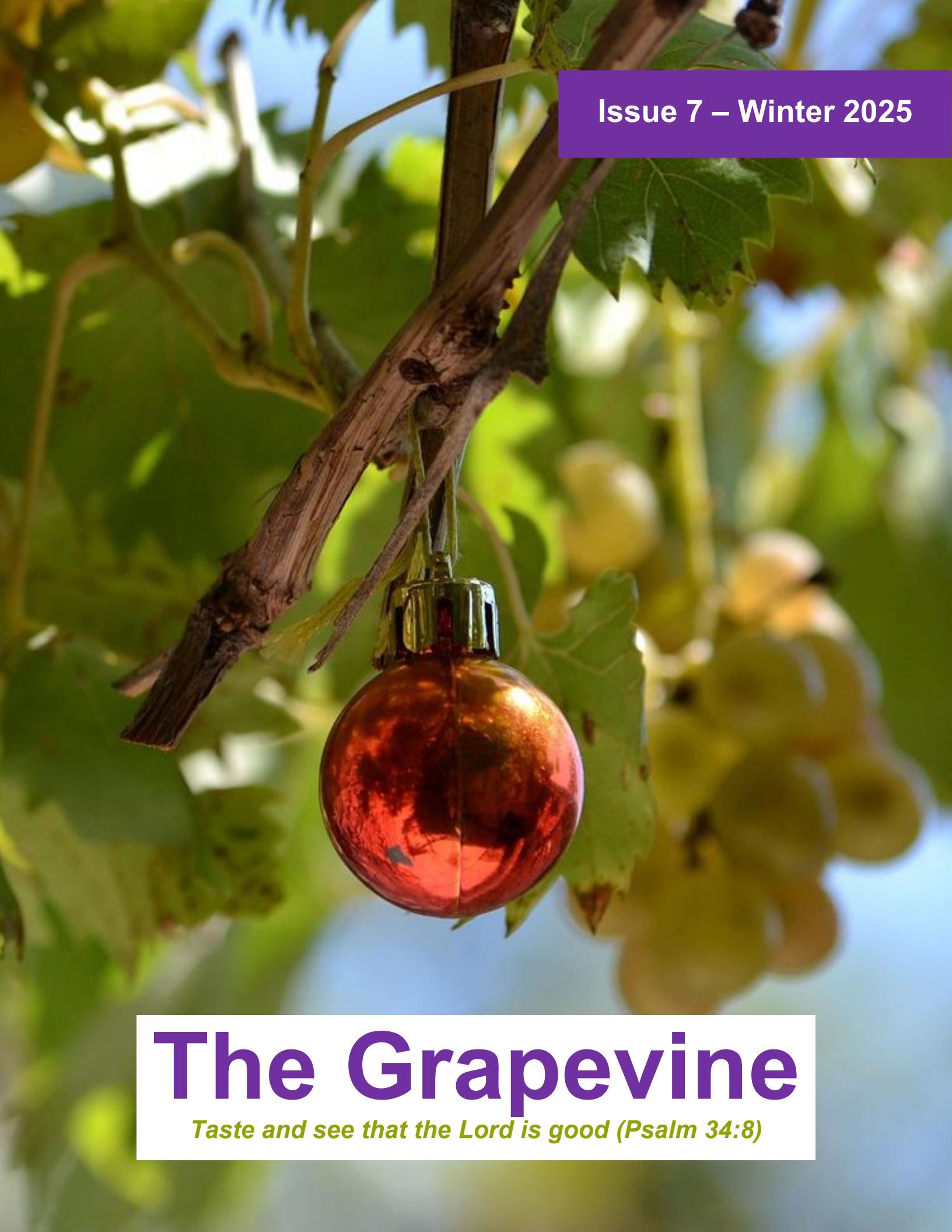




Issue 7 – Winter 2025

The Grapevine

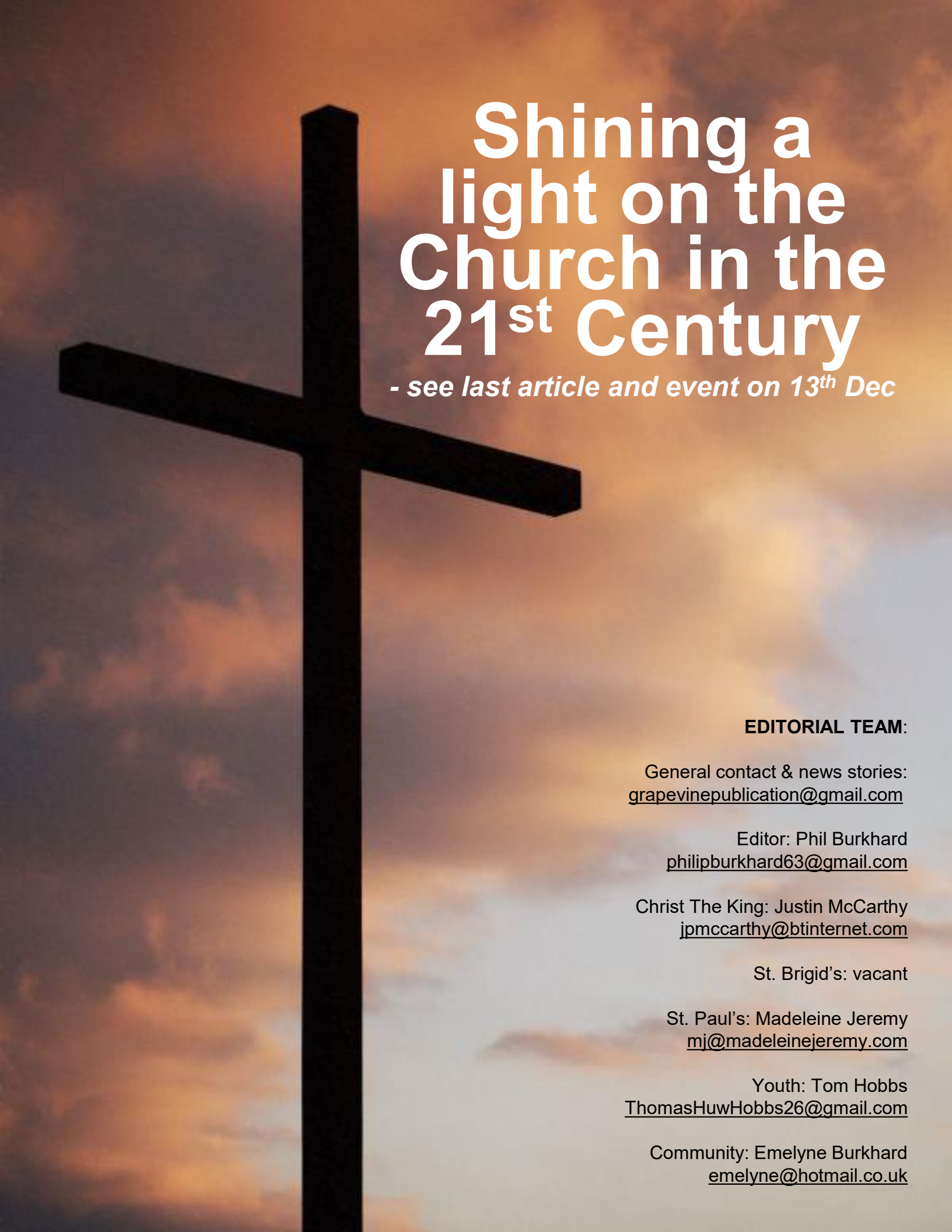
Taste and see that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8)

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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

- see last article and event on 13th Dec

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Welcome Everyone

Welcome to the 7th issue of The Grapevine! This is produced by the 3 Churches in North Cardiff with contributors and an audience from the wider Christian 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 & it's people. **One body in Christ.**



There is growing evidence of people seeking God and churches working together as part of a Revival in Wales, UK and globally. This issue includes **calls to get involved** and how people, schools and churches put **faith into practice**.

Contact us: grapevinepublication@gmail.com

Prior issues are on: www.3churches.org or enjoy reading and sharing via the QR code.

Get involved!

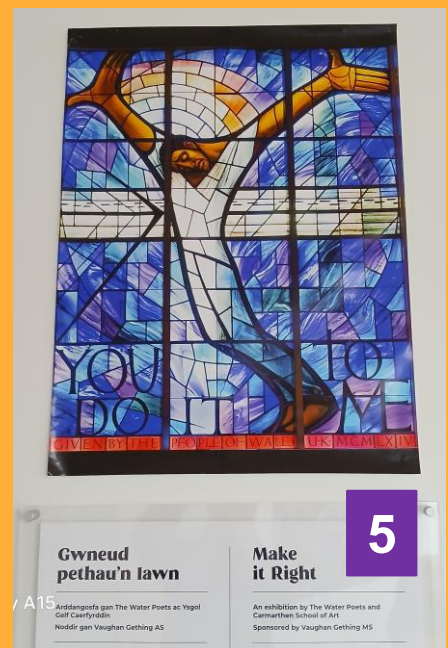
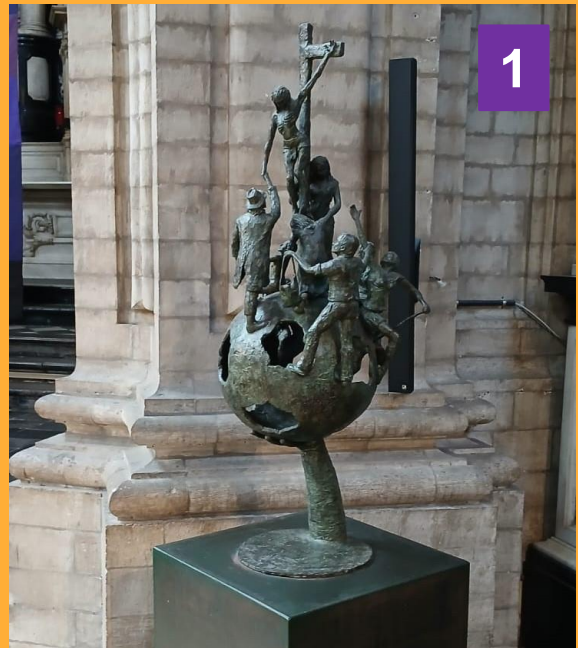
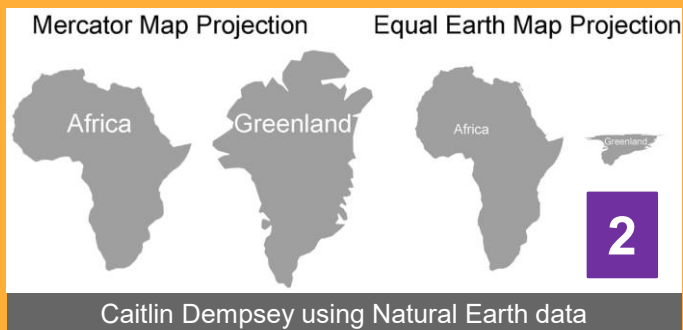
On 5 November construction began on the Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer. This opens in 2028 and will be 2.5 times the size of the Angel of the North.

See www.eternalwall.org.uk to find out more, add your prayer, donate or volunteer to **'make hope visible'** e.g. 150,000 answered prayers from 126 countries to-date! **Add yours!**



A Picture Paints a 1000 words

Cartoons, sketches and paintings often tell a story. How do these images speak to you? Let us know and we will publish the responses in the next issue...



Let us know what these images stir in you! We will publish comments anonymously. Please contact us at: grapevinepublication@gmail.com

Cash for Kids South Wales

(Christmas and Beyond)

If a picture paints a 1000 words then so do these images, on the next two pages, kindly supplied by Laura Tucker (Charity Manager, Cash for Kids South Wales).

Cash for Kids, the official charity of Bauer Media, is dedicated to improving the lives of disadvantaged children and young people in the UK up to the age of 18 – those affected by poverty, illness, neglect or additional needs.



At the heart of the Christmas story is the spirit of giving – the call to reach out in love to those most in need. As well as fundraising, Cash for Kids provide grants to support individuals, schools and community groups. **“It is more blessed to give than receive” Acts 20:35.**

“Our promise is simple: **what’s raised locally, stays local.** With Bauer covering our running costs, at least 80p of every £1 goes directly to children who need it most, right here in South Wales”, says Laura.



The Need is Close to Home:

For many children, Christmas morning would mean no gift at all if it weren't for the Cash for Kids **Mission Christmas** campaign. Last year, thanks to the generosity of local people and organisations, **1,800 children** had something to open on Christmas Day. But the need continues to grow – around **62,825 children** (30%) in South Wales are currently living in poverty. Some of them may well be in our own communities...

Cash for Kids South Wales

(Christmas and Beyond)

How can You Help this Christmas?

Parish communities can join with Cash for Kids and can help in many ways...

♥ Fundraise:

See the video [at Mission Christmas | Cash for Kids](#). Choose *South Wales* as your region, and you'll automatically receive a full pack of resources for collecting donations.

Laura adds: "Every penny counts, and when you donate cash instead of gifts, we can **triple the value.**"

📺 Online Gift List:

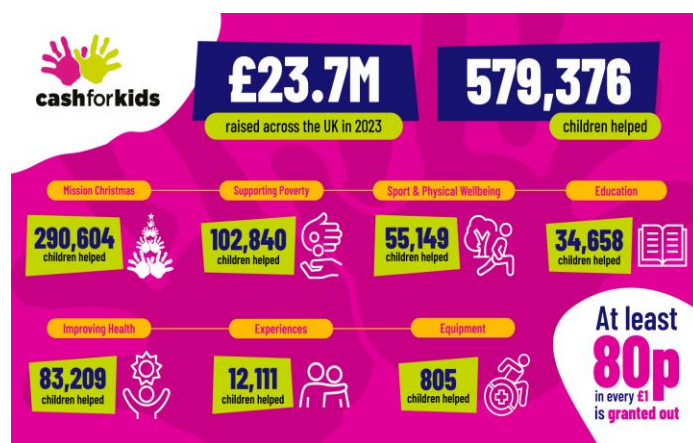
Simply browse, choose a gift, and it will be sent directly to Mission HQ. You can find the link here: [Cash for Kids Gift List](#).

📦 Physical Donations:

Cash for Kids can supply donation boxes for new, unwrapped toys and gifts.

These can be dropped at the warehouse in Swansea — and they're working hard to secure a Cardiff location too.

Depending on the volume collected, they may also be able to arrange collection.



How can You Help or Benefit Anytime?

The infographic above shows how much is raised and how many children across the UK are helped. For the latest Cash for Kids news and campaigns, including how to make a donation or apply for a grant, please visit cashforkids.org.uk.

"We're so grateful to **The Grapevine** readers and parish communities for their continued support", says Laura. As it says in **Matthew 25:40**, "**Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.**"

For more information, visit the website above or contact **Laura Tucker**, Charity Manager for Cash for Kids South Wales, at laura.tucker@bauermedia.co.uk.

From Crisis to Calling

Emmanuel Alli is a House Fellowship Leader at [The Warehouse Church](#) in Newport and a volunteer with the Evangelism & Outreach Group, helping to share the gospel and build community connections. Together, Emmanuel and his wife, Mercy, are co-founders of Care Managers Ltd., where their shared faith and professional experience meet in mission to bring care, dignity and Christ's love into homes and communities. This is their story of how their lives changed in February 2022 – forever...



It began as an ordinary day, but in a single moment, everything shifted. Mercy suddenly collapsed, gripped by a pain and confusion that neither of us understood. The diagnosis would later reveal a brain aneurysm—a condition that often proves immediately fatal.

When I called for an ambulance, the operator calmly informed me that the wait time would be around four hours. I remembered staring at the phone in disbelief, the weight of those words sinking in. There was no time to wait.

With adrenaline and prayer coursing through me, I lifted Mercy into the car and drove her to the hospital myself. Looking back now, that desperate decision contributed to saving her life.

She was transferred to Cardiff Hospital for urgent operations. Once there, Mercy underwent three major brain operations. The doctors told us her chances were only 50:50. For six long weeks, she lay in the Intensive Care Unit, suspended between life and death. Each day was a battle. Each night was filled with prayer.

I remember standing by her bedside, whispering Psalms, speaking life over her, and believing that God would bring her back to us. Family, friends, and members of our church joined in prayer, holding on to faith. And then - God answered.

From Crisis to Calling

Slowly, Mercy began to respond. One eye opened, then the other. Her hands began to move and she started learning to walk again through the support of our son, a physiotherapist. The day she whispered her first words after weeks of silence, tears filled the room. The doctors called it “remarkable.” We called it a miracle. But Mercy’s story didn’t end with survival—it began there...

As she recovered, she often reflected on the kindness, patience, and compassion shown by the nurses, doctors, and carers who had supported her through her darkest days. Having faced the fragility of life firsthand, she felt a new sense of calling—one that went beyond gratitude. She felt God asking her to give back and become a vessel of the care she had received.

Together, we decided to transform our small business, Care Managers Ltd, which had started as a healthcare job portal, into a provider of home care and supported living.

This was no longer just a business—it became a ministry of compassion. Care Managers Ltd now provides domiciliary care, supported living, and nurse staffing services but now there’s a spiritual heartbeat to the work.



Mercy believes that care is a calling. Recently, she launched a faith-based home care package for elderly Christians. Through partnerships with local churches, this initiative provides personal care, companionship, Bible study, worship assistance and transportation to church services.



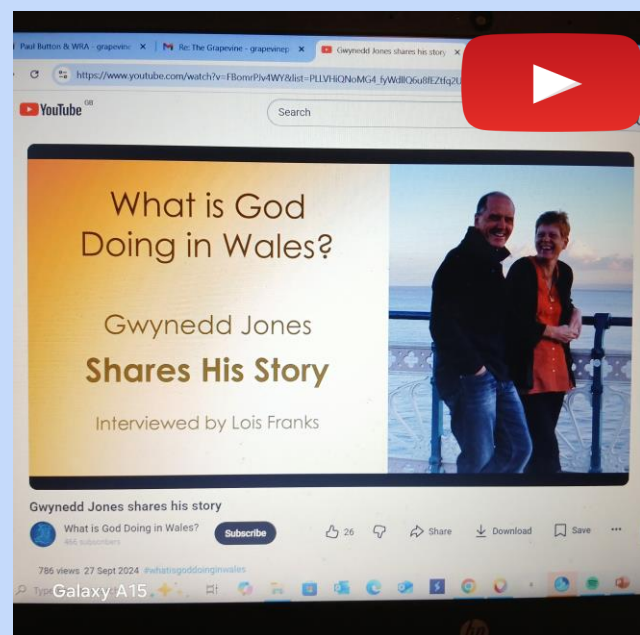
Sometimes, God uses crisis to awaken our calling. **What began as tragedy has become testimony** which we hope inspires all to trust in God’s care.

#whatisgoddoinginwales?

The title of this article is an amazing YouTube channel which is sharing what is happening in Wales through the stories of Christians. This article tells the story of the creator of the channel (and much more!), Gwynedd Jones & one of his interviewees, Paul Button - founder of the [Wales Revival Alliance](#).

Gwynedd says: “You can’t make a bottle of wine with one grape...in fact it takes on average about 10 clusters of grapes to make a bottle of wine. When grapes grow in a cluster, they are fed from the same soil; watered by the same rain; and are attached to the same vine. They also grow in close contact with the other grapes in the cluster - constantly rubbing up against each other. For a Christian to produce something significant for God, they need to be in a cluster. They may still be attached to THE Vine (Jesus) - but they’ve been deceived to think they can go it alone and grow in God without the need for other Christians.”

Gwynedd adds: “They shouldn’t be going it alone as a ‘single grape’. **They need to be part of a church or fellowship, even experiencing the things that ‘rub them up the wrong way’ - so they can learn to respond like Jesus - in love”.**



Gwynedd worked for the NHS and gave up his job when his life was transformed as he got down on his knees and prayed: **“Jesus, I’ve read about you healing people in the Bible. Please would you heal me.”** Gwynedd now has a ministry based on supporting the Body of Christ in Wales in a variety of ways. At its heart is encouragement. To find out more access YouTube via the arrow or #handle above.

#whatishgoddoinwales?

One of the many people that Gwynedd is encouraging and supporting is Paul Button. Paul's on-going faith journey can almost be summarised as: **'Mission – Not Impossible!** You can hear it in full by clicking on the arrow below, when he was interviewed by Gwynedd:



Paul was born in 1960 to non-Christian parents and raised in Pontyclun, South Wales. When he was 13 Paul's grandfather died suddenly in the mines. Without his encouragement Paul stopped going to Sunday School. After 20 years of living without the Lord and several tragedies, Paul cried out to God: **"Lord if you're real, save me"**. What followed meant Paul gave his

life to Jesus and a clear instruction to do the work of an evangelist. For the next 23 years Paul tried to do things in his own strength; but the harvest was limited. The turning point came when Paul met Jonathan Conrathe, founder of [Mission24](#), and attended a course. In 2021 Paul graduated and has won more souls since then than all the prior years by doing things God's way & not in his own.

Not long after, Paul heard the Lord say to him to bring revival to Wales. As a result, the [Wales Revival Alliance](#) (WRA), a Christian charity, was born in 2023. The focus of WRA is to train people in practical evangelism and support related events.

The vision is to preach the Gospel and heal the sick by taking *church* out of the buildings. Recently, the first **'School of Kingdom Equipping'** was launched in Thornhill Church, Cardiff, with 54 students from multiple denominations. A course will be run in North Wales in Spring 2026.

Missions to Spain and South America are extending the vision to other nations.

WRA is also partner of the [Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer](#). *God is moving!*

A Prayer for Mental Health

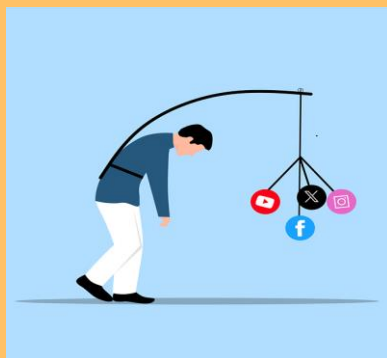
For all of us whose battles are deep within ourselves
Whose thoughts, emotions, and behaviours aren't neatly stored on tidy shelves
Who are afraid to feel our feelings, think our thoughts, or pray our prayers
Who are sad simply that we're sad, scared that we're scared, or can't care enough to care

For all of us from whom our faith, at times, can make it even more tough
Because "we shouldn't feel/think this way", "isn't what the bible says enough?"
Surrounded by the shining and the smiling, the have-it-all-togethers and the healed
Who would shudder in their shoes to know just how it really feels

To feel different, to be different, to live with the me I know inside
To hold the pain for what it is, and not the neat narrative others describe
To hide behind a calm face, and to fight silently to hold it all within
To wonder and worry constantly if this struggle is a trial or a sin

To question what I've done, or not done, to be consigned to this place
To wonder how long I can long for change, or cling on to His grace
To fear the sermons on faith and prayer, churning up my guilt and shame
And in my darkest of moments to dare to ask if I am really saved

(continued)



A Prayer for Mental Health

For all of us whose inner sanctum knows huge shadows of dread and gloom
Who find ourselves stood in Gethsemane, watching others dance by garden tombs
May the One in whom we've placed our faith, who yes – enthroned forevermore
But who first knew the anguish of our agony, till blood poured from His pores

Whose eyes know both the light of eternity and the long night of the soul
Whose ears hear blasts of praise and blasphemy, whose heart can hold it all
Whose hands have held both stars and scars, hold us now within His grace
Whose arms are long enough to reach us, strong enough to keep us, tender
enough to bear the weight

And in those arms –
may we know that both honesty and hopefulness can become unlikely friends
that doubt can be the starting point of discovery and not faith's bitter end
may we know that we are seen and known and have never been un-loved
and may we know today, and every day, that for us this grace is enough.



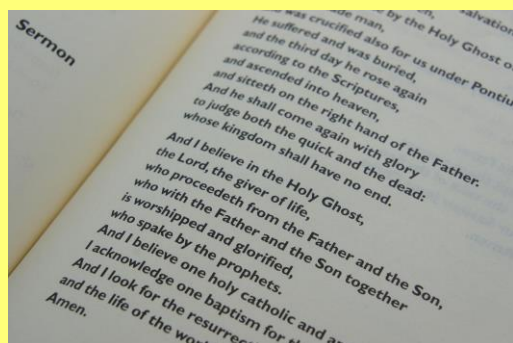
(Pastor Jon Vaughan-Davies, **Bethel Baptist Church**, Cardiff)



From Nicaea to Now

Jo Cox, the former Labour MP, who was murdered in 2016, is remembered for many things but especially for saying that: **“We have more in common than that which divides us”**.

The early Christian Church experienced a crisis of potential division emanating from a theological dispute among clergy concerning the nature of Jesus, his origin and relation to God the Father. As a result, the Roman Emperor Constantine, who had converted to Christianity, convened the Council of Nicaea in AD 325.



The Council drew together 318 bishops who agreed what became known as the Nicene Creed. This was subsequently accepted by Christian churches from the East and West. The Creed emphasises a common belief that is expressed in Churches, today. [Click here: for the Hillsong version](#). **In short, the Creed is an expression of unity and God’s love.**

Two recent walks in Cardiff illustrate this sense of unity, love and common purpose:

The Bethel Church has an annual Good Friday **‘Walk of Witness’** behind the Cross, on the streets of Whitchurch, to churches of other denominations. This walk has generated many blessings: a reminder that we worship the same Jesus in our varying denominations; people joining the walk in fellowship and that the Cross is a symbol of hope.

In contrast, Christ The King Church and a group of partner churches made a **pilgrimage to Llandaff Cathedral** in September. Guides took children on an animal trail around the cathedral and the adults heard about Christianity on the site. The visit and prayers focused on the theme of the Catholic Church’s Jubilee Year: **Christian hope** – hope displayed down the centuries by those who have worshipped and continue to at the site..

The 1,700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed was celebrated in October by three Archbishops on the ‘Songs of Praise’ TV programme as we increasingly **walk, worship & work together in unity.**



Harvest and Hope



Two Catholic Cardiff schools are putting their Christian faith into practice in contrasting age-appropriate ways. The first is [Christ the King RC Primary School](#) and the second is [St. Illtyd's RC Secondary School](#)...

During the month of Harvest the school community at Christ the King came together in a spirit of generosity and gratitude to support those in need. **Rooted in the Gospel values and the principles of Catholic Social Teaching** - especially Option for the Poor, Solidarity, and Human Dignity - pupils, families, and staff united to collect donations for Cardiff Foodbank.



The 'Mini Faithfuls' led a beautiful and reflective presentation and everyone welcomed a representative from the foodbank and loaded the donations, in a spirit of giving and compassion.

From the latter Harvest of giving to a pilgrimage of Hope: part of the St. Illtyd's school's observance of the Catholic Church's **Jubilee Year of Hope**, a mixture of students from Years 7, 8, and 9 embarked on a pilgrimage, called 'St. Illtyd's Way', in the Vale of Glamorgan.



The pupils had previously received the Sacraments of Communion and Confirmation, and their spirit of faith and community was evident throughout the day. The journey, which culminated in the Church of St. Illtyd's (which has been called the 'Westminster Abbey of Wales'), provided more than scenic views - it was a chance for pupils to **strengthen their spiritual connections, walk in the footsteps of St Illtyd and share a sense of hope and unity with friends & staff.**

It's a Kind of Magic?

Pope Francis on BBC Radio 4 'Thought for the Day' 27 December 2024 said :

"A world full of hope and kindness is a more beautiful world. A society that looks to the future with confidence and treats people with respect and empathy is more humane."

Martha McInnes and David Dean, joint ministers at [Beulah United Reform Church](#), more recently expanded on this in both a personal and wider context...

When our girls were teenagers, they, like so many others, had a whole variety of friendship groups. Sometimes they would come home and tell us someone had been rude to them. When this happened, we regularly said, "Be nice." We did not want our daughters to be rude in response to the rudeness they experienced. (Who knows how they really responded!).

Currently, it seems we have a contrast in our culture between blaming varieties of people for the problems we face – an acceptance of shouting the loudest so

our desires can be heard – and a culture promoting kindness. We suspect many of us would prefer to be in the corner of those expressing kindness.



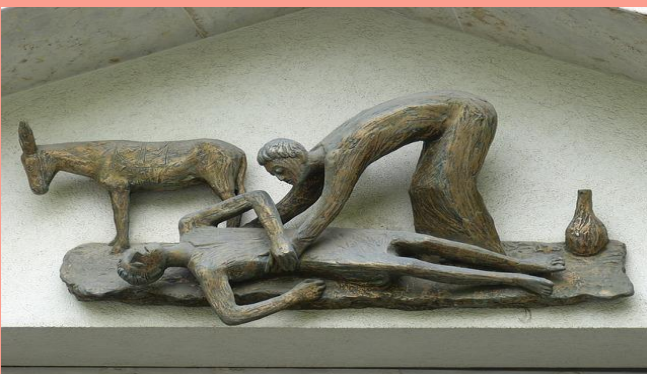
Is kindness a Jesus value? Was Jesus himself always kind? There are times in the Gospels that Jesus was confronted. When that happened, he did not back down. When he was in the Temple and overturned the tables, he was clearly angry with the injustice perpetrated there by those selling offerings to pilgrims at inflated prices. He wasn't kind in that moment...

He also told the foreign woman seeking healing for her daughter to go away; he didn't seem kind then. She retorted that even dogs deserved the crumbs from the table – and Jesus responded by healing her daughter (she didn't back down but wasn't unkind either.)

It's a Kind of Magic?

So, we could argue that kindness is not the central value of the gospel; however, acts of kindness do seem to flow from the values of love, compassion, and justice. These values are central to the way of Jesus. **In a society in which forces are working to divide people, kindness is needed.**

An anthropologist spoke about the oldest sign of 'civilisation' and said it was 'a healed broken leg.' Why? Because a healed broken leg meant someone cared for the one who had broken their leg, provided for what they needed and were healed. This act of enabling healing could be named 'kindness'.



Perhaps Jesus' practice of healing and feeding could be considered a sign of kindness. In this case, kindness becomes a Jesus value.

Why write about kindness as we enter the end of the year? Perhaps to help us reflect on what has been a tough year. Perhaps to reflect on what we hope for the year to come. Perhaps to ask us to think about how we respond in this culture which is calling people to division. In the face of this social conflict, it is tempting to stay silent. Of course, there are other things we can do – protest with like minded people of all faiths, share meals with those who come from different countries and educate ourselves. All of this still involves having kindness at the heart of what we do. The route of kindness can be our path with each other in our church contexts, with family members who do not share our political or religious views, with strangers.

We notice our daughter talks about 'gentle words' and 'gentle hands' with her two-year old. Some may need us to use 'gentle hands' in order to provide for them physically; however, perhaps more would benefit from the use of gentle words. We end with our words to our girls – “Be nice / be kind.” It's not magic. Try it in the name of Jesus and for humanity. Amen.

On Parting with a Dear Friend

Poem by John Conway Bryson (1876-1954)



As when the autumn comes the leaves must fall
And autumn's self to winter yields apace,
So now must we, when comes the final call to part our ways
Bow down our heads with grace

If wishes could have held thee to my side
So that our paths together still might lie,
Then never would we let the world divide
That friendship bound by every sacred tie.

But neither time nor space shall break the bond
Which years of friendship have so firmly sealed,
And in my heart till we shall meet beyond,
Thy memory shall in sweetness be revealed.

Reproduced with acknowledgement, from
There's Poetry in my Veins by Graeme Bryson



**‘The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of
our God endures forever’ Isaiah 40:8 (NIV).**

Calling All: Shine Your Light!

YOU ARE INVITED TO

SHINE YOUR LIGHT CARDIFF FLASH MOB

✦ CARDIFF NEEDS YOU ✦

INDIVIDUALS, CHURCHES, GROUPS, CHOIRS, EVANGELISTS, MUSICIANS, FLAGGERS, DANCERS, MOVERS, POETS, PERFORMERS, THERES A PART FOR EVERYONE. COME MAKE A CROWD, BRING YOUR GIFT, YOUR SMILE, YOUR PRESENCE AND LETS SHINE OUR LIGHT TOGETHER FOR CARDIFF THIS CHRISTMAS.

OUR HEART ✦
TO SHOW THAT THERES MORE
THAN UNITES US THAN DIVIDES US
TO DISPLAY UNITY ACROSS
CHURCHES & DENOMINATIONS.
TO SHOW CHRISTIANITY
CAN BE JOYFUL, FUN
AND FULL OF
LIFE



✦ THE VISION ✦

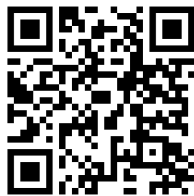
- A MOMENT OF STILLNESS - BOW OUR HEADS TO BEGIN
- CAROL SINGING - LYRICS PROVIDED (EVERYONE JOINS IN)
- SIMPLE DANCE ROUTINE - EASY TO FOLLOW
- FLAGGERS PREPARING THE ATMOSPHERE
 - A CHRISTMAS POEM READING
 - CHILDREN'S MIME / SKETCH
- EVANGELISTS & MINISTERS SHARING, PRAYING AND GIVING TRACTS
- "LOVE HEART' SWEETS - SPREADING KINDNESS AND LOVE
- A BLESSING SPOKEN OVER THE CITY

COME, MAKE A CROWD,
SHARE WHATEVER ABILITY
GOD HAS GIVEN YOU

DEC 13th

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