

Ebrill/April 2025

Cylchlythyr/Newsletter

Rhif/Issue 74

BABELL ZION NEWYDD

Pedwar deg diwrnod Y Grawys
yn arwain at Sul y Blodau
a'r Wythnos Fawr



The Forty Days of Lent
leading upto Palm Sunday, Holy
Week and Easter Sunday

D.M.B.W. 1997

Sunday Services/Gwasanaethau ar y Sul

Mr David Davies	10am	6/4/2025
Minister Communion Family Palm Sunday Service	10am	13/4/2025
Easter Sunday Mrs Pat Morgan	10am	20/4/2025
Service arranged by Mrs Carole Rees	10am	27/4/2025
Mr Hugh Waddell	2pm	4/5/2025
Minister Communion	10am	11/5/2025
Christian Aid Service at St Peter's Church	5 pm	

Flowers/ Blodau		Cleaning/Glanhau	Announcing and Communion Cyhoeddi a Pharatoi'r Cymun
Janet Davies	April/Ebrill	Lynn and Janet	Helen Gibbon
Nesta Wyn Davies	May/Mai	Rosemary and Nelda	Carole Rees
Sian Cassell	June/Mehefin	Owen and Kim	Meurig Rees

Dates for the Diary. Dyddiadau i'r dyddiadur

Singalongs at 2pm

First Tuesday of every month at the chapel

Third Tuesday of every month as follows

15th of April at Plas y Dderwen

20th of May at Towy Castle

Lenten Bible studies 1pm until and including the 7th of April

[Advanced dates!] 29/11/2025 Christmas Fayre

14/12/2025 Community Candlelight Carol Service time to be confirmed

Friendship Centre Rota

3.4.25	Tina and Kevin
10.4.25	Helen and Sian
17.4.25	Maisie and Rosemary
24.4.25	Centre Closed
1.5.25	Pat and Carole

Cwrdd Dosbarth/ District meeting at Babel Zion Newydd

28th of April at 7pm

Cwrdd Blaenoriaid/ Elders' meeting

Next Elders' Meeting will be held on Tuesday May 6th at 11am

Golygydd y mis hwn: Mrs Helen Gibbon. Please forward any news/articles to Mrs Carole Rees at carolerees@gmail.com for next month's issue.

The Congregation at Babell Zion Newydd

Best wishes to all who have been unwell over the past few weeks. We miss you at the services and at the Friendship Centre on a Thursday and pray that you will be comforted and fully restored.

Dymuniadau gorau i bawb sydd wedi bod yn dioddef o anhwylderau yn ddiweddar. Ryn ni'n gweld eich heisiau yn ein hoedfaon ac yn y Ganolfan ar ddydd Iau. Gweddiwn y cewch eich cysuro a chael llwyr wellhad.

Lenten Bible Study/Astudiaeth Beiblaidd y Grawys

Bible study is now held every Monday at 1pm and led by Pat. The last four chapters of John have been under discussion and sessions have been most interesting. Pat leads us through the thoroughly researched text making the verses come to life with anecdotes here and there so that we can have a better understanding of their meaning and the times in which they were written. Diolch yn fawr iawn.

Noson Cwis a Chawl / QUIZ and CAWL 5th of March to celebrate St. David's Day

Daeth 12 tîm o 4 at ei gilydd i ddathlu Gŵyl Ddewi ac i gymdeithasu dros fowlen o gawl, bara a chaws ond yn bennaf i ymgiprys am y wobr fawr o Wŷ Pasg wedi 18 rownd o gwestiynau amrywiol a diddorol iawn eu natur. Diolch i John Green unwaith eto am baratoi gwledd o noson a diolch i wragedd y Babell Zion Newydd o dan arweiniad Carole am wledd o gawl a sicrhaodd bod digon ar ôl ar gyfer y Ganolfan Iau wythnosol. Y "No Hoppers" enillodd tîm o Eglwys Llangynnwr gyda 158 o farciau allan o 180, [un marc oedd rhyngddyn nhw â'r ail le] ac roedd John yn hapus iawn gyda'r canlyniadau. Dyma'r hyn oedd ganddo i'w ddweud. [With John's permission]



"Many thanks for your very warm welcome at Babell last Wednesday - what a lovely group of people you had there, and I felt amongst friends as soon as I walked in. The cawl was delicious again! I achieved my main aim, in that 7 out of the 12 teams scored 80%+ (145/180) - nothing worse than not knowing any answers in a quiz! 66 for the state pension age was correct - it's possible that the person who objected will have a state pension age of 67 when the time comes, in a couple of years, but not this year. Emyr thought Aled Jones was incorrect. This question was taken from "The Quiz Guide to Wales". It didn't ask who sang the theme tune in the film, but who sang it - Aled recorded it in 1985, aged 15. However, I'm not becoming complacent, as I have made mistakes in other quizzes! Thank you so much for the money which Meurig gave me. I'll be doing my annual charity quiz soon, which this year is for a newish charity that Emlyn Schiavone made me aware of, CCAMA, which supports local families affected by autism. Your £50 takes the pot up to £105, and I haven't done all the questions yet! I'll let Emlyn know that this generous donation has come from your Chapel."



World Day of Prayer



The service this year was held at Babell Zion Newydd. Kia Orana! That is the Maori greeting meaning 'May you live long and well' which the people of the Cook Islands use to greet each other. The service of prayer this year had been arranged by our counterparts in the Cook Islands. This group of 15 islands in the South Pacific has a rich and colourful Maori heritage and a deep connection with nature.



The theme was taken from Psalm 139 verse 14: "You have been wonderfully made." Through the stories of three women we learnt three things: that "God knows us", that "God is with us" and that God has made us wonderful." Realising that God knows us gives us peace in our hearts. Knowing that he is with us gives us confidence to face the challenges of life and by knowing that we are unique and special, made wonderfully by God, we can use our gifts and talents to serve each other and bless the world.



Sian and Helen took part in the morning Service and Pat in the afternoon service. Carole was the organist at both services. It was stipulated in the preparatory notes that the following symbols could be gathered: flowers to denote love, friendship and respect; shells and water for the ocean which is a symbol of life; coconut fruit – the tree of life in the Cook islands because every part of the tree is useful for food, drink, medicine.

And a canoe, the symbol of travel for Cook Islanders. Now, we thought getting a canoe was impossible until Carole offered to ask for the services of her sister-in-law, Julia, a canoeist and instructor. Our thanks to Allan and Julia for making the effort to bring, not one, but two canoes, which together with the music, the shells, the flowers and fruit, brought us a little nearer to the Cook Islanders' way of life.

Reminder: Re Food bank

Donated items will be taken to the Trussell Food Bank at Xcel Johnstown within the next two weeks. Please check with Lynn and Janet.



Esme Writes. A Brief History of the Penny and the link with Maundy Thursday

The penny measures 32mm across and is 2mm thick. It was last minted in 1901 and was withdrawn from circulation in 1971 when decimalization took place. It was replaced by the smaller 'one new pence' which remains legal currency although the word 'new' was dropped in the 1980's. Before decimalization there were 12 pennies to a shilling and 240 pennies to the pound. The penny was also known as **1d** rather than a **1p** as it became known after decimalization. The **d** was derived from the Latin word denarius which was a Roman silver coin.



Silver pennies were first minted c 785 AD and are minted today although only as Maundy Money. How many pennies have been minted over their 1,223 year history I would like to know. There are still silver pennies around today together with the large copper pennies from the reigns of Queen Victoria through to the reign of Elizabeth II. Unfortunately the penny tended to wear out purses and some saw it as a wretched curse. But grand it was in every way and it serves only to draw on the "good old memories of days long ago."

Diolch Esme am ein hatgoffa am Ddydd Iau Cablyd sydd yn rhan annatod o'r Wythnos Sanctaidd – y noson gafodd Iesu y Swper Olaf gyda'i ddisgyblion wrth ddathlu Gŵyl y Pasg neu'r Pesach.

The word 'Maundy' comes from the Latin word, Mandatum which means command. At the Last Supper Jesus commanded that people should love one another and he washed the feet of his disciples to illustrate this symbol of kindness.

Today this custom lives on in the Catholic Church as the Pope will wash and kiss the feet of 12 members of his congregation. In the UK it is the custom for the Monarch to give out special Maundy Monies to members of the public. The number of people who receive these monies depends on the age of the King or Queen.

A letter from Rev Mike Shephard

Dear Friends

I wanted you to know that I have spent the autumn and winter months in compiling some forty or more musings with a spiritual content which will shortly be self-published in a book to be called 'THE JIGSAW OF LIFE.'

It is likely that the book will cost £25 but printing costs, these days, are high.

The book is intended as an aid to personal thought and reflection but will also be useful, I feel, in group discussion. The content could aid preachers looking for 'hooks' upon which to 'hang' sermons. I am aware that past themes have appeared in church newsletters and that is a source of encouragement when that happens.

I have always used any profits from sales – over and above printing and related costs – for charitable purposes. I have it in mind on this occasion to give such monies to a cancer charity with my purpose, in this instance, being to raise funds for **Macmillan Cancer Support** and to add my efforts to those of Babell Zion Newydd's Autumn appeal.

If you feel able to order a copy of the book, could you please do so via my email address. If you could help me publicise the book by forwarding this email to others I would appreciate it. I can also be contacted on 01267 234759.

I am happy to send examples of these musings upon request and, meanwhile attach one of these for your information.

Thank you so much for your help. It is greatly appreciated.

Mike Shephard (Revd)

For the Diary: Special Easter Services

Ebrill 9fed yn y Babell Zion Newydd Cwrdd Pasg Chwirydd yr Henaduriaeth
Anerchiad gan y Parchg Sian Elin Thomas

April 17th: Maundy Thursday Supper at Llanarthney Hall with a Communion Service to follow to start at 6.30. Emyr must have names by the 14th. Transport can be arranged. Contact Helen

Good Friday: United Town Service at Babell Zion Newydd at 10 am. with Revd Mike Shephard.

Gwener y Grogolith: Oedfa'r Ofalaeth yn Capel Hendre 2:30yp: Pastorate Service

Easter Morning at 10: Service at BZN with Pat

Easter Afternoon at 2.30: Service of the Cross through the village of Llanddarog followed by Communion in the Chapel.

How well do we know the Easter Story: Have a go at these questions. There is a prize for the first to supply the correct answers.

1. How did Jesus enter Jerusalem on the Sunday before his death?
2. Whom did he expel from the Temple?
3. Whom did he commend at the treasury?
4. Where did Jesus hold his Last Supper?
5. Why did Jesus and his disciples celebrate the Pesach?
6. Where did Jesus go to pray after the Supper?
7. For how much did Judas betray Jesus?
8. Who was set free when Jesus was condemned?
9. Who carried Jesus' cross?
10. What did Jesus pray for his crucifiers?
11. What did Jesus decline to receive on the cross?
12. What were his last words from the cross?
13. What was written over Jesus' cross?
14. Who went and asked for the body of Jesus?
15. Where was Jesus buried?

A prayer for Easter/Gweddi ar gyfer y Pasg

Arglwydd Gobaith, yn y dyddiau
anodd hyn pan mae pwerau'r Drwg yn
trechu'r Da, a'r cryf yn bychanu'r
gwan, helpa ni i gofio mai Ti sy'n
llywodraethu ac nid neb arall. Ti
wnaeth y byd, ti sydd yn ei gynnal a
gyda Ti y mae'r gair olaf. 'Canys
eiddot ti yw'r deyrnas, a'r nerth a'r
gogoniant yn oes oesoedd, Amen'.

Lord of Hope, in these difficult times
when the powers of Good are
overcome by the powers of Evil and
the weak are scorned by the strong,
help us to remember that it is you who
created the world, that it is you who
sustains it and that the last word will be
with you. "For Thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory, for ever and
ever, Amen."

Isaac Watts 1674-1748

Known as the ‘Father of English hymnody’ it was almost by accident that Isaac Watts began hymn writing. He complained to his father of the lines in poor verse which were all they had to sing. His father suggested that if he was so dissatisfied then he should try to compose something better. The following Sunday he presented the congregation with the hymn “Behold the Glories of the Lamb.” The year was 1690 and he went on to compose over 200 hymns of which the hymn ‘When I Survey the Wondrous Cross’ has been recognised as the greatest in the English language.

Dr. Watts was known for his humility and generosity. He was a learned man and enjoyed true Christian friendship and fellowship with Christians of other denominations. This hymn is especially poignant for Easter, putting

Wrth edrych, Iesu, ar dy groes,
A meddwl dyfnder d’angau loes,
Pryd hyn rwyf yn dibrisio’r byd,
A’r holl ogoniant sy ynddo i gyd.

N’ad im ymddiried tra fwyf byw
Ond yn dy angau Di, fy Nuw;
Dy boenau Di a’th farwol glwy’
Gaiff fod yn ymfrost imi mwy.

Poen a llawenydd tan y loes,
Tristwch a chariad ar y groes;
Ble bu rhinweddau fath â’r rhain
Erioed o’r blaen tan goron ddrain?

Myfi aberthaf i dy glod
Bob eilun sydd o dan y rhod;
Ac wrth fyfyrion ar dy waed,
Fe gwmp pob delw tan fy nhraed.

the Cross at the heart of the hymn with the emphasis that nothing of ourselves can bring salvation.

When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them through his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e’er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Fe wnaeth Williams Williams
Pantycelyn hefyd efelychu’r emyn hwn
gydag un gwahaniaeth. Mae e’n cyfarch
Crist yn uniongyrchol. He addresses
Jesus directly from the start.

Mae’r emyn yn seiliedig ar yr adnod
hwn o lythyr Paul at y Galatiaid pennod
6:14
“Does ond un peth i frolio amdano:
croes ein Harglwydd Iesu Grist ydy
hwnnw. Mae’r groes yn golygu fod y
byd a’i bethau yn hollol farw i mi, a dw
innau’n farw i’r byd a’i bethau.”

The hymn is based on this verse from
Paul’s letter to the Galatians 6:14
“But far be it for me to boast except in
the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ by
which the world has been crucified to
me and I to the world”.

Chwilair i’r plant

A	T	G	Y	F	O	D	I	A	D
B	O	P	I	V	G	D	E	T	Y
U	R	Y	A	C	O	E	S	S	U
X	N	T	S	R	F	I	U	Z	O
V	G	O	L	G	O	T	H	A	P
J	L	V	B	N	M	L	B	X	E
P	A	S	G	W	U	J	U	C	D
A	W	T	R	E	I	H	I	B	R
I	S	P	E	I	L	A	T	A	P
O	D	Y	S	F	N	G	O	W	I
A	C	I	A	G	L	F	R	Q	E
N	V	D	E	S	M	J	E	W	G
H	A	L	W	T	N	M	A	I	R

ATGYFODIAD
OGOF
MAIR
IESU
IOAN
PEDR
ANGEL
PEILAT
GOLGOTHA
PASG

NEGES BWYSIG / AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE



We intend to send the contents of the recycling box away at the end of April. If you have any of the following items “cluttering” your home, please leave them in the box in the vestry **before April 30th** and help us to raise money for the chapel.

- Items wanted:
- Old mobile phones, ipads, tablets or kindles (chargers etc are not essential)
 - Cameras, sat navs or video cameras
 - Jewellery, including watches (even if they are broken!)
 - Stamps and coins

Diolch Tina a Nan am drefnu hyn i gyd.