

Of course, the main celebration during the period of this circuit plan will be Christmas. One major event will be "Christmas – The Story", a nativity play performed by the churches of Port Talbot during the period December 8th to 13th. This has taken place very successfully in recent years in Cardiff and Aberdare. The performances (lasting 20-30 minutes) will take place two or three times a day above Wilkinsons in the Aberafan Shopping Centre. It is hoped that passers-by and others will be attracted to call in and learn about the Christmas story. Please pray for this key mission initiative.

Details are given in this plan of all our services during the Christmas period. In addition, there will be a New Year Watchnight Service on New Year's Eve at Skewen Methodist Church. Rev Kofi led one for us last year at Sandfields, which was appreciated by all who attended. Do go along this year if you are available.

It is the tradition in Methodist churches to hold a Covenant Service at the beginning of each new year. It is an opportunity to dedicate our lives once more in Christ's service. In alternate years it is our practice in this circuit to hold the Covenant Service as a circuit service. So our Covenant Service will take place at Sandfields Methodist Church on Sunday 4th January at 6.00pm. Do join us if you possibly can.

Finally, there is one more circuit event to mention. No sooner does Christmas seem to be over, than we are heading for Lent and Easter! Our circuit Ash Wednesday Service will take place at Jersey Marine on Wednesday 18th February at 7.00pm. It is a very special way to begin the holy season of Lent.

I wish you all every blessing for Christmas and the new year. May we know the presence of the living Christ with us in new and unexpected ways as we celebrate the mystery of his birth: "Our God contracted to a span, incomprehensibly made man."

Chris Gray

# NEATH PORT TALBOT CONTACT

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I know that the members of Neath Methodist Church have been very grateful for the support they have received from the other churches of our circuit during this centenary year. Their main events - the Flower Festival, Centenary Service, Centenary Exhibition and Circuit Service "Our Centenary Story" – have all been very successful. It has been good to take this opportunity to thank God for all that is past and to celebrate all that God is doing in the present at Neath Methodist Church. It has been good too to see the profile of the church raised within its local community.

How we publicise what we do is very important, especially in this digital age when we compete with so many other "voices" for people's attention. One key way of sharing our work and ministry is through our new circuit website: [www.neathporttalbotmethodist.org.uk](http://www.neathporttalbotmethodist.org.uk). Please have a good look at this site. If you or your church has any news to share, please contact Gwyn Aubrey or Brian Curtis (details on the front of the plan). They will be delighted to enter stories and pictures on the website for us. It is not unusual for people to go looking for church details on websites. So let's use this tool at our disposal to the fullest. We have good news to share! And you may wish to "like" the new Skewen and Sandfields Messy Church Facebook pages!

In the same way it is for mission reasons that we have decided to appoint a circuit publicity officer who is willing to contact local press and radio on our behalf. Lynda John, a member at Neath Methodist Church, has kindly offered to do this for us. So if you have an event coming up that you want to let our local communities know about, then please contact Lynda on 01639 697872 or [lyndatony.john@gmail.com](mailto:lyndatony.john@gmail.com).

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# DATES ACROSS THE CIRCUIT

## DECEMBER

**Monday 8th – Saturday 13th** Port Talbot Christmas – The Story  
(Aberafan Shopping Centre)

**Thursday 18th** Carol Singing for Action for Children 6.00pm  
(Morrisons, Neath)

**Friday 19th** Carol Singing for Action for Children 6.00pm  
(Tesco, Neath Abbey)

**Wednesday 31st** Watchnight Service 11.00pm (Skewen)  
Rev Kofi Amissah

### **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

**Glyneath** 6.00pm Holy Communion  
(Rev Christopher Gray)

**Neath** 11.30pm Holy Communion  
(Rev Christopher Gray)

**North Cornelly** 11.15pm Holy Communion  
(Mr Christopher Jones)

**Sandfields** 11.00pm Holy Communion  
(Mr Clem Raymond)

**Skewen** 11.00pm Holy Communion  
(Rev Kofi Amissah)

### **CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES**

**Cymmer** 9.30am Christmas Morning Service  
(Rev Christopher Gray)

**Glyncorrwg** 9.30am at Cymmer

### **CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES (cont.)**

**Jersey Marine** 9.00am Holy Communion  
(Rev Kofi Amissah)

**Neath** 10.00am Christmas Morning Service  
(Mr Clem Raymond)

**North Cornelly** 9.30am Christmas Morning Service  
(Mr Trevor Harry)

**Sandfields** 9.00am Christmas Morning Service  
(Mr Peter Swindale)

**Skewen** 10.00am at Neath

**Taibach** 10.00am Christmas Morning Service  
(Mr Christopher Jones)

## JANUARY

**Sunday 4th** Circuit Covenant Service 6.00pm (Sandfields)

**Friday 9th** Circuit New Year Party 7.00pm (Taibach)

**Thursday 22nd** Circuit Local Preachers and Worship Leaders  
7.00pm (Skewen Vestry)

**Monday 26th** Circuit Men's Supper 7.00pm (Sandfields)  
The speaker will be Steve Jones on the subject of sports  
chaplaincy

## FEBRUARY

**Wednesday 18th** Circuit Ash Wednesday Service 7.00pm  
(Jersey Marine)