

## Neath Port Talbot Contact

The summer quarter will be a very busy and interesting one in the life of our circuit of churches. Do have a close look at "Dates Around the Circuit" elsewhere in the plan and do try to join us. Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June is the Feast of Pentecost, when the Christian Church celebrates the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on God's people. The events that are taking place are a sign that the Holy Spirit is still at work among us, prompting acts of witness and service, and inspiring us to celebrate our faith in Jesus Christ.

Among other things:

- We have the visit of Helen Pollard and a team from Christian Music Ministries to lead another "Musical in a Day"
- Our friends at Neath Methodist Church celebrate their centenary this year and have a major event, a Flower Festival, over the Pentecost weekend before celebrations continue in September
- Our Sunday afternoon open air services continue through the summer on the promenade at Aberavon Beach, close to the Lifeboat Station
- We welcome Rev Peter and Deacon Samantha Taylor to lead a fascinating World Church afternoon and evening for us in June based on their experiences as Mission Partners in Bulgaria
- We will be holding another Children's Holiday Club for 5-11 year olds during the summer holidays.

Please remember all the events and initiatives outlined in the plan in your prayers.

There are some other matters that I would like to bring to your attention. Firstly, you will recall that a year ago our circuit, along with all the other Methodist circuits in Wales, held a consultation on some proposals that had been brought forward by the Commission of the Covenanted Churches in Wales (Church in Wales, Presbyterian Church, United Reformed Church, Methodist Church and Covenanted Baptist Churches) for a "Church Uniting in Wales". Our comments were sent through to our Wales Synod of the Methodist Church, who then prepared a response based on all the comments they received. Copies of this response are now available in all churches. If you cannot find one, then please contact me. Overall it is felt that now is not the time for changes in structure. Nevertheless, we must remain committed to working together ever more closely with Christians from other traditions in our local settings and be open to the Spirit's leading.

Ann Swindale has asked me to mention that **Christian Aid** are no longer able to take empty printer cartridges for recycling. However, they are happy to accept the following: surplus unopened printer cartridges, mobile phones, laptops and tablets, iPods, and hand-held games consoles. Ann is very happy to receive these in order to pass them on, perhaps via Peter when he is preaching in your church one Sunday!

Finally, we do now have a **digital projector and a screen** available for use in services and meetings around the circuit. Please contact Viv or me if you would like to book them for use at any time.

May God bless us during this season of the Spirit during our services of worship and in our acts of witness and service.

Chris Gray