

# Harvest Connections 2024



A seasonal publication produced by St David's and St John's Methodist Churches, Llandudno.  
**Superintendent:**  
**Rev Dr James Garnett**

## WHAT DOES LOVE LOOK LIKE?

The Season of Creation runs from 1 September to St Francis' Day on 4 October. Our faith is that creation bears the imprint of God's creating word, and that God is love (1 John 4:8). We would expect to see God's love embedded in the world around us. So, what does love look like?

Love is not like an object – a mountain, say – that we can point to and say, 'Look, there it is!' We can only infer love from what we see; and thanks to Hollywood, the kiss has become the go-to symbol for love. Nowhere is this more notable than in marriage ceremonies. The Methodist Worship Book does not contain the words, 'You may now kiss the bride.' Yet, very often, this is the moment in a wedding that now prompts spontaneous applause because it symbolises two people becoming one.



The kiss is not the only symbol of love. We could also point to the cross and say, 'This is what love looks like.' The story of Jesus, the Christ, is remarkable for transforming this first-century symbol of Roman oppression into one of love through his life, death and resurrection.

The love of the cross is different from the love of the kiss, not least because the cross is primarily about action rather than feeling. The kiss represents love that brings us pleasure. The cross is not about pleasure. It represents love that heals the sick, that empowers the marginalised, that reconciles and forgives. The cross represents the self-sacrifice of God, in the context of biblical account of God's people, and helps us to understand what it means to worship the God of love.

So powerful and pervasive is the kiss as a symbol of love, that I wonder whether it is even possible now to talk of love without referring to our emotions. Perhaps, the word 'compassion' has become a better expression of the love that we worship in Christ. This word appears occasionally in the Greek of the Gospels, for example, where Jesus had compassion on the crowds who were following him (Matthew 9:36) or for particular individuals such as the Widow of Nain (Luke 7:13). More tellingly, perhaps it has become a better translation of the Greek *agape*, used by the Gospel-writers for the love that is symbolised by the cross.

What does compassion look like? The cross, yes. Our churches too, we hope. Yet the church does not by any means have a monopoly on compassion. To describe God as creator is to recognise that God has already spoken compassion into every human heart. Therefore, we see compassion all around us: in families, workplaces, schools, public services, charities, shops and business.

What does compassion look like? Please email me at [james.garnett@methodist.org.uk](mailto:james.garnett@methodist.org.uk) with a picture of compassion that you have taken locally (with a postcode if possible) and which we can share online. (And please remember to be compassionate by asking permission from any people who appear in your photos!) Compassion is the harvest of God's creation.

**Rev Dr James Garnett, Superintendent Minister.**



## **CHURCH OF SANCTUARY**

In the light of the riots of hate we experienced in our late summer of this year it is perhaps even more important to heed the call of the Methodist Church to become a Church of Sanctuary.

The following abridged article is adapted from the Methodist Church website.

### **What is a Church of Sanctuary?**

Church of Sanctuary is an opportunity for church communities around the UK to stand in solidarity with refugees and asylum seekers, and to create spaces of safety for those seeking welcome in their communities. It is part of the wider City of Sanctuary network, where over 100 cities, towns, boroughs and areas in Britain and Ireland are working together to welcome refugees and asylum seekers. Church of Sanctuary is currently coordinated by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.

### **Why should we become a Church of Sanctuary?**

As Methodists, we're called to be a good neighbour to people in need, and to challenge injustice. Many churches around the UK already serve refugees in their communities, with food, resources and hospitality. In a time when attitudes towards refugees and asylum seekers is becoming increasingly hostile, particularly through government legislation, it's also essential that we challenge injustice by standing in solidarity with refugees and asylum seekers in our communities.

Sanctuary is a long-standing prophetic theme of the Hebrew and Christian scriptures, calling on churches to provide safety and solidarity for people fleeing oppression and harm. Today, churches are called to be welcoming places of safety for all, and to be proud to offer sanctuary to people fleeing violence and persecution.

The Church of Sanctuary network encourages to do three things:

- **Learn** about the current context for asylum seekers and refugees in your community, and nationally. Are there asylum seekers and refugees who have been resettled into your community? What are the national policies currently around welcoming asylum seekers and resettling refugees?

- **Embed** a culture of welcome in the whole congregation. How can you ensure that the culture you create is safe, inclusive and welcoming to all, especially people made vulnerable by the need to seek sanctuary? Explore together what it means to create spaces of genuine safety and solidarity.
- **Share** about the importance of offering welcome, in your community and in the UK. We can draw on our positive relationships and experience of welcome to oppose hostile and harmful policies towards refugees and asylum seekers.

As part of the Church of Sanctuary movement, you'll have opportunities to connect with other churches and find resources to help you explore what being a church of sanctuary means for you. This will look different for every church, and the resources will help you to discern the right activities and actions in your community.

### **Sanctuary Sunday**

Sanctuary Sunday is marked at the end of Refugee Week each year, usually in late June. It is a chance for churches to celebrate building cultures of welcome, hospitality and safety in our churches. It's a great opportunity for churches to reaffirm their commitment to welcome refugees and asylum seekers in their communities.

### **Resources**

The Methodist website signposts a plentiful supply of useful dedicated resources which individual churches may adapt to their needs.

***Graham Morgan, St David's.***

***Church of Sanctuary - Methodist Church***

***<https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/social-justice/church-of-sanctuary/>***

***Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.***

***Hebrews 13:1-2***

## THE LEGO EVENT AT ST JOHN'S

As I write this article the Lego exhibition is taking place and I am really, really, really excited!

What am I excited about? Could it be the goat, or Donald Duck in both Lego and knitted form? Is it that the exhibition is for 3 weeks this year?

No, all of these are great, but what I am really excited about is that we are part way through the exhibition and already we have broken the record for the number of people who have visited and we have another week and a bit to go! This is amazing and the reason for that is because every single person who visits is a connection made. You can connect with a smile, a welcoming 'hello', a chat about their favourite model to look at. This may lead to a conversation about the church, the community we are, the building, maybe even taking the opportunity to explain a bit about why we



are church and what this means to us. All of these are connections, Lego is all about connections, if things don't get linked together then the model is just a pile of plastic bricks that means nothing.

The other thing that excites me about the Lego exhibition is the fact that people feel they have permission to enter the church, they feel safe to do so. If only people knew that no permission is needed- all are welcome! It also gives me an excuse to talk at work about what is going on in our space. We are reaching the point of the school holidays where ideas of fun and inexpensive things to do are running thin, especially things which are indoors, as has been very necessary this week in the storms and rain! So to have the opportunity to show pictures and say 'check us out'... well it is priceless!

I love being a steward at the Lego, the look of wonder as people enter the space and realise it is beyond what they could ever imagine. So, thank you to everyone who has enabled the exhibition to be open again this year, and for Alan for making it the biggest and best yet. On your tired evenings after a day at the Lego- remember you are potentially enabling a bigger connection that you will never truly know or understand.

Thank you. ***Rhian Smith, St John's.***

## THE DREAMING AND MAKING OF A NEW CREATION

What might we be talking about here? Well, in case some of you might be wondering about the story behind the creation of Janet's new preaching stole, if you are sitting comfortably, let us begin. It started last December. I had been chatting with Janet and Brian Park after seeing Janet's stole being worn, which led me to seek out the story of the way it came into her hands some years ago.



The stole had been commercially commissioned as a leaving present by a previous Circuit to Janet's measurements in order to remember her time with them. Ok, so this stole was very beautiful and cleverly designed, however, it hadn't been personally made by the people in the Circuit, it had been commercially produced.

I wondered, might it be time for a homemade stole created by people who knew Janet, depicting scenes and symbols representative of her ministry and life in Wales. Who might like to be involved? Might this idea grow wings? Of course Janet became curious about my line of questioning so I was fairly confident she knew something was being hatched, which led to there being no problem in placing notices of interest being expressed in Circuit and church newsletters. In no time at all a wonderful group of people offered time and talents, or money to cover the cost of materials. In a very unsubtle manner I asked Janet what her favourite colours were..... she said 'blue and green'. Now she was really curious, especially as I asked her if we could borrow her existing stole to take measurements from, because it fitted her perfectly. ( she's not very tall! ) Photos and dimensions were taken of her stole. As the creative team assembled we realised we had artists and cross-stitch sowers eager to pour their energy into this lovely project (creation). However, would any of our group be prepared to make the stole itself? It turned out that no one felt confident to tackle such a task. Was this the end of the project? Who might make it for us? I had another idea.

My sister Glenda lives in New Zealand and she's an awesome needlecraft woman. She's always making something on her sewing machine, so I gently mentioned this project to establish whether it might be something

she felt like being involved in. Glenda loved the idea and immediately suggested Thai silk as a fabric choice. In no time at all she had researched some Thai silk producers' websites and offered about seven choices for the team. We selected a gorgeous Thai shot silk blue/ green fabric as a possibility and then took the bold decision to ask Glenda if she'd be prepared to make the stole after purchasing the fabric for us as well.....quite a big ask, don't you think? Well, Glenda is never shy of taking up a challenge and thankfully she agreed to our suggestion.

In addition, we had been offered exactly the right sum of money to



finance the construction of the stole and purchase some cross stitch kits of a Celtic cross, daffodils, a Welsh flag, and the laburnum arch at Bodnant Gardens. Two handmade silk paintings of Conwy Castle and the Snowdonia Mountains were also created, and we had an offer to decoratively edge each work of art in lovely silver braid thus securely anchoring them on to the stole. By choosing these

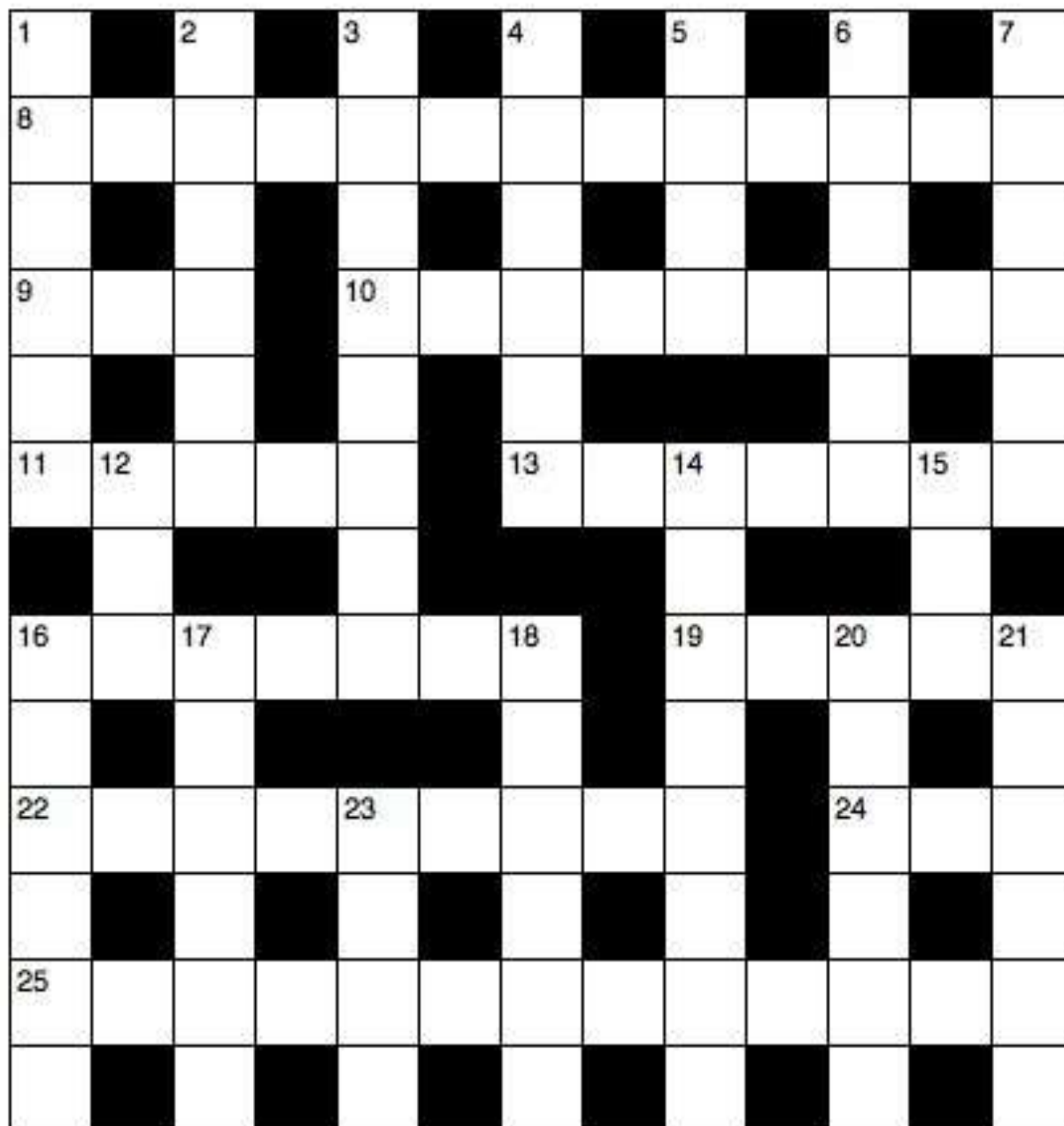
four inch squared designs for the stole we hoped to represent aspects of Welsh life that resonated with Janet's time with us in the Circuit. These works of art are truly labours of love as our group included novices at cross stitch as well as experienced workers. It was very challenging but immensely fulfilling at the same time. Thank you so much to everyone who played their important part in this new creation.

Janet was given her new stole at her leaving service on July 19th. Thankfully she decided to wear her mint green jacket which toned beautifully with the stole which she wore, following gentle instructions from me. She loved it, it suited her colouring and our work was complete. Please see some accompanying photos illustrating the stole including the individual pieces sewn in place.



With grateful thanks to Rev. Janet Park for sharing in ministry with us for five years, from 2018/19 to 2023/24. We'll miss you in North Wales, however our loss is Cornwall's gain. **Janet Smith, St John's.**

# Crossword



## CLUES ACROSS

**8** Where the ark of the covenant was kept for 20 years (1 Samuel 7:1) (7,6)

**9** One of the parts of the body on which blood and oil were put in the ritual cleansing from infectious skin diseases (Leviticus 14:14–17) (3)

**10** Uncomfortable (3,2,4) **11** 'Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have —' (Malachi 1:3) (5)

**13** Where Paul said farewell to the elders of the church in Ephesus (Acts 20:17) (7)

**16** 'Jesus bent down and — to write on the ground with his finger' (John 8:6) (7)

**19** Prophet from Moresheth (Jeremiah 26:18) (5)

**22** Comes between Exodus and Numbers (9)



**24** and **2** Down 'Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy ministered before the Lord under — the — ' (1 Samuel 2:11) (3,6)

**25** There was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:7) (4,3,6)

### CLUES DOWN

**1** Rough drawing (2 Kings 16:10) (6)

**2** See 24 Across

**3** Underground literature (including Christian books) circulated in the Soviet Union (8)

**4** Lo, mash (anag.) (6)

**5** The Bible's shortest verse: 'Jesus — ' (John 11:35) (4)

**6** 'Can a mother forget the baby at her — and have no compassion on the child she has borne?' (Isaiah 49:15) (6)

**7** Can be seen in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (6)

**12** 'Send me, therefore, a man... experienced in the — of engraving, to work in Judah and Jerusalem' (2 Chronicles 2:7) (3)

**14** Second city of Cyprus (8)

**15** United Nations Association (1,1,1)

**16** One of the women who first heard that Jesus had risen from the dead (Mark 16:1) (6)

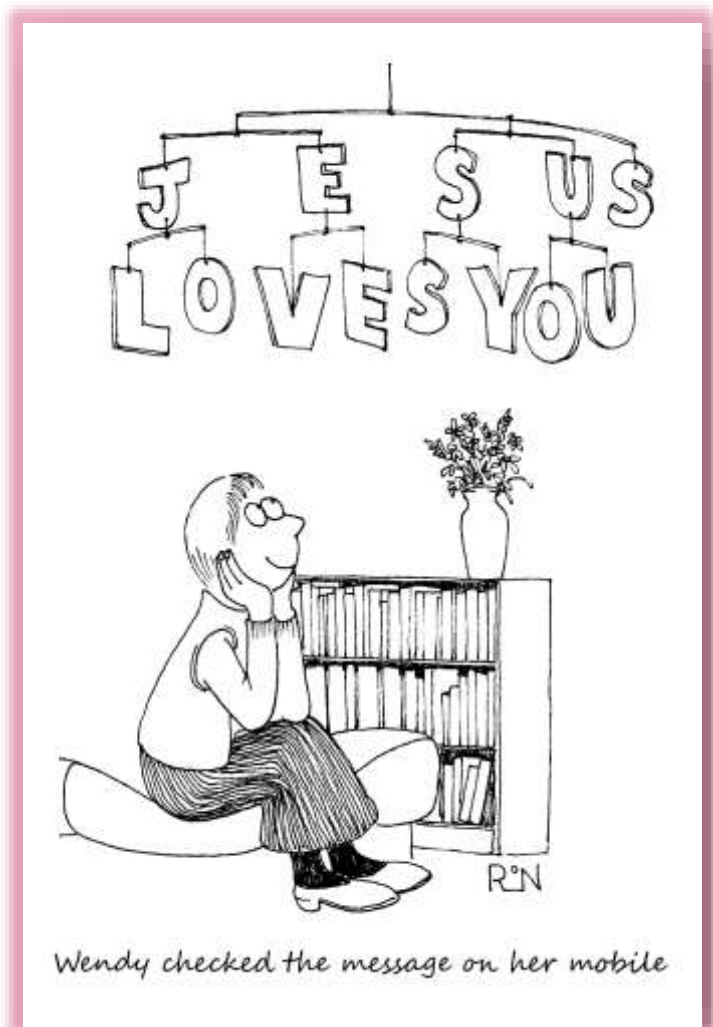
**17** Braved (anag.) (6)

**18** — of Evangelism, outreach initiative in the 1990s (6)

**20** 'Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and — in their own sight' (Isaiah 5:21) (6)

**21** 'Neither — nor depth... will be able to separate us from the love of God' (Romans 8:39) (6)

**23** What Jesus shed in 5 Down (4)





## TOOLS WITH A MISSION (TWAM )

**TWAM says:** “We are a Christian charity that collects unwanted usable tools, refurbishes them, sorts them into trade tool kits and sends them to the developing world for livelihood creation.” See their core values below.



We are committed to the poor.



We are stewards of the Earth's resources.



We are partners.



We are Christian.

### What does TWAM do?

The idea is a simple one to provide a wide variety of usable tools that are no longer wanted by their current owners, refurbish them and send them to where they are needed. Currently TWAM provides tools to six countries in Africa: Zambia, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Malawi, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Those who benefit are vulnerable individuals living in poverty. Providing tools offers a way out of poverty for those who cannot afford to buy their own and lets them develop skills and sustainable careers enabling them to earn a living and to feed their families. TWAM send a wide variety of tool kits, as well as individual tools, power tools, and accessories. In 2023 a total of 15,158 tool kits were sent. Highlights included 2,405 electric sewing machines, 723 manual sewing machines, 685 carpentry kits and 596 computers.

But the story does not end there. In addition to the provision of tools, there are benefits to us in Britain. TWAM has several hundred volunteers in England and Wales who drive vans and collect tools from the public. For those near to the refurbishment centres in Ipswich and Rugby, there is the opportunity to refurbish tools or help out in the office. There is also community fundraising, church ambassador and county ambassador roles. In some areas groups have been set up for TWAM volunteers allowing them to make friends whilst making a difference to the lives of people in Africa.

TWAM says: “In essence, TWAM is about empowering people - those in need in Africa and those at home in the UK. Our volunteers aren't simply donating their time; they are contributing their unique skills, energy, and passion to a cause that matters. As a result, they're not only transforming lives overseas but also enriching their own lives and strengthening their local communities.”

In addition, TWAM is concerned about sustainability and its environmental impact. It has a role by reducing waste and carbon emissions by sending nearly 200 tonnes of unwanted, refurbished tools to Africa every year. This means that they are not sent to UK landfill sites where they would pollute our soil and water systems.

### **What tools can be donated?**

TWAM collects a wide range of tools for refurbishment and reuse. See the brief list of these. But there are items that they do not take (e.g. tools with woodworm). The webpage <https://www.twam.uk/donatetools> provides more details of the types of tools that can be donated together with a list of those that cannot be accepted. For example, sewing machines include manual, electric, treadle and industrial machines and knitting machines cover machine and hand wool, needles and patterns.

Through partnerships with registered charities, training and support is provided to individuals. TWAM puts together tool kits with the aim of providing everything that a trainee needs to get started.

For example, an agricultural/garden tool kit includes: fork, hand fork, gloves, hoe, lopper, rake, scythe/sickle, secateurs, shears, spade, trowel. This would enable a rural family to grow their own vegetables with proper tools rather than stones and sticks.

The TWAM website ([twam.uk](http://twam.uk)) has a wealth of information about their work including the following (and much much more!):

Newsletter: <https://www.twam.uk/newsletter>

Leaflets, posters and other publicity: <https://www.twam.uk/publicity>

Blog: <https://www.twam.uk/stories> Newsletter: <https://www.twam.uk/newsletter>

Leaflets, posters and other publicity: <https://www.twam.uk/publicity>

Blog: <https://www.twam.uk/stories>

Prayer diary: <https://www.twam.uk/prayerdiary>

Giving at no cost: <https://www.twam.uk/givingatnocost>

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online – from your weekly shop to your annual holiday – you could be raising free donations for Tools with a Mission with easyfundraising? There are over 4,000 shops and sites ready to make a donation – including eBay, Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, Booking.com and M&S – and it doesn't cost you a penny extra to help TWAM raise funds.

### **What can you or we do?**

There are many ways of supporting TWAM as an individual, group or church from donating tools, volunteering, signing up to receive the newsletter, using the prayer diary, making a donation, publicising or fundraising for TWAM. Through church and other groups a tool collection drive could be organised. The website gives a full range of ways to participate.

*Lesley Rickards and Pam Snellgrove, St David's.*

### **THE TOWER OF BABEL GENESIS 11: 1 – 9**

It is believed that the Tower of Babel referred to in Genesis 11: 1 – 9 refers to a Ziggurat.

Ziggurat is an Arcadian word which means pinnacle or mountain top. Archaeologists have discovered them all over the Ancient Near East. One of the biggest was discovered at Ur of the Chaldees in Mesopotamia. It has been dated to around 2100 B.C.E., which is roughly the time God called Abraham "To leave your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you" (Genesis 12:1).

A Ziggurat was a massive terraced structure like a rectangular, or square, chopped off pyramid. There were huge staircases that led to different levels of the ziggurat. Each level was devoted to different functions, from

administrative to sacrifice and worship. At the pinnacle of the ziggurat was a temple. Each temple was devoted to the worship of the god or goddess who ruled the area. The ziggurat at Ur was devoted to the worship of the moon goddess Nanna, the divine patron of the city and its surrounds. Built on the plains of Shinar, it would have dominated the skyline and been visible for miles around. A bit like a cathedral can be seen from miles away. The setting for the Tower of Babel was in the plains of Babylonia (Shinar). Each ziggurat was built of unbaked mud-brick and capped with baked bricks using bitumen as mortar. Because the interior would have been more or less permanently damp, holes were made through the baked exterior layer of the bricks so that water could evaporate from the centre core. The temple at the top was white washed, inside and out. You couldn't exactly miss it in the strong sunlight.

But it wasn't only a place of worship; it was also symbolic of the theocratic political system. The god or goddess was the ruler, but could only rule through human state officials. The deity was attributed to have ultimate political power and authority. The god had the right to the harvest, animals and the conscripted labour of the people. All this was given in sacrifice to the deity. But it was the state officials who reaped the benefit of the people's sacrifice. They wielded the power, in the name of the god or goddess.

This was the real sin at the core of the story of the Tower of Babel. When we think we are more important than God, when we think we know better than God, when we think we don't need God, we sin. Sin is rebellion against God. It is self-assertion driving human beings to revolt against Yahweh, to resist His will. Sin is harmful. It is destructive for society and for individual relationships and for our own self. It is the antithesis of Love. When God created human beings He gave us authority to rule over His creation in obedience to Him.

This story is the culmination of the stories contained in the first 11 chapters of Genesis. These stories relate "how God created this world as a good place, but how human beings in their sin have ruined it. Sin is set forth as disobedience of God, but chiefly as rebellion, as humanity trying to usurp God's role in governing the world." (DSB Genesis Volume 1)

***Sue Harwood, St John's Conwy.***



## **CREATION**

Full of wonder! Full of mystery!

But how did it happen – when and where did it all start?

Was it a six day job of individual creations, completed a long time ago?

Or was it an evolutionary process over millions of years,

Perhaps still going on?

I don't know for sure.

After all, I've only experienced 82 years of it!

No time at all really.

And I've another question too!

Why did it all happen?

And so we have Science and Religion,

The how and the why,

Not in conflict but complementary,

both seeking different sides of the truth,

And both somewhat evolutionary.

So what started it all off?

It seems to me it couldn't possibly be a "what"

Because any "what" (whatever that "what" was)

Must have been created by Someone outside itself,

A Creator, Someone in eternity,

Who was not created by anyone or anything else

But who always has been and always will be :

**GOD**

So why would God create what he did?

I think because God is Love, always expressed in relationships,  
And wanted to share with others the loving relationships he already had.

So God created human beings,  
(It doesn't greatly concern me how or when),  
With each one able to have  
A loving, personal relationship with God,  
Looking after what God had already created  
Joining in the making of new creations too  
Creations of all shapes and sizes and uses,  
All to enrich our lives in so many different ways.

After all,  
God has never been alone.  
Even in eternity  
And before anything or anyone was created,  
God experienced the value of loving relationships,  
Those between the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
All joyfully working together  
In the first Act of Creation.

Creation  
Full of wonder! Full of mystery!  
Ponder on where you can see it  
And deepen your own relationship with its Creator.

***Jack and Pauline Waddington, St David's.***

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## THE TRANSFIGURATION MATTHEW 17: 1 – 8.

***“Tabor, the most beautiful mountain in Galilee, rises towards the heavens as an altar”.  
(Guide to Mount Tabor)***

Mount Tabor has a long history for Jewish people. The River Jordan and entered the land God had promised them. Tradition holds that the Transfiguration took place on Mount Tabor. At the time of Jesus it would have been a long and difficult climb to the top of Tabor, and at the top were an armed fortress and a castle.

Matthew, Mark and Luke, tell us that Jesus was in the region of Caesarea Philippi, which is in the far north of Israel and an area of great pagan significance. There were ruins of many temples of the ancient Syrian Baal worship and it is also said to be the birthplace of the Greek god Pan, the god of nature. Its ancient name was Panias; today it is known as Banias. In Caesarea Philippi “there was a great temple of white marble built to the godhead of Caesar by Herod the Great.....No one could look at Caesarea Philippi, even from the distance, without seeing that pile of glistening marble, and thinking of the might and divinity of Rome” William Barclay DSB Matthew Vol 2.

To the north of Caesarea Philippi near the Golan Heights was Mount Herman, a high mountain of great beauty often covered in cloud. Jesus knew His time was short. It was imperative that His disciples recognised who He was and the nature of His mission.

He asked His disciples “You, who do you say I am? Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God” (Matt.16:16).

Six days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, to a high mountain, probably Mount Hermon. He went to pray, to receive confirmation of God’s way for Him. He knew it would end in the humiliation of the Cross and He needed reassurance that he wasn’t seeking self-martyrdom but obeying God’s way of Love.

God gave His confirmation. Moses and Elijah talked with Jesus. “They spoke about his departure which he was about to bring to fulfilment at

Jerusalem". His clothes and face were radiant, as dazzling as the sun. When the sleepy disciples woke up properly, "they saw his glory, and the two men standing with him". Peter put his foot in it again when he suggested building three booths, one for Moses, one for Elijah and one for Jesus.

God spoke "This is my beloved son on whom my favour rests. Listen to him".

Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father but through Him.

God created the cosmos. It belongs to Him.

God created us. We belong to Him.

We are fashioned by God in His image.

We cannot fashion God in our image.

We are created to live in obedience to God.

Living under his rule will bring harmony.

Living in rebellion will bring chaos.

We cannot bring God down to us.

He has come down to us.

He is Immanuel – God with us.

## **PRAYER.**

Father God, thank you for who you are.

Thank you that we are fashioned in your image.

Forgive us for trying to fashion you in our image.

Forgive us for the mess we have made of your world.

Help us to trust you, to obey you and to live in your love. Help us to share your love with those around us.

Only you can restore this world because you alone are the Creator and Saviour of mankind. Help us to know

you more clearly, to love you more dearly and to follow you more nearly, day by day, through Jesus our Lord. **Amen**

***Sue Harwood, St John's Conwy.***



## **GREENING THE CHURCH: A SUSTAINABLE JOURNEY**

*AN INTERVIEW WITH MARIA CARTER, GREEN LEAD STEWARD*

**Interviewer:** So, Maria Carter, we usually associate you with providing all kinds of media services for the church, but you also have the role of Green Lead Steward.

**Maria:** Yes, it came about in our centenary year when our stewards' group set ambitious goals to obtain a green award for the church.

**Interviewer:** How did you get on?

**Maria:** We applied and were awarded a bronze award, so we can now proudly call ourselves a Green Church. But our true ambition lies in achieving a silver award.

**Interviewer:** Is this just vanity?

**Maria:** Certainly not. We've taken the process seriously and even appointed a dedicated steward to lead our efforts.

**Interviewer:** Why bother?

**Maria:** We are all called to be stewards of our God's creation. In addition we believe we're catching up with mainstream thinking. Both the last UK Government and the current one recognize the climate crisis, as do our own Welsh Government and the Independent-led Conwy Council.

**Interviewer:** So, is it just about compost bins and recycling?

**Maria:** No, it is much more than that. While we maintain our well-established recycling system, we have also adopted policies like using local suppliers and contractors. Recently, we invested in upgrading our Community Hall and other initiatives.

**Interviewer:** Tell us about those initiatives.

**Maria:** We replaced all our outdated fluorescent tubes with energy-efficient LED lights, achieving a 75% energy efficiency.

Our plans included replacing the kitchen-based dishwasher and water boiler with green appliances.

We have renewed the Hall flooring using materials that are 25% recycled. And, of course, there is plenty happening in our garden.

**Interviewer:** I have noticed some interesting structures in the garden. What are those?



**Maria:** The water butt is a rainwater storage system, allowing gardeners to fill their cans right in the garden as well as storing and eliminating extra water overflow waste during particularly wet period into our drainage systems.

Our Bug hotel might look like an ugly duckling now, but with its colourful sedum roof and planned trailing plants (like ivy, Lobelia), it will be a feast of colour next summer.



The compost bin efficiently converts green waste into usable compost, saving us money on brown bin collections.



Our wormery not only digests kitchen waste but also produces high-quality fertiliser and top dressing. We can use this compost in the garden to promote healthy soil and plant growth.

**Interviewer:** But what about your mowing regime? It seems you cut the grass before it can flower.

**Maria:** Ah, the delicate balance! We want to do the right thing while maintaining our garden as a peaceful haven. We are planning a wild area near the bird feeding station where wildflowers will thrive. It will be attractive for us and a food source for wildlife. Also by selecting wild plants which are insect pollinated it will reduce allergens in the air.

**Interviewer:** A lot has been achieved in a short time.

**Maria:** Absolutely! Thanks to the full backing of our stewards, the help from our gardeners and mowing team, and the fantastic Spick and Span team.

**Interviewer:** Has this cost money?

**Maria:** Yes, however we secured a Methodist Church grant to cover the entire cost. Not to mention the donations in time and items from our active and generous church family. Even without that, investing in our future—and our childrens’—makes perfect sense.

**Interviewer:** Thank you, Maria, for sharing this inspiring project with us.



**ST. DAVID'S HARVEST OF GIFTS WEEKEND  
SATURDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> AND SUNDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

As part of our Centenary celebrations, our harvest weekend this year will celebrate all of God's gifts to us.

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> 10am-4pm**

We are holding a Festival of Talents, showcasing some of the creative gifts we have been given.

Displays include art work, photography, crafts, sewing and knitting, writing, and photographs of productions people have been involved in.

We even have a Pet's Corner and a table where you can have a go at making some crafts yourself!

For part of the time, our pianists will be providing background music.

In the coffee lounge, all the entries from local schools for our 100<sup>th</sup> Logo Competition will be displayed.

This weekend will also be the first opportunity to see our Centenary Banner, which will be hung in the coffee lounge. Over 20 of our congregation have worked together to produce the banner, which represents the Life and Mission of St. Davids over the last hundred years.

Light refreshments will be served during the day.

**Entry is free, but any donations will go to our Centenary Charities – Llandudno Lifeboats and Toilet Twinning.**



**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> 10am**

“All Good Gifts around us are sent from Heaven above”

This will be our Harvest Festival, when we give thanks to God for his provision for us. Donations of dry goods and gifts of money will be given to our local food bank.

The crafts will still be on display, so that we will be surrounded by God’s Good Gifts to us!

We will also celebrate the gifts and skills people have been given that cannot be displayed on a table!

This weekend provides an opportunity for us to invite friends, family and neighbours into our church to celebrate our centenary year.

***Helen and Chris Cooper, St David’s.***

## **MOTHERS AND TEENAGERS**

A woman was confiding in her neighbour just how hard it was for her to get her teenagers out of bed in the morning.

The neighbour replied that she never had any trouble at all with her son.



“I just open the door and throw the cat on the bed,” she explained. The woman was puzzled, and asked how that might help.

“Easy. My son sleeps with the dog.”



## **BIBLE SENSE**

Being married to a woman who reads her Bible can have its drawbacks. When a man protested to his wife that wiping dishes was not a man’s job, his wife replied simply:

“2 Kings 21:13”, and handed him a tea towel. Later he looked it up: ‘And I will wipe Jerusalem as a man wipeth a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down.’”

## STARS OF WONDER

*The sun has one kind of splendour, the moon another and the stars another; and **star differs from star in splendour***

*1 Corinthians 15:41*

One January night Gwen pointed out how beautiful the stars looked.

I wondered and marvelled at God's universe. I started stargazing, just looking at the most visible stars with my naked eye, not even using a telescope. Stargazing is now something I look forward to on long winter nights. Before I became interested I couldn't really answer many of the questions below. A variety of interesting stars can be found in the winter constellation of ORION, that rectangle of stars around the bright and distinctive sloping ORION's belt.

### ***Where can I expect to see ORION in the sky?***

From Llandudno's latitude, the right belt star of ORION rises due east, reaches its highest elevation at 36 degrees (due south) then, after 12 hours above the horizon, sets due west. ORION follows exactly the same track every day of the year, summer and winter. I didn't realise that. Stars in some constellations may only rise at south-east and stay up only 6 hours. Yet other stars (the northern circumpolars) remain visible for 24 hours and never set at all from Llandudno's latitude.

### ***What time of night can I expect to see ORION?***

Although ORION follows exactly the same track every day, the time it does this changes with the seasons. Over the year, stars appear at different times of day. With each passing month, everything happens 2 hours earlier: the time a star rises, the time it reaches the highest point in the sky, and the time it sets. As ORION is a winter constellation, you can't see it in summer because it is in part of the sky close to the bright sun, but it's still there rising and setting at exactly the same points. In autumn, you can catch ORION before morning twilight from mid-September (6am) to mid-October (7am) around south. By mid-November (helped partly by the clocks having gone back one hour) you start to see ORION late in the



evening (from 10pm), but now in the east to south soon after rising. As ORION appears 2 hours earlier every month (eg from 8pm in mid-December; from 6pm in mid-January) viewing times become more convenient as winter progresses. By the new year ORION is at its highest point in the sky (always due south) by late evening, and therefore at its brightest because it's less affected by light and atmospheric pollution from the horizon. Convenient times to see ORION due south would be around mid-January (10pm) to mid-February (8pm).

### ***Why do some stars look brighter than others?***

**VISIBILITY** - Visibility on its own doesn't tell you much about a star. If a star is very visible it may be heavy or hot (ORION's three belt stars), or large (Betelgeuse, ORION top left), or just close (Sirius). Sirius is our second closest "naked eye" star, so even though it's only 1.7x larger than our sun, it is the most visible object after the moon, Venus and Jupiter (to find Sirius follow the line of ORION's belt left, by 6 times the belt width).

### ***Why is star colour helpful?***

**COLOUR** - Colour is a better starting point to understand differences between stars. Most stars look white, but look carefully and even with the naked eye you may see other colours. Blue or blue-white stars are extremely hot. White stars are the next hottest followed by yellow stars, then orange, then red. Because they are less hot, so less luminous, any orange and red stars we see with the naked eye must instead be very large.

### ***How many stars are out there?***

**NUMBERS OF STARS** - All the stars we see are just from our Milky Way galaxy which contains 100-400 billion stars. Unimaginable! Of these about 9000 are considered naked eye stars visible from somewhere on earth. Because we can't see many southern hemisphere stars, or stars near the horizon, even under a perfect dark sky we can only see 1000-1500 stars at any one time of night. To make it easier, I look mainly for the top 99\* most visible stars, the ones that look brightest from earth. *[Note: these numbers are just for our Milky Way galaxy. But there are 100-200 billion other galaxies, so the total number of stars in the whole universe may be 1 septillion stars – that's a 1 followed by 24 zeros]*

## What are the main differences between stars?

There are huge differences which are hard to believe.

**SIZE (SOLAR RADIUS)** - ORION is full of extreme stars: Betelgeuse (ORION top left) is the largest naked eye star with a radius 764x the size of our sun, and 134x larger than Bellatrix (ORION top right).

**MASS & TEMPERATURE** - Being heavy doesn't always mean a star will be hot: Betelgeuse is 9th heaviest, but only 96th hottest of the 99\*. But the three ORION belt stars are some of the heaviest and hottest. Left to right (Alnitak, Alnilam, Mintaka) they are the 3rd, 2nd and 4th heaviest\* and the 3rd, 6th and 4th hottest\*. Alnilam is 42x heavier than our sun. *[The \* is a reminder that this is a star's rank position out of just the top 99 most visible stars, not out of the billions across our Milky Way]*

**LUMINOSITY** - Large size, mass or temperature make a star luminous. If a star has all of these characteristics, the multiples can get very large: Alnilam is 537,900x more luminous than our sun. But (inherent) luminosity is not the same as (apparent) brightness: Sirius is 'only' 25x more luminous than our sun, so much less luminous than Alnilam, but Sirius looks much brighter than Alnilam because it's 230x closer to us.

## Constellations help us find stars but can they be misleading?

**DISTANCE** - Looking at ORION you might think that the main 7 visible stars are all hanging there in the same area of the space, but this is not the case. The stars in a constellation lie in a similar line of sight from earth, but usually have no relationship to each other. In ORION the 4 outer stars forming the rectangle are 244-864 light years away from earth, so are nowhere near the inner belt stars which lie much further (1239-1977 light years). Consider this: Bellatrix (ORION top right) is closer to earth than it is to any of the other 6 big ORION stars. And all 4 outer rectangle ORION stars are closer to us in Llandudno than any of those 4 are to Alnilam (centre belt). The light you see from Alnilam this winter will have started its journey to earth in AD 47 (about 15 years after the resurrection of Jesus).

## Are all stars single like our sun?

**MULTIPLE STARS** - Of the top 99\* stars at least **half are multiple stars in orbit with other companions**. Alnitak and Mintaka (ORION left and right

belt) are both triple stars. Rigel (ORION bottom right) is a quadruple star: An inner pair Rigel Ba and Bb (both 3x the mass of our sun) orbit each other every **9.8 days**. That's amazing, but it doesn't stop there: Ba and Bb together also orbit Rigel C (almost 4x the mass of our sun) every **63 years**. But there's more: Ba, Bb, and C all orbit Rigel A (21x the mass of our sun) every **24,000 years**. Can you imagine the energy whizzing round in that star system?

### **Are stars fixed in space?**

**ALL STARS ORBIT** – The sun and other Milky Way stars are all moving in orbit around the centre of our galaxy. Some stars move faster than expected, or in a direction that seems unusual. Betelgeuse is one such 'runaway star' moving away at 19 miles per second. One star is zipping away at 1320 miles per second.

**ALL STARS ROTATE** - Regulus is the bright (quadruple) star at the bottom right of LEO (the next big obvious constellation following the track of ORION). Our sun rotates 'only' once every 27 days, but Regulus Aa spins every 16 hours, not bad for a star 4 times the mass and radius of our sun. Centrifugal forces from this dizzying spin rate have flattened the star into an egg shape. The rotation speed of Regulus at its equator is 199 miles per second which is 86% of that which would cause it to break up. Of the 4 most obvious stars in LEO, 3 are rapid rotators.

***Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars.***

***Psalms 148:3***

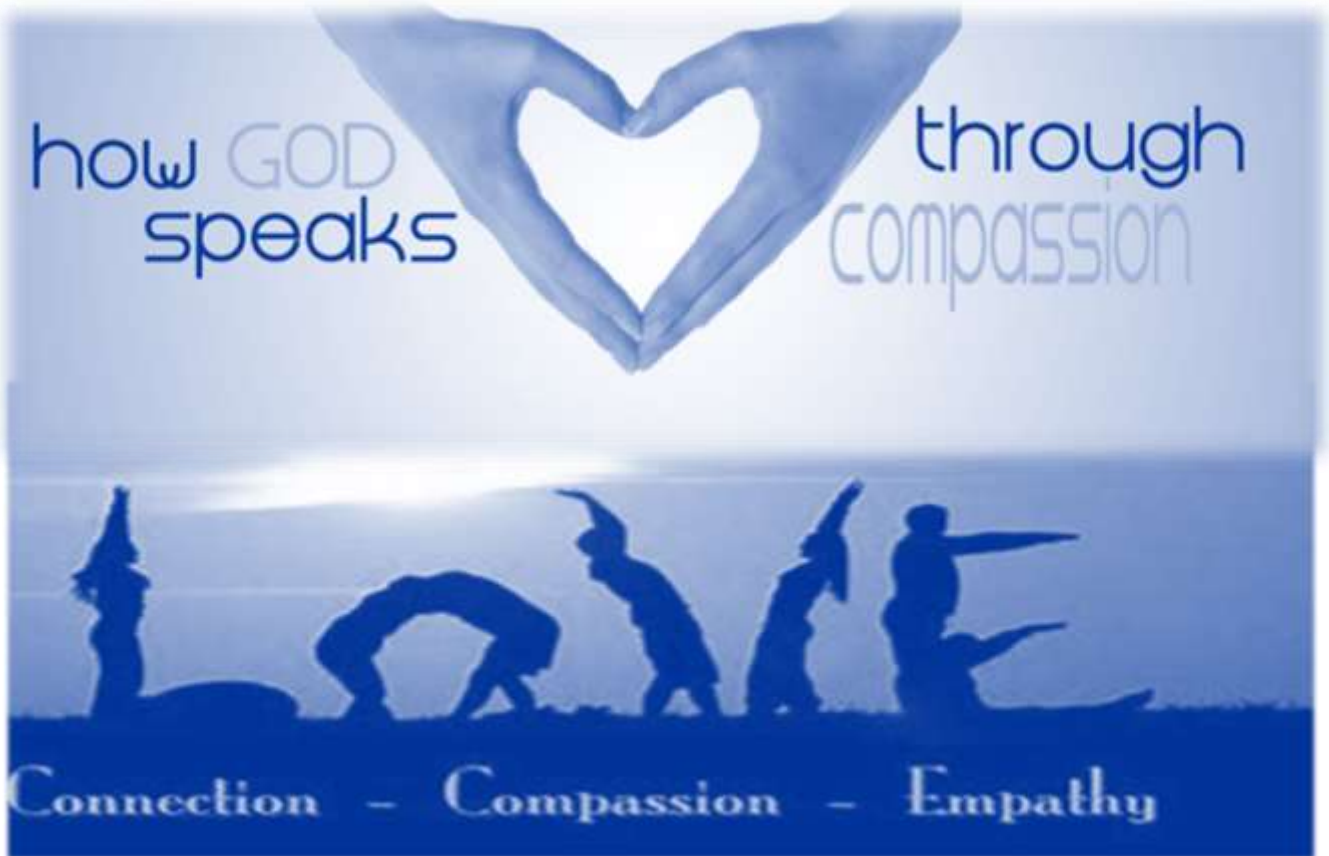
What an amazing universe we live in. **Huw and Gwen Davies, St David's**

***Creator God, forgive our moments of ingratitude, the spiritual blindness that prevents us from appreciating the wonder that is this world, the endless cycle of nature, of life and death and rebirth.***

***Forgive us for taking without giving reaping without sowing.***

***Open our eyes to see our lips to praise, our hands to share. May our feet tread lightly on the path we tread and our footsteps be worthy of following for they lead to you. AMEN.***

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# COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES

Conwy and Prestatyn   
**Methodist** Circuit

Compassion in Action  
 See someone doing something nice?  
 Ask permission!  
 Take a picture or just let us know!  
 cpmclayworker@gmail.com  
 Tel- 07886177832

  
 Conwy and Prestatyn   
**Methodist** Circuit



## CIRCUIT CHOIR

Calling all singers!  
 Do you enjoy singing?  
 Come and join us for  
 fun, Fellowship and,  
 of course singing.

**Weekly Rehearsals**  
 St David's Church- Bi weekly  
 Monday at 4pm  
 Old Colwyn Church- Bi-  
 weekly Tuesday 6pm



For more Information contact Liz on- 07886177832

**Liz Royle**

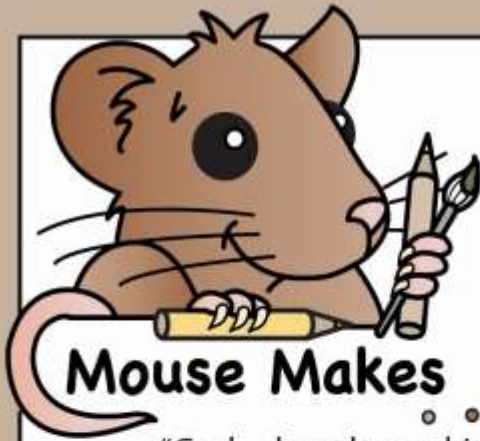
**Mobile- 07886177832**

**Email- [cpmclayworkerlr@gmail.com](mailto:cpmclayworkerlr@gmail.com)**

**Outreach Worker**

**Conwy and Prestatyn Methodist Church**

Circuit choir starting soon. Dates and times coming soon.



## HARVEST THANKSGIVING

"May the peoples  
 \_\_\_\_\_ you, O God!  
 May all the peoples praise you!  
 The land yields its harvest;  
 God, our God blesses us."

*Psalm 67:5-6 NIV*

"God ... has shown kindness by  
 giving you rain from heaven  
 and crops in their seasons.  
 He provides you with  
 plenty of \_\_\_\_\_. He fills  
 your hearts with joy."

*Acts 14:16-17 NIV*

"Honour the Lord with your wealth  
 and the first part of your harvest."

*Proverbs 3:9 ERV*

"Let us fear and respect  
 the Lord our God.

He gives us autumn and  
 spring \_\_\_\_\_  
 at the right time.

He makes sure that we  
 have the harvest at  
 just the right time."

*Jeremiah 5:24 ERV*

O A G A T H E R A I N S  
 S V O G M A U T U M N P  
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 I H J O Y V S H A R E I  
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HARVEST • THANKSGIVING • LAND • EARTH • FERTILE • SOIL • SEED • SOWN  
 NEED • WATER • SUN • SEASON • AUTUMN • SPRING • YIELD • PRODUCE  
 FRUIT • GATHER • CROPS • PLENTY • PRAY • GOD • PROVIDE • JOY  
 BLESSED • GOODNESS • SHARE

*Find the words from the questions too!*



## WONDERS OF THE LIVING WORLD

What are the best metaphors we could use to describe biological things? You might be used to hearing phrases like ‘your genetic blueprint’ or ‘survival of the fittest’, but are they helpful or even accurate? Some of

these words fail to capture the wonder and joy of understanding something new about the nature of living organisms.

I learned that one researcher was using the phrase ‘The Snuggle for Existence’ as a way to convey the idea, familiar to biologists, that cooperation is at the heart of the living world. For example, every cell more complex than a bacterium contains minute energy factories, each one containing their own piece of DNA – which makes them a sort of miniature cell, hidden away inside the larger host cell. These ‘mitochondria’, as biologists call them, turn raw materials from the host into chemical energy. In this way, everyone benefits: the mitochondria now have a safe a place to live, and the host receives the energy it needs. There are many more examples of organisms working together to produce something that is more than the sum of its parts, where often the individual parts could not survive on their own.

‘The Map of Life’ is a way of describing the regularities we see in biological processes. Eyes, legs and wings have emerged in the living world again and again, and why not? If the properties of light and gravity remain constant, we should expect living things to find the same solutions to seeing or getting around. When we look at these organisms’ family trees, we see they share a common ancestor that had no eyes, or no wings. These structures have developed completely independently, or you could say that the paths of the living world have converged on the same solution. That’s not to say they had a conscious goal, but that the world has certain properties, and those properties have channelled biological processes in certain directions.

None of these stories give us definite evidence for God. Science simply provides data, which can often be interpreted in several different ways. Perhaps the world just happens to be full of mathematical regularities,

maybe there's an overarching physical law we don't yet understand, or perhaps there are multiple universes and ours happens to be the one in which life has arisen. But I believe that the observations scientists make about the living world are compatible with the existence of the God described by Christian faith.

**Parish Pump Editorial September 2024**

**HARVEST FIELD**

**All around, confusion,**

All around, helplessness, people lost in the bad news of every day. Longing for purpose, searching for security and significance here in the white field of our generation.

**The harvest is still great,**

The workers are still few, but the Lord of the harvest is the same yesterday, today and forever, and this is His field.

**He planted, He will give growth**

If we will be His workforce and go out into the field - where He already is –to gather the harvest of His kingdom compassion.

**Lord of the harvest,**

**In Your grace, we pray, Send us.**

**By Daphne Kitchina**



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**20-11-24 DROWMORG**

**ARTICLES FOR THE CHRISTMAS 2024 EDITION**

Please can you get any contributions for this edition to me by:

**24 November 2024**

My email address is:-  
maria.s.carter7@gmail.com

Thank you ,  
Maria Carter &  
Graham Morgan

## Llandudno Methodist Churches

St John's and St David's Churches are part of the Conwy & Prestatyn Circuit of the Methodist Church. A leaflet is available at the back of both churches with further details about Methodism, its beliefs and practices.

Our minister is available to discuss any matter of concern, including:

- Information about the Christian faith;
- The baptism of children and adults;
- Preparation for church membership;
- Marriage preparation and ceremonies;
- Funeral and memorial services.



Superintendent Minister Rev Dr James Garnett. The minister can be contacted via St John's Methodist Church Office details listed below.

**ST. JOHN'S METHODIST CHURCH OFFICE:** Mostyn Street, Llandudno, Conwy, LL30 2NN. Telephone: (01492) 860439.

**Email:** [stjohnsllandudno@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsllandudno@gmail.com)

St John's Church, Mostyn Street,  
Llandudno. Services:

**Sunday 11:00 a.m.**

St David's Church, Mostyn Avenue,  
Craig-Y-Don. Services:

**Sunday 10:00 a.m.**

