

of learning and discovery, helping people to explore the significant aspects of Christian faith and to anchor them in their experience of life. At all points there is a chance to discuss, reflect, question in the context of a small group.

We intend to hold this course for our circuit from the end of March. So, if you enjoyed "Come As You Are" in 2013 and would like to share in something similar again, or if you would like to explore what it means to be a Christian from a Methodist perspective, or if you simply want to think through your faith, then do come along. Further details will be circulated in due course.

Finally, we do rejoice that some young people are being received into full membership of the Methodist Church by Confirmation at special services at Sandfields on March 9th and North Cornelly on March 16th. Please remember both these acts of worship in your prayers. If anyone, of any age, wishes to consider church membership, then please contact Rev Chris, Rev Kofi or Deacon Viv. We will be delighted to talk to you.

As we journey through this preaching plan, we share in the important Christian seasons of Lent and Easter, following Jesus through his passion and crucifixion, and then sharing in the joy of resurrection life. May this journey together be rich and life-changing for us all.

Chris Gray

# NEATH PORT TALBOT CONTACT

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The year 2014 has started very positively for us in the Neath Port Talbot Circuit. Not only has Rev Kofi led us in our first Circuit Watchnight Service – an act of worship thoroughly appreciated by all who attended, but our New Year Party was a great success, and the Circuit Service of Baptism for baby Aba Dzinpa Agyeiwa Amissah was a very special occasion. We continue to pray for Kofi and all his family as they adjust to life here in South Wales.

We have some good things to look forward to in March, April and May. They include our Ash Wednesday Service to mark the beginning of Lent at Jersey Marine, our Circuit Dawn Service on Aberavon Beach to greet Easter Morning, a trip to the Thomas Coke commemorative weekend in Brecon on May 3rd, and another "Musical in a Day" with Helen Pollard from Christian Music Ministries on 31st May. Please look out for further details of these events.

Last year we held a Christian discipleship course, "Come As You Are". This year the Methodist Church has published a new course, "Compass – exploring Christian faith together". The "blurb" says this: "Compass" is a short interactive course that introduces the Christian faith for those who wish to explore its meaning. Like any compass it relates to a particular map and the one intended is Christian discipleship in the Methodist Church. The course's eight sessions cover the basics of Christian faith and illustrate them with themes which have shaped our Methodist heritage and present expression of church.

"Compass" is intended as a guide on the journey of faith that will appeal to the beginner and also the well-travelled. It offers a process  
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# DATES ACROSS THE CIRCUIT

## MARCH

**Tuesday 4th** – Welsh Evenings at Neath and Sandfields 7.00pm.  
Contact local churches for further details.

**Wednesday 5th** – Circuit Ash Wednesday Service at Jersey Marine 7.00pm

**Monday 10th** – Circuit Meeting at Jersey Marine 7.00pm

**Friday 21st** – “Compass” - exploring faith together course begins at Sandfields 7.00pm. Please look out for further details which will be distributed to the churches.

**Saturday 29th** – Coffee and Activities Morning at the Noddfa Centre, Glynccorrwg, organised by Glynccorrwg Methodist and Nebo congregation.

## APRIL

**Saturday 5th** – Coffee Morning at Neath 10.00am – 12.00 noon

## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

### Monday 14th

Holy Week Prayers at Sandfields 10.00am

### Tuesday 15th

Holy Week Service at Neath 7.00pm (Rev Chris Gray)

### Wednesday 16th

Holy Week Prayers at Sandfields 10.00am

### Maundy Thursday 17th

Holy Communion at Glynneath 6.00pm (Mr Clem Raymond)

Holy Communion at Skewen 7.00pm (Rev Kofi Amisah)

Holy Communion at Sandfields 7.00pm (Rev Chris Gray)

### Good Friday 18th

Service at Sandfields 9.30am (Rev Chris Gray)

Service at Taibach 10.30am (Rev Kofi Amisah)

Service at North Cornelly 12.00 noon (Rev Kofi Amisah)

## Easter Sunday 20th

Dawn Service at Aberavon Beach near Lifeboat Station 6.00am

*Other Holy Week and Easter services and events will be organised by local Churches Together groups. Please look out for further publicity for these.*

**Monday 28th** – Circuit Men’s Supper 7.00pm

## MAY

**Saturday 3rd May** – Coach trip to Brecon for commemorative events for the 200th anniversary of the death en route to missionary work in South Asia of Thomas Coke, founder of Methodist missions. There will be an exhibition in the Brecknock Museum and a special event at Brecon Cathedral in the afternoon at which the lead speaker will be The Rev The Lord Griffiths of Burry Port. Further details will be circulated.

**Monday 5th** – May Fayre at Sandfields Methodist Church 1.30pm

**Wednesday 7th** – Circuit Local Preachers Meeting at Skewen 7.00pm

**Sunday 18th** – Aberavon Beach Service (close to Lifeboat Station) 3.30pm. This is our first open air service of the summer. Do come and join us!

**Monday 19th** – Circuit Worship Leaders Meeting at Neath 7.00pm

**Friday 30th** – North Cornelly Gift Day 7.00pm

**Saturday 31st** – “Jerusalem Joy” musical in a day. Come and learn this well known and enjoyable musical by Roger Jones during the afternoon and then perform it in the evening at Sandfields. Rehearsals begin at 1.30pm. Performance at 7.00pm. Even if you have never sung in a choir before, come and have a go. This will be a great experience. If you cannot take part, then come and enjoy the performance at night. “Jerusalem Joy” will be led by Helen Pollard and a team from Christian Music Ministries.