



# SARAH & JOHN SUTTON - TONYPANDY



*Mission Partner of the Month - June 2023*



## Clwb Coffi

Hello everyone at St Michael's!  
Thank you for all your love and support. Let us tell you a little bit about us and what we do...

For those of you who don't know us - we live in Tonypany, in the Rhondda Valley, an ex-industrial town in South Wales, only just over an hour from Stoke Gifford. John grew up here and Sarah moved here just after spending a lovely year working with the young people in St Michael's almost a decade ago now!

John grew up not really liking where he lived, as did a lot of his friends. He wanted to escape the Rhondda. But since growing his relationship with Jesus and going to Hope Church Rhondda he began to realise the beauty of where he lived and began to see it as God does, with his heart for restoration. A few years after we (John and Sarah) were married, as a response to our faith we wanted to do something as a practical way of showing how much we feel that God loves this place.

See the next page for what else we've been up to at Clwb Coffi.

## Our heart for the Rhondda

Tonypany town centre hasn't, and still doesn't have the best reputation. Lots of people say it's dead and that nothing good can happen there. We feel that this isn't God's heart for this place. So we decided to open up a coffee shop on Tonypany high street that would be a beacon for restoration and community.

We opened almost 3 years ago, and to say it's been hard would be an understatement. But we do really believe that this vision that God has placed on our hearts is making a difference and we are building community and pointing people to God.

Right is a picture from a recent bustling market day - things are definitely changing!







## Clwb Coffi news

Here are some things we've been up to

- Running evening events like book club, open mic & quiz
- Giving out lots of 'suspended coffees' to people in our community
- Growing our team, left picture is us with 4/5 of our employees, all local
- Continuing to work with the Chamber of Trade to help improve our town, see picture in previous sheet for a very bustling high street during a market day

## Please pray for

- For the strength to run a social business in the most challenging time for hospitality, to weather the storm
- For people to realise that God loves this town and his people here and for opportunities to share that with people
- For restoration in our town

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*When I am  
afraid, I put my  
trust in you.  
Psalm 56:3*

We are so grateful for your kind and faithful support towards us. We are so blessed to be partnered with you in the gospel.

We've also welcomed some lovely visitors from St Michael's in the last few months and it's such an important relationship for us and it always encourages us.

Thank you again, for everything!  
Sarah and John

## Reflection

Life isn't easy at the moment for lots of reasons, but we believe in a God who can use every situation and every person for His glory. I had a really lovely moment last month when we had a super busy day on the high street and I really felt God's presence there and a sense that he was changing the narrative and working on people's hearts.

This is a difficult time for hospitality and we are very much weathering the storm of rising costs and the financial situation in the UK right now. We spoke to one local business recently who have been open for 3 decades and they said this is the hardest year ever for them. We are afraid but we have to put our trust in Him, and this doesn't necessarily mean nothing will go wrong, but that He is with us and we have our eternal hope fixed on Him.

