



# CMC Covid-19 Newsletter No. 10

## Late Spring 2021

Hello friend,

Welcome to the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of our COVID-19 Newsletter! Pandemics are notorious for taking too long to resolve and, not unexpectedly, it's the same with Covid-19. Whilst we wait expectantly for the day when we can return to those things we might have taken for granted previously, we must acknowledge our immense gratitude to those who have developed and implemented the vaccination programme, without whom we might have been facing a completely different scenario. Through their various endeavours they have allowed us to start thinking and planning about how we can resume our normal activities and our prayers and thoughts are with them. One of the things we can start to look forward to is resuming full services at CMC – with singing - how wonderfully glorious that day will be! We should also consider in our prayers those parts of the world which are not as fortunate as us in being able to access vaccines and hope they will also be in a similar situation to us, before not too very long.

In this edition of the newsletter we have a story of a lost bag, a review of our “Easter Walk”, horticultural photography and family news. As we've said in the previous newsletters, if you are a pastoral visitor and can't keep up with, or have concerns about, those in your group, or don't have a pastoral visitor available, or in fact think that we may be able to help in some way, please do get in touch with The Stewards or the Minister(s).

With love and best wishes,

The Stewards

## REACHING OUT TO BE GROWING CHURCH

The prospects of coming out of lockdown and restrictions of the pandemic have engineered conversation on how the church will reorganise itself after more than a year of not doing church as usual. Before the pandemic hit, we had explored ways of growth, including inviting people to church and being intentional about mission in all the activities that we were doing. However, over a year of not having regular in-person services and not being able to reach out to our community the usual way, we have lost a lot of grounds in that growth initiative.

Thankfully, the church council has initiated a discussion on how we move forward from lockdown and also looking at the future of the church in general. It began with a questionnaire that was shared among the members of the church council, to which various fantastic responses were given. We followed this with a recent additional church council meeting that exclusively discussed the suggestions that came from the responses. The church council acknowledged the challenges we have such as being an ageing and dwindling congregation lacking enough young people to drive change and transformation. We also acknowledged the financial challenges that comes with the maintenance of our building and other expenditure and coupled with the fact that we struggle to get people to volunteer for roles. Yet we discovered the premium place that our building occupies in the life of the Cardiff Circuit and the Wales Synod, the enthusiasm of our members, their dedication, and the welcoming environment we offer to anyone who comes to our church. We also took note of the fact that our building is put to other effective uses throughout the week and that links us close to the community.

We have therefore decided to explore growth opportunities for the next two years up to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023, with focus on the community and reaching out to the younger generation so we can become an intergenerational congregation, positively looking forward and working towards the hope of growth and prayerfully being positive towards our spiritual growth and ministry of caring for God's people and God's world.

This calls for action and we need all to be involved. When the government guidelines allow, we will hold a memorial service to remember those who have passed on and to mourn with those who lost loved ones during the pandemic. We will then hold a service of thanksgiving to set us on a new path. I am proposing that in the months of July and August, we do a challenge called **DARE TO SHARE**. We are all encouraged to share our Christian faith stories with friends, family, neighbours, colleagues, and people in our community. The aim is to tell them about Jesus, what he means to us and the change he has made in our lives. This will

hopefully encourage people to want to know more. We can then invite them to church to hear more about Jesus. To inspire confidence and courage to give this a go, we will use June to share such stories in church. Please pray and think about a short story of your walk with Jesus that you can share in our service on 13<sup>th</sup> June and 27<sup>th</sup> June 2021. There will also be an opportunity to share our stories during the Thursday informal communion services.

God bless you as you **DARE TO SHARE** your faith stories.

**Rev Dr Kofi Amissah**



### **Covid-19 memorial by Ivor James**

Ivor says “I managed to get two builders to help me put it up on the wall in the foyer leading up to Kofi’s office and the Synod’s office. The builders were very kind and refused payment”.



A big thank you to Derek French who has been keeping busy over the past year, spending many hours on the Church premises by painting corridor walls, painting in the bungalow, tidying up fire-doors, to name but a few jobs. I'm sure we'll all appreciate his hard work when we finally get back together again in the Church for services etc. But it is not only us who have benefitted from his hard work, Derek himself has appreciated being asked to do these jobs as he found it very therapeutic and it has been something worthwhile to occupy his time, he has loved spending time in the church and working for God.

Thanks again Derek, I'm sure they'll always be plenty of work coming your way, now and in the future. Alison H.



### A different kind of Christian Aid week at CMC



## LOST, STOLEN, OR STRAYED



Have you in the past been to Singles Lunch?  
If so have you hunted high and low for the item  
below which wants to find its way home?

**Here is a thing  
a very pretty thing,  
who is the owner  
of this very pretty thing?**

It has been in Gloria's tender care for many weeks  
and it would be great if you as its owner would like  
to claim it and have it returned – it would be a happy bag.  
It's missing you and needing you any time it leaves home.!

Remember the story Jesus told about the shepherd who lost  
just one of his big flock of sheep? The shepherd couldn't  
even go to bed till he had found it.

Jesus is our Shepherd. He doesn't go out looking for handbags  
but if we get lost on our journey of life it's always so reassuring  
to know that we have someone like the Great Shepherd, Jesus,  
who is always there for us.

Always good to know that Jesus walks with us.

Gloria

## Easter at CMC

We hope you enjoyed taking part in our Easter Walk, either physically by visiting the church garden or virtually by viewing it on-line (it's still available via the CMC website). We had lots of positive comments about the Easter Walk from members of the church, those from across the Circuit and people who lived, or were walking past the church and stopped to follow it's route. It was sad to see it go but the good news is we are thinking of doing a Christmas Walk! Here are some of the comments we've had:

*What a lovely idea and thank you so much for doing this. I found the hymns and songs really added to the overall experience and allowed me the space and to contemplate. I followed it at the church and online and used it as part of my preparation for Easter.*

*What a beautiful way to describe the Easter Story, the music and video clips are spot-on!*

*A good way to share witness with folk who are passing the church*

*It was lovely to see so many people walking around the church garden, spending time at every station and utilising the multimedia clips*

*Great for all ages, really marvellous, the pictures, music and words all tying in together, thank you so, so much for doing this 😊*

*It looks great, is really meaningful and is a wonderful witness for Easter!*

*Well presented and not overloaded with narrative. I loved it all, from Palm Sunday, the sadness of Good Friday and the explosion of joy on Easter Sunday with wonderful hymns and the prayers in English and Welsh – it brought a tear (lots actually!) to my eyes. Da iawn chi.*

# Easter Walk 2021

## Cyncoed Methodist Church



Welcome to our Easter Walk. These ten stations will take you on a journey through Holy Week, beginning with Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey on Palm Sunday and ending with the Resurrection on Easter Sunday. The narratives of each station are accompanied by links to videos and music which will hopefully enhance the retelling of the events, and the journey is mapped-out as shown in the picture below.



To get the most out of this Easter Walk, we encourage you to visit the church garden and follow the stations, but if this is not possible then you can still take part in it at home. You may have received this Easter Walk with links via email, but if not, it is available on the church website. The video and music clips can be accessed either by clicking on the hyperlinks or scanning the QR codes. You may need to download a "QR code reader" from your app store.

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| <b>1</b> The Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem | <b>6</b> Judas' Story        |
| <b>2</b> Jesus at the Temple                | <b>7</b> Peter denies Christ |
| <b>3</b> Jesus washes the disciples' feet   | <b>8</b> The Trial           |
| <b>4</b> The Last Supper                    | <b>9</b> The Crucifixion     |
| <b>5</b> The Garden of Gethsemane           | <b>10</b> He is Risen!       |



Many thanks to everyone who assembled and decorated our Easter Cross

### “A picture is worth 1000 words”



Well if that’s true, what does this picture of my spring bulb say, I wonder??!

Firstly, it points to the fact that I’m no gardener 😞

Then it suggests that I’m not very good at following instructions 😞

And finally it points me to a story told in the gospels of a sower and the seeds ✓

You see I left my bulb for far too long, meaning to get around to planting it, as I was keen to see the results and find out exactly what the ‘produce’ would be. Then, when I got to that point I had really wanted to use a pot as I didn’t want it to get lost in the many weeds in our poorly-kept garden, and very hurriedly put some soil and the bulb in a pot I had... but without following the instructions that specified the depth of soil required – and the results speak for themselves, I think!!

But what struck me, as I watched my bulb develop, was that there was an abundance of leaves and a strong flower stem, with the flower almost there, yet not able to flourish and grow. I’m sure there are lots of horticultural reasons – and errors – to find, but my mind went to that parable where Jesus tells of the fate of the seeds ‘sown’ in different conditions. And, as I write, we’re rapidly

approaching Pentecost and the blossoming of the early Church, as it grew in strength and purpose, and I wonder if I/we are in danger of being a bit like my poor old bulb? We all have the same potential of a seed or bulb to become a beautiful, strong 'bloom', with colour, fragrance, 'fruit', etc. and yet perhaps we sometimes miss out on fulfilling that potential. What might we be 'missing'?

We might seem quite 'strong' with plenty of foliage, but is it perhaps that we're not sufficiently prepared, grounded or rooted in our faith... or perhaps there's an element affected by not having the right conditions of feeding of that faith over time... or maybe it's that final element of God's Spirit that we've not been able to grasp...?

My prayer for myself – and all of us – is that we find ourselves able to flourish in our faith, growing in strength and confidence in our 'gardener, encouraging each other to grow, and becoming something beautiful and fruitful in our surroundings, for our God.

Helen O.



Helen and Clive's beautiful Laburnum tree and daffodils



John T's daffodil



May  meeting

## Theme - Looking after God's World

Grandad and Albert joined us.



Grandad helped Albert to understand that using up all the world's resources of energy, and not caring what happens to all the rubbish we create is a bit like trashing God's beautiful world. Recycling is one small way we can make a difference as well as being careful with the resources we have.

We did an 'Earth Day' Alphabet challenge together.



In addition to the words that were written or typed on to the sheet the following words were shared -

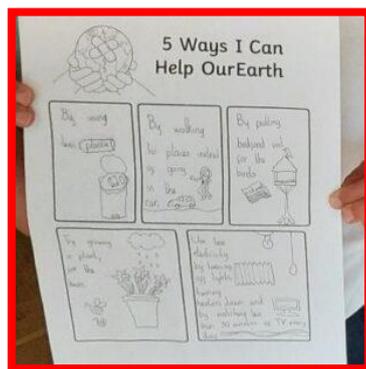
**E**nergy   **G**rass   **I**nsect friendly

**W**ater   **W**ind

# Five ways I can help the World

We thought about this statement before our Zoom session.

Then we showed our worksheet or talked about our ideas -



**We ended with Diane leading a reflection and prayer**

Dear God,

Thank you for the wonderful world we live in.

Thank you for all the wonderful plants and animals that we share the world with.

We are sorry that human beings have not always treated this world with the respect that it deserves.

Help us to be good custodians of the planet and work together with others to keep your planet a safe home for generations to come.

Amen.

We held our own Junior Church.

It was about God's love and loving one another.



Do you like our 'Paper chains?'

It looks like a lot of thought, concentration and hard work

has gone in to making your attractive paper chains - **well done!!**

Hi, here are some photos of Izzy and Sacha enjoying the better weather.

We made some marshmallow sheep to illustrate Jess the good shepherd in "home children's mass". The girls have also been making dinner for us in the evening once in a while (with occasional assistance), meeting outside with friends again and exploring the wildlife!

Best wishes to you all

Roy and Jess



## Allotment updates



Here we are again, who would have thought we would still be in the same situation as last year. On the allotment we now have raised beds so this has made planting and maintenance much easier. The seedlings and young plants are starting off in the Greenhouse and the potatoes are starting to come through but the late frost has damaged a few; over winter Broad Beans are in flower and this seasons are peeping through.

Slight disaster with the Beetroot, one minute a lovely row was there then the next day gone!! ?slugs or birds, 2<sup>nd</sup> time lucky hopefully.

We now have a wild flower meadow for a bit of Biodiversity to attract the Bees and Butterflies, in the middle there are new Plum and Apple trees.

Lottie the cat continues to wait for her Breakfast every morning and has been kept warm and dry over the Winter in various sheds and greenhouses.

## Jenny and Sue

### Some pictures from John T's allotment



## Behrooz's allotment produce



And finally, **Gloria's comedy corner** 😊

A client walked into the office of the Immigration Officer who asked him:

'Have you got a criminal record?'

To which the client replied,

'Oh, I'm sorry, I didn't know I needed one.'