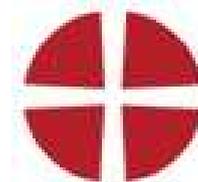


# CONNECT



The Magazine of the Swansea and Gower Methodist Circuit

Autumn 2018

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### Tell us all your news

Keep us informed with news of people, activities and special events by sending your contribution to the Editor or sending her an email.

**Deadline for the next issue is Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

### Editor

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## Swansea Street Pastors



*Rev Andy Walker, Rev Les Isaac, Win Hawkins (street pastor) and Rev Siperire Mugadzaweta*

The Methodist Church in Swansea was fully represented at an ecumenical prayer breakfast held at the Marriott Hotel on September 12<sup>th</sup> where the speaker was Rev Les Isaac who founded Street Pastors in London in 2003.

On that first night, 18 volunteers took to the streets of Brixton – 15 women and 3 men. Since the over 12,000 street and prayer pastors have been trained and play an active part in strengthening community life and working for safer streets. Currently, more than 300 towns and cities around the UK have a Street Pastors team including Swansea.

Les said, 'We are here to serve humanity, be relevant to the community and to equip people to display the true meaning of the gospel.'



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The Swansea and Gower Methodist  
Circuit is a Registered Charity  
No 1134882

**news in brief**

**Uniting Church Sketty**

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September 10.00 am-12 noon Macmillan  
Coffee Morning  
Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October 10.00 am-12 noon Coffee  
Morning proceeds for Save the Children  
Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October Harvest Hunger Lunch  
Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 10.00 am -12 noon Coffee  
Morning and Craft Fayre for Church Funds  
Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December 10.00 am -12 noon Coffee  
Morning proceeds for Blood Bike Wales

**Brunswick**

FAN 'Friends and Neighbours' every Wednesday at  
10.30 a.m.  
Intercessory Prayer Meeting every Wednesday at  
4.00 p.m.  
Coffee mornings on the last Saturday of every month.  
Bible study every 1st and 3rd of the Month at 11.00 am  
in the Welcome Room  
Women's Fellowship from the 14th September then  
every alternate Friday at 7.30 pm in the Welcome  
Room.  
Prison Fellowship every 2nd Thursday of the Month in  
the Wesley Room.

**Mumbles**

Theo's Coffee Shop - open daily 9.00 a.m – 4.30 p.m  
Wednesday Lunchtime Worship 12.15 p.m.  
Messy Church – Wednesday 31st October  
10.00 am -12noon

**Wesley**

Bible Study every Tuesday 10.00 a.m  
Lite Bites – Every Thursday 12 noon -2.00p.m  
Asian Fellowship – 3.30 p.m 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of  
every month

**Penlan**

Gardening Project every Tuesday from 12 noon.  
Weather permitting  
Every Monday in Term Time – After School Meal &  
Play 3.30p.m. (Booking Required)

**Clydach**

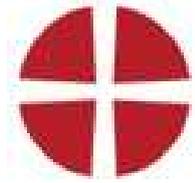
Wesley Guild Anniversary Sunday October 14<sup>th</sup> at  
3.00 p.m – preacher Rev Linda Woollacott.

**Murton**

Coffee Morning 10.00 am every Tuesday Morning in  
the Wesley Room.  
Luncheon Club 12.30pm every other Thursday in  
Murton Church Hall. Booking essential Tel 234045.  
Remembrance Sunday Songs of Praise November 11<sup>th</sup>  
3.00 p.m



## Message from the Superintendent



On a recent visit to St Nicholas Parish Church in Arundel, West Sussex, Alison and I were very moved by the perspex figures placed in the pews, each one representing the 93 local men who were killed during the 1914-18 conflict. The display forms part of a national campaign called 'There But Not There' marking the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the war on November 11<sup>th</sup>.



It was on the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of that day in the 11<sup>th</sup> month of 1918 that the guns finally fell silent on the Western Front. It was the end of a war that had claimed the lives of 16 million people worldwide. HG Wells described it as 'The war that will end war' but history teaches us otherwise. The economic consequences of the First World War played a part in the beginning of a much more deadlier conflict 21 years later.

The prophet Micah in the Old Testament predicted terrible times of war for the people of Israel, but he then went on to describe an amazing vision – a day when peace would replace warfare and swords would be turned into ploughshares.

We look at the world community today and see that Micah's vision of world peace is still a long way off, but we can all work for personal peace.

There is nothing - no sword, no gun, no bomb, no tank that cannot be turned into something else by God's love. Jesus knew that there is no broken person or fractured community which cannot be transfigured into something whole and beautiful for God.

We see the power of God most clearly in the Cross for it was on the cross that Jesus died for our sins. He made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. At the cross we see the very worst that humanity can do in crucifying the Son of God, but we see God at his best for he took the concentrated might of evil and turned it into a resurrection and he offers this resurrection life to us all.

In a world still so scarred by war and conflict we have hope because the cross and the tomb of our Lord stand empty. It led the hymn writer Brian Wren to write these words

*Christ is alive, let Christians sing. His cross stands empty to the sky. Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love drowned in death shall never die*

*In every insult, rift and war, where, scorn or wealth divide. Christ suffers still yet loves the more, and lives though ever crucified*

*Christ is alive and comes to bring, good news to this and every age, till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love and praise.*

**Howard**

## We Will Remember Them



As November approaches, we turn our thoughts to the end of WW1.

I am sure that many people reading this had relations who lost their lives during WW1, as they also had family members who returned alive, though not unscathed, otherwise many of us wouldn't be reading this.

My family lost at least two members, whom I have researched – my Norwegian great grandfather, John Brustad Nielsen (the spelling has changed over the years!), who was in the Merchant Navy. He died on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 1915, when his ship, SS Tangestan, hit a mine off Flamborough Head. He left a widow and eight children.

I visited Flamborough Head on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death, to commemorate the sacrifice made by him and his ship mates.

My paternal grandmother, Florence (Dolly) Neilson, had many cousins. One family had four children – William Llewelyn (WLO), Florence, Gladys and Ernest Owen.

WLO volunteered to join the army for the duration of the war and was assigned to the King's Shropshire Light Infantry. He married Violet Sarah Wearne just before leaving for France in 1917.

To discover more about his war service and death, I obtained his records from The National Archives (TNA), Kew. They were detailed on the whole, but also stark and upsetting to read.

The Owen family – Llewelyn, Emily and the children attended Pell Street Primitive Methodist Chapel (which was destroyed during the Blitz in 1941). They lived in St Helen's Avenue. Llewelyn and WLO were coal merchants. The daughters and other son were teachers.



*The Owen Family*

After being told that WLO was recovering from his wounds and would be returning to the UK to recuperate, his family received the devastating telegram, which all families dreaded, with the news of his death. The family's shock must have been unimaginable.

He died from a gun shot wound (probably from sepsis, as antibiotics, which were still in their infancy, would have been in short supply by 1918). He died on 12<sup>th</sup> June, 1918 at Red Cross Hospital No. 2, Rouen, France. He was buried at St Sever Cemetery, just outside the city.

In the autumn of 1918, the Spanish flu pandemic hit Swansea. This was no ordinary flu. In fact more lives were lost during this pandemic than during WW1.

Sadly on October 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, 1918, Florence and Gladys died of this dreadful disease.

I pause here for you to take this in – you have four children.....and three of them die in four months.....

Ernest, the surviving son, whom I remember when I was growing up, left his teaching post to help his father in the family business, as people did in those days. I remember him with a stoop, caused by carrying heavy sacks of coal.

I also remember being taken to visit Aunty Em (the mother of the children) and Aunty Vi (WLO's widow). Aunty Em sat in the corner, dressed in black, in a darkened room. At least that's my memory of my visits. No-one told me why she was in black, why the house was "gloomy".....and in those days you didn't ask questions!

*(continued on page 5)*

(continued from page 4)

So, as we remember those who fought and died, and those who fought and returned, as both my grandfathers did, perhaps it is still not too late to ask questions of “older” members of our families before these memories fade completely.

In September I visited the grave of WLO, to lay a wreath on behalf of my family. Through my research I have discovered and am now in touch with a “new” branch of cousins, so out of tragedy sometimes comes something positive.

In the meantime, on 11<sup>th</sup> November.....  
**“WE WILL REMEMBER THEM”.**

**Janet M.Neilson**

**Rev.Margaret Adams  
New Supernumerary Minister**



Hello - my name is Margaret Adams. I have moved to the Mumbles from the Wimbledon Circuit where I was the Superintendent Minister. I have 3 children and 9 grandchildren. They all live in Kent. I have a brother living in Southgate. Andy is CEO of the Charity “Care for Uganda” he founded in 2001. I am Chair of trustees at the moment. I regularly visit Uganda.

I enjoy photography, being creative, reading, walking amongst other things.

I look forward with excitement and expectation to what the Lord has in store for me in this next stage of my journey. I await his guidance.

I look forward to meeting you and getting to know you over the next few months and years.

**Mission Sunday**

**Sunday October 14<sup>th</sup> 2018**

**Launch of the new circuit project  
‘Tools for Self Reliance’**

**TFSR CYMRU** is a charity that collects old and unwanted hand tools.

Volunteers clean, repair and sharpen them, and send tool kits to grass roots community groups in several African countries.

Hear more about this exciting project during the morning service in your local church. In the evening at 6 .00 p.m there will be a circuit mission service at Penlan Methodist Church. Preacher - Rev John Hanson from Porthcawl



*Congratulations to Alf Long, who celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in August*

## Gathering Hope



Imagine a riverside campsite in mid Wales at the end of July. Imagine a horseshoe of various sized marquees and tents. Imagine a few hundred people of all ages gathering in hope of a weekend of music, fun, stimulation and inspiration. Got that all your mind's eye – then you've begun to get a flavour of the first ever Gwyl CODA Festival.

At the head of the 'horseshoe' was the 'Hub' - a marquee set out café-style with a stage at one end and some stalls at the other. This was where everyone, more or less, met up mid-morning to hear a few samples of what was to come in the day, meet up with friends, and enjoy a coffee and some lovely cake (provided by Square Peg Cafe, Sketty). Just outside during the afternoon the younger festival goers could try various activities such as hula hoops, skipping and juggling.



As well as hearing our old friend Garth Hewitt again, there was a fascinating mix of music available, including sea shanties with Captain Cat and the Sailors and a very unusual presentation of Ecclesiastes 1 by 'Was' - vocals with harmonium accompaniment. Garth, who is ordained and a singer with a mission for justice, shared some thoughts and stories on the theme of 'calling' from his recently produced autobiography.

The family that had travelled furthest to be with us was the Salsaa family from Bethlehem, Palestine, friends of Garth. The father, Wissam, is manager of the Walled Off Hotel (get it?....say it quickly!). The hotel is owned by Banksy whose artwork has been cropping up on parts of the separation wall between Israel and the Palestinian Territories over recent years. Wissam gave a talk about the successes of the hotel, where prices are higher the worse the view (of the separation wall which towers around it), and where there is an emphasis on the arts and on informing visitors about the contemporary story of Bethlehem.

As everywhere Brexit was on the agenda at CODA. There were a couple of study sessions prepared by the Corymeela Community in Northern Ireland reflecting on issues of borders (a hot topic for them, of course), linking it to the story of Ruth. Some aspects of the Brexit process were presented by Rev Gethin Rhys, Policy Officer of CYTUN, who was very careful to be impartial, and gave us some useful information and food for thought. Other speakers presented the idea of 'Quiet Disrupters', reflected on being English in Wales, and brought a challenge to the churches on racial exclusion.

Until rain made the venue too wet, it was possible to listen to 'Telling Tales' under a big oak tree, and one tent was set aside for silent reflection and creative prayer, while Christian Aid had its own tent with activities and speakers.

The idea of CODA was launched two years ago at the Greenbelt Festival which describes itself as 'celebrating creativity and nurturing activism....an act of imagination, inspirational, provocative and...well, fun!' That pretty much sums up our first experience of CODA. Some of us will meet in October to review the festival and see what activities it might give birth to between now and the next planned festival in July 2020.

**Rev.Pam Cram**

People are funny creatures; they want the front of the bus, the middle of the road and the back of the church.

## A Memorable Centenary



*Hundreds of alumnae and their families returned to Newnham to celebrate the strength, determination and zest for life of our alumnae, and the 100th anniversary of the Newnham Roll.*

Do you remember that a statue of a woman was erected recently in Parliament Square, next to that of Churchill and Nelson Mandela? This statue was of Millicent Fawcett, a notable supporter of education for women and a leading suffragist (never a suffragette, because she did not believe in violence or law breaking).

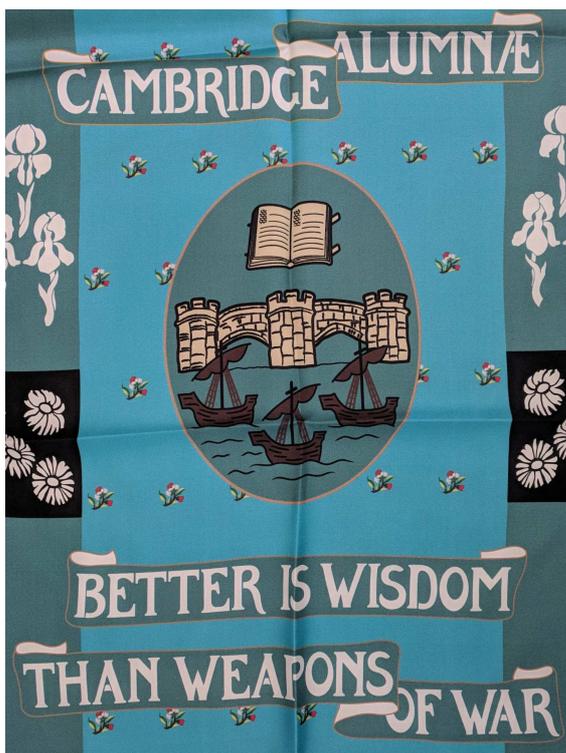
In 1869 Mrs. Fawcett and Henry Sidgwick established in Cambridge "Lectures for Ladies" and soon after, in 1871, founded residential accommodation which became Newnham College. The long time chauvinist attitude of men in the University of Cambridge prevented the proper awarding of degrees to women until 1948. This was despite the fact that women undertook the same courses of study and sat the same examinations. The only proof of their qualifications was provided by the written records of the Newnham Roll founded in 1918.

Hence on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2018, the Roll celebrated its centenary by holding an Open Day and Garden Party. Just five alumnae were present from the 1940's period and it was great fun to see my name at the top of the list.

A recent e-mail from college contains the sentence "a student who was 17 when she arrived received a much envied child's full milk ration". That, in 1943, was me!

There were many activities to choose at the centenary. One of the most interesting for me was "The Living Library". This gave opportunity for each visitor to talk, on a one-to-one basis, with several selected ladies deemed to be "achievers". In this way I talked to a harpist from Belfast, the Queen's Treasurer with an office in Buckingham Palace and the lady who took the Cambridge constituency for Labour and was an M.P for 12 years.

*(continued on page 8)*

*(continued from page 7)*

The grand finale of the day was a group photograph (can you spot the writer?) and a concert was performed by a scratch choir. A poem with music had been commissioned for the occasion. The chorus was based on the words from the famous 1908 college suffragist banner on display “Better Is Wisdom Than Weapons Of War”.

**Alice Rutter**

**WANTED URGENTLY:** Lap tops for Tanzania!

Do you have an unwanted lap-top? If so please let me know. I will be taking them out to Tanzania on 22nd October so that the equipping of a computer/education centre can be completed at the Heshima project that I have been supporting for the past 9 years.

Many thanks...Alan Cram 845942.  
See also [www.heshima.org.uk](http://www.heshima.org.uk)

## The Power of Trade



Three decades ago the founder of Traidcraft, Richard Adams, realised that instead of trade being used to exploit the poor, it could be placed at the service of the poor. Thanks to his vision Traidcraft plc and Traidcraft Exchange charity were formed, two separate but linked organisations trying to tackle the same problem. I sell products from Traidcraft plc, and support Traidcraft Exchange by sending them my profits. I do this because, like Richard Adams, some 40 years ago I learned about the huge and increasing power of multinational companies, and about the exploitation of the workforce in so many poor countries. (Some businesses are now arguably more powerful than most countries!)

There have been huge successes in raising the amount of ethical trading and its profile – the Fairtrade mark, Fairtrade goods in supermarkets, etc. However, lately it's seemed a struggle to maintain some of the successes, let alone build on them. Traidcraft plc has seen trading losses. The company is now being restructured (which sadly means some redundancies at their HQ in Gateshead), and they are seeking new ways of doing things. At times like this it's all the more important for Traidcraft customers to spread the word and keep on buying – from a retailer like me or through the online shop. A new autumn catalogue is out soon, and there will later be a catalogue especially for Christmas.

*(continued on page 9)*

## The Bounty Bible

On April 28, 1789, Lieutenant William Bligh, commander of H.M.S. *Bounty*, was awakened by men who "seizing me, tied my hands with a cord and threatened instant death if I made the least noise." Bligh called out anyway, but all of the ship's officers were guarded by mutineers. Bligh was then "carried on deck in my shirt, in torture with a severe bandage round my wrists behind my back, where I found no man to rescue me."



*William Bligh (1754-1817)*

Anyone who has seen either the 1935 or the 1962 version of this story likely thinks Bligh had it coming. He was a sadistic villain, and the dashing leader of the mutineers, Fletcher Christian (Clark Gable/Marlon Brando), was doing everyone a favour. The reality was more complicated—and the ending much more surprising.

When the mutiny occurred, the *Bounty* was en-route from Tahiti, where its crew had collected breadfruit plantings, to the Caribbean, where the plantings would be used to grow food for slaves. The sailors had enjoyed their time in Tahiti, though, and they didn't want to leave—especially under the command of Bligh, who was, if not a sadist, notably strict and ill-tempered.

Christian's original plan was to flee the *Bounty* in its attached long boat and head back to sunny Polynesia, but other crew members convinced him to keep the *Bounty* and pack the officers in the long boat instead. Amazingly, Bligh and company navigated their overcrowded vessel 3,600 miles to the Dutch East Indies. The lieutenant eventually made it back to England, then returned to the South Pacific

for revenge. In the meantime, the mutineers were living large on Tahiti.

Though Christian never found out Bligh had survived, he feared that staying at Tahiti could put him in danger of capture. Mutiny was, after all, a capital offence. He reboarded the *Bounty* and set out to find a place where he could hide forever. Seven other mutineers, twelve Polynesian women, six Polynesian men, and one infant joined him. After months of exploration, they found Pitcairn Island, which had no people but an abundance of coconuts, breadfruit, and other useful crops. The group destroyed the *Bounty*, to avoid detection by passing ships, and settled into their own paradise.

Like the first paradise, however, this one featured hidden dangers. Unfettered sexuality provoked jealousy and rage. The root of the ti plant, one mutineer discovered, could be distilled into liquor. The underlying problem though, was building a society with criminals, concubines, and malcontents. Within four years, all of the Polynesian men and half of the mutineers had been murdered. A few years later, only two Englishmen—Edward Young and Alexander Smith—remained with the fearful women and children.

The Mutiny on the *Bounty* films are uninterested in the fate of Pitcairn Island, but for Christians, this is where the story really begins. While poking through the items saved from the ship, Smith discovered a Bible and a Book of Common Prayer. Smith couldn't read, but Young taught him before succumbing to consumption in 1801. Smith studied the Bible for years and became convinced that everyone on the island (at this point, himself, 10 women, and many children) needed to live by its principles. He instituted Sunday worship and daily prayer times, at which he would offer petitions like this:

Suffer me not, O Lord, to waste this day in sin or folly. But let me worship thee with much delight. Teach me to know more of thee and to serve thee better than ever I have done before, that I may be fitter to dwell in heaven, where thy worship and service are everlasting. Amen.

*(continued on page 14)*

(continued on page 13)

In 1808 an American ship discovered Pitcairn Island, where the crew was shocked to find a community of 35 English-speaking Christians. The Americans reported their find, but England was too busy with the Napoleonic Wars to do much of anything about it. Six years later a British ship rediscovered Pitcairn, and though the crew had orders to seize and kill any mutineers they found in the South Pacific, they couldn't bring themselves to disrupt the peaceful community by punishing Smith, now known by all on the island as "father." Smith still feared recapture, and he changed his name to John Adams (after the American president) in a rather curious move to avoid it. But no one came to seize him, and he died on the island in 1829.

The Bounty Bible was taken from the island on 17 July 1839 having been bequeathed by "John Adams" grandson to a carpenter named Levi Hayton from the whaling ship *Cyrus*, who took it home to Windsor, Connecticut. The Bible was presented to the Connecticut Historical Society in 1896. Following a request for the return of the Bible by Pitcairn school teacher A.W. Moverley, after 110 years in the United States the Connecticut Historical Society passed it to Sir Oliver Franks, the British Ambassador in Washington, D.C., in March 1949. It was then restored and rebound in London and the Colonial Office had it transported back to Pitcairn via Fiji, where a wooden case was made for it, and it was presented to the people of the islands in February 1950, 160 years after the mutineers settled on Pitcairn. The Bible was held at the Church in Adamstown, Pitcairn, which was built in 1954, until a museum was opened in 2006. The Bible is now in the museum, preserved under glass with a facsimile of William and Elizabeth Bligh's marriage certificate, a prayer book, and other artefacts.



Even sincere biblical teaching couldn't turn Pitcairn into an earthly paradise—every community has its problems—but Adams work made a huge difference. The church in Adamstown (the only church, in the only town) still holds weekly worship, attended by the almost all of the 50 Pitcairn Island residents.

You can find out more about Pitcairn Island here <http://www.government.pn/>

Lee Wilcock

You are invited to come and listen to Ravina and Nyangi talk about their work with street children in Mwanza, Tanzania.

at

Capel y Nant Hall, Clydach

on

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October

Interview at 10.30 a.m. followed by coffee and informal chat at 11.00 a.m.

Entrance £2: profit to the Cheka Sana project, which is supported by the Amos Trust

Further information: Alan Cram 845942 and <https://www.amostrust.org/amos-street-child/partners/cheka-sana-tanzania/>

### "NOT FOR SALE

Cresswell & Ball & Co upright piano needs new home. Yours if you can take it away.

Please contact Rev Malcolm Guest  
[m.guest43@btinternet.com](mailto:m.guest43@btinternet.com)  
Tel: 01792 296766."

## Concert at Murton



*A Choir Concert by Mum's the Word, directed by Ros Evans was held at our Murton chapel in aid of Lewy Body dementia care and research. Julie Barrow organised the concert in memory of her late husband Robert.*

A refreshing, contemporary type of Church for All Ages with the Murton Methodist team & friends.

friends : fun : families

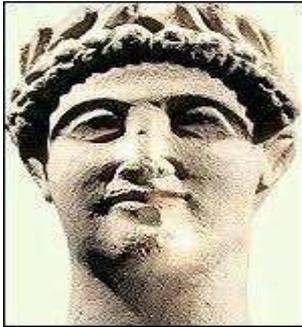
faith at five!

prayer : praise : passion

These Sundays at 5 pm during 2018 :  
9th September, 30th September,  
21st October, 18th November.

 Murton Methodist Church *all for Jesus!*

## Herod Family History (Part 1)



The name Herod crops up several times in the New Testament, in connection with Jesus, but they are not the same person.

Firstly, Herod "the Great" ruled as king of the Jews under Roman authority for thirty-three years, from 37–4 BC. It is this Herod who appears in the account of Jesus' birth (Matt. 2:1–19; Luke 1:5). But when the 'Wise Men' did not return to Jerusalem to report to Herod, after being warned by an Angel, and departed to their country by another route, he was the king who was responsible for the massacre of the children in Bethlehem (Matthew 2:16-18)

Later the name Herod appears as responsible for the beheading of John The Baptist, (Mark 6:16-29) This was Herod Antipas aka (Also Know As) Herod the Tetrarch Mark 6:14 King Herod heard about Jesus, for his name was known everywhere. He said, "John the Baptizer has risen from the dead!"

The marriage tangles of the Herod family were quite incredible, and their inter-relations are so complicated that they become almost impossible to work out. One commentator liked it to 'The Gossip column of a trashy magazine'. When Jesus was born Herod the Great was king. (perhaps he was know as 'Great' because he murdered a great many people)

Herod the Great was married many times.

Towards the end of his life he became almost insanely suspicious and murdered member after member of his own family, until it became a Jewish saying, "It is safer to be Herod's pig than Herod's son."

First, he married Doris, by whom he had a son, Antipater, whom he murdered. Then he married Mariamne, the Hasmonean, by whom he had two

sons, Alexander and Aristobulus, whom he also murdered. *Herodias, the villainess behind the beheading of John the Baptist, was the daughter of this Aristobulus.*

Herod the Great then married another Mariamne, aka the Boethusian. By her he had a son called Herod Philip. *Herod Philip married Herodias, who was the daughter of his half-brother, Aristobulus, and who was therefore his own niece. By Herodias, Herod Philip had a daughter called Salome. Salome was the girl who danced before Herod, which lead to the beheading of John the Baptist .*

Herod the Great then married Malthake, by whom he had two sons--Archelaus and Herod Antipas who is the Herod *behind the beheading of John the Baptist .*

It was Herod Philip (son of Herod and Mariamne, aka the Boethusian) who married Herodias originally, and who was the father of Salome, but he inherited none of Herod the Great's dominions. He lived as a wealthy private citizen in Rome.

Herod Antipas visited him in Rome. There he seduced Herodias and persuaded her to leave her husband and marry him.

Note who Herodias was: (a) she was the daughter of his half-brother, Aristobulus, and therefore his niece; and (b) she was the wife of his half-brother Herod Philip, and therefore his sister-in-law!

Previously Herod Antipas had been married to a daughter of the King of the Nabataeans, an Arabian country. She escaped to her father who invaded Herod's territory to avenge his daughter's honour and heavily defeated Herod. (good!)

To complete this astounding picture Herod the Great finally married Cleopatra of Jerusalem, by whom he had a son called Philip the 4th. This Philip married Salome who was at one and the same time (a) the daughter of Herod Philip, his half brother, and (b) the daughter of Herodias, who herself was the daughter of Aristobulus, another of his half brothers. Salome was therefore at one and the same time his niece and his grand-niece!

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Something to remember is that it's not just about trade! Wherever possible Traidcraft aims for environmental sustainability and respect of the person, looking especially at the skills of women and those with disabilities. Some examples:

- Research by Chilean raisin growers has enabled them to reduce significantly their use of industrial fertilisers and water.
- A recent campaign on tea asked the big tea companies who picks their tea and highlights the plight of the majority of pickers (mainly women) in the world's largest tea area, Assam.
- A new project backed by Traidcraft Exchange in Tanzania is helping entrepreneurs with disabilities working in coffee, cocoa and palm oil farming.

What's new at Traidcraft? Well, chocolate raisins are back! There are lots of new crafts under the 'Create' label, including beautiful glassware from Hebron. And if there's someone you know going to University you can buy them a special Fairtrade hamper full of household and food items.

**Rev.Pam Cram**

### **“Miracle Encounter” – 2 Years On Re-cap**

Readers of “CONNECT” may recall my article “**Miracle Encounter**” which appeared in the winter 2016 edition, and also “**An Afterthought**” in the spring 2017 edition. These two articles were relating to how I came to be associated with Rev. Mother Mary Agnes, Shetland Isles, by simply picking up a book at the spring 2015 book fair in Mumbles Methodist Church, Swansea, entitled “**A Tide that Sings**”. I didn't stop until I had devoured the subsequent three books, written by Sister Agnes (as Rev. Mother was then known), called “**The Song of the Lark**”, “**Island Song**” and “**For Love Alone**”.

After being able to correspond with Rev. Mother from August 2015 through to the spring of 2016, Doug and I had the honour and privilege of meeting this amazing, charming and unassuming lady in June 2016 on the remote but very beautiful and rugged Shetland Isles. What a wonderful “red letter day” that turned out to be. She welcomed us like old and cherished friends to her temporary home on Unst, the most remote and most northerly island in the British Isles!

At this time, plans were already afoot to have a complex built at Westing on Unst, and Rev. Mother showed us the proposed layout (on paper). Not only that, but she took us to the actual site where the building was going to be erected, a most beautiful spot overlooking the vast Atlantic Ocean. Some time later, on that lovely June day in 2016, we had to say goodbye, with the heartfelt promise to return in two years' time D.V. to visit Rev. Mother in her new home.

### **Fast-forward to June 2018**

True to our promise, Doug and I again had the privilege and opportunity of re-visiting the Shetland Isles (1<sup>st</sup> visit 2014, 2<sup>nd</sup> visit 2016). We were able this time to spend a whole weekend on Unst, accompanied by our Swansea friends, Quentin and Win Hawkins.

We had made a prior arrangement for Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June, to visit Sister Mary Aidan at her Sheltered Community-based wee home at Uyaesound, Unst, before also visiting Rev. Mother Mary Agnes in her new home at Westing. Sister Aidan has been part of S.O.L.I. (“The Society of Our Lady of the Isles”), for over 25 years, or I could say Rev. Mother's “second in command”! Unfortunately, she is now unable to take an active part in things pertaining to the Society due to frailty of body. We found her to be a lovely lady, with a very cheerful disposition, accepting daily help, etc. and of course, also still able to keep up-to-date with all the happenings of S.O.L.I. and she continues to help out, especially with correspondence, etc.

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After a lovely chat and a “cuppa” with Sister Aidan, we made our way to Westing, to meet once again our Rev. Mother Mary Agnes, this time in her new abode. What a beautiful building and equally beautiful setting, just as we visualised it to be, with the vista of the Atlantic Ocean to feast our eyes upon! As in 2016, Rev. Mother welcomed us warmly into her new home, and regaled us with “tea and cake”, while we caught up with all the latest news about S.O.L.I. By the way, the name chosen for the new property was Da Gaet Hus, which interpreted means The House of the Way, or, of the Gate, or the Door, signifying a Way, a Gate or a Door – specifically to God!



*Rev Mother Mary Agnes and Irene (Outside “Da Gaet Hus”) at Westing, Unst, Shetland.  
Taken 09.06.18*

The building has two separate wings. Rev. Mother is living in her hermitage in the Upper Gaet Hus, and Rose, who lives in the Lower Gaet Hus, is also very much part of S.O.L.I. Rose is a former nurse, and I’m sure will look after Rev. Mother’s interests very well indeed in their new place. Between the two wings are an integral garage and the S.O.L.I. chapel, which means that they won’t have to venture outside during the wild weather (which comes especially during the winter to Shetland)! Di, another integral part of S.O.L.I. was outside when we were there, busily laying grass turfs. Rose came later, laden with shopping. We were very pleased to be introduced to them both, who are

Internal Oblates. So you can understand that Rev. Mother is surrounded by loving and caring friends, extending near and far.

The S.O.L.I. legacy will be handed on into the future. Rev. Mother was at the heart of organising and seeing the Westing Project to its conclusion, and the “big move” took place in early April of this year. How very exciting that move must have been, not only for Rev. Mother, but for all concerned and connected to the project.

While Rev. Mother now moves into a much deeper hermit lifestyle, to honour her vocation, some of the Oblate Sisters will take care of all sorts of jobs pertaining to the Society. Oblate Joan Potts, living in England, but also very much part of S.O.L.I. will keep the Caim Members in touch. Let me clarify here my very “loose” interpretation of the words “Oblate Members” and “Caim”.

#### **Oblate**

This calling of S.O.L.I. is one who lives by independent means and makes promises under an individual plan of life (rather than taking vows), giving her life to God in a mutually supportive role.

#### **Caim Member**

The word Caim is a Celtic word meaning “encompassment”, or “the circle of friends” which is the extended family of S.O.L.I. scattered throughout Great Britain and abroad. These Members live, work and pray, each in their own home-setting, thereby forming the family circle around S.O.L.I. Much more information about the Society can be obtained from the Web.

Doug and I are on the periphery of S.O.L.I. and have the privilege of having all the S.O.L.I. news as and when it happens. Shall we ever return to Shetland? The answer must be a very big YES, but this will be in God’s Will and timing. Sufficient to conclude by saying we will be continuing to pray very much for S.O.L.I. and the future of that wonderful Society. I very strongly recommend that those of you who are interested, get hold of Rev. Mother’s four books I’ve mentioned i.e. an autobiography of her

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extra-ordinary life before and after locating to the Shetland Isles. She is now in the process of writing her fifth book, so we'll certainly be looking out for that one as well with great anticipation.

Why don't you, if moved to do so, join us in our prayers for S.O.L.I. which Rev. Mother Mary Agnes founded on the island of Fetlar (adjacent to UNST) in 1988, after spending the former four years as a solitary on this island, to live a contemplative and isolated life of prayer. She is now exhausted after carrying the responsibility of the whole project, and especially needs our prayers at this time.

I quote Alfred Tennyson who "got it in one" when he very emphatically wrote many years ago "More things are wrought by Prayer than this World dreams of"!

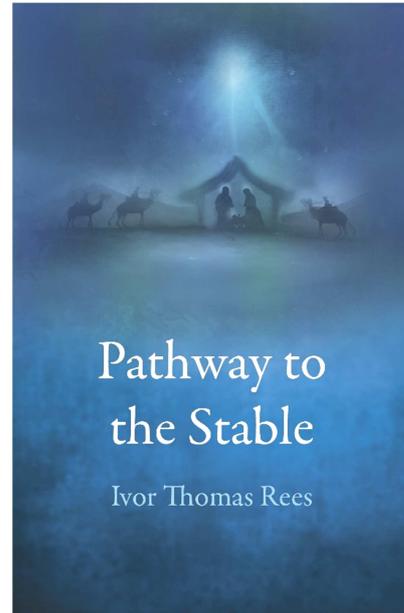
I would reiterate "Prayer Changes Things".  
**Do you agree?**

**Mrs. Irene Dendle**  
**Morrison Methodist Church**



*Happy 90<sup>th</sup> birthday to Joan West*

## **Pathways to the Stable by Ivor Thomas Rees**



Pathway to the Stable offers a thoughtful, biblical and prayerful introduction to the Christmas story. Ivor Rees introduces us to the various characters, places and sources which are found in the Bible accounts and draws them together to bring out the meaning of Jesus' birth at Bethlehem. I commend it to all who seek to delve deeper into these familiar stories and uncover more of the mystery of Christ's Incarnation.

**Rev. Dr. Stephen Wigley**  
**Chair, Wales Synod of the Methodist Church**

### **About the Author**

Ivor Rees was born in the Rhondda Valley, the son of a Welsh coal miner. A retired minister of the United Reformed Church, Ivor was appointed by the Bishop of Swansea and Brecon to serve as Ecumenical Adviser of the first College of Saint Mary. He continues to preach in Welsh and English, and has published several books and many articles, drawing on his experiences spent travelling and preaching around the world. Ivor lives here in Swansea and is a member of Uniting Church

## President and vice President of the Methodist Conference 2018/19



**The Revd Michaela A Youngson and Bala Gnanapragasam were inducted as President and Vice-President as the first item of business at the Methodist Conference in Nottingham, on Saturday 30 June 2018.**

**Michaela Youngson** has been one of the Chairs of the London District since 2012. With a passion for social justice and for developing strong ecumenical relationships, Michaela is committed to working within the diverse and rich context of the Connexion. She is a regular contributor to the BBC Radio 2 Early Breakfast Show's 'Pause for Thought'.

**Bala Gnanapragasam** believes strongly in mission and social justice. He serves on the board of Christian Aid and MHA (formerly known as Methodist Homes for the Aged). He is also a trustee of the London HIV/Aids Chaplaincy. He was the first Synod Secretary for the combined London District. Born in Sri Lanka, Bala came to the UK in the 1960s and has previously served as an elected councillor for the London Borough of Lewisham. He has also served as the Chair of University Hospital Lewisham.

### **President Designate and Vice-President Designate**

The 2018 Methodist Conference has designated the Revd Dr Barbara C Glasson to be President of the Methodist Conference 2019/2020, and Professor Clive Marsh as the Vice-President.

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Seldom in history can there have been such a series of matrimonial entanglements as existed in the Herod family. By marrying Herodias, his brother's wife, Herod Antipas had broken the Jewish law ([Leviticus 18:16](#); [Leviticus 20:21](#)) and had outraged the laws of decency and of morality.

Because of this adulterous marriage and because of Herod's deliberate seduction of his brother's wife, John had publicly rebuked him. It took courage to rebuke in public an oriental despot who had the power of life and death, and John's courage in rebuking evil wherever he saw it is commemorated in the Prayer-book collect for St. John the Baptist's Day. (Sunday 24 June in 2018)

"Almighty God, by whose providence thy servant, John the Baptist, was wonderfully born, and sent to prepare the way of thy Son our Saviour, by preaching of repentance; Make us so to follow his doctrine and holy life, that we may truly repent according to his preaching; and after his example constantly speak the truth, boldly rebuke vice, and patiently suffer for the truth's sake."

### Glossary

**TETRARCH** te<sup>1</sup>-trark, tet<sup>1</sup>-rark tetrarches):

A TETRARCH in the Roman Empire was the governor of one of four divisions of a country or province. i.e. a subordinate ruler.

So the name signifies a prince, who governs one-fourth of a domain or kingdom. The Greeks first used the word. Thus Philip of Macedon divided Thessaly into four "tetrarchies." Later on the Romans adopted the term and applied it to any ruler of a small principality. The Romans made a distinction between Herod "tetrarch" of Galilee, Philip "tetrarch" of Trachonitis, Lysanias "tetrarch" of Abilene, and Archelaius "tetrarch" of Judea. The title was often conferred on Herodian princes by the Romans, and sometimes it was used courteously as a synonym for king (Matthew 14:9; Mark 6:14). In the same way a "tetrarchy" was sometimes called a kingdom. So the Herods were puppet rulers of Galilee, installed by the Romans, to keep the local

populace quiet, so that the local Roman garrison could rule with a minimum of soldiers, while the main Roman Legions were busy expanding the Roman Empire. *Herod the Great* was by descent an **Edomite**, descendants of Esau. Mariamne the Hasmonean, was the second wife of *Herod the Great*. She was known for her great beauty.

The **Hasmoneans** were the original rulers in the area prior to the Romans. Herod's fear of his rivals, led him executing all of the prominent members of the family, including Mariamne herself.

Mariamne the Boethusian. The Boethusians were a Jewish sect closely related to, if not a development of, the Sadducees

**Next time:**  
**Herod Antipas aka Herod the Tetrarch and the beheading of John The Baptist, (Mark 6:16-29)**

Robert Allender

## A NOTE FROM THE editor

Thanks to all those who submit articles to Connect. Without you there wouldn't be a circuit magazine and we definitely wouldn't have received the awards that we have over the years.

However, as a circuit we do need to cut down on printing costs and use less paper and so respectfully ask that from the December issue, articles submitted by individual church members contain a maximum of 350 words.

Hopefully you will still continue to send photographs and stories of exciting things happening in your churches and communities so that as a Methodist Church in Swansea and Gower we can stay *Connected*.

Myra

## Penlan Community Garden Open Day



It was a perfect day for the Penlan Community Garden Open Day on July 19th. The sun shone as over 300 people visited the church and enjoyed cream teas, a BBQ, and various stalls. The children enjoyed donkey rides around the church and even had a pirate ship to play and a special appearance of 'Jack Sparrow'

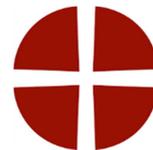
The Methodist Church working in partnership with Action for Children 'Swansea Sail Project', Interplay and Mums with Passion organised the day which saw the opening of the new community garden, a venture that has taken many months of hard work to create.



The gardening team led by Kathy Lewis turned an unused, overgrown plot of land into a garden full of plants and flowers that everyone can enjoy for many years to come. As well as a local produce stall selling everything from onions to large marrows we were pleased to welcome Swansea Assembly Member Mike Hedges, local councillor Terry Harrigan, the local police and many local families.

The community garden received funding from Swansea Grow Local and the Andrews Trust.

## The Methodist Church-Penlan



Working in partnership with



## Swansea Street Pastors



Swansea Street Pastors first patrolled in May 2009 in answer to a call from the Local Authorities and South Wales Police to help with the severe alcohol related problems they were encountering on a weekend night in Wind Street and the Kingsway.

Swansea has now been awarded the prestigious national Purple Flag Award which is given to City Centres that provide a safe, fun and varied night out. We believe this is a direct answer to prayer and the power of God working through His combined church in our city!

### Would you like to be a street pastor?

Street Pastors volunteer from right across the Christian community in Swansea and can be anyone who is –

18 years old or over and has been committed to a Christian fellowship for more than a year

Can obtain a positive reference from their church leader

Undertakes two street observations and successfully completes the street pastors training course.



To find out more visit [www.streetpastors.org](http://www.streetpastors.org)

Or contact Win Hawkins : [win.hawkins@ntlworld.com](mailto:win.hawkins@ntlworld.com)

*Quentin Hawkins, one of our street pastors*



