

A quiet revival

From Tearfund. Research published by the Bible Society.

Until recently, the story of Christianity in the UK had been one of decline. A census in 2021 revealed that, for the first time, the number of Christians in the UK had fallen below 50 per cent of the population in England and Wales.

But recent research shows there are in excess of 2 million more people attending church than there were six years ago. Roman Catholicism and Pentecostalism are seeing significant growth.

Headline findings from *The Quiet Revival* research

- In 2018, just 4% of 18 to 24-year-olds said they attended church at least monthly. Today, this has risen to 16%, with young men increasing from 4% to 21%, and young women from 3 to 12%.
- Men (13%) are more likely to go to church than women (10%)
- The church in England and Wales is becoming more ethnically diverse, with one in five people (19%) coming from an ethnic minority.
- Close to half of young black people aged 18 to 34 (47%) are now attending church at least monthly.

While the Bible says that Christians should get into the habit of gathering to worship God and encourage each other (Hebrews 10:25), genuine discipleship isn't just about church attendance. Beyond simply turning up to a church building and engaging in empty religiosity, we can allow Jesus to transform our lives.

And the research is encouraging, for it goes on to say that:

- Young adults show greater warmth and openness towards spirituality, the church, and spiritual practice
- Young adults are the most likely group to pray regularly, with 40% praying at least monthly
- Young adults show the most interest in learning more about the Bible, with 37% expressing curiosity
- and just over half (51%) have engaged in a spiritual practice in the past six months, compared to 42% of older adults



Bryn Independent Methodist Church

For more information, visit our website: www.bryn-im.org

Let all
the earth
fear –
honour
and
worship
– the
LORD.

Let
everyone
stand in
awe of
Him.

Psalm 33 v8

Sunday 27th April

“Welcome” 😊

11.00 am Our speaker is Ian Delooze

6.00 am The Church meets to pray

He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!

*He walks with me and talks with me
along life's narrow way.*

He lives, He lives, salvation to impart!

You ask me how I know He lives?

He lives within my heart.

Lyrics by A. H. Ackley

Next week at Bryn I.M.

Tuesdays	10.00 am	Toddlers
Tuesdays	2.00 pm	Men's coffee and chat.
Saturdays	9.00 am	Men's prayer meeting
Our 145th Sunday School Anniversary 4 th May	11.00 am after the service.	Amy Smith is to take our service Celebratory 'Bring and Share' Lunch in the school room. <u>All Welcome.</u>

For your information and prayers (continued)

House groups in May

House group at Margaret's in Orrell at 10.00 am Monday 12th May
House group at Simon and Cherith's at 7.00 pm Thursday 15th May.

A delegate from Byn IM for the IM Annual Meeting

John has received details of the I.M. Annual Meeting for 2025, which is to be held on 26th and 27th July at the Mercure Hotel Haydock.

We are invited to send a delegate and a visitor.

However, the Connexion want to know about our intentions by May 9th which is before the next Church meeting.

Therefore, we are requesting that, if you are willing and able to attend the Annual Meeting as a delegate, (you will need to be a Church Member), please let John know before 9th May. If you would like someone from Church to accompany you, (they don't need to be a Church Member), would you ask them and let John know their name too by 9th may.

Thank you.

Some of the of our Government Ministers (see prayer for UK)

Sir Keir Starma	Prime Minister
Rachel Reeves	Chancellor
Evette Cooper	Home Secretary
Wes Streeting	Health and Social Care Secretary
David Lemmy	Foreign Secretary
Bridget Phillipson	Education Secretary

For your information and prayers

Sunday School Anniversary Bring and Share Lunch

This is the last Sunday before our celebratory Bring and Share lunch as our 145th Sunday School Anniversary is next Sunday, 4th May. If you are able to join us and bring food, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. Everyone is invited.

The Blue Box in the Narthex for gifts for Myanmar.

Our gifts will go to Tearfund to bring help to the earthquake victims..

Gift Aid

If you aren't a gift aider or if you have been one in the past, would you consider starting or restarting the Gift Aid scheme?

This scheme allows us to claim back the tax you have paid on the money you contribute to our church.

For example, every £1 you give, we can claim 25p from the government. If you give £10 a week or £520 a year, we can claim £130 back. This is the government's provision for our Church.

Please be aware you can't allow us to claim back more on the Gift Aid scheme than you pay in tax.

You can pay through the envelope scheme or direct from your bank.

If you would like more information, please speak to Peter Boardman.

Appointment of Elders at the May Church Meeting

Let us all be prayerfully considering which of our Church Members would meet the criteria (1 Timothy 3 v1-7: Titus 1 v5-10) for being an Elder of Christ's Body here at Bryn IM.

When God has laid someone on your heart, there is a process to follow:

- Ask another Church Member if they would consider the person to be suitable and if so, be willing to second your nomination.
- Ask the person if they would consider joining the Eldership.
- If their answer is 'Yes', give the name of your nomination and the seconder to John.

Thank you.

Daily Prayer Guide

Sunday – thanksgiving

Lyrics by A H Ackley

*I serve a risen Saviour, He's in the world today;
I know that He is living, whatever others say;
I see his hand of mercy, I hear his voice of cheer,
And just the time I need Him, He's always near.*

Let us give thanks for the truths in these lyrics.

Monday – praise

Lyrics by A H Ackley

*Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian, lift up your voice and sing
Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King!
The Hope of all who seek Him, the Help of all who find,
None other is so loving, so good and kind.*

Let's use these lyrics to praise our risen King.

Tuesday – pray for national leaders

A wise man fears the Lord and shuns evil.

Let all the earth fear the Lord. Let all the people of the world revere Him.

Proverbs 14 v16 and Psalm 33 v8

God says in James (3 v13-18) that earthly wisdom leads to selfish ambition and jealousy, which bring disharmony and all other kinds of evil.

But, the wisdom that comes from above leads us to be pure, friendly, gentle, sensible, kind, helpful, genuine, and sincere

As they come to mind, write down a list of world leaders and then pray for them to be wise – to fear God and shun evil.

Pray for them to be wise with God's wisdom and so bring righteousness to their governance and treat their people with dignity and honour.

Just imagine what that would look like!

Though our prayer is huge, God is even more huge, immeasurably so, and able to do absolutely anything.

Wednesday – pray for our nation

Humility and the fear of the Lord bring wealth and honour and life.

Proverbs 22 v4

I guess all our politicians would say they want wealth and honour and life for all of the UK. God says the way to them is through humility and honouring (fearing) God. Let us pray for our politicians, especially those at the core of the Cabinet, (see list on back page) to be humble, fear God and so embrace righteousness, which will exalt our nation. (Proverbs 14 v34)

Thursday – pray for our neighbourhood

Proverbs 22 v4: Proverbs 14 v34

Let us pray for our local councillors, asking that they be humble, fear God and embrace righteousness so they bring wealth and honour and life to your locality.

The Councillors for Bryn and North Ashton are:
Steve Jones, Scarlett Myer and Sylvia Wilkinson.

Friday – pray for the Church at Bryn

Lyrics by A H Ackley

*In all the world around me I see his loving care,
And though my heart grows weary I never will despair;
I know that He is leading, through all the stormy blast,
The day of his appearing will come at last.*

Please pray that the above will be true for each of us, daily.

Saturday – pray for the Church at Bryn IM

Jeremiah 29 v7: Revelation 2 v7,11,17 and 29

'Father, You tell us to seek the shalom, (welfare, prosperity and peace) of where we live. But how do we do that? How can we use what we have, as church and individuals, to be a blessing in our neighbourhoods and especially in Bryn? What little things can we begin to do to demonstrate your love and reflect who You are? Please give us ears to hear your answer.'

After praying, do invest some time listening for God's direction for you and for Church, then share with someone anything re church.