

# ChristChurch Wrexham



Newsletter Jan 2017

## January

### Key Events

8<sup>th</sup> Discovery Church at HCRC Leaders Meeting

19<sup>th</sup> Leaders Huddle and Meeting

20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> Ichthus Leadership Conference

22<sup>nd</sup> CTW United Service at Capel Y Groes for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

28<sup>th</sup> Hightown Community Resource Centre – Quiz of the Year

29<sup>th</sup> All Age celebration followed by Fellowship Lunch

# Relay



*Welcome to the January edition of the ChristChurch Relay magazine.*

## Scripture Focus for January

Joel 2:28 - The Day of the LORD

<sup>28</sup> "And afterward,

I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.

Matthew 6:33

<sup>33</sup> But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.



**Street Pastors and School Pastors** are recruiting in 2017. They are looking for **10** new volunteers, the training money has already been provided. They are ideally looking for people under 50 years of age. A recruitment day will be held in the spring





## New Year Resolution – Dream with God

Over the Christmas period I have been reading, and re-reading, the accounts of Jesus' birth in predominantly Matthew, and briefly Luke. I have really been struck by how many dreams, inspired by, and from, God, play a pivotal role in rightly aligning people with God's divine plan and purpose. Joseph has four dreams in a very short space of time and the Magi have an important dream too. These dreams, which came directly from God, provided instruction, helped set direction and provided a warning leading to deliverance from Herod and his plans.

### **Job 33:15-16**

In a dream, in a vision of the night, When deep sleep falls upon men,  
While slumbering on their beds, Then He opens the ears of men, And seals their instruction.

God can use our dreams and the desires of our hearts to speak to us if we inline our hearts and spirits fully towards Him and to be used in this way. After all we are created in God's image and designed to dream and desire as a God given outworking for our passions. When these align with the Kingdom of God they have capacity to combine in a power packed partnership of unlimited potential and heavenly resource.

### **Psalms 37:3-5**

Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.  
Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.  
Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.

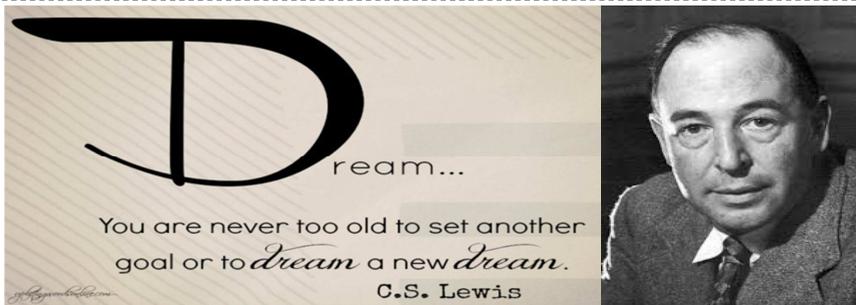
Part of our difficulty with trusting ourselves to rely on any potential dream, or deep desire, from God, is that we (as Westerners immersed in the culture of our day) have valued and elevated wisdom and the power of intellect over creativity and artistic expression. It is high time the balance was re-addressed and I believe we are in a global season where God is seeking continual breakthrough to use the arts and creative expression for the revelation of His purposes.

Life is about dreaming with God and we are never too young or old to do that. The following quotes from very different ends of the theological spectrum indicate these important life principles.

Faith is choosing and believing God's dream for your life. Nothing starts happening in your life until you start dreaming. God gave you the ability to dream, to create, to imagine.

Rick Warren





Dreaming with God enabled the biblical heroes not to look at life's difficulties, challenges, or problems from earth's limitations, but from Heaven's unlimited power. Throughout time those carrying deep seated Godly desires approached life in similar fashion. God can, and will, do the same for us today.

Let the desire for more of God's kingdom be our deepest and most passionate desire. Dream big, for God, and with God, in 2017.

Love and prayers,  
Blessings,

GARETH 

**Bethel Update** - this is a favourite in the Jones household at the moment

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XxkNj5hcy5E>

but Gareth likes this one <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PxyCocwicNw>

### FI New Year update: Campbell and Frank

During our visit in November we challenged the FI team to develop some new ideas and to consider how they could work better together as a team rather than as individuals. We have subsequently received a very positive e-mail from Ligia exerts of which follow:

"We all think that the time we spent together was very useful for our work and for the relationships between us. Thank you again for the efforts you made to be here for few days. Two weeks ago we had to make an annual report for the Primaria (Town Council) which they analysed and appreciated a lot our work. They said that in the future maybe they will have funds to sustain some of our projects. Cristina wrote 2 e-mails to Kidz Romania Organisation (a Christian based group working with children). They answered saying that they are very busy this time of the year and ask Cristina to contact them in January. We plan to invite them next year for sharing with us from their vast experience in working with children. I spoke with Cristi about what knowledge and materials he could share to help us develop as a team and as individuals. He was very open and starting with next year he will present different themes regarding our personal development during our (monthly) group meetings. Regarding the meeting with the girls from the (summer) camp on March 8 (International Women Day), we asked a few of them if they would like to

attend a meeting like this and we received a positive answer. So we estimate that around 30 teenagers will come. Two of the volunteers that were in the camps are very happy to help organise the event. On Monday we will have the Christmas celebration with children and their families. The children are so happy and conscientious to learn poems and songs. Another year passed away and God was so faithful and kept us in His strong arms. We are so glad that this year, many peoples lives changed for better through His and our work together. We appreciate more than our english words can say, your big support and your love for God and for us. “

We give thanks to God for the positive outcome from our visit. In other news Nelu and Christina have been very busy in schools and have also been invited to work with Tinca, a Foundation which has as its purpose the integration of Romas into society. They have been talking to children and parents some of whom go abroad to work, mostly in France, from where they come with money but money does not help them since they buy lots of alcohol, cigarettes and drugs with them! The Tinca Foundation considered FI's intervention especially useful and are thinking of a project which could help the addicts. They cannot come to Oradea weekly for counselling so a meeting will be held to see how it would be possible to help them. They have also been working in Vasile Voilescu school in a project financed by the World Bank, trying to help pupils who have problems learning especially for their final exam. There is a good partnership with this school so FI has been asked to help them find some activities which could help the children. Weekly meetings with the teachers and school inspectors have taken place and there will be two activities. The first, a 4 day camp (lasting 4 days) where 15 pupils will come (FI will organise it) and will involve personal development lessons. The second one involves communication between parents and their children and trying to tease out the issues between the generations and how best to solve them. The youth group has visited people in hospital with terminal illness and also taken hot tea and sandwiches to those living on the streets. A trip to the mountains in December for some from the Youth Club has also been organised. Most come from families with financial problems (divorced parents, widows or even left orphaned) so almost the entire cost has been covered by an ex-volunteer, now in America, who sent money for this trip.

God is good, all the time. Please continue to pray for the team and for their work in 2017.

## Hungary Update

Gareth, Alan and Moira will be heading out to Hungary to visit GNF in March please pray about the trip.



**Final call for families!** Families are needed to host pupils, ideally in pairs, at the end of June 2017. It will be hosting students who are on a visit from Hungary. You would be needed to host ideally a couple of students. There will have activities planned for them. Please let Gareth know if you can help or need more information. Ideally hosts would be willing to provide breakfast, packed lunch, and evening meals, but not necessarily every day.

**CEFN MC UPDATE** *Paul and Gill Day*

The Cefn Mawr Missional Community (aka CM Christian Fellowship) is excited about the New Year as we move into our church-planting phase. We've grown closer to God and one another as we have been disciplined further, engaged in outreach, and been trained in personal evangelism.... but this new venture is keeping us firmly reliant on God's wisdom and grace. We believe that we wouldn't have got us this far if He didn't have people in our community in whom His Spirit has been working, so we are trusting the Lord to gather those He is seeking to save or restore to their faith in Him. Our vision under God is for a church that is still serving Cefn and district and growing in numbers and quality of discipleship *beyond our own lifetimes*. That's a big call, but we truly believe this is GOD's plan for our community and MC. So... **we need much prayer** for this big step of faith and long-term commitment.

*"The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it."*

1 Thessalonians 5 : 24

If you know people in the Cefn/borders area whom you could invite or bring along to **The Meeting Point CafeChurch** in 2017, If you would like a copy of the Invitation Card to use to invite or bring a family member or friend, please ask Paul or Gill for one – thanks.

**'THE MEETING PLACE'****CAFÉCHURCH**

First Sunday of each month  
starting on  
SUNDAY 5TH, FEBRUARY 2017  
at 10.30am in CRNCA CENTRE  
on Bro Gwilym, Cefn Mawr

**Martina and Tony in Turkey Update.**

Just before Christmas Gareth sent around an email update from Martina. It is always good to hear what Tony is doing too, so here is a selection of his recent Facebook posts:

04/12/16: Signs of real life flowing in the team this week and also of increasingly positive relationship with local fellowship. VERY positive signs please keep praying!

07/12/16: Connected yesterday with a new work starting in a City about an hours drive away. Those involved are Korean and Iraqi and want to help in any way I can to make the place a blessing to people of many nationalities.

12/12/16: Making new friends...Arab and Turkish and seeking to bless them in every possible way! Such a blessing to be able to pray with Martina and hear God together about events here.... yet seeking to touch Him much deeper and hear Him far clearer!

23/12/16: Great Christmas event last night and good to see many known to me there. May all hearts be touched!

28/12/16: Busy refugee day very cold here so glad we had plenty of blankets to distribute

30/12/16: Praying for P our Arabic interpreter. May God meet every need and fulfil every potential. Good time in the snow at homeless distribution,,as usual large group waiting and food vanished in moments..... Chatted this morning with someone who works with Iranian refugees. Amazing what is happening with this community here and throughout the world!

**Please pray for them both as they face up to daily challenges in spreading the Gospel.**



## Dorothy's trip to Uganda October 2016

On 21<sup>st</sup> Oct 2016 I was part of a team of 14 going to Uganda with Dave Cooke and Teams4U. This was my 5<sup>th</sup> trip to Uganda and apart from the long journey I love going. We set off from Manchester airport at 6am flying via Amsterdam, Entebbe, Kigali in Rwanda. We then had about a 2 hour drive to Kampala where we stayed overnight in a very strange "hotel" where you just get a key and find a room!!

Next morning we set off once again in 3 vans to drive to Jinja. The hotel there is right on the shore of Lake Victoria, the source of the Nile. I have stayed here before when we were building the school. After a fish and chip lunch we drove again for hours to Kumi, our base for the trip. The hotel here is ok, not as good as western standards but suits us. The electricity goes off now and again, also the water – and there is very rarely hot water! The food is fine, lovely fresh pineapples and mangoes.

Each morning we met after breakfast and travelled in convoy to a school. The roads are very poor, full of holes and ditches. If it rains a lot they are unpassable. When we arrive at the school, there is no sign of the children as they are usually in their classes. It is very hot so when they see the vans they all come surging towards us with shrieks of delight.

The morning consists of games, storytelling, face painting and even one time trying a game of rounders – with about four on each base!

As it is very hot the children all sit under a tree and hear a story about how much God loves them and also to make good choices in life.

One of the main aims of this trip is about the new programme Teams4U has started called Develop with Dignity. This is about giving girls from 11-16 or so a pack of washable sanitary pads, a pair of knickers and a bra. By doing this it means the girls stay in school instead of having 3-4 days off every month during their periods. So far it has worked very well and gives the girls self-esteem and continues their education. Also whilst we are in the schools the health team from Soroti come and test the folk from the village for HIV, and the numbers of infected are going down, again due to education – out of 180 tested on one morning, only one was positive.

The time we are in Uganda is mostly spent in schools although we do go out and about into the small villages of mud huts to meet the locals and give out sweets, clothes etc to the children.

The highlight of this trip was the official opening of the church which was a grand occasion and a great party!! I was given the honour of praying in the church in front of about 3000 people, it was amazing, Everyone had a great day of feasting and fun.

The trip on the last day in a beautiful safari lodge on the shore of the Nile, to give us a bit of luxury before flying home.

Africa is a wonderful country and the people although very poor in material things are overflowing with love and joy. The smiles on the little ones faces are a joy to behold as they come for a cuddle, their clothes in rags!!

As for going again – I never say never but only God knows what plans He has for me. I felt strongly whilst I was there that He spoke to me saying – continue what you are doing – be it Africa, Romania, shoeboxes etc – and whilst I have my health and strength to do so- bring it on.

**Dorothy**

## Exercising my Prayer Language By Roy Whitney

A note from Andrew. When I preached on prophecy from 1 Corinthians 14 Roy came to say he would like to share his recent challenge from God with us. Roy's challenge is to discipline himself to regularly use the gifts he has been given; in this instance the gift of tongues. Roy has been on his journey with God for a few years and it is a great encouragement to see that God is still challenging him to develop his spiritual gifting. God always has more for us if we are serious about 'eagerly desiring spiritual gifts'. I asked Roy if he would share with us through Relay.

Roy writes:

A number of years ago, before I was baptised in the Holy Spirit, I went to a meeting held at a school in Chester. The speaker, David du Plessis, otherwise known as Mr Pentecost, had an international ministry, and as far as I can recollect, it was probably the first time I heard a ministry on the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Well outside of my experience at that time. Sometime later, I went to a meeting somewhere in the Wrexham area and whoever spoke included some comments on, "He who speaks in an unknown tongue edifies himself." (1 Corinthians 14:4). I felt that if anyone needed to be edified, it was me. That night a few people gathered round me and prayed for me, but nothing happened.

However, before describing my experience of speaking in other tongues in my own private devotions, let me first give a dictionary definition of the word 'edify'. The Collins (2015) Dictionary defines 'edify' as, "to inform or instruct (someone) with a view to improving his or her morals or understanding." Yet, I must add, that the spiritual definition of edify, goes far beyond the Collins definition, and well beyond my ability to describe.

A Scriptural basis is essential for any Christian spiritual experience, as experience alone can be misleading. So I am linking my experience, as later discussed, on Paul's experience, which he describes specifically in 1 Cor 14, and considered in the next paragraph.

It is interesting to see how Paul describes his experience. He wrote, "I Thank God that I speak in tongues more than you all." (v18). This raises the question, "When did Paul speak in other tongues in this way? It wasn't in church, because he preferred to prophesy in church v19! So, it could only have been during Paul's own private devotions. Prior to making this point Paul wrote, "So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind," (v15). Paul clearly mentions two practical ways in which we can pray, with our mind, and with our spirit.

Now let me describe my experience, the best I can.

Since being baptised in the Holy Spirit, I have prayed in my private devotions in other 'tongues' (languages) whenever I have had a need for self-edification in the Holy Spirit. For example, I have spoken in 'tongues' in challenging situations, not knowing what to do; or when in need of a special anointing in the Holy Spirit, in particular when called to take a Service somewhere, and in numerous other situations.

However, recently a friend rang, wanting to visit and talk about other 'tongues'.

As I thought about, 'speaking in other tongues' in my private devotions, I really felt convicted of neglecting this miraculous gift, as I could go for weeks without using it. Then, as a need arose, I would 'speak in other tongues', knowing that I had a need of spiritual edification, unaware that I am continuously in need of being edified in the Holy Spirit.

I am so grateful for my friend's enquiry, as it has led me to pray daily, not only with my mind, but also in other tongues (languages). Since I have regularly exercised this gift, I know that in some indefinable and intangible way, the Holy Spirit is revealing the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ in greater depth to my spirit.

Not long after beginning to exercise this miraculous gift every day, I kept thinking on the word, 'Without', and thoughts tumbled into my mind expanding as I mused, and this was the result.

**"Without, His Coming"** - By Roy Whitney (inspired by the Holy Spirit)

Without, the eternal councils of the  
Godhead

In the Realms of Glory

There could not be the coming of  
Emmanuel

Without, the Baby born

In a stable in the town of  
Bethlehem

There could not be 'God with us'  
The 'Perfect Man'

Without, the Perfect Man,

Full of grace and truth,  
There could not be the 'Perfect Life'  
His atoning death on Calvary's Cross.

Without, His body laid in a borrowed  
Tomb

There could not be His  
Triumphal Rising from the dead  
Sin at last forgiven

Without, His triumphant Resurrection

There could not be  
His ascending into the  
Indescribable glories of heaven

Without, His ascending into  
Heaven

There could not be His  
Exaltation to the right hand of  
God the Father.

Without, His being seated at the  
right hand of the Father, in glory  
There could not be  
The outpouring of the Holy Spirit

Without, the outpouring of  
The Holy Spirit, from  
The Father, and the Son  
Believers could not be filled  
The church empowered.

Without, the hope of  
His soon coming again  
From the glories of heaven  
There could not be a purifying hope

Without, the purifying  
Hope of His soon coming  
We could not live in  
Expectation of His imminent return

Come Lord Jesus  
Place your Feet on the Mount of  
Olives

Let every eye see you  
Let every tongue confess that YOU  
Are Lord of Lords and King of Kings  
Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus!



## New Year tidings from Caia and surrounds

Do join us for Prayer on the Park – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2017, 9.15am @ St.Marks

### SCHOOLS

**Gwenfro Community Primary School**

Prepare Respect Believe

Our new school opens it's doors for pupils on Thursday Jan 5<sup>th</sup> 2017



New Building under construction



Christ's Light Shines Through Our Learning

*St Anne's Catholic Primary School*

Pray for these clubs

Monday	3:15-4:15pm Drama Mrs Garrett		
Tuesday	3:15 - 4:00 pm Board Game Club Mrs Stephens Year 1 and 2	3:15 - 4:00pm Craft Club Miss Davies Year 1 and 2	3:15-4:00pm Needle Craft Miss Kirk Year 3 to 6
Wednesday	12:30 - 1:00pm Homework Club Miss Hidden & Mrs Nichols All Children	3:15-4:15 Ball Sports Coach Pre-Booked children	
Thursday	3.15-4.15pm Cookery Mrs Thomas Years 3,4,5 & 6	3:15 - 4:00pm Football Mr Collins Year 3 to 6	

### & NEARBY OPENING OF HMP BERWYN

**DAILY POST the Leader**

Wrexham's super prison nearing completion  
Fears raised about extra policing needed to deal with potential problems at Wrexham prison



**CHURCHES:** St. Marks starts 11am informal worship services and a new childrens club, but Vicar's also have to deal with leaky roofs.....



Working alongside St Annes and Rock Chapel



**HEALTH:** At Christmas. Church & community combine

**Churches provide meals for youngsters to curb 'holiday hunger'**



Healthy lunches will be delivered to play centres in Wrexham and Rhyl this week as part of the Diocese of St Asaph's commitment to tackle holiday hunger.

Volunteers from churches and community groups in Wrexham, St Anne's Church in Rhyl and St Mary's in Towyn will be providing soup and sandwiches for more than 140 children every day.

Sarah Wheat from the Diocese of St Asaph who's co-ordinating the project in Wrexham said: "While many people will be over-indulging during the festive period, the lack of free school meals during holidays, can mean hunger for some children.

"In partnership with the local play teams, we provide nutritional food which is free so youngsters can enjoy a healthy and happy Christmas without fear of hunger."

**New Health Centre now serves Caia residents**



ChristChurch Monthly Rotas

	1 <sup>st</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>
		communion	Offering	communion	
<b>Setting Up</b>	-	Sue	Gareth	Richard	Rob
<b>PA</b>	-	-	Eth, Colin	Eth, Colin	Rob, Adrian
<b>IT</b>	Rob	Frank	Rob	Rob	Rob
<b>Music Group</b>	Elizabeth	Elizabeth	Colin	Lesley, Genni	Lesley, Genni
<b>Celebration Leader</b>	Sue	Paul	Gareth	Rob	Sue
<b>Speaker</b>	Gareth	Gareth	Gareth	Wayne Morris	Gareth
<b>Tea</b>	John, Ffion, Marilyn	Andrew, Elizabeth, Mandy	Paul, Gill, Elaine	Campbell, Glenys, Mo	Lucy, Angela, Marilyn
<b>LO Helper</b>	No Junior Church	No Junior Church	Val	?	All Age celebration
<b>Little Ones &amp; Junior Church 1</b>		Discovery Church HCRC	Andrew, Elizabeth, Jean	Jean, Sally, Lucy	
<b>Junior Church 2</b>			Katy	Bekki	

If you have any queries please call Gareth Jones - ChristChurch Senior Church Leader on 01978 354805, or see

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 twitter @ChristChurchWxm



we meet at the following locations

Acton Community Resource Centre	Hightown Community Resource Centre
Overton Way	Fusilier Way
Acton	Hightown
Wrexham LL12 7LB	Wrexham LL13 7YF



Our postal address is  
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