

August/September 2020

Awst/Medi

Cylchlythyr/Newsletter

Rhif/Issue 26

BABELL ZION NEWYDD

Rhiw Babel Pensarn Caerfyrddin SA31 2DJ

Babell Zio

Gweinid
Parch I Re
Cynorthwy-ydd Gweinid
Mr Co



Sunday Serv

Sunda



Drws A
Bob D

This newsletter has been digitised as part of a project to archive material relating to Llangunnor so that a record exists for future generations

Thanks to Babell Zion Newydd Chapel for permission to do this

Llangunnor Network
*Preserving and Promoting
Llangunnor*



Corey writes

Dear Friends,

This week I've been revising in preparation for my 'Life in the U.K. Test,' which all immigrants must pass before applying for indefinite leave to remain, [which means having the confidence to stay here without the fear of being kicked out!]

I've been reading the official book produced by the Home Office, which gives an overview of British (though mostly English!) history, politics, and culture. It's been interesting to see how much I've already learned just by being embedded in local communities since moving to Wales since 2013, but having also spent close to a year in England in 2014.

It's genuinely changed me as a person. I've not only learned a new culture, but I've developed new values and grown to further appreciate the diversity of cultures and languages which are represented here in the UK.

I think, in many ways, this is also the hope of being embedded in a local church community like Babel Zion Newydd. We hope to learn, perhaps by osmosis at times, the values of the Kingdom of God, together, as we embody these values in Christian community. Scripture is, of course, our guide and main conversation partner, but we are called to learn more than information about God, but to be transformed by God's grace in and through the Spirit of hope and new life.

Coronavirus has been a challenge for each and every one of us; there is no doubt about it. And we grieve with the sick and dying, for this is our calling. But we must also begin to rise from the depths of the pain we feel into the newness of life that God offers us in Christ Jesus, for we do not grieve without hope. We must pray and seek guidance from God as to how we will be changed by this experience and grow together as a community that embodies hope and new life, which we offer to a broken world (which we are fully a part of). May we make the most of this opportunity to grow together in communion with God and learn to better embody the values of the Kingdom of grace and love together.

If I can assist you in any way, or you'd just like a chat, please don't hesitate to get in contact with me via phone (07983 681610), email (corey.hampton@ebcpcw.cymru), or at my home for a (socially distanced) 'paned' at the manse in Pontyberem.

I look forward to seeing you soon,
Corey

Dymuniadau gorau yn dy brawf Corey a gweddiwn y byddi di yn llwyddiannus yn dy gais i ddod yn ddinesydd Brydeinig.

Pastures New

We wish Rev Nicholas Bee the very best of wishes as he settles back in Llanddewi Brefi at this time. He will be embarking on a new chapter with the Church of Wales in January and we pray that he will find this path rewarding and fulfilling as he continues to serve the Lord in area which is very much close to his heart. Diolch am eich gwasanaeth dros y ddwy flynedd diwethaf Nicholas a phob bendith i'r dyfodol.

The Congregation

Dymuniadau penblwydd/ Birthday wishes

Ar ddiwedd y mis hwn fe fydd Alun Evans yn dathlu ei benblwydd yn 90 oed. Mae'n amlwg yn flwyddyn fawr yn y Babel Zion Newydd eleni. Dymunwn yn dda iawn i Alun wrth iddo gyrraedd y garreg filltir arbennig hwn. Llongyfarchiadau gwresog

Cartref Newydd/New Home

Corey and Catrin have by now moved into their new home at the Manse in Pontyberem and Lynn and Janet Pentremeurig into their new home in Parc Cilddewi Johnstown.

Dymuniadau gorau am bob hapusrwydd i chi yn eich cartrefi newydd.

Services/ Gwasanaethau

We held our fifth service via Zoom led by Corey on August 9th. Catrin and Nelda took the readings and the two hymns "What a Friend we have in Jesus" and "Tyrd atom ni" were led by Helen and Gwyn. In his homily, Corey took Psalm 85 as his text stressing that God is with us during the pandemic and through all the difficulties in life. We were reminded of how the people of Israel had forgotten God and his commandments and as such had yielded to complacency. And the result? War and exile. The Psalmist in Psalm 85 is sure that God is ready to forgive our wrongs and is ready to offer us salvation. In the midst of all the terrible things that happen there is a divine truth and therefore we must not yield but work with God, turn to God and be true disciples of Jesus.

On July 19th Pat and Meurig took the readings from Isaiah Chapter 44. Catrin led us in prayer and Helen the singing of the two hymns. The next service will be held on August 23rd at 11am. The link will be sent out two days before and please feel free to share this link with members and friends. Telephone links are also free of charge.

Cyfarfod Gweddi/Prayer meetings

Mae Corey yn arwain cyfarfod gweddi bob bore Iau am 10 o'r gloch. Mae'r amser hwn gyda'n gilydd fel pobl ar draws yr Henaduriaeth yn fendithiol iawn. Mae profiadau bob yr un ohonom yn gyfrwng i'n cyfoethogi ni yn ysbrydol a bod yn gefnogaeth i'n gilydd. Cysylltwch â Corey os ydych am ymuno.

Get well wishes/ Brysiwch wella

We know how Sian is fond of walking and the walk to Llansteffan on July 13th with Meurig and Rev Mike Shephard had really inspired her to get out again the following day. This time a shorter walk past the allotments down to Johnstown would have been just right but it wasn't to be unfortunately. A fall early on led to a broken humerus and a bad gash on the elbow. This was bad enough but to have to wait three and half hours for the ambulance was no joke and this in very hot sun. Sian would like to thank Meurig and Gwyn, who arrived on the scene to give moral support, for the banter in particular and the shielding from the sun's rays. Dymuniadau gorau am wellhad buan Sian.

There are a few of our congregation undergoing treatment at this time and we wish you all a speedy recovery. In particular Mrs Esme Phillips has received excellent results during her recent hospital visit and we rejoice with Esme in her good news. You wouldn't believe it now but a few weeks ago Rev Mike Shephard was given a life saving emergency operation. Thankfully he has been fully restored to us and we wish

him well as he continues to improve. Gwen also had a fall during this time and we are glad to say that she is also on the mend. Sadly for us at BZN Mike has decided, after much thought that his preaching days are over and therefore wishes to remove his name from the preaching rota. While we are saddened by his decision we also respect him for his reasons in that in his capacity now as Chaplain of the Welsh Ambulance Service he feels "he has been called to minister to the church without walls." We would like to wish Mike well in this new departure and may he prove God's blessings in abundance.

Cyfarfod Blaenoriaid/Elders' meeting:

The meeting took place on July 13th at 5pm via Zoom and telephone. The following decisions were made:

- To proceed with the Vestry extension
- To continue with Zoom services at present.
- To hold a meeting on September 7th to assess the situation as to reopening.

Croeso Mr Emyr Williams

We look forward to welcoming Mr Emyr Williams as Associate Minister in our Pastorate from September 1st. Ordination will take place hopefully in the Autumn Association Meeting and voting in our chapels as soon as possible.

Edrychwn ymlaen i groeshawu Mr Emyr Williams i Ofalaeth y Gwendraeth ar Fedi'r 1^{af}. Bydd yn gweithio fel Cynorthwydd Gweinidogaethol nes y daw cyfle i gynnal pleidlais reolaidd.

Y mae ar dir i gael ei ordeinio yn y Gymdeithasfa yn yr Hydref a gobeithir bod amgylchiadau yn caniatáu pleidlais cyn gynted ag y bo modd,

Forthcoming Zoom Services

Zoom Service for BZN: August 23rd at 11am

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87986477837>

Telephone: +44 203 481 5240

Meeting ID: 879 8647 7837

Zoom Welsh Services /Oedfaon dan nawdd Emyr Williams:

16eg: dan ofal Heulwen Ebenezer

23ain: dan ofal Joanna Thomas Wright

30ain: dan ofal Corey Hampton

Zoom Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88350840738?pwd=UHG0MzdYVEJxMWZrRXNXNHk2OFZiQT09>

Dial by your location

0203 481 5237 United Kingdom

0203 481 5240 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 883 5084 0738

Password: 015285



**Pat writes:
A Reflection**

Just happened to see.....

In these strange times, when we have too much time on our hands sometimes, do you ever pick up the Bible and idly turn the pages?

I did just that the other day. I had no plan, no focus, I wasn't even thinking about writing anything down, just browsing and enjoying the lovely words of comfort peppered throughout.

I happened on the story of Ruth and Boaz, a love story really. Boaz admired Ruth for faithfully staying by the side of Naomi, her mother-in-law when they had endured such personal tragedies- the death of the men in their family. I thought about the thousands of families at the moment who have lost loved ones due to the virus and other causes. I really love the verse [Ruth 2 verse 12] which says: "May you be richly rewarded by the Lord.....under whose wings you have come to take refuge." The picture of a hurt, confused, bereft young bird creeping back to the source of warmth, protection and comfort of the parent's wing is lovely. Sometimes when battered and bruised by life we too feel the need to creep back to the Lord seeking His shelter.

There were days during the last few weeks when it was hard to keep cheerful and on my flick through the Bible the verse in Proverbs 17 verse 22 struck a chord," A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones." In Proverbs Chapter 4 verse 23 the Bible talks about the heart being the "wellspring of life." That's a vivid picture too- feeling down seems to suck the life out of a person but by dipping into God's Word, seeking wisdom we are refreshed like a hot and tired walker enjoys cool water at a spring. Deuteronomy 33 verse 27 talks about God's love and faithfulness, "his eternal arms are your support." Whatever the burden, God gives us strength to carry on.

Finally I came across a verse which has been like an old friend almost all my life: Psalm 46 verse 10," Be still and know that I am God." These days when mindfulness is trendy it seems apt that we can set aside the distractions, irritations and boredom and just acknowledge God's presence. Jesus knows how we feel, his is tuned into us just as he was to his disciples. He sometimes sought solitude and knew what that was like. Solitude can be a healing process but enforced solitude can be a challenge. In Mark Chapter 6 verse 31 Jesus noticed how tired out his disciples were. They hadn't even had time to eat and he issues a personal, private invitation, "Let us go off by ourselves to some place where we will be alone and you can rest for a while." The invitation stands for us today. Wherever we are he knows our needs and responds.

P.S.

Talking of hot and tired walkers I must say sorry to Sian and Meurig who called and had no answer, no cool drink, no welcome at all. My only excuse is I'd been gardening, had a shower and dozed off. I should have read Proverbs 6, verse 6 "Lazy people should learn a lesson from the way ants live, How long is the lazy man going to lie in bed ? When is he ever to get up?" Sorry both, call again. I'll be awake and have baked a cake!

Dod i adnabod ein Pobol Ifainc

Fy enw i yw Erin ac rwyf yn gyn-ddisgybl yn yr Ysgol Sul yn Babel ac hefyd yn wyres i Vi Williams. Cefais fy addysg yn Ysgol y Dderwen ac yna ymlaen i Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Myrddin. Rwyf yn ffodus iawn i fod yn 'identical twin' i Ffion (23 oed) ac mae hefyd gennyf chwaer yn hŷn o'r enw Lleucu (26 oed). Mae Ffion yn dilyn gyrfa yn y Gyfraith a Lleucu yn dilyn gyrfa fel Cyfrifydd.

Ar ôl gorffen ym Mro Myrddin, fe es i ymlaen i astudio BSc Seicoleg ym Mhrifysgol Dinas Caerdydd. Wnes i ddewis astudio'r cwrs gan fod gennyf ddi-ddordeb mawr yn siwd mae'r ymennydd yn gweithio ac yn dylanwadu ar ein penderfyniadau o ddydd i ddydd. Ar ôl tair blynedd o astudio seicoleg fe wnes i raddio efo gradd 2:1 ac yna es ymlaen i astudio Seicoleg ar lefel Meistr. Roeddwn fod graddio ym mis Gorffennaf 2020 efo gradd teilyngdod, ond oherwydd Covid-19 mae'r seremoni graddio wedi ei ohirio tan 2021. Fel rhan o astudio fy lefel meistr, ges i'r cyfle i fynd allan i Affrica i ddysgu plant ac i hysbysu am iechyd meddwl. Fe wnes i



fyw yn Zambia am 6 wythnos a mynd ar safari ym Motswana ac i Zimbabwe i weld y Victoria Falls. Ar ôl dychwelyd o Affrica, fe wnes i ddewis arbenigo mewn seicoleg plant. Rwyf yn dechrau cwrs dysgu yng Ngholeg y Drindod Dewi Sant ym mis Medi er mwyn gallu cymhwys i fod yn Seicolegydd Addysg plant a gweithio o fewn ysgolion cynradd ac uwchradd ledled Sir Gar yn arbenigo yn iechyd meddwl.

Dros y penwythnosau rwyf wedi bod yn gweithio yn Trysor [Jewellers] yng Nghaerfyrddin ac wedi mwynhau pob munud. Rwyf yn edrych ymlaen at gwblhau fy addysg uwch a chael swydd llawn amser yn seiliedig a gwella iechyd meddwl plant.

Diolch Erin am rannu dy hanes gyda ni. Rwy'n siwr hoffem glywed am y daith i Zambia rywbryd yn y dyfodol. Mae mor dda gweld ein pobol ifanc yn dod nol i'r ardal ac yn dod o hyd i waith yn eu bro enedigol. Pob dymuniad da i ti.

Erin is a past member of the Sunday School together with her twin sister Ffion and older sister Lleucu. She went from Ysgol Bro Myrddin to Cardiff University to study Psychology and has just graduated with an M.Sc. Part of her degree course involved a 6 week stay in Zambia, teaching children and drawing attention to mental health issues. Erin is working towards qualifying as a Child Psychologist and hopes to work in Primary and Secondary Schools in Carmarthenshire specializing in Mental Health. She will be starting her Teacher training course at Carmarthen in September and we wish her well.



Carole writes: A letter from the Treasurer

Dear Friends

I hope you are all keeping well during these uncertain times. Can you believe it has been 5 months since we last met at Babell, although for some of us, we have been able to see each other and have a catch-up, albeit virtually, during our Zoom services. Sadly, the financial implications of this pandemic are beginning to hit hard on many organisations, ours included. As a Church, we have had no income throughout this pandemic but we still have financial commitments that have to be addressed – our monthly contribution of £127.50 towards the manse expenditure and our quarterly contribution to Presbytery of £1,440 being our main expenses. There will also be the electricity bill but as we haven't been in Babell, this should be minimal. Due to not having our weekly contributions, we are currently in a position where we will not be able to fulfil our next quarterly payment to Presby in full, which is due in October. This is a task no Treasurer likes or wants to have to do, but I am appealing to you if you could possibly set up a Direct Debit or Bank Transfer to replace your envelope weekly contributions to ensure we do not accrue any debt during this time.

The chapel bank details are:

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Account Name | Babell Zion Newydd |
| Sort code | 40 16 23 |
| Account | 81692011 |
| and it's with HSBC Bank. | |

Many thanks for your support during these times and hopefully will see you all soon. Take care and stay safe.

Carole

The Sunday Club Corner / Cornel yr Ysgol Sul

The last session for the Sunday Club was held on July 19th and the story we had in the usual video form was the Parable of the Great Banquet.

The challenge to the children this time was to make an invitation to an amazing feast or to join the family of God and once again Ellie Grace rose to the challenge. We wish all our youngsters a happy holiday, to keep safe at all times and to come back refreshed for the new term which will start on September 6th via video link on whatsapp.

Teddy Bear's Picnic: August 23rd at Carmarthen Park. Meet at the bandstand at 3pm with picnic and Teddy. Weather permitting.



Cerddwyr Cynnwr/Walkers



Well, after 5 months of lockdown and restrictions becoming a little eased Gareth and Dawn Jones arranged a gentle five miler for us on Saturday August 8th to get us accustomed again to hills and dales. On a beautiful summer's afternoon, in a Parish which I thought I knew very well, I was introduced to walkways which I never knew existed for public access. It amounted to almost 12,000 steps starting from Llangunnor school, up fields to Llangunnor Church, from there past Nant Farm to Green Hill,

down to Login, across fields to the Llangunnor's Reservoir –water treatment works, down to Bolahaul Road and then back to the school. The above photo was taken at the grave of the well known hymnist and preacher David Charles whose hymns include the very well known 'Rhagluniaeth Fawr y Nef', 'O Iesu Mawr, rho d'anian bur' and 'O Fryniau Caersalem ceir gweled.' David Charles preached at Heol Dŵr and owned a Rope Factory in Priory Street. Tradition has it that he was walking back from Heol Dŵr one Sunday night when he saw the factory on fire in the distance and that is how he came to write: "Rhagluniaeth fawr y nef," expressing his complete trust in divine providence.



We ended the day with a picnic to crown our very first meeting. We can only look forward to more of the same. Thank you Dawn and Gareth for the organizing. As you can see opposite, two of our flock had brought their friends with them for the picnic. Did we say it was a Teddy Bear's Picnic?

It was good that Sian, a keen walker as you know, was able to join us for the picnic together with Carole, Doreen and Ann at the end of the walk. Diwrnod bendigedig.





Anne Evans writes

Leisure by WH Davies

What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.
No time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep or cows.
No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.
No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night.
No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance.
No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began.
A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.



On a sunny morning in July, I was sitting on the decking having my breakfast and ingesting my daily dose of much needed vitamin D from the sun, while gazing reflectively at the fields and hills beyond, happy in the knowledge that there was nothing demanding my immediate attention, and for the umpteenth time appreciating the opportunity to avoid rushing off to a school or a meeting, (much as I enjoy doing those things), a couplet that I had heard many years ago came to mind: "What is this life if, full of care, We have no time to stand and stare?"

I was unable to recall the whole poem, but remembered that the poet was a Welshman named William Henry Davies. I knew very little about him, but I did know that he was a poet, a writer and a tramp! The fact that he was a tramp intrigued me and I therefore decided to do some research. William Henry Davies was born on the 3rd July 1871 at 6 Portland Street, Pillgwenlly, Newport, Monmouthshire, a busy port. He was the son of Mary Ann and Francis Boase Davies, iron-moulder. His father died when he was three years old and his mother remarried the following year fobbing her three children off on their paternal grandparents. His grandfather, Francis was a sea captain and his grandmother Lydia, an austere and religious woman.

At thirteen years old, William Henry was arrested, along with four schoolmates, charged with stealing handbags. As punishment, he was given twelve strokes of the birch. At the age of fourteen, he was forced to sit with his dying grandfather, and in the same year he wrote his first poem entitled "Death". As a result of the handbag theft, he left school under a cloud and worked for an ironmonger.

In 1886, he began a five year apprenticeship to a local picture-frame maker, but never settled and was a difficult and somewhat delinquent young man. Eventually, he left Newport, took casual work and began to travel.

Between 1893 and 1899, he crossed the Atlantic at least seven times, working on cattle ships. He sometimes begged, sometimes took seasonal work but often ended up spending any savings on a drinking spree with a fellow traveller.

During these years, he spent the winters in 'Boodle Jails'. These were jails in the United States, in which tramps could make an illicit arrangement with a law enforcement officer, to stay in this jail without being an actual prisoner. He, with his fellow tramps, would enjoy the winters in relative comfort, card-playing, singing, smoking, reading, relating experiences and occasionally taking exercise or going out for walks. At one stage, he lay alone in a swamp for three days suffering from malaria.

A turning point in his life came when he read a newspaper article about the riches to be made in the Klondike, north-western Canada. He immediately set off to make his fortune prospecting for gold. At Renfrew, Ontario on 20th March 1899, with fellow tramp '3-fingered Jack', William Henry attempted to jump a freight train, but he lost his footing and his right foot was crushed under the wheels of the train. The leg had to be amputated below the knee and thereafter he wore a wooden leg.

He returned to Britain, living a rough life in London shelters and doss houses. He composed his poems in these places, and tried to sell them door-to-door. This enterprise failed, but in 1905, he used his own savings to publish his first book of poetry "The Soul's Destroyer". His success and reputation grew and by 1911, he was an established poet and author, with eight books to his credit.

In 1923, he married Helen Matilda Payne, and in 1929, for his services to literature, he was awarded the honorary degree of D. Litt. by the University of Wales. His last public appearance was in September 1938, when he unveiled a plaque in his honour at the Church House Inn in Newport.

When he died on 26th September 1940 at Nailsworth, Gloucestershire, he was the author of about fifty books. His prose is chiefly autobiographical, written in a simple natural style similar to Defoe's manner. His main themes in poetry are nature, love and begging.

What an interesting man! His varied and enthralling experiences gave him unique opportunities to express himself in prose and poetry. There is much more to him than what I have recorded in this humble biography; look him up; you will be astonished! The next books for me will be "Autobiography of a Super-tramp" and "The Complete Poems of W. H. Davies" in which "Leisure" is the most notable work.

In this poem, Davies points us to the richness of life in nature. We need to change our indifferent attitude to nature and turn our backs on material pursuits. The use of a rhetorical question to introduce the poem is effective in that it encourages us to ponder and reflect. Animals are mentioned - even they stand and stare; we read of the wonders of the night sky, and beauty - personified as a dancing girl. Finally the poet tells us that our lives are poor if we don't spend some time reflecting on the wonders of nature and appreciating them. I think that we can all identify with the poem, especially in light of the present situation in which we find ourselves. I just wonder whether this dark period in our lives is changing our attitudes for the better. Has it given us time "to stand and stare"? We can only hope.

Diolch yn fawr Ann am ymateb i'r cais am gyfraniad i'n Cylchlythyr. Rydym yn gwerthfawrogi'n fawr.

A prayer for the young people

Let us pray

O Lord, bless all children wherever they may be, keep them safe and in your tender care. You said Lord, “ Let the children come unto me and do not stand in their way.” Let us be mindful that we have a duty to children everywhere, to teach them in your ways, to respect them and to encourage them to respect others, to lay up treasures in heaven, those treasures being wisdom and knowledge of God.

Let us remember all young people facing exam results, educational and career choices and the return to school during the next few weeks. Be with them all and their teachers, parents and guardians everywhere, O Lord.

Cofiw'n am blant a phobl ifanc ymhobman a gofynnwn i ti daenu dy adain drostynt, O Dduw, wrth iddynt wynebu canlyniadau arholiadau, dewisiadau addysg a gyrfa a dychwelyd yn ôl i'r ddesg gyda'u hathrawon yn ystod y misoedd gofidus nesaf. Gofynnwn hyn yn enw dy fab Iesu Grist, Amen.

NAME THE CREATURES

These creatures are described in the Book of Job..... What are they?

1. It builds its nest high in the mountains. It makes its home on the highest rocks and makes the sharp peaks its fortress. From there it watches near and far for something to kill and eat.

----- Job 39: 27

2. They keep far away from the noisy cities and no-one can tame them and make them work. The mountains are the pastures where they feed, where they search for anything green to eat.

----- Job 39:5

3. He eats grass like a cow but what strength there is in his body and what power there is in his muscles! He lies down under the thorn bushes and hides among the reeds in the swamp. He is not afraid of a rushing river; he is calm when the Jordan dashes in his face.

----- Job 40: 15

4. She leaves her eggs on the ground for the heat in the soil to warm them. She is unaware that a foot may crush them or a wild animal break them. She acts as if the eggs were not hers.

----- Job 39:14

5. They leap like locusts and frighten men with their snorting. They eagerly paw the ground; they are very strong and have flowing manes.

----- Job 39:19

What is a Leviathan: Job 41

HOUSEHOLD HINTS

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FROM LEVITICUS - TO HELP YOU KEEP HEALTHY!



HOW TO TREAT IT: LEVITICUS 14:33-42



HOW TO DO THIS: LEVITICUS 14:49-53
WHAT YOU WILL NEED:



THE PRIEST WILL FIX A PRICE, BASED ON ITS GOOD AND BAD POINTS. IF YOU WANT TO BUY IT BACK, YOU MUST PAY: (LEVITICUS 27:14-15)



DON'T LET THAT MILDEW SPREAD!
HERE'S HOW: LEVITICUS 13:47-59
