



Issue 2 – May 2023

The Grapevine

Taste and see that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8)

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*Faith
Hope
&
Love*

**“I am the vine; you are the branches”
(John 15:5)**

Shining a light on the Church in the 21st Century



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Welcome All Readers

Welcome to warmer days and the second issue of The Grapevine! This is produced by the 3 Churches in North Cardiff with contributions from the wider community – both near and far.

The content reflects 'faith, hope and love', in the 21st century. Church is more than a building; it's a community and it's people.

It's like my relation telling me that their grandson was unclear why no one knew if they would get to Heaven when, according to this five year old, why couldn't they just Google it?!

We hope you find this issue informative, inspiring and challenging in a good way!

Contact us: grapevinepublication@gmail.com



Bottle tops and Mazel tov!

Congratulations on recycling, in Gran Canaria! (see photo)
Love the Planet.
Love Creation.
Love God in the 21st Century!



The First Shall be Last

Each generation is faced with the challenges of their time. Today, young people are bombarded with images of so-called 'perfect' people, everyone supposedly having a great time and the Holy Grail of 'success'.

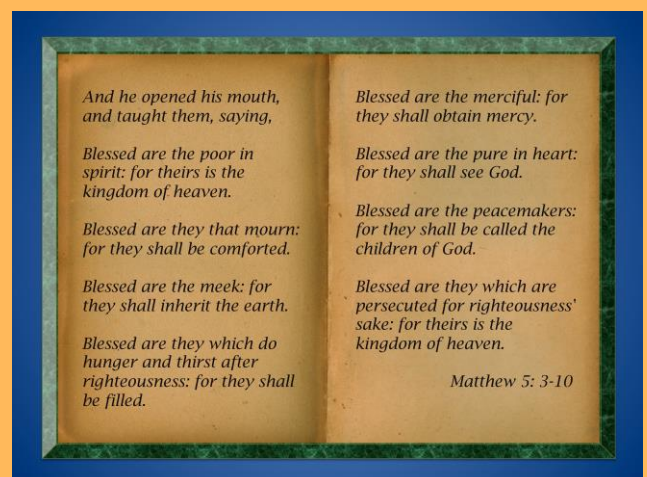
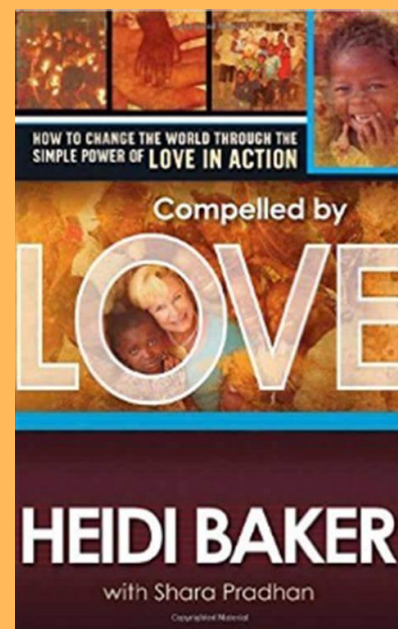
But what does being 'successful' mean? To some, it's about having an important job, a fancy job title and a large salary. Likewise, to some world leaders, it's about power, control, ego and privilege.

THESE EXPLANATIONS ARE REALLY FAKE AND EMPTY NEWS

These views have one thing in common. They are all about self. Jesus tells us to do the opposite and to love our neighbour. It's no secret that mental health and well-being is enhanced when we think of others, as is time in nature.

Earlier this year Deacon Christian gave an inspired talk about the Beatitudes, in a sermon at St. Brigid's Church, Cardiff. In short, they turn upside-down the conventional wisdom of what it means to be successful. They are God's blueprint, along with the Commandments, for a caring and compassionate world.

'Compelled by Love', by Heidi Baker, is a modern-day true story where each chapter is based on a line in the Beatitudes. You can find the book on Amazon, and read the Beatitudes here:



A Hair-raising Journey Upwards

Thank you for this opportunity to share what this amazing God has done in my life. For it is written we overcome by the blood of the lamb and the word of our testimony. My prayer is that you will encounter God's manifest Holy Spirit afresh and receive your own healing as I share my experience of Jesus' resurrection power.

I am Christalla Bailey, married to Ken Bailey. We are co-founders of 3GMinistries/Healing Hands Cardiff. The ministry was birthed after receiving a miracle from God and by His direction.

I was a high achiever in all that I did. I wasn't content with average in anything, I had to be the best. Maybe this came from my heritage of World Champion Hairdressers which in itself led to an expectation to achieve.



The problem was that all my achievements were from a place of striving, a place of deficit. I was gaining my value, my worth based on my ability to do as opposed to knowing it from just being.

God told me to write a book on this called. 'A Believer's Guide and Workbook, How To Step Fully Into Your True Identity, The Ekklesia Rising Up <https://amzn.to/3Y5zbfC>

I was working in the family hairdressing business from the age of 10. Fully trained age 14. Running a business age 16. I got married, wasn't a Christian at the time, and started my own hairdressing business in Newport. I had a passion to dance and before marrying I won competitions and toured. My daughter was born in 1988.

3 months later I was unwell. I kept catching one thing after another including glandular fever. I didn't regain my vibrant, energetic self for 23 years! I slowly ceased to function physically, mentally and emotionally.

**I lost my life as I knew it,
my business, my marriage,
my home, my friends.**

The more I tried to do so, then the more incapacitated I became. This is the cruel & debilitating affect of M.E Myalgic Encephalomyelitis. Click here to see the trailer of the award-winning film about M.E.



I wasn't diagnosed until I collapsed one day 5 years in. As I went on to develop Fibromyalgia, Tinnitus, heart problems, POTS, Raynauds - the list kept growing...

A Hair-raising Journey Upwards

I had a second child when I found myself homeless, disabled, a single mum of 2 and dependant on carers. Despite all this, I knew somehow that I wasn't alone. I was housed in a rough area for a year, living in one room with the children until I was eventually moved to Llanishen. I started searching for answers to life but looked in many wrong places.

In Llanishen, I went to a local building and felt a presence there. I knew it was what I was looking for. The building was a community centre but also a church. I went on an Alpha course (alpha.org.uk) and halfway through I knew God was real even though I had little understanding.

After this I met a lady who was very ill with Fibromyalgia, then later I saw her again and she looked totally different. I asked what happened and she said 'Jesus healed me'. I wanted to know that Jesus.

In my sleep I was given the scripture about the woman who touched the hem of the garment. Jesus said to her 'Daughter, your faith has healed you'. It was given to me 6 times in different ways. Prior to this, a friend had given me a book 'The Grace Outpouring' by Roy Godwin, Ffald-Y Brenin. The book is full of miracles and healings. When I read it I wanted to go there but I was too ill to travel...

The last year of the illness was traumatic and Ken, my new husband, became my carer. Ken would pray over me, crying out to God for help, saying he wanted to marry me not bury me.

When I realised the meaning of the scripture I was given, I remembered the book and Ffald-Y-Brenin. I begged Ken to get me there, even though the specialist had said not to travel as my body wouldn't cope with the journey. But I knew I had to!

We eventually went and attended a prayer service. There were about 100 people and Roy said "Someone here, today, has been crying out for healing, it has been done." I was still sceptical until I noticed changes in my mind and body. I felt so alive that the next morning I went for a walk. I was one with nature; singing, dancing and jumping for joy. Can you imagine after 23 years illness and being well!

4th October 2011 is a date I will never forget. God resurrected me. I've been madly in love with Him ever since and desire to serve Him. God has taught me about healing and deliverance. God puts people in front of us saying "I showed you what to do". God also guided me, then, to support those with ME. Ken and I went on to start a **House of Prayer**, then **Healing Hands** which is like **Jesus' surgery**. We held these in different places like Costa Coffee, Cadwaladers and charity shops.



God wants relationship & intimacy with all of us. God says 'I AM WHO I AM'. Not about what He does but who He is. **Click above for my story, music and thanks.**

Prayer, Telescopes and Traffic Lights!

Winter nights. Warm drinks. The Lectio 365 app. Spotify playlists and prayercourse.org. This was the context for an unconventional gathering to explore prayer - and not as a transaction or something parroted out, on auto-pilot.

15 of us met in St. David's Catholic Sixth Form College (Oct 2022 to Feb 2023), to reflect on and discuss eight 20-minute videos, centred on the Our Father prayer.

Not quite **Mel & Griff** (the oldies know what I mean!) but **Poppy & Pete**, from the 24/7 Prayer Movement, challenging our understanding of prayer. The exchange was so down to earth that even Tommy Shelby (**Peaky Blinders**) or Sergeant Catherine Cawood (**Happy Valley**), would have sat up to listen and watch!



Here's what one Millennial (30 something) said: "I have participated in the prayer course twice previously and love the discussions it opens up. It was less about learning and more about sharing and making room to let God in. The weeks where we prayed and spoke about the personal ways we saw and heard from the Holy Spirit, in our everyday life, was encouraging."

Themes included: the different types of prayer; seeing the bigger picture; persevering in prayer: appreciating God's time & not our will be done.

Surprises included: people feeling closer to God, the need to talk more openly about unanswered prayer (red and amber traffic lights) and a way to pray called: **P.R.A.Y.**

Prayer, Telescopes and Traffic Lights!



Why Pray?

Adoration

Petition

Intercession

Unanswered Prayer

Contemplation

Listening

Spiritual Warfare

Some comments from the group include:

"The best programme I have ever joined lately. **The videos were so well put together, full of humour and touching and insightful ways of becoming closer to God.** The best aspect of sharing within the group the fruits of these pointers has been to see very practically how much the Lord gets closer and closer when we search him. I would thoroughly recommend the course if you are looking for something really meaningful!"

"I wanted to say how much we were grateful to be part of the prayer course. **It has helped us spiritually to appreciate what God does for us.**"

"For myself, I now realise that prayer and help from God is not just for others but for myself, too. Events of late have made me realise, 'yes', you have heard me and I thank God every day for watching over us."

"I was a little unsure about whether to take part in the prayer course. The sessions, however, were well thought out with interesting and thought provoking discussions. **As a result, I feel my faith has deepened.**"

A Community Primary School



'Learning to Love, Loving to Learn' is the vision of Christ the King Primary School, Cardiff. Our mission is to develop a strong, faith-filled community of staff, pupils and families creating a worshipping, learning, respecting, welcoming and serving community.

One way of living out our mission is to give our pupils experience of interacting with different groups of people. For many years, each Christmas, we would visit neighbouring Ty Coch care home to sing carols with residents. We wanted to build on this.

Visiting Ty Coch has developed the children's empathy

Many children had never been inside a care home and a few were a little nervous before we first went. However, thanks to the warm welcome from Ty Coch staff, they quickly felt at ease. Various activities are planned: planting bulbs, art and craft, board games, singing and chatting. The children have built friendships with residents and their visits are appreciated.

When the children are unable to visit, they send messages and pictures to let their friends know that they are thinking of them. We also welcomed residents to watch our school Christmas play and we hope to offer more visits.

Visiting Ty Coch has developed the children's empathy. Over time, they come to understand that they need to adapt their behaviour to suit the environment of the care home. Their social skills improve as they learn to interact with people who may be very frail and to listen, with respect.

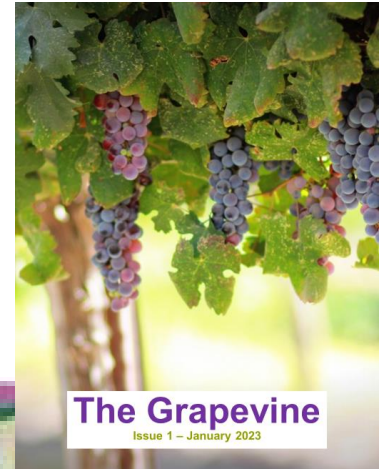
The visits have also developed the children's understanding of some of the health issues that can affect elderly people. They have begun learning about dementia, understanding - at a level appropriate to their age - how it can affect people and how we can all help in small ways.

Now well established, Christ the King school's relationship with Ty Coch proves how powerful intergenerational projects can be. We look forward to continuing our friendship and to live out our mission in the community.



CTK - read all about it!

Year 6 pupils, Christ The King Primary School, enjoying the launch issue of The Grapevine!



Lights, Camera, Action!



NOW SHOWING: Christ The King opens new clothes and books market!

There are many aims of the market and the most obvious is sustainability, by: recycling (or upcycling), saving energy and cutting down on pollution caused by obtaining the raw materials, manufacturing and transport. Also, to show the wider community that Church groups and facilities, are open for all.

Julia Roberts (star of 'Eat, Pray, Love' and Pretty Woman) wasn't there for the opening but perhaps her next film will be: 'Read, Wear, Drink & Pray?'

There is an area set aside as a free cafe where people can enjoy a tea / coffee, and have an opportunity to chat with others. Our parishioners and helpers also have the chance to mix, join in and update our local community as to what's available within our related 3 Churches e.g., "Welcome Space", Quiz & Film nights and Food Market.

We have a good selection of books for all ages, to take home, or maybe browse through, whilst relaxing with a cuppa.

We have a large selection of donated clothing, including some footwear, for men, women and children, Parishioners and people from our local community help to sort out all the donated items. This helps in building a community spirit and creating a feeling of wellbeing.



For more information about volunteering, donating items or using the market, please contact Simon and Sylvia on 07394931097 or simon13sylvia@gmail.com; otherwise, see you on the third Saturday, of every month (1-5pm), at Christ The King Parish Centre, Newborough Avenue, Llanishen. **THAT'S A WRAP!**

Love and Faith Actually

The film, **Love Actually**, starring Hugh Grant and Martine McCutcheon and other notable actors, delved into different aspects of love, through 10 separate stories; including one, involving the Prime Minister.

I've been watching the series, The Rise of the Nazis, recently, about how Hitler came to power in the 1930's. Apart from his view that the Aryan race was supreme, it struck me how Hitler actively cultivated competition amongst his senior officials: a belief in the 'survival of the fittest'.

For example, Himmler controlled the SS (a paramilitary organisation); Rohm led the Storm Troopers (shock troops) and, initially, Goering led the Gestapo (secret police). The net result was not only Himmler and Goering conspiring to kill Rohm but the genocidal death of 6 million Jews.

Contrast these morals and ways of working with recent times and, for example, Jacinda Ardern (ex-NZ Prime Minister). She spoke firmly - but inclusively - when dealing with the Christchurch mosque shootings. When Covid struck she engaged the Opposition Leader as Head of the Task Force and she bowed out of office with grace and honesty.

In our own land, on the evening before St. David's Day, earlier this year, guests from around the world joined Church leaders and members of the Senedd, for the annual Welsh Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast.

People flocked to the Parliamentary Prayer event in the Pierhead Building

At a time when politicians can be derided for their faith (perhaps, we should be balanced and question those with no faith / moral compass?), the gathering celebrated Welsh Christian Heritage and included prayers for the nation. We understand that many people were moved by the song, 'What a Beautiful Name is Jesus', by NZ – born Brooke Fraser, which can be found on Spotify and below:



So, let's pray for all leaders to make wise decisions. **It's about Love & Faith, Actually.**

The Overflow of Grace

'I formed you in the womb; you are mine' Psalm 139. Each one of us has a unique identity and purpose here, imprinted by the hand of God; lovingly created. Life-giving breath of One whose very breath exudes the meaning and the key of existence.



The strongest force which binds us all and our beautiful planet together is He who makes the sun rise, the stars to shine; indeed, the Earth to rest on its axis. The force of love. He loves you so much that He, the great I am, yearns for you; His Divine rays of love is compelling Him to reach down and sing songs of hope and healing over your bedside, as you sleep.

Waiting to cover you in His riches, to cleanse you, to heal your broken heart and to set you up high away from the crowds as a son or daughter of the Most High.



How can we feel His awesome presence? This royal heritage, our beautiful inheritance from He who stoops down to offer it. Prayer. **Prayer from the heart. From wherever you find yourself right now.** Are you there? Do you hear me? Can you forgive me? How can you help me?

The minute you ask, His divine ear is listening

He waits for us to come to Him. When we rely on humans we can feel insecure as they are finite beings. The Spirit enables us to forgive and let go of grievances and comforts us.



The Overflow of Grace

When I have challenging situations, He meets me where I am and gives me unconditional love, acceptance, blessing, wisdom, counsel and so much grace that it wouldn't be possible to describe in words.



My identity and purpose rest in His healing arms. He pours out Heavens' riches over me every time I pray and receive Him in the Eucharist. I leave surrounded in love and with the perspective of the vista on the mountain top rather than my own narrow and inadequate vision.

We live in unprecedented times. Never before has the world been further away from God. Climate and nature crises; to fake news and wars - God's laws for peace for humans and creation are being ignored. Many do not know Him: lost without a loving Shepherd. They are influenced by everything else and do not know they have a loving Father, who created them...

Yet we know that God is pouring out His Spirit like never before as when sin abounds, grace abounds. He raised up leaders like Wilberforce (abolition of slave trade) and Martin Luther King (Civil Rights), amongst many in history, and we pray He will continue to do so.

The world will tell you that you can make it on your own and that only a select few who happen to be rich, beautiful or famous are important. The creator of the universe from Heaven declares the opposite. He wants to be our closest ally in the fight against our own insecurities and temptation. So how can we come to him, to know his daily love and care? I often use Psalm 91 as a go to protection prayer when I am troubled. **Why not check it out?**

You are irreplaceable. Your gifts and talents uniquely yours. Dream big.

Make space to receive the overflow of His grace in your life. He has so much to offer and pour out to you. His rays will reflect in your heart and empower you in each prayer - short or long. **He waits in your need. He waits in your joy. He waits, for you.**

Green Pastures

Genesis 1-2 tells the story of God's creation of the world. On the first day, God created light in the darkness. On the second He created the sky. Dry land and plants were created on the third day. On the fourth day, God created the sun, the moon and the stars. Birds and sea creatures were made on the fifth day, and, on the sixth day, land animals and people were created.

Who or what caused that or put matter or energy into the Universe?

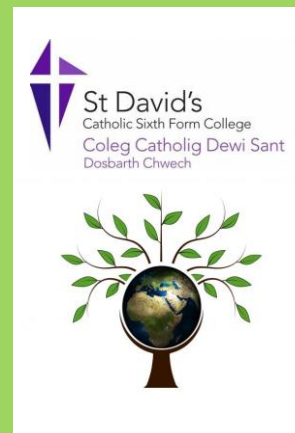
Contrary to what we may have been led to believe, science and Scripture aren't necessarily opposed. Science has proved that the Universe exploded into being at a certain moment.



Who or what created that spark? Now, more than ever, we have a responsibility to steward the Earth. Science has shown the impact of our fingerprint to adversely affect climate and lives and the balance of Creation.

Young people are often leading the way in making the planet more sustainable. At **St. David's Catholic Sixth Form College**, for example, the students have formed an **Eco Club**. This encourages litter picks, making the school more hedgehog friendly and improving the greenery inside and outside the classroom.

The College has invested in solar panels and recycling schemes, too. Student and staff actions improve both wellbeing of individuals and the environment. 'The Lord is my Shepherd...He makes me lie down in green pastures' (Psalm 23). Let's value and care for our inheritance.



Green Pastures

We may often take for granted green spaces or pastures. Children born in the city may not appreciate the countryside. People of all ages; however, are increasingly realising the importance of time in nature – and this echo of Psalm 23. This is true all over the world, for example,

Singapore now calls itself ‘The Garden in the City’

This tells you how important a green lung is to the daily lives of workers & residents.

Closer to home, the Greener Camping Club has been set up to accredit accommodation providers that are eco-friendly and who practice sustainable tourism. One such provider is Belan Bluebell Woods, Llanidloes.



Photos by: P. Burkhard



This camping site, on a farm, is a green camping and glamping location nestled in the foothills of the magnificent Cambrian Mountains and the nearby stunning Elan Valley.

The owners, Joe and Suzi Drew, describe it as a place “wrapped in nature” and an ideal place for reflection and away from distraction. Find out more by clicking on the drone video, above or here: www.welshcamping.co.uk

Suzi, who has not long completed an Alpha Course, has a faith, and has recognised the value of the meadows for retreats. As a result, she is kindly providing two free places, for 2 nights, each year, in the 4 person Bell Tent, for the **Rainbow of Hope** (click opposite to discover more). This will enable the needy to: ‘lie down in green pastures...’ (Psalm 23).

What's Happening in the Neighbourhood?



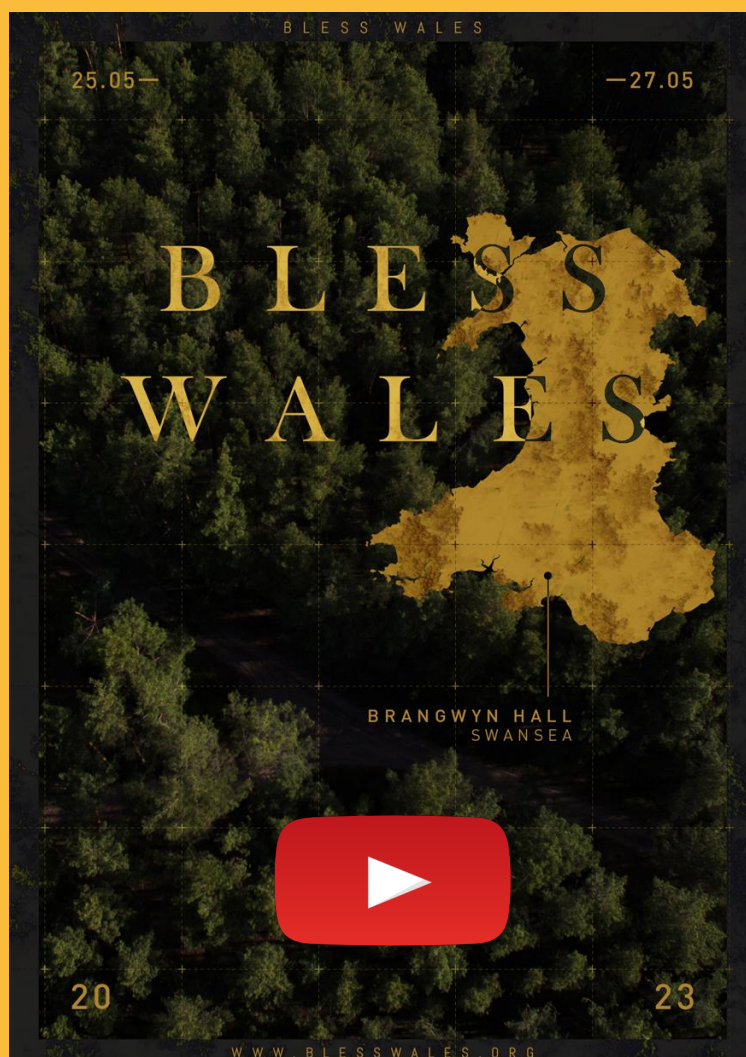
What's Happening in the Nation?

In 2019 the first Bless Wales conference was held, bringing together people from across the local and international church, as one body of believers seeking God's face for Wales today in our own lives and, together, as a community.

On May 25 - 27th 2023, Bless Wales will be held again, at the Brangwyn Hall, Swansea. Come along, gather with God's people, and know His tangible presence, power and glory, here on our lands, with us, today. Don't miss out, be part of it, come and see, and encounter the living God in your life, if you never have before. Admission to the night meetings are free!

For more information and registration visit: www.blesswales.org

Click on the image below to see the video:





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