

Worship: All services start at 11am and will be streamed live from the church. Contact Pete Fawcett to arrange an invite or use the links
Meeting ID: 407 593 4256 Passcode: 123456

WORSHIP THIS SUMMER

12th June Worship with Communion: The Spirit invades Acts 2.
led by Julia Bartholomew and Keith Harrison, then a church meeting.

19th June The Spirit fills. Acts 19:1-7

Led by Julia Bartholomew and Pete Fawcett

26th June The Spirit liberates. Romans 8:1-27

Led by Alastair Bartholomew and Mark Rodgers.

3rd July Communion The Spirit equips. 1 Corinthians 12

led by Mark Rodgers and James Bolton

10th July The Spirit transforms. Galatians 5:13-26

led by Ellis Morey and Mark Rodgers

17th July The Spirit influences. Ephesians 5:15-21

Led by Carolyn Ridding and Pete Fawcett

24th July The God who refreshes 1: Prayer

Led by Mark Rodgers and Carolyn Ridding

31st July The God who refreshes 2: Sabbath

Led by Julia, and Alastair Bartholomew

7th Aug The God who refreshes 3: Pilgrimage

Led by Julia and Alastair Bartholomew

14th Aug The God who refreshes 4: Community

Led by Peter Cousins and Julia Bartholomew

Want a chat? Contact Julia any time except on the dates below

Wed 15th - Mon 20th June, contact Keith Harrison 01492 338817

Mon 27th June - Sun 3rd July, contact James Bolton 01492 547956

Mon 4th - Sun 10th July, pastoral contact Keith Harrison

Mon 11th - Mon 18th July, pastoral contact Keith Harrison

Church Contacts

Administrator: Pete Fawcett churchrhos@gmail.com

Minister: Rev Julia Bartholomew 07852 281006, juliawave@icloud.com

Secretary: Fiona Coleman 01492 545590, colemans@uwclub.net

Treasurer: Delyth Beecroft 01492 547859, delyth.beecroft@gmail.com

CONNECTED 14 JUNE/JULY 2022
United Reformed Church, Colwyn Avenue, Rhos on Sea



Dear Friends,

I am on the isles of Scilly sitting in the much-loved tatty old chair in the kitchen. The door is open into the garden and a song thrush hops out of the sunshine to look for crumbs on the floor. She looks small and bedraggled. When I make a move, and then a noise, to send her on her way, she is not perturbed, but continues towards me across the room.

I have just realised it is the breeding season. She has a nest of young to feed and no fear of humans or kitchens will stop her. The next few days has me rummaging in the fridge for bread, cheese and bacon scraps. I search the internet discovering that thrushes love berries and when insects are scarce, soaked sultanas are the perfect alternative. Each morning, the second my silhouette catches the light through the kitchen door, the thrush will appear as if to tell me that her hungry young have been awake for hours. Each evening I am rewarded with the most beautiful song coming from a high branch on the pine tree close by.

My flock of feeding birds soon expands to three song thrushes, two black birds and a small gaggle of sparrows. The doors to the house have to be kept closed to keep them out, and the hunger of their broods, never quite seems to be satisfied.

I am struck by the commitment, persistence and care shown by the thrushes which can have up to three broods over a summer. This faithfulness is inherent to the worlds that God has made. It is inherent to the nature of our creator; *'The Lord is like a father to his children, tender and compassionate to those who fear him.'* (Psalm 103:13). This faithfulness is also at the core of the nature of Jesus the Son; *'...Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.'* (Phil 2:5-7) This same faithfulness is so evident in the life of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II as we celebrate her Platinum Jubilee. Her weariness, as she seeks to fulfil her duties at the age of 96 is just one sign of a life spent honouring her unique God-given calling.

Please pray for her, the royal family and our nation and as you read through this magazine, allow your heart to be stirred by God to serve him in new ways. With every blessing, **Julia**

A JUBILEE WALK is planned between all the URC and United churches between Wrexham to Penmaenmawr. We will be walking on Saturdays from Sat 23rd July to Sat 1st Oct, the URC's official 50th celebration weekend. Andrew Ridding has been commissioned to carved a Jubilee Bowl from local green timber. The theme for the pilgrimage is 'Water', reflecting our baptisms, the renewing of the Holy Spirit and refreshment for the journey, as well as appreciation of the sea, rivers and wells we will pass along our way. Worship materials for the Sundays and for the walk will be available for use. Refreshments will be served on arrival at the churches. There will be a chance to sign up in the coming weeks.

Sat 17th Sept Walk from Rhyl to Rhos. Distance 14 miles via the coastal path. Time 6 hours. Refreshments at Rhos.

Sun 18th Sept Jubilee Worship at Rhos URC

Sat 24th Sept Walk from Rhos to Gloddeith United Church

Llandudno. Distance 5 miles via the coastal path. Time 2 hours. Refreshments at Llandudno. Bus back to Rhos.

Saturday 1st October. Walk from Llandudno to Penmaenmawr.

Distance 11 miles via Conwy and North Wales Path with 500m ascent. Time 6 hours. Refreshments at Pen. Train or bus back to Llandudno.

Put the dates in your diary. Detailed information to follow.

Welsh Place Names – What Do They Mean?

Abergele – Mouth of the River Gele (the blade of a sword)

Bangor – Wattled fence; **Beddgelert** – Grave of Celert, a 6th Century monk. (Sorry, there was no heroic dog called Gelert; the story was just a highly successful publicity stunt to attract visitors); **Bettws y Coed** – Prayer house in the woods **Blaunau Festiniog** – Head of the valleys in Festin's land; **Bodelwyddan** – Home of Elwyddan; **Caernarfon** – Fort near Anglesey; **Clwyd** - Hurdle; **Colwyn** - Puppy; **Craig y Don** – Rock of the wave; **Deganwy** – Land of the Decannae tribe; **Dinbych/Denbigh** – Little fort; **Kinmel/Cinmel** – Retreat of Mael, **Llandrillo yn Rhos** – Church of St Trillo in the moorland, **Llandudno** – Church of St Tudno; **Llangollen** – Church of St Collen; **Menai** - Flowing water; **Mostyn** – Home in the marsh; **Penrhyn Bay** – Bay with promontory; **Rhyl** – Hill ... And last but not least **Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerwchwrndrobwillantysiliogogogoch** – Church of St Mary near the pool of the white hazel and the rapid whirlpool and St Tysysilio's Church near the red cave (Yet another highly successful publicity stunt) (JIA)

News of Caity Matthews in Ecuador I have been feeling very settled here and am actually beginning to feel sad thinking about finishing at the project at the end of May, which is a massive turnaround from when I first started. I have been feeling very grateful for so many answered prayers and have been able to reflect on how much I have learnt here, from the language to depending more on God.

Three sad farewells: On Sunday 22nd May **Neville Hibbs'** family gathered for a celebration of his rich and creative life. With music, readings, imagery, poetry and song we gave thanks to God for all that Neville was and the legacy he has left. We also celebrated his decision just a couple of years ago to join our congregation as a follower of Jesus. **Pete Leavers** the former pastor at Antioch church died last week. His brother Greg writes; "Pete's wife Polly and daughters were with him as he took his last shallow breath here on earth before he took a lungful of Heavenly air, free from pain at last, in the presence of his beloved Saviour, Jesus." **John Matthew's father** died this week from the impact of Covid on an already struggling medical constitution. Although John was out visiting his family, he has been unable to visit them due to having contacted Covid himself. Please remember John, Divya and all the family in your prayers.



**7:30pm Saturday 18th June 2022 at the Pritchard Hall Bangor
A musical celebration of the life of Rosie Skelton in memory of her
contributions to Bangor University, Conwy and Gwynedd Music Ser-
vices and City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra**

Items will be performed by Rosie's students, friends and colleagues including winners of the Rosie Skelton Prize, University Symphony Orchestra (conductor Chris Collins), and Celebration String Orchestra. Free entry. Donations requested in aid of St David's Hospice, Llandudno & Enfys Ward, North Wales Cancer Centre.

Programme to include: Elgar-Serenade for Strings, Bartok - Rumanian Dances, Holst - St Paul's suite, a new work composed by Bill Connor in memory of Rosie

If you are attending the concert and are able to bring a plate of nibbles for the interval such as cake, cheese or canapés, please contact Nicky on 07533 203219 or nicola2608@gmail.com

Whether or not you are attending the concert, can you help Rosie's daughter Becca to raise £500 to donate to St. David's Hospice and the North Wales Cancer Treatment Centre, in memory of Rosie?

Please donate to the JustGiving Crowdfunding Page:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/rosieskeltonmemorialconcert?utm_id=2&utm_term=445Md5JjZ

Thanks for your support



A message from Helen Sims-Williams, Philip and Frances Nye's eldest daughter, who lives in Sheffield with Hugh, Jesse and Grace. Some of you know her well, and the family have been occasional visitors at church with us. Helen writes ...



Some of you will be aware that we are due to move to Tenwek Hospital in September. Located in south west Kenya, Tenwek is a large mission hospital which provides a high standard of compassionate care to patients from the surrounding area and beyond. After three months of full-time language study, Hugh will begin work as one of two neurosurgeons at the hospital.

I will be working part-time on the dialysis unit (opened this year) plus home-schooling Jesse and Grace.

We plan to send out email updates approximately once per month. If you would like to keep in touch with our work, please speak to mum or dad (Philip and Frances) who will give you the link to sign up directly.

In the next months before we leave, we will be spending some time in Colwyn Bay, so will have a chance to meet some of you.

With love, Helen (Sims-Williams)

New caretaker, caterer, chef

Ian Hindley our new caretaker begins this month. Ian is an active Christian who has experience in church caretaking, hotel management and catering. We look forward to welcoming him into the team.

Mysteries of the Bible by David Reed

My premise in these articles I write is that people know the basic tenets of the faith and are familiar with the major Bible stories, so I try to go for the more obscure or off-beat stories or topics. This can lead me into controversial or unusual areas, but I say Why Not? Let's have a bit of fun. Hence this piece I wrote on Ezekiel and Flying Saucers.

Would it help if I re-wrote it in a less controversial way? Like this:

There are lots of strange and mysterious stories in the Bible and none more so than the opening chapter of Ezekiel. The prophet was in exile in Babylon when he saw something unusual in the sky. A storm was approaching but within the dark cloud was another strange appearance. It was a solid object that gleamed and shone and moved. It had wings and wheels and faces. What was it?

Firstly, it was an object – not just a storm cloud, as most Bible commentators say. There was a storm accompanying it, certainly, but the object was distinct from the cloud. 'I saw . . . a vast cloud . . . and within was a radiance like brass.' So it was something within the cloud that looked metallic but was distinct from the cloud. It had wings. It had wheels. It had wheels within wheels. It had what looked like eyes in the wheels – (portholes?). It made a very loud noise. Ask anyone what such an object might be and I don't think you'll get the answer 'a cloud.' This is not just a tropical storm. This is something else. In the Bible it is called a 'vision.'

Secondly it flew. 'When the creatures rose from the ground, the wheels rose. When the one moved, the other moved. When the creatures rose from the ground, the wheels rose with them.' So it was airborne; it flew; it was a flying object.

Thirdly, it is unidentified. It had what 'looked like' creatures; what 'looked like' discs of bronze; what 'looked like' topaz; what 'looked like' a vault, glittering like a sheet of ice'; what 'might have been brass'; what 'looked like' fire. Creatures – bronze – brass – ice – fire. Unidentified. It was an Unidentified Flying Object.

But of course no one wants to say that. They are happy to call it a 'Vision' and leave it at that. There are so many things we don't have the answer to. So many mysteries. The mystery of creation. The mystery of suffering. The mystery of predestination and free will. The mystery of our salvation. The mystery of resurrection.

St. Paul addresses some of these in his letters to the churches. He says it is a mystery why the Jews did not accept Jesus as their Messiah. (Romans 11:25) He says the relationship between Christ and the church is a profound mystery (Eph 5:32) but is similar to that of marriage. He says God gave him insight into the mystery of the Gospel by special revelation. (Eph 3:3) Paul says his whole purpose in life is to help people understand the mystery of God, which is Jesus Christ because 'in him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge' (Col 2:2)

He writes to Timothy that the mystery of godliness is great (1Tim 3:16) He talks about 'the mystery of iniquity' (2 Thess 2:7 AV) or the mystery of lawlessness (RSV) now translated as the secret power of lawlessness. (NEB) He talks about 'the mystery of the Gospel.' In Romans 16:25 he says that the mystery of the Gospel was hidden for a long time but has now been revealed.

And finally he talks about the mystery of the Second Coming of Christ and the resurrection of the dead. 'Listen, I tell you a mystery. We will not all sleep (i.e. die) but we will all be changed. In a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet . . . when Death will be swallowed up in victory.' (1Cor15:51) Thank God for that – and all the other mysteries that will be solved when we see Him face to face.



'Tis mystery all! The immortal dies:
Who can explore His strange design?
Died He for me, who caused His pain?
For me, who Him to death pursued?
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
Let angel minds inquire no more.'

Charles Wesley

Thank God for mysteries that we shall one day know the answers to.