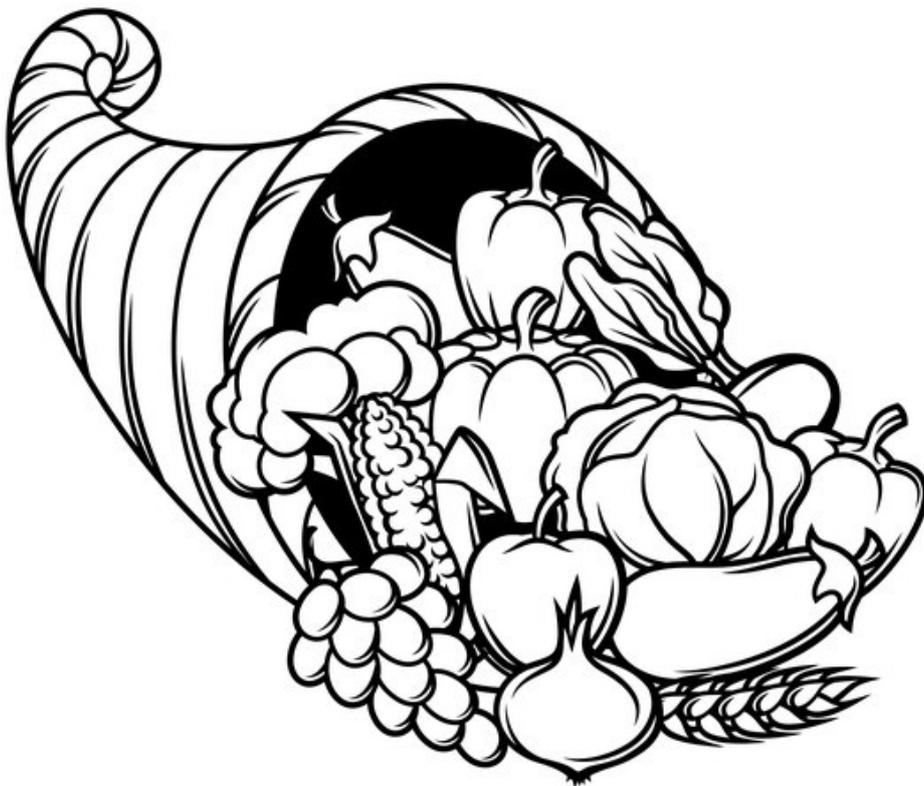


# ENVOY

Autumn 2021



**Chepstow Methodist Church**

Albion Square, Chepstow

[www.chepstowmethodist.org.uk](http://www.chepstowmethodist.org.uk)

## Contents

Page 3	Minister's Letter
Page 6	Traidcraft
Page 7	Action for Children
Page 8	Gardening with Lesley
Page 11	Condolences
Page 12	Shoebox Appeal
Page 15	Congratulations
Page 16	Hils Kitchen
Page 19	Thank you
Page 20	Leisure
Page 22	Radio
Page 25	Name on the Door - Howel Harris

# Letter from our Minister

*You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.*

1 Thessalonians 1:6

Thessaloniki is one of our favourite cities. A bustling port with ancient ruins linking so many civilisations. The people are proud of their history and the coffee shops bustle with people chatting. Like many cities, it has gone through destruction, rejuvenation, sitting as the poor cousin to southern Athens, the city is fiercely proud of its football team PAOK. It is a joy to behold.

I am Gordon, who has the privilege of being the Minister at Chepstow Methodist Church for the next year. Married to my angel, Sue, who led me to the Lord Jesus Christ twenty-two years ago now, I am a son, brother, husband, ex-husband, father and step-father. I am a Christian and became a Methodist Minister fifteen years ago.

Coming to faith in Christ transformed my life.

I come from a non-church background with a family of committed atheists – my grandad, a railway signaller from the North-East of England, described his proudest achievement as being; ‘when I was in a fox-hole for six days during WW1 I never once prayed to this God I don’t believe in.’ I am not sure, as a man who had eight children and made violins in his spare time, that this was his proudest achievement!

So what does this faith mean to me? JOY. I met Jesus and the Holy Spirit long before I opened this book we read in Church on Sunday’s. I love lots of the Biblical stories because they match my experience, which I find amazing. I know about severe suffering and in the midst of that the joy given by the Holy Spirit. The word JOY is used 241 times in the Bible and joy is the mark of the Christian.

I am a psychiatric nurse, have been for nearly 40 years now, and I have had the privilege of doing a day on mental-health issues with various church and non-church groups. One session is on melancholia, and how this is the ‘normal’ for human beings. ‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.’ God, in Christ, raises us up to see the world as God sees it, and we see its beauty, its potential and its marring through war, blight, famine, greed, pride, sloth and we yearn for something better – thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. We all

know of sadness, despair and difficulty.

Yet, as Christians we are raised up to see beyond this too. How do we make thy kingdom come? Through love, kindness, healing and joy. 'Rejoice in the Lord always, I say again rejoice.' This is me. I have such a deep sense of Christ's joy in me always. 'Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you,' says Jesus, and the Spirit of God sets my heart a dancing.

These are strange and difficult times, but, I hope, that over these few months we share together, that we will know of the JOY of the LORD, for Christ came to set us free, heal us in body, mind and spirit, and week-by-week he invites us to share, together, to share the tiniest foretaste of a great big, eternal party that we will share with the God who takes joy in us and in whom we rejoice and sing; for this, this is the God we adore.

*Gordon*



## Trade Matters

Without doubt, the year ahead is going to be challenging. Coronavirus has changed how we live, work and trade. For many across the world, the economic and political aftershock of the coronavirus could be more damaging than the disease itself. Normally, Traidcraft's work is about the long term - building livelihoods, increasing incomes for the poorest, and challenging unjust business practices. In recent months, however, they have had to respond to short term needs. It is thanks to the loyal support of people like you that they have been able to supply food and basic help to those they work alongside.

We know the recovery effort has barely started, but for our part we can help by supporting the Traidcraft stall. Every item you buy makes a difference - I know that some things are more expensive, but you are supporting good business practice and not exploiting those who have so very little.

There are some Summer 2021 catalogues on the stall - do take one.

Showers of Blessings

*Cynthia Giles*



## Update

Like everybody else our fundraising has been severely curtailed over the past 16 months but we

did manage to make a SPECIAL CHRISTMAS APPEAL which brought in £1,146 in total - add to this our annual emptying of Boxes (delayed for 4 months due to Covid!) which brought in a further £765 so we managed to raise a total of £1,910 over the past 15 months - pretty good under the circumstances!

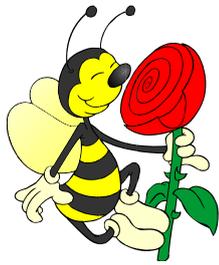
Planning ahead for this year is tricky but we do hope to hold our usual CHURCH SPONSORED WALK in late August - early September - further developments awaited.

Our Committee has now been in existence for 11 years and raised a total of over £33,000 for AFC funds in that time - well done everybody!

*Michael Bale*

CMC ACTION FOR CHILDREN SUPPORT GROUP

(Committee members at present:- Sue Lewis, Barry Catlin, Cynthia Giles, Margaret Harvey and Michael Bale (Sec/Treasurer))



## Gardening with Lesley

### Garden Couture

What is the well-dressed gardener wearing this year? In the 1920's students at Swanley – an educational establishment for lady gardeners – had a long list of clothing to be provided. This included: *a tunic of Swanley tweed, round yoke, three pleats at back and front, length to touch the ground on kneeling. A tweed coat, a blazer; a boy scout's belt, shirts and stockings. Not to mention the regulation "knickers" 15 inches from the waist to crotch, then 10 and a quarter inches long.* These sound very reminiscent of school regulation P.E. uniform. There was also a requirement to provide: *a coloured silk handkerchief, three-quarter-yard square or a brown felt hat.* Whilst the prescribed uniform for students at Waterperry, another female gardening school, was *green corduroy breeches with green knee stockings, a masculine shirt, a green smock/overall* and always a hat.

What sort of "uniform" do I wear when working in my garden? Unlike the students of these schools who had to purchase their uniforms, the tradition of most gardeners seems to be that when clothes are no longer fit for much else they get relegated

to the garden coat hooks. However this does not always work, who wants to be seen gardening in one's Sunday best? As I spend so much time in the garden, I often buy clothes that are serviceable and comfortable for a day's hard work. Like the Waterperry ladies my favourite buys are corduroy trousers – not breeches - several sizes too big. Great for comfort and on cold days can be worn over other trousers.

As with the students, there are certain essentials to my outfit. Forget the tweed jacket, this is replaced with a zipped fleece and a gilet hand-me-down from my husband 16 years ago. It still works, although the zip has given up the ghost. I also have a lightweight waterproof for when it is raining. All of these have the great gardening essential – pockets. These are for the secateurs which I carry to dead head and trim plants. Stuffed in the pockets are string, plant labels, empty seed packets and other miscellaneous garden debris. I have to be careful to empty the pockets when I put them in the washing machine!

Hats are also an essential for me. In summer a faded Minnie Mouse child's sun hat acquired on a visit to Disney in California. Although there is a smarter hat to wear for escorting summer visitors round the garden. In the winter it is a bobble hat, not quite Chepstow Racecourse Ladies' Day ensemble!

Shoes are also an issue. They need to be warm, comfortable

and keep the feet dry. Here I have adopted the “specialist garden purchase” approach. On a visit to Malvern Garden Show, I took the time to visit a specialist Wellie supplier and tried on a range of boots until I found the ones I really like. I chose wellies with a soft lining that is warm and soft (Grub’s midline). They are the shorter than the knee length variety, as these are uncomfortable when kneeling down. I also wear an extra pair of thermal socks to ensure total comfort and warmth.

T-shirts and tops vary depending on the time of year and these tend to be outcasts from the wardrobe. However, I must give special mention to a T-shirt I received as a present from the family with the words “Mad Plant Lady” on the front. How well they know me!!

Finally, and most important are gloves. I cannot garden without gloves. Not just one pair, but I always wear two pairs together. The outer pair are the gardening gloves that are similar to safety gloves, with a latex area for the palm and the tops of the fingers with knitted cotton backs. I have tough ones for dealing with roses, and thermal ones for the depths of winter. Inside these I wear a pair of cheap fleece gloves. For extra practicality I have two sets of these gloves, if they get damp during the morning tasks, there is a dry set ready for the afternoon.

It is important to wear the right clothes for the tasks we encounter in our daily lives. Instead of the “scouts’ belt”, the “battered gilet” and the “wellies”, Paul in his letter to the Ephesians describes our outfit of faith, which includes:

“Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.” Ephesians 6 v. 14-15

*Lesley Kelly*

Sadly, several church family members have died in recent months:-

Margaret Turner

Rob Lovett

Sam Beddow

Our thoughts and prayers are with their family members and friends.



## Link to Hope Shoeboxes

Even with the difficulties caused by the Pandemic last year, we were delighted to be able to contribute 71 Shoeboxes to the Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal. In total, the small Christian charity which offers help to people of all backgrounds regardless of race, colour or creed with no qualifying criteria other than that they are poor and marginalised, was able to distribute 20.678 boxes to families and elderly people in Eastern Europe (Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova and Ukraine).

Of those 71 boxes, 10 were put together by individuals and the incredible generosity of monetary donations, handmade crafts and other gifts meant that Russell and I were able to put together the other 61 boxes.

We hope that people would like to get involved again this year. If you feel able to pack a box yourself, then that would be great - thank you. But, if you like to join in but would rather not/are unable to go to the shops and would be happy to give a donation, Russell and I are willing to do the shopping and packing for you! We will do some 'bulk' online ordering - using the 'Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal 2020' Wishlist on Amazon, local Charity Shops & other online suppliers similar to those we used last year.

A shoebox for a Family means that everyone receives a gift. A scarf for the mum, a tape measure for the dad, toys and games for the children as well as stationery and coloured pens. Also, toiletries, toothpaste, shampoo and soap to keep everyone clean and free from the germs that make them ill. And, of course, sweets and chocolates for everyone.

Due to the number of elderly people that are now being left alone due to their families leaving to work away, Elderly shoeboxes are also vital. The boxes are similar to the Family Shoeboxes; however, the children's games and education materials are replaced with a hot water bottle, sensory items, candle and holder etc.

We have the leaflets which give you all the information – let us know if you want 1 (or more); or you can download them from the Link to Hope website, where there is also a lot of extra information, including a video showing the gifts being distributed and the love that is shown to all:

<https://linktohope.co.uk/shoebox-appeal-2021/>

The website also gives ideas for handmade items – for the crafty ones amongst you!

If you want to find out about Link to Hope's story and visual information on what to put in the boxes, watch

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9nzA5SYWf4Q>

An important date - All shoeboxes MUST be in Church/with Hilary & Russell by Sunday 31st October.

If you need any more information, please contact us.

Thanking you, in anticipation!

Hilary & Russell Collins

russhils27a@gmail.com

01291 624898/07779817436

Not all of us can do great things.  
But we can do small things with great love.  
(Mother Teresa)



Congratulation to Margaret & Keith Harvey who celebrated their golden Wedding Anniversary on 12th June

Congratulations to Rev. Rachel and Tom on their marriage on 6<sup>th</sup> August.

Congratulations to the Buffet family, Caroline, Rhodri and Evan on the Baptism their baby girl, Elena Topsy May, on July 18<sup>th</sup>

Congratulations to Mick Grant who will be celebrating his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on 11<sup>th</sup> October.



## Hil's Kitchen

### Curried Roast Chicken- Durban style

This is my interpretation of a recipe of Madhur Jaffrey's from her 'Curry Bible', but there are other versions so feel free to experiment!

#### Ingredients

1 whole chicken (choose the size depending on how many you want to feed and if you want delicious leftovers for tasty sandwiches or a spicy salad)

#### Marinade

2 tablespoons of lemon juice

Good chunk of fresh ginger (2") peeled and chopped

3 cloves garlic chopped

3 fresh green chillies seeded and chopped

1 teaspoon salt

2 tablespoons olive oil

1 teaspoon ground cumin

1 teaspoon ground coriander

1/2 teaspoon chilli powder

Freshly ground black pepper

Take the skin off the chicken and make 2 deep incisions on each breast and each thigh

I put the chicken into a large roasting bag but (you can substitute this with enough foil to loosely enclose the whole chicken)

Process the marinade ingredients in a blender to make a spicy purée

Spread the marinade generously over all the chicken pressing into the slits you cut. Seal the roasting bag or foil and leave in the fridge for several hours ( I usually prepare this in the morning- ready to cook in the evening)

The length of cooking time will depend on the size of your chicken- a small chicken will take about an hour but more generous size will take up to 2hrs.

When the chicken has been in the oven for 15 minutes at 200' reduce the temperature to 180' and continue cooking for required time.

Remove from oven when time completed. Check that the juices are clear and chicken cooked. Leave to rest for 10 minutes.

Great served with boiled basmati rice, peas & sweetcorn. Or, on a shredded salad -

with rice or new potatoes - or in a wrap -

I chose this recipe because it makes a change from traditional curries and if like me you sometimes like to have meals prepped and ready to cook it's a satisfying option.

The origins of the recipe are interesting too.. involving the ancient spice routes, migration of peoples and cultural recipes. South Africa isn't the obvious place for such a recipe to originate from.

Thinking about the evolution of the recipe gave rise to thoughts about our accepted practices as Church.

How we worship and pray and share the Gospel.... The origins of our practices are based in previous cultures and historical decisions. This is an observation not a criticism... but as the chaos of Covid has

caused such an upheaval what an opportunity it is to prayerfully choose how we move forward as Church.

Are there accepted norms that God would encourage us to question and change?

Reading Psalm 46 (which is a wonderful Psalm and seems so appropriate during our current climate) I've been struck that v 10 says "Be still" which are the words Jesus spoke to still the storm.

I hope you will Roast a Chicken Durban style and enjoy a succulent meal and also join me in reading Psalm 46 as we tune our ears to his Word for today.

Blessings

*Hils*

# *Thankyou*

ΤΡΑΝΚΛΟΝ

*Thank you to all who have helped with this  
edition of Envoy*

*To the contributors*

*To the pastoral visitors who distribute it -  
especially those who have taken on extra*

*To Kathy Griffin for her help with the  
distribution list*

*To those who've made a contribution towards  
costs*

*And to you for reading it!*



## Leisure

During the Covid pandemic and the Lockdowns, life has been unsettling and uncertain for us all . However, it has forced us to live life at a slower pace enjoying our gardens and local countryside. I was reminded of the poem by the locally born poet W.H. Davies 1871-1940 “Leisure” . So as the country and our lives become full and busy once again this poem will remain with me as a reminder of one of the benefits of Lockdown.

*Kathy Griffin*

What is this life, full of care,  
We have no time to stand and stare?

No time to stand beneath the boughs  
And stare as long as sheep or cows.

No time to see, when woods we pass,  
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.

No time to see in broad daylight,  
Streams full of stars, like skies at night.

No time to turn at Beauty's glance,  
And watch her feet, how they can dance.

No time to wait till her mouth can  
Enrich that smile her eyes began.

A poor life this if, full of care,  
We have no time to stand and stare.

## The radio

This article comes with a government age warning, if you are under 60 it may mean very little to you.

Justine's article about the radio brought back many memories for me. I remember listening to the radio under the bed covers and it was Radio Luxemburg which played pop music before the days of Pirate Radio and Radio 1. Who could forget Horace Batchelor and his winning pools method, to be gained by writing to him in Keynsham, which he would spell out slowly and very deliberately K E Y N S H A M, Bristol. When asked where I came from and mentioned Bristol, other young people would respond with "that's near Keynsham".

For many of us with childhoods before television and certainly all day television, the radio was an important part of our daily lives. It gave structure to the day and the week. I can recall my mother ironing to the sounds of "Have a Go" with Wilfred Pickles; "Housewives Choice" and "Workers Playtime". Many famous names we were featured in Workers Playtime, including Julie Andrews, Peter Sellers, Morecambe and Wise.

The key memories of Saturday mornings was the children's request programme "Children's Favourites" and later "Junior Choice" This was hosted by Derek McCulloch known as "Uncle Mac" "Hello children everywhere". There was a wide selection of music deemed suitable for children including some popular

classics. However, repeated favourites, would be Nellie the Elephant, Sparkie's Magic Piano, Gilly Gilly Ossenfeffer Katzenellenbogen by the Sea, How Much is that doggie in the Window and a regular appearance of The Laughing Policeman. However Rock'n'Roll was definitely not included, although some pop music crept in during the later years.

Sunday lunchtimes featured "Two-Way Family Favourites" a request programme linking families at home with British Forces serving overseas. It was introduced by Cliff Mitchell Moore and Jean Metcalf. I cannot hear its introduction music "With a Song in My Heart" without smelling the roast beef, potatoes and Yorkshire pudding. Sunday afternoon had quite a different flavour with comedies such as The Navy Lark "left hand down a bit"; Hancock's Half Hour from Railway Cuttings, East Cheam and Round the Horne "The Answer Lies in the Soil" featuring such characters as "Rambling Syd Rumpo".

Amongst my many memories of the radio is the voice of John Arlott broadcasting the ball-by-ball commentary of the Five day Test cricket matches "Ray Illingworth is relieving himself in front of the pavilion". No pictures or film just a voice relaying the action, as I tried to make sense of such phrases as Square leg, Silly Mid Off, and Maiden Overs. Without pictures or film, it was quite difficult for my father to explain to me what L.B.W. (Leg before wicket) meant.

Sometimes we forget how difficult the words and phrases of faith are for people to understand. There are no pictures or film to show the meanings of such phrases as repentance, resurrection, or The Holy Spirit. It is only the witness of our Church community and our lives as Christians that give reality to these.

*Lesley Kelly*

## Howel Harris

This is the fourth of our 'Methodists on the doors' series, where we have been having a look at the five influential reformers whose names appear on the doors of our church. The men were studied during lockdown in one of the house groups.

Howel Harris was a Welshman born in 1714 at Trefeca near Talgarth. He was a Methodist evangelist in the Calvinist tradition. He was contemporary with John Wesley and would travel around Wales preaching and evangelising. He was one of the main leaders of the Welsh Methodist revival in the 18th century together with his friends Daniel Rowland and the great Welsh hymnwriter, William Williams Pantycelyn.

When Howel Harris was 21 years old he had a religious conversion experience after hearing a sermon on the Sunday before Easter, on the necessity of partaking of Holy Communion. This led to a period of soul-searching and when he received communion on Whit Sunday he realised joyfully that he had received God's mercy through the blood of Jesus. He began to tell others of his experience and to hold meetings in his home.

He failed to be ordained as an Anglican priest because of his Methodist views, but began travelling around Wales, just as Wesley was doing in England. Spreading the word of God in

Wales often led him into hardship and persecution.

Harris fell out with Daniel Rowland on doctrine and for personal reasons and in 1750 Harris founded a religious community in Trefeca, known as the Trefeca Family, of which he was 'Father'.

Harris re-established his friendship with Rowland and resumed his preaching in 1763. He died ten years later and was buried close to his birthplace at Talgarth, where 20,000 people are said to have attended his funeral.

Howel Harris is often known as the founder of the Presbyterian Church of Wales, also known as the Calvinistic Methodist Church.

*Pam Horne*

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