



Nerys, Lyn & Sarah at Trefonen

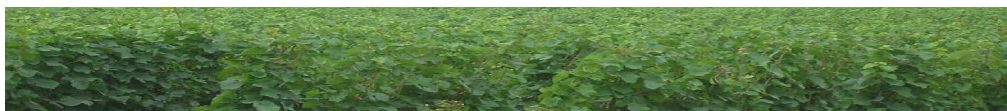
GRAPEVINE

CHRISTMAS 2008



Sychtyn pool near Nant Mawr

CARREG LLWYD CHURCH NEWSPAPER



Re-Searching Christmas

When I was a child I always knew where to go to find some of my Christmas presents – my parents’ wardrobe! Hardly a year went by without me taking a quick peek, feel and shake of gifts labelled with my name when my mum and dad had gone out. Years later when I married I discovered that my wife had been even more daring as a child. One year, she and her brother had discovered the location of his Christmas present - a Scalextric set - and in the middle of the night they unwrapped it, set it up on the landing to play with it whilst their parents were sleeping and then wrapped it back up before morning arrived!! Nice!

This Christmas, people will not only be looking for presents. Some will be looking for companionship because they have lost a loved one, whilst others will be looking for reconciliation with those who

caused them pain in the past. Some will be looking for a new job to replace the one that is now redundant, and others will be looking for a cure for an illness that has recently been diagnosed. Some will be looking for help to manage their finances and others will be looking for a break in their busy working schedule. Some will be looking for love whilst others will be looking for revenge. What are you looking for this Christmas?

2000 years ago wise men looked for a new born King and found him. Not amongst the pomp and wealth of a palace, where they first looked, but lying in a feeding trough amongst animals that were set aside to serve man. This humble start reflected the mission that Jesus was called to: coming to earth to feed us with Spiritual truths and to serve us through the giving of His life for us. What a wonderful gift.

As we approach the Christmas season this year I would like to encourage you to not

only enjoy searching for presents and receiving them from one another but also to search for a deeper understanding of God’s gift to us through Jesus and maybe even choosing to receive Him personally into your life as the Saviour from sin and the Way to Heaven. If we at Carreg Llwyd can help you in this search please do not hesitate to contact us.

This will be my last Grapevine message as my time at Carreg Llwyd has now come to an end. I count it as a privilege to have had the opportunity over the last 8 ½ years of sharing in the joys and sorrows experienced by many in our community - thank you for allowing me to be part of some of your most personal experiences. I pray that you may know God’s overwhelming peace and joy this Christmas and that in 2009 Jesus will have the joy of entering into a closer relationship with you...which is what **He** is looking for!

Rev. Glyn Thomas

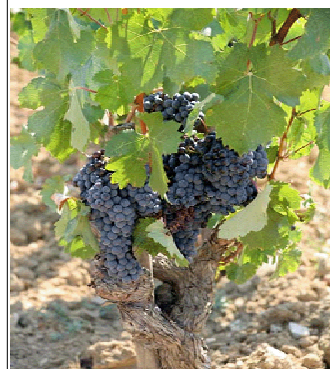


Jesus, The light of the world

Page 2: Christmas events at Carreg and news from Jonathan and Angela in Scotland.

Page 3: Extend your choice and bowling in the back hall on Thursdays and Luncheon Club on Tuesdays. Also the UCB prayer line and the Oswestry Christian Bookshop.

Page 4: Nerys’s notes and information on the Robin Hood pantomime and the Kingswell Centre.



A vine laden with grapes.



Christmas at Carreg Llwyd

- Sunday December 14th 4:00 pm
Community Nativity at the Woodlands
Special guest Jason Fell
- Tuesday December 16th 7:30 pm
Pantomime at Holy Trinity Church, Roft Street (see back page for details)
- Sunday December 21st 10:45 am
Christmas Special led by members of Junior Church
- Sunday December 21st 6:30 pm
Carols by candle light
- Christmas day 11:am
Celebrate Jesus' birth (speaker Richard Elmitt)
- Christmas Lunch, 2pm Don't spend Christmas alone, come and join us. Free but please book first, tickets available from Nerys, Luncheon Club, Extend or Church.

Message (in a bottle!) from Jonathan and Angela Beharrell working for the Fishermen's Mission in Peterhead, NE Scotland

If you watched the BBC series 'Trawlermen' in the summer you'll know where we are and will have some idea of the environment in which we are working.

We heard of the opportunity to help up here at the end of July, came for an exploratory visit in August and the need was so great that we were asked when we could start. We gave ourselves a month to pack up and say our goodbyes and arrived for a three-month trial period at the end of September.

The Fishermen's Mission (or to give it its full title 'The Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen') was started over 125 years ago by Ebenezer Mather as he set sail on the first mission ship to take medicines, food and comfort to the men fishing for herring in appalling conditions on the Dogger Bank. Nowadays the mission operates from centres at 16 ports around our coasts from the Shetlands down to Cornwall. Its purpose is still to 'Preach the gospel and heal the sick'.

The Peterhead Mission opened in 1921 to serve the fishing community and provides both practical and financial help for fishermen and their families in times of accident, illness or disaster at sea. It supports the elderly and gives bereavement and spiritual counselling. Home and hospital visits are made and there are Gospel meetings for all at the Mission on Sunday evenings and a ladies' meeting on Tuesdays.

We live in a flat above the Mission which is right on the harbour and there is someone on call 24 hours every day. Life is busy, challenging and certainly very different from our daily routine in Oswestry. We feel that God has opened up a way for us here and we are depending on Him and finding his grace very sufficient. Only a few days after we arrived Angela had to resuscitate a man found collapsed on the stairs and Jonathan has conducted several funerals already as well as preaching at the evening 'Nightcap' services, meeting fishermen at the early morning fish market and visiting homes and hospitals in Peterhead and Aberdeen. He has also had to get to grips with book-keeping and office work! He has even marched in the Remembrance Day parade behind a bagpipe band - the moment we truly felt we'd arrived in Scotland!

Jonathan and Angela Beharrell started "the Church without Walls" in Festival Square, Oswestry to speak with and also to pray with and offer support to people each Sunday morning.

Community News

Wow! The community room at Carreg Llwyd has had a make-over. So, well done and many thanks to the students who did all the hard work stripping, cleaning and painting; and doesn't it look magnificent?

Members of the Extend Exercise Class have been appreciating the new look. They can be seen here in the newly made-over Oak Room enjoying themselves during one of their Thursday morning classes. These have proved to be a great opportunity for folk to meet others and enjoy themselves. Many of them stay on after the exercise time for a hot freshly cooked lunch and to enjoy each others' company. It gets better, because in the afternoon we have activities such as table-top games, indoor bowling or just to be able to chat – with another cup of tea.

The Extend Exercise classes take place every Thursday during term time and start at 11.30 am. The classes are open to both men and women, generally older people or those who benefit from some gentle exercise. If this sounds interesting, why not pop in and see what is going on and book in for all or any part of the day.

Another group that is enjoying the new-look Oak Room is the Luncheon Club that meets every other Tuesday and is on the look-out for new members. How does a delicious three-course meal, in good company sound? There is the chance to enjoy good food and good company here in the neighbourhood and in these wonderful surroundings.

If any of these activities sound interesting, then feel free to either call in on a Thursday morning, or maybe telephone the church office (655546) and leave a message for Nerys, Mary or Susanna and we will be in touch.



UCB Prayerline

When you need someone to pray with you, or for you, call...

0845 456 7729 local rate call

All calls treated confidentially by trained volunteers
Monday to Friday 9:00am – 10:30pm

UCB – United Christian Broadcasters / Registered Charity 299128
<http://www.ucb.co.uk/>



**Oswestry
Christian
Bookshop**

We now have an Amazon e-store on our website. Customers can shop at Amazon through our site, and the Bookshop will receive a small percentage of every item sold. Christmas cards, calendars, diaries and music CDs are in stock and to order as well as Tearcraft and Traidcraft items.

Thanks Colin

Carreg Llwyd Church are most grateful to Colin Gregg for his presentation of the Grapevine for the last 10 years. He is greatly missed. We wish Colin and Kathryn every blessing for the future.

Nerys's Notes

Nerys Humphreys writes...

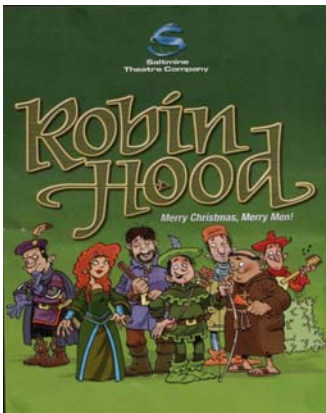
I was interested to hear the re-recording of Rolf Harris's song 'Two little boys' (now sung with the Froncysyllte choir) which was top of the charts for 6 weeks in 1969. As a child of the 60's I remember it well, as I'm sure will many who read this article.

The song, originally written in 1902 was the tragic story of two young men who rode wooden horses as boys and as adults ended up in the American Civil War. It wasn't until a few months ago when Rolf Harris re-recorded the song for a TV documentary about how his father and uncle fought together in World War One that he was struck by how close to home its lyrics were. He was tearful as he spoke on TV around the time of Remembrance Sunday this year.

The song is about care and compassion with the well-known line "There's room on my horse for two". Maybe it's because I've experienced God's care and compassion in my own life that moving songs like this remind me of the care and compassion of Jesus.

Christmas is about the greatest sign of God's love and compassion. It's really about God sending His only Son Jesus from heaven for the sole purpose of rescuing us from God's judgment for all that has offended God in our lives. Those who put their faith in the Lord Jesus receive His forgiveness and His presence within their lives and are guaranteed a glorious future in heaven forever. What better gift could we be offered this Christmas? And to receive it we simply but profoundly just need to genuinely put our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

'For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.' The Bible - John's gospel (chapter 3 verse 16).



Pantomime by the Saltmine Theatre Company on 16th December at 7.30 pm at Holy Trinity Parish Church. Tickets are £5 per adult, £3 for children and a family ticket is £15. Tickets available from Tony Gray or the Oswestry Christian Bookshop 01691 661936.

Saltmine Theatre Company is a professional theatre company established in 1985 and is part of the Saltmine Trust. They work in theatres, schools and churches nationwide. At the heart of the company's work is a belief in the power of theatre to improve lives and encourage conversation and discussion about life and Christianity. King Richard is away and the Sheriff of Nottingham is angry. The people are starving and a reindeer has been stolen!



The Yurbo is made from oak and chestnut and is a cross between a gazebo and a Mongolian yurt.

Millennium mosaic.
.....
Solar powered fountain & trellis.



Garden entrance gate.



The Kingswell Centre on Arthur Street is opposite the library and the Council Offices. It was established 25 years ago by volunteers (mostly from Carreg Llwyd Church). It is a youth and family centre and has youth clubs on Wednesday and Friday evenings in the sports hall and the cyber café. The senior support worker Lyn Berman seeks to help people with drug and alcohol problems as well as their families. There is counselling for those who need it and the centre is also used by agencies who are there to help the general public. Telephone 01691 655126. The website is <http://kingswellcentre.org.uk/>

This gives useful links and all the recent newsletters are there at a click.

