



JANUARY 2024

GOLEUDY HARLECH NEWSLETTER

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. Isaiah 43 V19



New Year Teaching Series

As we move into the New Year our teaching series will focus on the book of Acts both on a Sunday and in our Tuesday evening Life groups as we explore further Goleudy Harlech's church Vision.

Sunday 7th January

Exploring God's Vision for Goleudy Harlech

Sunday 14th January

Compassion, Miracles, and Mission
Acts 3:1-10 and Acts 9:32-43

Sunday 21st January

From Persecution to Proclamation
Acts 8:1-8 and Acts 11:19-24

Sunday 28th January

Church Vision afternoon.



Father, please hear our prayers as we lift up Harlech and the surrounding areas to you. We pray for those that do not yet know you and ask that 2024 is a year where Goleudy Harlech continues to reach out to our community. Lord, we pray that you open our eyes that we may see the local needs and that you direct our steps. We pray that you soften hearts and ask that more will hear your voice.

Abba Father as the new year begins, we look to You Lord for our hope, joy, and peace. We pray that you give us the courage to do all that You ask of us. Please also make us brave to not do what isn't from You. Show us how to walk in grace and embrace Your love for us even more.

WELCOME TO OUR SIXTH EDITION OF GOLEUDY HARLECH NEWSLETTER

As we welcome 2024 and all it has to offer we also enter the period of Epiphany the season that marks the recognising of the new born Jesus to be the son of God.

Upcoming Dates

Tuesday 9th January

Church Meeting 6.30pm for 7pm
Led by the Leadership Team and the Leadership Process moderators
Short time of worship and approval of the new leadership team

Sunday 14th January

Meirionnydd Prayer Network
Online 6.15 for a 6.30 start
Zoom Meeting ID: 844 5601 4729

Sunday 28th January

Church Vision Afternoon



A big thank you to everyone involved in organising the second Goleudy Harlech Christmas Carol Service. The service was enjoyed by over 70 people, with many compliments on the music and the cosiness of the venue. Another successful community event.

Weekly Prayer Meeting on Zoom Tuesdays at 8am to 8.30am

Please support Goleudy Harlech prayer life by joining the Church in prayer each week

A LONG VIEW OF 2023 FOR US IN GOLEUDY HARLECH

by Martin Wagner

We are completing our first full calendar year as Goleudy Harlech.

So, how do we view these early days of our church?

Over 600 days (since we 'started' at Easter 2022) of God's sovereign power at work in each of our lives and together as a church family? There are some who have been travelling with us for whom this is very much their experience. God is changing us individually and using us day by day.



Or instead, do we view 2023 as like those early tottering days in a person's life when they are staggering to their feet and taking baby steps? Whether we take a long view or daily view, I see God is at work among us in every perspective of time. Here are a few personal thoughts that I hope encourage you as we reflect on where we are.

Chess board

God is bringing and building together a family of followers of Jesus, in Goleudy Harlech, whom He has individually gifted for a purpose. Call it a team, with a task. Like pieces on a chess board (as a word of prophecy to us describes it), which move in different ways to win the game. Look around at one another. None of us is perfect, but definitely each of us shows the marks of Jesus. Each with a part to play. We come as individuals, together, as church, bringing all our personalities, life experiences, skills, gifts, passions and Christian characters.



Foundations

Some people around us are sceptically waiting for this new church to come and go, like others have done. But we have a vision to be around for as long as God wants us and so are trying to carefully build solid and helpful foundations, that won't be swept away by buffeting storms, doctrinal attack, post-Christian persecution or schism. This year we have started trying to build such foundations including governance, leadership and unity of purpose. It has been hard at times. But I believe we are emerging, through this process, stronger and healthier as a church.

A healing Church

Jesus prayed for unity for his Church so that people would see Him in it. The devil has been busy fragmenting the church into little pieces. But, God has given a wonderful deep heart in Goleudy Harlech people of reaching out to other Christians in our area and gathering around the cross of Jesus where we find our unity. Such inter-church unity is certainly a 'Value' of our church.

This is seen for example in the centrality in our praying on Tuesdays for all the chapels and churches in Ardudwy; in holding the reins of the Meirionnydd Prayer Network to seek God together as churches; and in the remarkable growing of the Men's Breakfast towards an expression of love and unity for Christian men from the area; and a second flourishing community carol service. I think our loving Father is pleased to see his children across the wider church wanting to be together at last! Jesus is fighting back!

Proclaiming Christ



But without love, all this is worthless. It is by our love that we will authentically proclaim that we are following Jesus. In 2023, in our church family, I have seen such a heart of love for bringing the good news of Jesus to others. I have seen so much loving kindness shown to one another. This is both wonderful and important. Defiant, willing sacrifices of love proclaim Christ. I am encouraged about 2023 and excited for 2024!