Letter from the Minister

February 2026



Dear friends of Greasby Methodist Church

Last week we marked **Santes Dwynwen Day**, the day when the Church in Wales remembers the Welsh saint of love. Not the loud or sentimental kind of love, but love tested by loss and reshaped through prayer — a love that matures through patience, faithfulness, and trust in God.



Dwynwen's story is a quiet one. When her own hopes were broken, she did not seek to force a different ending. Instead, she chose solitude and placed her wounded love into God's keeping. Retreating to what is now Llanddwyn Island, she trusted that love, purified and deepened through prayer, could still reach out across time to heal and bless others.

That detail matters. Dwynwen did not abandon love; she allowed it to be transformed. Prayer did not erase pain, but it gave pain a different future. Love became something steadier and wiser — no longer grasping, but holding; no longer urgent, but faithful. Perhaps that is why her witness continues to speak so clearly into the life of the Church today.

There are moments in the life of every church — and every person — when certainty gives way to discernment, and activity must pause long enough for listening. These are not moments of failure or retreat, but seasons of attentiveness, when familiar patterns loosen their grip and we become more aware of our need for God's guidance. Love, in such moments, is not spent in haste or driven by anxiety. It is learned through waiting — through prayer, silence, and a willingness to trust that God is still shaping the way ahead, even when the next steps are not yet clear.

Love that is not spent in haste,
but learned through waiting.
Love that does not grasp,
but holds.
Love that travels quietly through the years,
steady enough to help,
gentle enough to heal.

Alongside these words I have chosen an image of the **Good Shepherd in stained glass**, because it speaks quietly and clearly of God's love and care for his people. The Shepherd's love is not hurried or possessive, but patient and faithful — a love that holds rather than grasps, that walks with the flock through time, and seeks not to dominate but to heal. Shaped by light, the image reminds us that God's care is often revealed gradually, as grace shines through the ordinary and the broken alike. This is a love grounded not in performance, but in presence; not in control, but in faithfulness. In this image, as in the story of Santes Dwynwen, love is revealed not in display, but in constancy.



As a congregation, and as part of the wider life of the Church, we find ourselves in such a season. It is not a season marked by fear or urgency, but one that calls for attentiveness of heart and spirit. It is not a time of endings, but of faithful seeking — a willingness to notice where God may be inviting us to pause, to reflect, and to listen more deeply. Such seasons are not signs of weakness, but moments of grace, when God draws us away from haste and into trust. In this listening, we trust the Shepherd who knows the flock by name, walks at our pace, and leads not by force, but by faithful presence.

For that reason, we will be gathering on **Sunday 15 February here at Greasby Methodist Church** for a **shared Day of Prayer**. This will not be a time for hurried decisions or firm conclusions, but a space of stillness, scripture, silence, and prayer — trusting that God is already at work among us, often ahead of our planning and beyond our imagining.



Like Santes Dwynwen, we come not pretending that prayer removes complexity, but trusting that prayer changes how we carry it. May her witness encourage us to love deeply, serve faithfully, and trust God's work even when the road is complex.

I finish with a simple Celtic blessing from Ireland:

Go raibh suaimhneas i do chroí inniu —
May there be peace in your heart today.

With every blessing,
Phyl