John.

Next, the story of a caterpillar evolving into a butterfly was presented as a parallel to the way Scripture describes how the Jesus who emerged from the tomb was both the same as, but also very different, to the Jesus who was laid in the tomb.

Coral told the true story of how the prayers of children seemed to restore a tiny pet lamb that wasn't expected to live.

We enjoyed traditional Easter hymns – and the morning was rounded off by presenting the Jones girls with Easter egg; they deserve it!

Please Pray especially for:

Families of Vera Macdondald and Mair Owen on their passing

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

Chris, Emma and the girls.



Summer suns are glowing over land and sea;
happy light is flowing bountiful and free.
Everything rejoices in the mellow rays;
all earth's thousand voices swell the psalm of praise.



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

JULY	5 th	Mr. Andy Smith	12 th	Cafe Church
	19 th	Rev. Gareth Roberts©	26 th	Rev. Linda Elliot
AUGUST	2 nd	Rev. Peter Nunn	9 th	Cafe Church
	16 th	Rev. Linda Pearce©	23 rd	Rev. Neil Kirkham.
	30 th	Fr. Charles Ramsey		
SEPTEMBER	6 th	Church Led Service	13 th	Rev. Brian Huw Jones
	20 th	Rev Gareth Roberts©	27 th	Rev. Gareth Roberts

Coffee Mornings:

JULY	3 rd	Friends of Ffrith	10 th	Prestatyn Town Council
	17 th	Merched y Wawr	24 th	Prestatyn Town Council
	31 st	Church		
AUGUST	7 th	Church (Carnival)	14 th	Men's Shed
	21 st	Church (Carnival)	28 th	Churchill
SEPTEMBER	4 th	TBC	11 th	TBC
	18 th	Men's Shed	25 th	Church

Duty Elders

Communion Servers:

JULY	J. Bailey/C. Rendall	V. Evans/M. Pimblott
AUGUST	V. Evans/R. Roberts	C. Rendall/M. Smith
SEPTEMBER	M. Smith/D. Barber.	H. Lloyd/J. Carpenter

Facebook: Nant Hall Road Church

Website: nanthallchurchprestatyn.org