

ARM (Wales) Magazine

Winter 2013 | Issue 66



ANGLICAN RENEWAL MINISTRIES WALES
ADNEWYDDIAD EGLWYSWYR CYMRU

Encouraging people to live in a closer relationship with God

Table of Contents

	Page
From our Vice-Chairman Dick Shenton.....	3
Prayer Corner by Pam Worsey	4
Challenge, Pray, Revive by Miriam Beecroft	6
Book Review - Sagas	13
Making Connections	14
Testimony - Gareth Northam	15
Praying Together	17
Catherine Halstead - My gap year	18
Forthcoming Events	22
Why not join us?.....	23

LAST DATE for copy for the Spring edition - March 14th 2014

We welcome articles, letters and news of your Renewal events.

Please send to me at: Ty Capel, Rhos-y-Garth, Llanilar, Aberystwyth SY23 4SE

or email: malcolm@gcsposters.co.uk

Malcolm Dye

by Dick Shenton
Vice Chairman

From the Vice Chairman

Change how you think

'...if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.' Philippians 4:8 NIV

You do not have more problems than other people — you just think about them more often! Stop: go back and reread that sentence. Take a moment and consider what it means. It is what you think about that produces how you feel. If you do not believe that, try getting angry without first having angry thoughts, or getting sad without first having sad thoughts. You cannot do it, can you? To experience a feeling you must first have the thought that produces it. That is life-changing information; it is knowledge the devil doesn't want you to have. If you change how you think you will change how you feel! Nothing can hold your negative feelings in place other than your own thinking. The truth is, it is your thinking that is negative not your life! Once you understand that you



You do not have more problems than other people ...

So, if you are serious about changing your life, start changing how you think!

can get back on the path to happiness again.

But change takes time. You did not become negative overnight and you won't become positive overnight. But you can start. How? By doing two things: First, by treating your negative thoughts in the same way you treat flies at a picnic — shoo them away and replace them with thoughts that are 'excellent and praiseworthy'. You have that choice! Secondly, by thinking about God's goodness. David did: 'Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: who forgives all your iniquities; who heals all your diseases; who redeems your life from destruction; who crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies.' (Psalm 103:2-4 NKJV) So, if you are serious about changing your life, start changing how you think!

From UCB Word for Today 27 February 2011

by Pam Worsley
Prayer Co-ordi-
nator

Prayer Corner

Praise and Thanksgiving



- Let us praise God together - just for Who He is! So often we can give thanks and praise, but maybe with a hidden thought lurking that if we please Him enough by doing so, he will be more likely to answer our prayers. His love is greater than that though isn't it. "Father, we adore You, lay our lives before You, how we love You. Jesus we adore You; ... Spirit we adore You."

- Let us thank Him for the privilege of knowing Him, and being a part of His wonderful Kingdom on earth, called to serve the King of kings and Lord of lords. Wow, do we *really* appreciate just what a calling that is? "Father we love You, we worship and adore You; glorify Your Name in all the earth."

- "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now" Philippians 1:3-4 Let us thank God for each other, remembering the countless number of ways in which He has blessed our individual lives through each other. Thank You Father. "Let there be love shared among us, let there be love in our eyes, let Your love sweep this nation, cause us O Lord to arise..."

- "If My people who are called by My Name will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from Heaven and forgive their sin and heal their land" 2 Chronicles 7:14 These are the Lord's own words to us, and a wonderful - though conditional promise. Let us remember therefore to thank Him for the signs of new life throughout our land and seek to walk in obedience in our individual lives, so that in no way do we hinder His gracious work among us. We have much to thank Him for in ARM Wales as He gently steers this little ship through seas of calm, storm - and even

Let us praise God
together ...

... for the
privilege of
knowing Him,
and being a part
of His wonderful
Kingdom on
earth ...

We have much
to thank Him for
in ARM Wales ...

perplexity. “Lord have mercy on us, come and heal our land; cleanse with your fire, heal with Your touch. Humbly we bow and call upon You now O Lord.”

Prayer requests

- For the newly re-elected Executive Committee, though sadly it does not have any new, and still no young, members, which is still a great need, especially as age does have its limitations, however keen we may be to do more!
- That Dick be given grace and strength to continue to fill 2 roles – as secretary and chairman, as once again he has only agreed to be vice chairman.
- For Malcolm, as he too carries such an extra load – firstly his official role as our treasurer, but with the added burdens of editing the magazine and managing the website.
- For all our spiritual advisors that they will have time to pray and support us, advise and encourage.
- For the N.Wales retreat at Quinta next March; Bishop Andy preparing to lead us, and Canon Philip as he prepares the worship.
- That God would call all those He wishes to be there; that they would hear this call and respond, and necessary finance would be supplied in these difficult times in which we live.
- For skilled people to come forward to manage the website and edit the magazine, together with an efficient secretary, familiar with ARM Wales, its aims and calling.
- That we all be open to fresh ways the Lord may wish to use us; be prepared to move out of our comfort zones; accept new challenges and stand against apathy in all its forms.
- That young people would not see ARM as just for seniors, but rise to the challenge to come on board and change things if necessary - under God’s guidance of course!
- That the magazine would be appreciated and not tossed

Prayer requests

...

- **For the newly re-elected Executive Committee**
- **For Dick**
- **For Malcolm**
- **For our Spiritual Advisors**
- **For the N. Wales Retreat**
- **For people to manage the web site and edit the magazine**
- **For young people to get involved with ARM Wales**

aside unread.

- That we would all “Arise, shine, for [our] Light has come and the glory of the Lord has risen upon [us]” Isaiah 60:1

Thank you for praying. We do so appreciate you all. Should you have prayer needs, please do feel free to share them with us. God richly bless you.

Challenge, Pray, Revive

by
Miriam Beecroft

Miriam Beecroft currently works with St Denys’ church in Lisvane where she is Ministerial Assistant with responsibility



for Youth & Children’s work and ministry to the elderly. She spent the last two years at St Michael’s College, Llandaff, and before that worked with the churches in Aberystwyth parish for four years. She came to Wales to pursue a career in librarianship but has discerned a call to full-time ministry.

And my main motivation, aside from being obedient to God, is a deep desire to try to rescue the church from itself ...

The phrase “I think you should be a vicar!” came from many different people while I was volunteering at Lee Abbey as a student, and was what led me away from librarianship in exchange for teaching, preaching and leading. And my main motivation, aside from being obedient to God, is a deep desire to try to rescue the church from itself – most particularly the Church in Wales. If I didn’t believe that revival in that sense was worth a hearty attempt then, believe me, I wouldn’t have signed up!

When I say, “try to rescue the church from itself” I’m agreeing with CS Lewis’s character, Uncle Screwtape, who writes to his nephew, Wormwood, whom he is training in carrying out the work of the Devil, trying to deceive a newly converted Christian. He writes:

“One of our greatest allies at present is the Church itself.”¹

But what did that mean in 1942 when it was written? Later in the book he writes,

“Provided that meetings, pamphlets, policies, movements, causes and crusades matter more to [the Christian] than prayers and sacraments and charity, he is ours – and the more ‘religious’ (on those terms) the more securely ours.”²

This resonates with me. The more confused and distracted the church becomes about how it ought to function, the less functional it becomes.

But what will revive this distracted church? How can new life be found in God’s family?

To ‘revive’ means to restore to life or consciousness. So, when we talk about reviving the church, are we saying that the church is dead or just asleep?

Take a moment to read Luke 8:40-53

PCCs, Deanery chapters and especially Governing Body meetings leave me cold with hopelessness. For every hour I spend in that sort of environment I feel as though my youthful enthusiasm and my hope for a brighter future for the church has been diminished. But that’s wrong; with Jesus there is always hope. When I came away from my first meeting of the Governing Body, I returned to my car, switched the engine on and immediately the radio blasted these lyrics: *“Things can only get better, can only get better”* (D:Ream). Never had a lyric been more appropriate as I considered how far the church’s priorities had slid from those of Jesus to preach good news to the poor, proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, and to proclaim the year of the

The more confused and distracted the church becomes about how it ought to function, the less functional it becomes.

But what will revive this distracted church?

... with Jesus there is always hope.

¹ Lewis, C S. *The Screwtape Letters*, London, Geoffrey Bless: The Centenary Press, 1942, p.15

² Lewis, C S. *The Screwtape Letters*, London, Geoffrey Bless: The Centenary Press, 1942, p.42-43

He [Jesus] is the restorer of hope. He is in the business of making things better, not just for the sake of those who suffer but also for His own glory.

I wonder whether this speaks to us grumpy, disheartened Anglicans.

When people are dead or asleep, Jesus brings them new life. Do we trust Him to do the same with the church? I think we do, and I think we want to be involved otherwise we wouldn't be where we are.

... I think we need challenge.

Lord's favour.³

In the account of Jairus' daughter and the lady with the bleed, things were really bad. Both were seriously ill and desperate. But Jesus doesn't leave them as they are; He heals them. He is the restorer of hope. He is in the business of making things better, not just for the sake of those who suffer but also for His own glory. Even in the seemingly impossible situation of helping the man whose daughter had already died, Jesus said two key things. To her father he said, *'Don't be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed'*⁴ and to the mourners he said, *'Stop wailing, she is not dead but asleep.'*⁵

I wonder whether this speaks to us grumpy, disheartened Anglicans. And I wonder whether God might be saying, 'If you trust me, then you've got to trust me. I can either bring things back to life or I can't, and I think I've proved that I can!'

When people are dead or asleep, Jesus brings them new life. Do we trust Him to do the same with the church? I think we do, and I think we want to be involved otherwise we wouldn't be where we are. So how are we going to be Jesus' hands, feet and mouthpiece? How are we, together with Him, going to bring new lives (new people) into God's family, and bring new life in the lives of those who already belong?

Firstly, I think we need challenge. It doesn't take a genius to say that change is necessary in the church, but the inevitable resistance to change comes from an unwillingness to see anything wrong. Before significant change can happen, sometimes we need to challenge

³ Luke 4.18-19

⁴ Luke 8.50

⁵ Luke 8.52

the status quo. With tact yet directness, it is necessary to challenge people into seeing a need for change.

Sometimes when I'm trying to gather my thoughts on a subject, I post about it on Facebook to invite other people's views. And when I posted on Facebook that I was trying to sum up my thoughts on how the church could be revived, I unintentionally opened up a rather passionate discussion! The first comment was about the church needing more cake and quiche, which I challenged because I think the church already has too much quiche! But then some really strong opinions came from unexpected places. Those who posted comments weren't the usual Christian friends who I'm in regular contact with. Rather, it was people who I either haven't seen for a long time or who aren't Christians who wanted to put their pennies-worth into the discussion.

The funny thing about social media is how people open up about issues that are close to their hearts, in ways that they just wouldn't, face to face. Because people can hide behind their computer and have a discussion with friends of mine whom they've never met, they open up and say how they really feel about something. And this is what I found when I posed the question of how to revive the church. It proved to be a rather emotive subject...

One friend whom I met in university and haven't seen in the flesh for about seven years told me about how difficult she has found it to find a church since she left home. She spoke about the painful experience of going along to a new church only to find that nowhere is quite like her home church and she feels she doesn't fit in anywhere else due to a lack of welcome.

Another friend who I volunteered with back at Lee

... it is necessary to challenge people into seeing a need for change.

I posed the question of how to revive the church. It proved to be a rather emotive subject...

... some really strong opinions came from unexpected places.

She spoke about the painful experience of going along to a new church ...

... the church should be focussed on the will of God, not on the will of endless committees.

... spoke of her embarrassment of taking her Brownies to a service that was meant to be suitable for all ages but that turned out to be unsuitable for children and has put them and herself off church.

... reviving the church was about listening to the community and acting on what their needs are.

... talked about how church services need a modern face. She used the words 'fun', 'lively' and 'hands on' as things that would attract her to church before revealing that she and her husband had started attending church regularly after being at our wedding in the summer.

Abbey, again a good seven years ago, said that there should be less flag waving, and that the church should be focussed on the will of God, not on the will of endless committees.

A third friend spoke of her embarrassment of taking her Brownies to a service that was meant to be suitable for all ages but that turned out to be unsuitable for children and has put them and herself off church. (It doesn't matter which church she was talking about, as the same could be said of hundreds of church services across our nation every Sunday.)

A fourth friend commented that we ought to ban the word 'revival' because these days a lot of people think that during revivals it was somehow just God's work and required no work on anyone else's part.

A fifth friend said that reviving the church was about listening to the community and acting on what their needs are.

In the end there were fifteen different friends who got involved in the conversation! But I just want to mention two more.

One is my sister-in-law, who talked about how church services need a modern face. She used the words 'fun', 'lively' and 'hands on' as things that would attract her to church before revealing that she and her husband had started attending church regularly after being at our wedding in the summer. I was thrilled! I knew that they were having their baby baptised soon but I had no idea that they'd been going to church.

We had put effort into planning our wedding service so that it was accessible to all our non-Christian friends and relatives. We did away with orders of service; we had hymns that spoke the truth about God but didn't

claim an intimate relationship with Jesus because we didn't want to require people to sing something that wasn't true for them personally; we made paper chains in the service with people writing or drawing their prayers on the paper links rather than being asked to kneel and close their eyes and pretend to pray when they didn't know how; and we asked a friend to preach in an all-age, interactive way, which he did beautifully. The service was fun and exciting. Nobody knew what was coming next except those taking part, and the gospel of God's love revealed in Jesus was a thread that ran throughout the whole service. It was impossible for anybody to go away from that wedding unclear about what we believe and how important Jesus is to us.

We prayed earnestly for all the non-Christians coming, that they would find it accessible and that they would grasp the gospel. Imagine our joy then, when my sister-in-law said that she'd started going to church regularly as a result of the wedding! (I'm sometimes more surprised than I should be when God answers these types of prayers.) It's really exciting to see God at work in family members.

And not just that, but it challenged our Christian friends as well. Many of them came away saying, 'Well I never thought a wedding could be like that. It was so much fun!'

I really believe that it's important to challenge people. It's important to challenge people's perceptions of Christians and the church. It's important that when we have an opportunity given to us on a plate, of many non-Christians coming into church for whatever reason, that they go away with a clearer picture of God's love for them, and a new idea of what church can or should be like.

It was impossible for anybody to go away from that wedding unclear about what we believe and how important Jesus is to us.

... it challenged our Christian friends as well. Many of them came away saying, 'Well I never thought a wedding could be like that. It was so much fun!'

... it's important to challenge people. It's important to challenge people's perceptions of Christians and the church.

And it's important to challenge Christians about the way we do things too. Let's be creative!

... we need to challenge ourselves and we need to pray. Change isn't going to work without prayer – it's God who does the reviving, not us on our own.

Let's think critically and creatively about how we do church. And, as we pray, let's seek God and do some things differently, even if it seems crazy, because Jesus can revive the sleeping and the dead!!

... let's not continue in the Anglican rut we've been in for the last few decades ...

And it's important to challenge Christians about the way we do things too. Let's be creative! If you're not creative, then identify the creative people and get them to recreate the Remembrance service, the Christingle service, the Midnight Communion service, the baptisms, the weddings and maybe even the funerals. Because the way these services have always been in the past is yes, very comfy, but if these traditions are, for any reason, too embarrassing to invite our friends to, let alone strangers, then it's time to change them, otherwise we die out in the next ten years.

This is what I've been trying to do recently and it seems to be working. For change to occur in our traditional little church, we need to challenge ourselves and we need to pray. Change isn't going to work without prayer – it's God who does the reviving, not us on our own.

I said there was one more friend I wanted to mention from the Facebook discussion. She simply said that the way to revive the church was to listen to what God says and do it, even if it's crazy! (She's a vicar's wife!)

There's no need to insist on change for change's sake, but let's challenge ourselves with where we'll be in ten years' time if we do nothing differently. Let's ask ourselves why we're too embarrassed to invite our friends and family to church. Let's think critically and creatively about how we do church. And, as we pray, let's seek God and do some things differently, even if it seems crazy, because Jesus can revive the sleeping and the dead!!

There may well be cases where we try a change and we decide it was better before, that's ok – we can always change back. But let's not continue in the Anglican rut we've been in for the last few decades of ploughing on doing exactly the same thing year on year, waiting for

people to turn up of their own accord and wondering why we're dying out. Let's decide to do something about it this year.

Nicky Gumbel tweeted this a few weeks ago:

*Five frogs are sitting on a log. Four decide to jump off.
How many are left?*

Answer: Five. Why? Because deciding and doing are not the same thing.

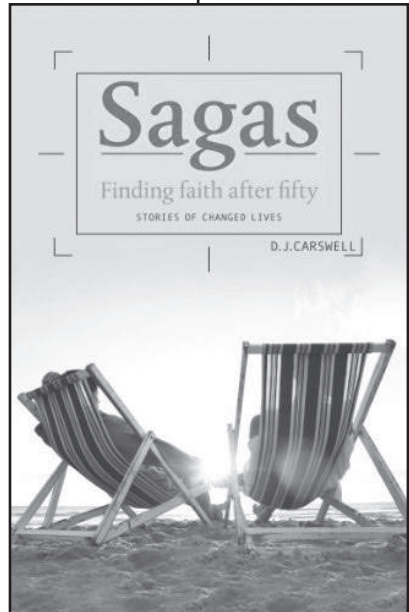
Let's challenge, let's pray, and together with Jesus, let's revive. It's simple CPR! Let's challenge, let's pray, and together with Jesus, let's revive. It's simple CPR!

Book Review - Sagas

Recently I picked up a little book entitled 'Sagas' compiled by D.J. Carswell. It was the subtitle that caught my interest because I came into that category, 'Finding Faith After Fifty'. It is a collection of real life stories to quote: 'who have come to faith in their later years'. There are no endorsements or famous people recommending and it is modestly presented without fuss thus making it very easy to read. Each story stands alone, thus it is a great 'dipping into book' as most are short episodes. Altogether there are 15 chapters relating how a wide variety of persons came to give their lives to Jesus in their later life (sometimes very late!). Their backgrounds differ greatly and include a salesman, housewife, entertainer, single mother, founder of a fast food chain, and many others. It is very encouraging that there are so many examples of people who recognise a gap in their lives and prove that Jesus is always ready to open his arms to all who seek forgiveness whatever their age, status or history. It is well worth spending time receiving encouragement from this book.

**Let's challenge,
let's pray, and
together with
Jesus, let's revive.
It's simple CPR!**

**'Finding Faith
After Fifty'**



Sagas is a collection of short real life stories of mature people who have experienced something that has changed their outlook on life and death.

It appears to me that most of us have an infinite capacity to discover how other people 'tick'.

Frequently in radio and television journalism (and now in magazines too) the use of interviews is common.

The author writes:-

Sagas is a collection of short real life stories of mature people who have experienced something that has changed their outlook on life and death. Their honest, yet differing, accounts offer very personal insights into finding faith after fifty.

Everyone who has managed to clock up half a century naturally will have formed opinions on most things, including faith and God. Of course we are always right...aren't we? And yet...? What do we believe? Does it matter?

Fingers crossed...I wish I had your faith...I'll think about God later...It's too late now...

This book could answer some of your questions, doubts or even help you to re-affirm your faith. Each chapter stands alone so you can start at the beginning or pick random chapters.

Sagas – published by IO Publishing (www.IOofthose.com) – ISBN 978-1-906173-29-6

Making Connections

We are, in the main, curious beings created by God. By curious I don't mean odd (though this we are!) but inquisitive. It appears to me that most of us have an infinite capacity to discover how other people 'tick'. Nothing spreads as quickly as gossip, whether it is at work, in a social group, family or amongst church members. This is unfortunate because the stories distributed are frequently only partly true and become even more distorted by what we thought we heard and by giving emphasis to our own opinions. Examples of this can be seen daily in the differences between the newspaper headlines and the content of the articles where, for the sake of creating a sensation, a single phrase is selected by the editor to draw attention. However the important truth of the situation is often far from the bold type heading.

Frequently in radio and television journalism (and now in magazines too) the use of interviews is common. Whilst this

has some shortcomings in that the interviewer can skew or cut short answers, in the main those being interviewed are able to speak their own words and express their emotions and the facts (as they see it). Why are we not able to make more use of this technique in our churches? It would be a great opportunity to see life through the eyes of others.



It is not necessary to sensationalise the content or make people feel awkward, but to hear the experiences of somebody's walk in life will resonate with the listeners and inspire some to perhaps turn their lives around.

Wouldn't it be helpful to discover what concerns children have about school or social matters, how an acquaintance grew in faith, what motivates someone to work for a charity, how they cope with setbacks in life, their opinion of mission or some aspect of church life. There are so many questions to which we want answers because we are a curious breed! By the way, it could be a wonderful relief for the preacher too if it were to replace the sermon occasionally.

Testimony - Gareth Northam

Seven years ago I was a hopeless junkie caught up in heroin addiction and alcoholism. I was so far from God. I lived my life as I wanted. I stole and cheated from everyone or I sold the junk to pay for my next fix. I lost everything in a cycle of selfish depravity.

I have tried rehab programs, prison, probation, and various drug programs. They didn't work. Doctors could never help me, neither could the psychiatric nurses. The prescriptions never worked either.

Then 6 years ago Jesus Christ stepped into my life. I mean literally stepped into my life.

... in the main those being interviewed are able to speak their own words and express their emotions and the facts (as they see it). Why are we not able to make more use of this technique in our churches? It would be a great opportunity to see life through the eyes of others.

There are so many questions to which we want answers because we are a curious breed!

Seven years ago I was a hopeless junkie caught up in heroin addiction and alcoholism.

Then 6 years ago Jesus Christ stepped into my life.

I was drastically changed. All the feelings of guilt and shame and unworthiness that had plagued me for so long went. And I was left with feelings of elation and freedom that I had not experienced for a long time...

From that moment on I was instantly in love with Jesus. The next day I dug out a Bible and started reading it. It was awesome.

Jesus gave me a brand new life.

I was presented with the gospel, I was convicted and I prayed a simple prayer. I have never been the same since. In what can only be described as a Damascus Road experience, I was



drastically changed. All the feelings of guilt and shame and unworthiness that had plagued me for so long went. And I was left with feelings of elation and freedom that I had not experienced for a long time due to all the drugs.... I had an overwhelming sense

of joy and a deep, deep knowing that I was right with God and that He loved me and cherished me. And my craving for drugs was gone in an instant. My soul and mind was flooded with joy and peace and I lay on the floor laughing and crying and praising God with hallelujahs. I had never said hallelujah in my life and now it was rolling off my tongue. And words were coming to my mouth in an unknown language. And they made sense. I knew that they were a heartfelt cry of thanks and praise to a great and glorious Saviour.

From that moment on I was instantly in love with Jesus. The next day I dug out a Bible and started reading it. It was awesome. I loved the words and they made sense. From cover to cover I could understand God's sovereign plan to redeem mankind. No one taught me doctrine. It just made sense. People who met me in the next few weeks said that I was so drastically different. I looked healthier and more alive. I was aglow with the Spirit of God.

No man saved me. The pope didn't save me. The church didn't save me. Mary or the saints didn't save me. Neither did Buddha, Mohamed or Krishna. No it was Jesus Christ and Him alone.

Jesus gave me a brand new life. He rescued me from the pit. He redeemed my soul.

Praying Together

Colossian 4:2-6

Further Instructions

²Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. ³And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. ⁴Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

⁵Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. ⁶Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

From Scripture Union “Word Live” 27 November 2013

Explore the Bible**Pray first**

At a parish day a few years ago, groups were asked to form a physical representation of what our church was like. My group stood in a circle, our left hands reaching in, up, and meeting, and our right hands reaching out.

This passage is a reflection of that, in a way. Paul firstly encourages the Colossians to pray – to be devoted to fostering the primary relationship of their lives (vs 2–4), so that all he’s been warning them against can be avoided, and all he’s been teaching them to do can be maintained.

Look out

He also asks for prayer for his own mission, so that the gospel can continue to be preached and so that he himself, despite being in prison, may be clear about the good news. Then Paul encourages them in their relationships outward; they should be characterised by Christ’s presence, grace and wisdom, and should proclaim him whenever they can.

There is a connection between these two. In the image above, we kept turning our heads to look in and out, to indicate the continuity between the two areas of life. In the same way, prayer deepens our relationship with God, and encourages us to mission; which, in turn, points us back to God for his continual help and blessing.

Colossian 4:2-6

At a parish day a few years ago, groups were asked to form a physical representation of what our church was like.

This passage is a reflection of that ...

Paul encourages them in their relationships outward ...

... but should we, as Christians, charged with spreading the Gospel, be outward facing?

I pray that you have the courage to stand against fear and that your holy huddle can face the world with your backs to each other connected by faith and facing the world.

By the third night, I became a Christian.

When we pray in a group or reach out to God as a Christian community the most common attitude is to form into a holy huddle as if we wish to protect ourselves from all influences of the world. The group described above at least reaches a hand out to make contact, but should we, as Christians, charged with spreading the Gospel, be outward facing? Our protection is within us, we should not fear any outside pressures if we are confident in our faith in God. Perhaps therein lies the truth, our faith in ourselves. The patterns that are set in childhood, the stresses of school, work, life, media, peer pressure and how we see others can cause us to feel inadequate. However we are freed by the love of God through Jesus. There are no guarantees that it will be straightforward or easy but, in the end, God's will, will be done in us and through us (and sometimes in spite of us). It is simple to say this but difficult to put into action but Jesus has already conquered fear and doubt for the world and these have been replaced by love and the promise of life with him for ever. That is our strength and nothing can beat that. Philippians 4:13, *I can do all this through him who gives me strength.*

I pray that you have the courage to stand against fear and that your holy huddle can face the world with your backs to each other connected by faith and facing the world.

Catherine Halstead – My gap year with New Generation Music Academy

ARM Wales has given Catherine a bursary to help fund her gap year. She has given this feedback of her activities and progress.

About Me

When I was 14 years old I went to Soul Survivor and was blown away by what I saw in God and the Holy Spirit. By the third night, I became a Christian. My passion for God and his plan for me is a massive part of my life and I feel my future involves me



sharing this passion with others, especially with young people like myself. My other passion is dancing. I have danced for 6 years and feel that God has called me to take a year out to explore how I can use this to reach other young people for Christ through the New Generation Music Academy (NGM) in Bristol.

About NGM

NGM is a high-quality, mission-focused community of artists 'passionate for God for the benefit of the world, using the gifts and talents that God has given us to reach out to people through different projects and events'. They train dancers, singers, DJs, technicians and actors.

About my Gap Year

At the beginning of August I auditioned with NGM and was offered a place on their one year Discipleship Course starting October 2013. The course consists of Bible teaching and aspects of living a biblical life; practical teaching sessions and discussions looking at character and identity; to effectively engage with our world as a follower of Jesus. I will also have a personal mentor, to pray with me, advise me and encourage me in all areas of my life.

There is also a communications course; 'Outloud', which provides teaching sessions and workshops to help me develop my communication skills. My chosen art form is dance and whilst at NGM I will have the opportunity to train and dance with the Release Dance Crew who specialise in Street Dance.

Throughout the year I will be able to use my biblical teaching, communication skills and dancing to tour with the Release Dance Crew, performing at schools, youth groups and churches, evangelising, sharing my testimony and teaching young people about God's love for them. I believe this year will help me enter into God's purpose for my life and that I'll be able to use what I learn at NGM to serve God and reach people for Jesus for years to come.

My weeks schedule is from Tuesday - Friday (long weekend yay!). Every Wednesday we have a couple of seminars on

NGM is ...
 'passionate for
 God for the
 benefit of the
 world, ...

**I auditioned with
 NGM and was
 offered a place
 on their one
 year Discipleship
 Course ...**

**There is also a
 communications
 course; 'Outloud',
 which provides
 teaching sessions
 and workshops
 to help me
 develop my
 communication
 skills.**

**I will have the
 opportunity to
 train and dance
 with the Release
 Dance Crew
 who specialise in
 Street Dance.**

Here are some of the things I've learned so far ...

different topics, we have a chat as a group about different things and we have a Bible Study as a group. Wednesday nights are then our church meetings worshipping, praying and receiving a preach.

Here are some of the things I've learned so far ...

- We can't do anything for God without God's input.
- We are always perfect in God's eyes.
- We need to keep expecting love.
- We need to engage with God everyday. Otherwise we can't exist. We have to exist with what God is saying to us everyday.
- God wants us to come to the edge so that we are not depending on ourselves we are depending everything on him.
- If you have a problem with someone, ask God for a word/picture for them. You will never see them the same again!
- Don't make God an 'add on' to your life. God IS your life.
- Being with God shouldn't feel like a cost, just as spending time with someone you love would feel.
- What was your last sin? God can't remember !!!
- NEVER say you can't afford something. Ask God if he wants you to have it. If so, he will give it to you!
- We can walk 10 feet tall knowing we are the King's child. But we can also fall and think WOW, I do not deserve this grace.
- When the Holy Spirit is in you, you become more like you than you have ever been. When you need help, guidance, to avoid temptation and motivation just ask to be filled! He can change your heart (1 Corinthians 12 - message Bible).
- We need to hold onto things with open palms. Accept what is taken as it is all God's plan.
- Stop beating yourself up over failing, Jesus took it all on the Cross!!!
- God is your friend. Tell him a joke!
- You + Jesus are a team!
- When praying, have more faith! God CAN do it. Have a mind set like a 5 year old's? They believe it can happen a

lot more than we do! Rely on Dad, be care free, he's got it all under control.

- Forgiveness can break a negative atmosphere.
- In comparison to God's forgiveness, anyone we need to forgive is just a few pounds worth.
- Forgiving someone does not mean you think what they did is ok.
- Forgiveness means to realize you were the prisoner, Jesus took their punishment.
- Hating someone is like drinking poison and expecting them to die.
- You have a blank check book from the grace bank account! You can choose to give them to the people who wrong you. :)
- Don't want the gifts, just want the giver. We're given gifts to enjoy.
- Being around critical people will make you a critical person.
- God will give us power to do something when we first obey and step out.
- The word of God is all we have to walk on.
- You know who you are, you know what you can do through God.
- There is a big difference between your behavior and your identity.
- God has put you where you are because he knows if you weren't there you'd be in trouble! :)
- When you try to love someone, love them through God's love in you.
- Whatever God is saying to you, do it. :)

I am working with Release every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. My work involves learning technique through ballet/contemporary, choreographing our own dances, learning Release routines (which are REALLY hard but so fun!) and travelling with the crew to different parts of the UK to watch them on gigs and help teach children! Whilst on the gigs, we are telling children/parents about why we dance and we share the love of God! More on this next time ...

**More on this next
time ...**

Forthcoming Events

Retreat in North
Wales
March 2014


Retreat in North Wales
at
Quinta Christian Centre
Oswestry
11th -13th March 2014
led by
Bishop Andy John

Bookings are going well so book now to avoid missing out!

More details will be put on the website as they become available

**God - Come to the edge.
We might fall!
God - Come to the edge.
It's too high!
God - Come to the edge.
So they came.
And he pushed.
And they flew.**

Why not join us?

 ANGLICAN RENEWAL MINISTRIES
ADNEWYDDIAD EGLWYSWYR CYMRU

Encouraging people to live in a closer relationship with God

We welcome all Christians to join with us in supporting our work.

Membership fees per annum (minimum):

Individuals—£10

Families—£15

Organisations—£25

Benefits of membership include receipt of the Magazine (3 issues a year), the Annual report and voting rights at the AGM. The AGM is where you can express your opinion and elect the Executive Committee.

Executive Committee 2012-2013

Chairman: Vacant

Vice Chairman: Dick Shenton

Treasurer: Malcolm Dye

Secretary: Vacant

Committee members:

Pam Worsley

John Meason

Joe Hague

Kath Shenton

Marina Kennard

Marcia Gibson-Watt

Steve Waters

Julia Lane

We trust we may glorify God's name through our activities in Wales and we look to the prayer support of our members.

For all enquiries contact:

Dick Shenton

☎ 01656 665368

To join or renew your subscription contact:

Malcolm Dye

☎ 01974 241410

☞ or visit www.anglicanrenewalministries-wales.org.uk

(please use 'ARM membership' as the subject)



Registered Charity Number 1053180

Datganiad Adnewyddiad Eglwyswyr Cymru

- Llawenhau yn aelodaeth Eglwys Duw
- ac yn ein galwad i'r Eglwys yng Nghymru
- ac yn cydnabod mai drwy weithgareddau'r Ysbryd Glân cawn fwynhau perthynas personol gyda'r Duw Dad a Iesu Grist.
- Rydym yn ymrwymo'n hunain mewn aelodaeth ffyddlon i'n heglwys, yn ffyddlon i'w harweiniad a'l fframwaith.
- Dymunwn ymuno â llawnder rhoddion grasol Duw i'w Eglwys, i ddangos ffrwyth yr Ysbryd Glân, ac i ymarfer doniau'r Ysbryd a roddwyd inni yn ac yn freiniol er mwyn nerthu'r Eglwys.
- Ac idyfu fel unigolion ac fel eglwys i efelychu Crist.
- Drwy ddyfalbarhad i adnewyddu, gobeithiwn fel unigolion, yn gorfforedig ac yn undebol, cawn ein harwain gan yr Ysbryd i annog yr Eglwys mewn:
 - addoliad sy'n ein harwain wyneb yn wyneb â'r bywiol Dduw
 - deisyfiad i gael ymuno yng ngwir gymundeb â'r Ysbryd Glân, i'n galluogi i roi argraff gyhoeddus o eglwys fywiol, gariadus a gweithgar.

A statement from Anglican Renewal Ministries (Wales)

- Rejoicing in our membership of God's Church
- and our calling within the Church in Wales
- and recognising that through the activity of the Holy Spirit we are brought into a personal relationship with God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,
- we commit ourselves to be faithful members of our church, loyal to its leadership and structures.
- We desire to enter into the fullness of all God's gracious gifts to his Church, to display the fruit of the Spirit and to exercise the gifts of the Spirit as he sovereignly and freely distributes them for the building up of the Church
- and to grow as individuals and Church into the likeness of Christ.
- Being dedicated to renewal we hope that individually, corporately and by open gatherings we can be led by the Holy Spirit to encourage the Church in:
 - a worship which expects to encounter the living God
 - a desire to be caught up into the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, the communal expression of a living, loving and serving church.

www.anglicanrenewalministries-wales.org.uk

