

**A Covid Nativity**

*Remembering Keith  
Hawkins*

**Vaccinating the  
developing world**

*Reaching Romania*

**'Complaining  
Women'**

***The***  
***December***  
***Treasury***  
***2020***

THE MAGAZINE OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WALES

## EDITORIAL

### All Things Considered

**R**ecent issues of this magazine have included the various standpoints over the Closure of Churches during the Lockdown. So we were interested to listen to last Sunday's All Things Considered at 9.05am on Radio Wales when the Revd Jonathan Thomas chaired a discussion with his four guests about the mass closure of churches of recent months. For those who missed the programme, we

recommend Covid, churches and freedom of worship on BBC Sounds to our readers.

Those who are critical of the BBC's religious broadcasts often describe its output as vapid, and see the spokespersons that the Corporation invites onto its programmes as largely drawn from the long-standing liberal-leaning denominations. However, on this occasion the programme included three who represented vibrant, theologically conservative, churches in Wales - a

recognition that such churches form a significant part of the Welsh Church scene at beginning of the 2020's.

In his genial way, Jonathan Thomas afforded each of his guests adequate and uninterrupted time to express their views.

### **The Christmas Edition**

By now our readers will have become used to the twice-monthly editions of the Treasury on-line. One final copy will be published before Christmas Day, and this will be on Sunday, 20th December. It is anticipated that on line publishing will continue, free of charge, until July next year.

### **Reader Friendly Version**

Some may have noticed in the Publications section of the Presbyterian Church of Wales' website that two versions of this magazine are posted each time an edition is published. Our Associate Editor, Revd

Jonathan Hodgins has been trialling a reader friendly version for use on hand held devices, like the iPhone and iPad. Those who have opened both styles may have spotted some small differences occasionally between both versions.

This reader friendly issue includes a different photograph of the late Revd Keith Hawkins that illustrates his work at a local level in 1995. As he wrote in a personal letter to the editor in July 2013, 'it was my conviction that ... my pastoral ministry was the most important thing of all... [and it was for that reason] that I have refused all other so-called chances of what is called 'high office' in the Connexion...because I was so convinced of my calling to be a pastor that nothing must stand in the way.' Dedication like that to one's calling is the groundwork that blossoms into enduring pastoral bonds.



## SO IT'S ALMOST CHRISTMAS! A MESSAGE FOR ADVENT

**I**wonder what kind of Christmas you are planning this year. Do you think that Covid 19 will have

had any effect on the plans you have made? Since March this year Coronavirus has had a devastating effect on the lives of everyone, so I suspect your Christmas will be somewhat different this year.

We all know how significant a time it is for Christians when we celebrate the birth of

Jesus our Saviour. Yet the birth story has many similarities to the conditions we have been suffering from these last ten months or so and as we reflect upon them, I wish you all the compliments of the season and a joyous time as we contemplate the Nativity of our Lord, and as we all look forward to better times in 2021.

### **We have had to follow the rules and regulations**

As Joseph and Mary were compelled to comply with the decree issued by Caesar Augustus (Luke 2: 1-3), so we have had to follow the instructions issued by Welsh Government and perhaps do things we would not have chosen to. Authority often has to issue instructions, information and safety advice. This pandemic has been no exception. During the time of Roman rule in Palestine, the earthly parents of Jesus had rules to follow just as we have had to do.

### **We have found difficulties in travelling about**

As Mary made that uncomfortable journey to Bethlehem on an ass heavily pregnant and with no certainty of finding a bed at the end of it (Luke 2: 5) we have had our difficult times

***the birth story has many similarities to the conditions we have been suffering from these last ten months***

since churches were first closed back in March. We were overwhelmed at times with uncertainty. Unsure as to what would happen next, Mary found help through a kindly innkeeper, we were helped by community workers who quickly adapted to the needs of the needy.

### **The authorities needed to know where we went and who we were**

Joseph and Mary needed to register, so the authorities would know who they were and where they lived (Luke 2:1). As we went about our

business, we had to participate in Track and Trace so that the virus could be controlled, and our personal details became known.

### **We received visitors to our home**

Joseph and Mary were visited by the shepherds and kings (Matthew 2: 1 and Luke 2: 8) in order to take out the news of the birth and to pay homage to the King of Kings. We were visited by community workers, elders of the church and ministers to ensure that our needs were being met. The Three Kings brought gifts, our friends brought prescriptions and food from the supermarket and the Word of God and

prayers of hope from the Church.

Although the relevance of our experiences cannot be anything akin to the Nativity of our Lord and the uncomfortable moments that led up to this birth through the experiences of Joseph and Mary, they do include Biblical reassurance through words found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. They reflect some of the human difficulties we have endured these last 300 and more days as we read them again in the approach to Christmas 2020.

So, my Christian friends, it is unlikely we shall be able to return to the 'days of



yesterday' soon, if at all. But as ever the Church has been able to adapt to change as it has done over the centuries from Pentecost to Charlemagne, through the days of Martin Luther to John Wesley, Howell Harris and the other Revivalists right through to today.

Many determined to overcome these present difficulties with help from the NHS and the hand of Jesus Christ, and perhaps because of Covid 19 we have come out stronger, more courageous, more understanding and more loving because of the difficulties that came into our lives not long after St David's Day.

Some of you will have received my daily thoughts through the 142 days of the initial restrictions. Later, I gave seventeen prayers for the second lockdown that I trust gave some encouragement along the way.

Let the Lord be part of your Christmas celebrations this



year whatever form they may take, and let us pray for better days ahead in 2021. Let us ask Him to increase our faith that we may cherish His love for us all.

*Christians, awake, salute the  
happy morn,  
Whereon the Saviour of the  
world was born...*

God Bless you all,

*Revd Brian Reardon*



## A LIFE REMEMBERED

### Revd PJ Keith Hawkins, BA, BD.

**K** eith Hawkins was born in Wrexham on 2nd May 1935. Originally from Llay he was baptised in the Presbyterian Church there, but his family moved to Rossett when he was two years old. Although brought up in the church, it was at

an evangelistic rally in Trinity Wrexham that he made a definite commitment to Christ when the evangelist, David Shepherd was speaking. It was at that time too that he said that he 'felt a call to the ministry'. With his departure to the RAF for his national Service in 1954, from which he emerged with the rank of Flying Officer, he said he 'had more time to think about it.' The RAF wanted him to stay on as a regular officer but he followed his calling

having learned, as a young man, lessons in leadership that stood him in good stead in his ministry. Graduating from Cardiff University in Hebrew and Semitic Languages in 1960 he married Joyce in the Parish church at Delamere, Cheshire before pursuing the BD course at Aberystwyth. He always spoke warmly of her support throughout the years of his ministry saying, 'With her working while I studied we had the money to pay the rent each month.' Keith was ordained at the Autumn Association in Abergavenny in 1963 by the Moderator of the Association in the East, Revd Howell Williams. He settled in his first pastorate at Pontyclun, Groesfaen and Llantrisant where he and his wife spent seven happy years during which time their two children, John and Gillian, were born. These were the days when lots of children went to Sunday school and as the numbers rose to one

*at an evangelistic rally in Trinity Wrexham he made a definite commitment to Christ when the evangelist, David Shepherd was speaking.*

hundred and thirty, it was necessary to expand the building at Hope, Pontyclun to accommodate them. An extension with seven classrooms was built. Extensions and remodelling of church buildings were a particular talent of Keith's, and if it hadn't been for his calling – he would have trained as an architect. Just three years into his ministry, the tragic disaster of 21st October 1966 at Aberfan struck. Keith showed his concern for people in crisis by spending all night working with miners and a local Baptist minister in the attempted rescue mission. An article in the Western Mail four days later used a photo of both ministers digging to

illustrate their article entitled 'The Test of Faith'. The 1970's had hardly dawned before Keith was on the move to Nant Hall, Prestatyn. Keith soon made an impression on the large church of three hundred and fifty members, and enlisted a number of them to help in establishing the first branch of the Samaritans in North Wales, of which he was the Director. His other notable project at that time was the creation of affordable housing for the elderly, and two Abbeyfield homes were set up. He is remembered for his community outreach work, engaging young people through entries into the annual Prestatyn Carnival - culminating in a 25 foot model of the Royal Yacht. This, and annual trips to Coleg-y-Bala combined prayer and outdoor activities and were a major influence on many young lives

A lasting memory of his ministry in Prestatyn is the Christmas candlelight communion which he initiated and planned meticulously - he was always hands on - building the wooden candle holders in his garage. It was a very special service and

*His great passion was the mountains - there wasn't much of Snowdonia that he hadn't explored, and he climbed Snowdon for the last time, on his 70th birthday*

continues to this day. After eighteen years there, he responded to a call from the largest of our English language churches, Park End, Cardiff where he remained until retirement. He and Joyce continued as members there, and lived close by in Heath. When he reflected on his career he was keen to acknowledge two things: the help that his dear wife,

Joyce had been to him. He recalled her help and kindness to all their members - he felt this had helped to enhance their combined ministry and the support of hard working elders in the three pastorates.

However, there was one conviction that he was keen to emphasise, 'that he had always played his part in the Presbyteries to which he belonged.' (He was Moderator and Clerk of the North Wales Coast Presbytery and Glamorgan East). However, he believed that his pastoral work was the most important of all, and because he was convinced of his calling to be a pastor, he believed nothing must stand in the way of this conviction. Throughout his life, Keith was regarded as a wise counsellor, and since his death Joyce's letterbox has been full of examples of his Christian and caring response to people in their time of need. He seemed to

have an uncanny knack of contacting people when they needed him most. He loved people, and this love was returned by both young and old.

Keith retired in 2000, but characteristically, continued his service as Clerk of Presbytery and in a number of roles within the South East Wales Presbytery.

His great passion was the mountains – there wasn't much of Snowdonia that he hadn't explored, and he climbed Snowdon for the last time, on his 70th birthday. Despite retirement Keith was always an early riser (much to Joyce's frustration), but it did mean that his garden was always a joy to behold as he liked to spend his mornings pottering around - even as his health was failing.

Shining through Keith's life and ministry was his love of people, his family, and his love for his Lord and

Saviour who he served unfailingly.

He died on 31st October and will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

His funeral took place on 17th November at Thornhill Crematorium and was conducted by his minister, Revd Owen Batstone.

**Revd J P Keith Hawkins, born 2nd May 1935, died 31st October 2020**

## Memories of a long-standing friend and colleague

I first met Keith when we were both students at The United Theological College, Aberystwyth in the early 1960's. He was a good friend and contributed much to College life. After a year at Trefeca, following service in the RAF, he had gone on to graduate from Cardiff University, and married Joyce in 1960. In

those days it was rare for a Candidate for the Ministry to be allowed to marry; you had to ask permission. Joyce has been a great support to him through all the years.

He was ordained in 1963, and his first Pastorate was at Pontyclun, Groesfaen and Llantrisant where he spent seven happy years and saw the work expand. When disaster struck Aberfan, Keith showed his concern for people by working all night alongside miners in the rescue mission.

Upon the retirement of Revd R B Owen in 1970, Keith received a call to succeed him at Prestatyn. It was not an easy task when the retired minister had served well and long, but Keith soon won the love and affection of the membership there. He enlisted the help of some of the members in establishing the first branch of the Samaritans in North Wales of which he

became Director. He was also responsible for the setting up of two 'Abbeyfield' homes in the area. I was able to renew friendship again as we served together in the North Wales Coast Presbytery. His wisdom and expertise in difficult situations soon became apparent, and his help and guidance was appreciated by many in the churches in that area. He was good company and I remember well the time that the ministers of Presbytery climbed Snowdon on a very wet day to raise money for the Sahel Appeal. He would not let the weather get any of us down.

Bigger things loomed for him though, and in 1988 he accepted a call to become the minister of Park End, Cardiff, the largest of our English-language churches. Once again he soon won the love and respect of the members there. He served them well until he retired in the year 2000. He also

played his part in the wider church by serving the Presbytery in various capacities.

In retirement we renewed our friendship as we both served on various committees within the Association in the East. It was always a pleasure to be in his company.

We thank God for the service which he gave to our Church and to the wider community, thus demonstrating the love which he had for people that emanated from his commitment to Jesus Christ, after a meeting led by the evangelist, David Shepherd in Trinity, Wrexham in early 1950's. Our prayers and sympathies go to Joyce, John, Gillian and their families at this time of loss.

*by Revd John L Dowber*

# News from the Churches

## Llandudno

**D**uring this pandemic one of the things we have missed most is the opportunity to celebrate Holy Communion. This sacrament is so precious to us in remembering our Lord's death and resurrection. He is the source of our hope and our unity as one. We have gathered using Zoom where each participant provides their own bread and wine, but it's not quite the same. The elders at Gloddaeth Church in Llandudno have found a way to celebrate together in the sanctuary whilst observing all the restrictions imposed by this pandemic. By purchasing individual, pre-filled cups with wafers sealed on the top (from 'Miracle Meals' via Amazon) and collected by each attendee as they enter church they were able to

follow hygiene rules without risk. As the minister presiding I provided my own cup, plate, bread and juice which I took away with me. The remaining plastic cups and waste were deposited in a bin as people left. It is still not quite the same and some of the symbolism is lost but this is the nearest we have come to our more usual practice and the celebration meant so much to us.

*Revd Neil Kirkham*

## Penrhyn Bay

**T**he Presbyterian Church in Penrhyn Bay has been collecting and filling Christmas shoeboxes for many years. This year we felt it was even more important to fill boxes than ever before.

For many children the pandemic has made the world a bleaker place and by filling a shoebox we will keep doing our best to spread a bit of joy!

Teams4U state that the shoeboxes will be given to vulnerable children or families through schools, nurseries or orphanages. Their aim is that each box is handed out in cooperation with the local community as part of a long term commitment to these children.

We have collected 250 boxes which is the highest amount we have ever done. This has been helped by one of our members, Katie Baker, who lives in Dyserth. She has tapped into the local community and the response has been amazing as no one seemed to be collecting boxes in that area.

Also another of our number, Anwen Smith, who works in a local school, has motivated the children to collect toothbrushes and toothpaste with the result that hundreds of these items will be sent with the boxes!

This year all the boxes from North Wales are heading to Minsk in Belarus. Belarus has over 20,000 orphans cared for by government aided facilities and Teams4U are able to distribute boxes to children across these orphanages and also in impoverished rural communities.

Our boxes were brought into Church on 15th November and the preacher said a prayer for the children who would be receiving the boxes and the work that was being done.

*Margaret Cossey*

## Oakley Park

**U**nfortunately, as we are currently only meeting monthly, our plans to celebrate Harvest in Oakley Park at the end of October were scuppered by the firebreak.

Not to be deterred, on the 22nd November, we held a Harvest Thanksgiving Communion and managed it

all in the allowed forty-five minutes!

The children of the Sunday School, working at home in family bubbles, provided us with Harvest poems and artwork and we used the lovely Communion from our Service Book written especially for when children are present.

The Sunday School also encouraged us to remember to keep smiling with a reminder of past artwork and the service did indeed leave all those present with a smile on their face and looking forward to celebrating our faith together in December when you can guess the theme!

## Llandinam

 *od, brilliant Lord...  
Nursing infants  
gurgle choruses about  
you; toddlers shout the  
songs” (Psalm 8: 1-2, The  
Message)*

It was good to have a babe in arms and some young children to bring their

harvest praise and gifts to Llandinam this year, alongside their parents and grandparents. We can't sing but we did clap along to some choruses sung by the minister and accompanied on the guitar.

We gave God thanks for our senses though which we appreciate the gifts he bestows on us through each season of the year. Using the prepared fellowship cups, we remembered his greatest gift of all to us in his setting us free from our sins through his sacrifice for us on the cross. There is a lovely order of service in our Book of Services for use when children are present and communicating and this is the one we followed. The sharing of communion in these times of lockdown seems all the more powerful and precious and joyous. How wonderful it is to “taste and see that the Lord is good!” (Ps.34:8)

# CHRISTIAN AID- "MAKE VACCINE AVAILABLE TO WORLD'S POOREST"

**A**ccess to any successful vaccine must be shared with the world's poorest people and not become a 'global postcode lottery', Christian Aid has warned.

Responding to the news that a Covid-19 vaccine is 90% effective, according to manufacturer Pfizer/BioNTech, the international NGO is calling for any successful vaccine to be made available to people living in poverty in all countries.

The charity is calling on governments to support the global call for a people's vaccine made at the World Health Assembly in May 2020.



Christian Aid has also called, in its recent report *Building Back With Justice*, for governments to ensure that access to Covid-19 testing and treatment services are universally free at the point of use.

Cynan Llwyd, Acting Head of Christian Aid in Wales, said:

“Today’s announcement could be a turning point in the battle to contain Covid-19 and reduce its huge toll of human suffering. But for that to happen, governments

must back the global call for a people's vaccine that is available to poorer countries as well as the wealthiest. Access to any successful vaccine must not become a global postcode lottery.

“We are calling on the UK and other G20 governments to coordinate a global response to the pandemic, and agree a recovery plan at the UN. The UK and other G20 countries must support the WHO initiative, made at the World Health Assembly in May, to combine research and create a global patent pool, ensuring that all drugs related to the testing, treatment, prevention and response to Covid-19 are immediately accessible and genuinely affordable to all countries.

“We noted with disappointment that the proposal to create a global patent pool, which would encourage the production of coronavirus drugs that are affordable for the poorest countries, was opposed at

*The charity is calling on governments to support the global call for a people's vaccine made at the World Health Assembly in May 2020*

the World Health Assembly in May by the US, UK and Switzerland, perhaps reflecting their status as the homes of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies.”

*Dyfed Wyn Roberts*

## **AID TO ROMANIA**

Some time ago an article appeared in the Treasury about the Women's Sub-Committee's aid to the charity Reaching Romania. We have now had an update on the work by Irene Phillips from Sennybridge, Brecon, who is the charity's Secretary and Trustee.



Reaching Romania offers support to those who have been widowed, both male and female. This Widow's Mite ministry is in the capable hands of a lady called Ramona. She cares for thirty-seven individuals, visiting them monthly and taking them fuel, food and spiritual support. Three have died during the spring and so three more have taken their place. The charity now is hoping to raise money to give them food and firewood for the winter.

There are Christian Children's Homes in the areas of Timisoara and Arad. These are havens of hope for a number of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. Financial difficulties in Arad

were overcome and three new individuals were placed in the homes by the Child Protection Department. From traumatic backgrounds they now live in a place of safety, full of love.

Unfortunately the wonderful house parents in the Osana and Caleb homes in Timisoara have moved to serve in other places but they will remain in the homes until suitable replacement have been appointed. In Arad the Jesus Generation, the Children's Program and Music School are led by Marius and Rena and their beautiful daughter, Jazgul. This had been very successful and the children adore the leaders who are a music teacher and

psychologist respectively. Unfortunately things were difficult during the pandemic but they managed to keep in contact through “ Zoom”. During the lockdown the children were able to take advantage of the time to create hymns and Christian programs, music lessons and worship songs.

Another ministry in Arad is Copilul din Mine -The Child in Me. This is led by Mihaela and supported by her mother she works closely with three schools in Arad. She supplies school bags filled with essential stationery, new shoes and winter coats to children from poor families. She also managed to get a computer for the Tabita Children’s home enabling the children to do their school work during lockdown .Many vulnerable and disabled individuals and poor families are being supported in various ways such as food parcels, clothes, toiletries and sometimes medical, funeral and building expenses. Two new cases living in poverty are now being helped. By now the Christmas gifts will have

***Ramona cares for thirty-seven individuals, visiting them monthly and taking them fuel, food and spiritual support.***

arrived and the older people and the children alike will be grateful for the kindness of the loving hands that have reached out to them across the the sea.

The charity wish to thank the Women’s Sub-committee for their constant support through prayer and financial assistance. In this very difficult time, where our usual channels for collecting money are temporarily not open, if you wish to contribute to the work of the charity you can contact Irene on the following email address:

***admin.reachingromania@gmail.com*** More information about the charity’s work can be found on their website ***www.reachingromania.com*** or by phoning Irene on 01874 636575.

***Revd Eirlys Gruffydd-Evans***

## Not the Sunday Sermon

One December evening the March girls - Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy - were sitting at home, moaning about the forthcoming "cancelled Christmas". The March family used to be wealthy, but Mr. March lost his money. This year, his daughters expect no Christmas presents. Meg admits to still wanting presents. Similarly, Jo, the bookworm, yearns for a book of German folk stories (pretentious or what?). Beth wants new music, and Amy

sighs for drawing pencils. Meg, who works as a nanny, and Jo, who works as a companion to Aunt March, complain about their jobs. Meanwhile, Beth complains about having to do the housekeeping, and Amy complains that she does not have a nice nose. This is the backdrop to *Complaining Women* (sorry, *Little Women*) by Louise May Alcott (in the first few decades after its publication, more widely read than the Bible by American college students) and its famous opening line:



“Christmas won’t be  
Christmas without presents”  
grumbled Jo, lying on the  
rug.

Well, I am not going to predict what Christmas 2020 will be like. That mythical secret weapon of the ordained minister, the crystal ball, has never served me well and will not do so again this December or any other month. But you could well be lying on your rug at home (other horizontal surfaces are available, preferably within an arm’s length of your evening Happiness Bottle) reading this and complaining like Jo that Christmas will not be the same this year. Probably. Maybe. Perhaps. Jo, and her grumpy sisters in Little Women, lived at a time of civil war. We do not know if loo rolls were rationed then but money was in short supply and tempers even shorter. Plus ça change, as over 150 years later we face a civil war against Covid.

So: fill in the space:  
Christmas won’t be  
Christmas without – what?

*fill in the space:  
Christmas won’t be  
Christmas without –  
what?*

Singing carols in church?  
Even going to church? The rules are different depending on which part of the United Kingdom you are in - though it does look as if churches are back “in” wherever you live, as is choral “performance” singing and outdoor carol singing with added hypothermia. With me so far? Knowing what the precise restrictions for your area is beyond most of us simple souls to figure out. (I never knew that a scotch egg counted as a substantial meal.) Suffice to say we will respond to whatever we are advised or instructed to do, be it from the Westminster government – which we have seen is not necessarily singing, or rather humming under masks, from the same hymn sheet as the Welsh Assembly - or from the PCW.

Christmas won’t be  
Christmas without...? Family  
or close friends gathering



around for the Christmas Day meal? Who knows? My heart goes out to those whose loved ones are in care homes and have been prevented, pre-vaccine, from visiting, though I know “window visits” are possible in some care homes. I was upset that in the last six months of an elderly friend’s life in a care home before her death in Arrowe Park Hospital in August, I could not visit my dear friend. All I had was the opportunity to write and to phone. But it was not the same as seeing or hugging her. Pray for those husbands, wives, daughters, sons separated from their nearest and dearest as this different Christmas approaches.

Christmas won’t be Christmas without...? Decorations (biodegradable or David Attenborough will be

knocking on your door), turkey and the trimmings. But we will rescue that, one way or another. What a difference a year makes! Thanks to the generosity of the elders in my pastorate, I was able to be with my wife Leslie last Christmas. It was our last time together pre-Covid. We were away from our home in Manila and in Singapore on Christmas Day. I introduced Leslie to brussels sprouts (and gave her my helping because I am a kind soul). She even liked them. We toasted Christmas and the coming year in champagne without, of

***strip down Christmas  
– any Christmas - to  
its essentials and  
nothing will have  
changed for you or  
your loved ones this  
year.***

course, knowing that the virus may have already been “out there”. Jo, in Little Women, did not like making sacrifices – who does? – but there were presents after the

Advent countdown in Little Women, in Singapore for Leslie and I, and there will be again in 2020, a countdown to which we will share in Moreton Church in new and ingenious ways thanks to the technological skills of two of our elders who can do amazing things with computers while I look on with my practiced “clueless” expression.

And yet... strip down Christmas – any Christmas - to its essentials and nothing will have changed for you or your loved ones this year. Christmas won't be Christmas without Jesus. Fact. The real Christmas does not need presents or family gatherings (however painful a lonely Christmas may be) and thank goodness, it does not need brussel sprouts. Take away all the wrappings and as we count down or lockdown towards a different Christmas, we can see it more clearly for what it is – the coming of the birth of Christ the Saviour. Jesus, that newborn human baby, is the only one who will see us through this mess and into a

new and brighter year. He may have been shut out of the Bethlehem inn but the God-with-us is not and never will be locked down or locked out of your living rooms. There in your sitting room the spirit of Christmas, come what may, will exist and possibly even grow in your hearts.

Shut in, shut out, closed down, closed in, Tier 2, Tier 3, Tier 4b+, with or without loo rolls, there is a Christmas around the corner to look forward to, a Christ-child to save the world and to be at home with you. Brussels sprouts are optional. (I am praying there will be a shortage of them.) Christmas will not be cancelled this or any other year.

*Revd Mike Ward*

## COLOPHON

**ADVENT MESSAGE:** *Revd Brian Reardon is Moderator of Association. Brian behind a Christmas tree, and stained glass window, by the Editor*

**CHRISTIAN AID:** *Dyfed Wyn Roberts is Communications, Media, and Resources Officer for Christian Aid. Generic Covid vaccine from Unsplash.com*

**ROMANIA:** *Revd Eirlys Gruffydd-Evans lives in Mold. She chairs the Women's Sub-Committee. Children with lollipops from ReachingRomania.com*

**'SUNDAY SERMON':** *Revd Dr Miike Ward is a minister in Wirral and Liverpool. He is also Clerk of the Association in the East. Chapter 45 of Little Women and a shocked looking Father Christmas from Unsplash.com*