

Awst RHIFYN 47 2022

August ISSUE 47

Babell Zion Newydd

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Psalm/Salm 23:1

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Newyddion yr aelodau Genedigaeth

Llonyfarchiadau mawr i Catrin a Corey ar enedigaeth Lleu Meirion Knox Hampton. Brawd bach i Peris sydd wrth ei fodd. Bendith y nef arnoch. We look forward to seeing the little family soon as they will not be moving to Mold until at least the end of September. Warmest congratulations.



Gwellhad Buan

Dymuniadau gorau am wellhad buan i Alun Evans sydd yn yr ysbty ar hyn o bryd. Hefyd i Meurig sydd yn derbyn triniaeth yn rheolaidd. Cofiw amdanoch yn ein gweddiau.

Gŵyl Hirddydd Haf

On a lovely Summer's afternoon on the 3rd of July a service was held in the park for the chapels of our District. Although we are now members of the Gwendraeth Pastorate we at Babell Zion Newydd continue to meet with the Myrddin District group of chapels [Dosbarth Myrddin] with whom we have enjoyed many a service and a few excursions over the years. The members are getting fewer but a good representation was had with members of Tŷ Hen, Trinity St Clears, Cwmdwyfran, Moriah Llansteffan, Bancyfelin and Babell Zion Newydd taking part. The service was arranged by Helen with Revds Beti Wyn and Emrys Williams presiding. The Sunday school children did really well with their rendering of the song 'Nid yw neb yn neb' with Liz and Catrin at the helm.

Yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol

Bu'n Steddfod llwyddiannus iawn yn Nhregaron eleni ar ôl yr hir aros ers 2019. All the preparations had been begun for 2020 with many areas having met their financial targets well in advance and then came COVID 19. It was postponed yet again in 2021. However this year it was back and the people of Cardiganshire worked hard to make it a memorable one and so did the competitors with the standard of the choral competitions being exceptionally high. Cafodd Gorsedd y Beirdd aelod newydd eleni yn Hannah Nicholas, cyn aelod o'r Ysgol Sul yn y Babell. Braf iawn oedd bod yno ar y dydd Llun i'w gweld yn cael ei derbyn ac hefyd ar y dydd Gwener pan dderbyniwyd ein Prif Weinidog Mark Drakeford i'r Wisg Las.



The Big Lunch

Lee Whatley will be holding "The Big Lunch" on Saturday August 20th at Babell Zion Newydd from 12-3pm. All welcome.



This will be the last article of Mike's for the Welsh Ambulance service newsletter. We thank you Mike for sharing your thoughts with us, making us think, making us feel uncomfortable at times and spurring us on to further discussion.

TAKING LEAVE

I will be taking leave of the Welsh Ambulance Service on 31st August and hope to return to my retirement. I know that age is 'only a number' and that we are as young as we feel. Even so, it cannot be that long before I travel on to the next stage of my journey. I have made a habit, over the years, of speaking about 'time' to primary school assemblies. Armed with a large clock, I ask the children to imagine life as being one hour and, moving the hands appropriately, invite them to tell me where, on the dial, they see themselves. They are usually spot on when they ask me to turn the hands to five past the hour. They are but babes with a lifetime ahead of them. I then ask them to look at my balding scalp, the greying hair and wrinkles, and to determine where the hands are now. I recall one bright spark shouting out: "It is ten minutes to the hour, and you have not got much time left." He was quite right of course. Time is short and there are things on my 'bucket list' that I want to do before taking leave of this world.

As one looks back rather than forwards, I do so with gratitude for every person who has contributed to the richness of the life I have lived. Each one will have played a part in my development and will have equipped me for the challenges that lie ahead, be it in this world or that which is to come. My three years of voluntary work with the Welsh Ambulance Service has taught me much and one is so appreciative of the lessons learned.

Think, for instance, of the inclusive attitude of the organisation. We are, in a very real sense, a broad church and are welcoming of everyone – be it with reference to background, race, sexuality or gender. I have found myself wishing, more than once during the last three years, that the Christian Church was as inclusive as are ambulance service personnel. I write religious verse. The poem that follows invites us to identify what the people mentioned in it have in common.

People, Homosexual,
Who wear the label Gay;
Doubters,
Disbelievers,
Those who never pray;
Divorcees,
Single mothers,
Couples who cohabit;
Smokers,
Alcoholics,
People with drug habits;
Offenders,

Sent to prison,
For so many crimes,
And now released on license,
Having done their time;
People with black faces,
Those from ethnic races,
Or with bodies pierced,
In the strangest places;
Those who don't dress nicely,
Or who lack the means to pay;
ALL HAVE ONE THING IN COMMON.
THEY WERE NOT IN CHURCH TODAY.

Things are changing. But far too slowly. It would do every cleric the power of good if they were to spend time with the staff of the Welsh Ambulance Service. I have learned much from your inclusivity.

I have learned much, too, from your devotion to duty and willingness to face danger in pursuit of your calling. This was especially so during the pandemic, and one is only too aware that it cost some colleagues their lives. We remember families and friends left behind, but appreciate that words, no matter how sincerely meant, can do little to heal a grieving heart. In speaking in this vein, I recall, ruefully, that many caring institutions, including some churches, hid away behind locked gates and 'played safe' rather than take any kind of risk – a truth that causes me a degree of shame.

I close by mentioning one other attribute of colleagues that I will long remember – your preparedness to welcome the concept of chaplaincy generally and, more specifically, your support of me as the very first chaplain of WAST. I am especially grateful to those who have encouraged me in writing these weekly articles. Your comments have made the task so worthwhile.

We are now on the point of accrediting some fifteen chaplains. I think they will serve you well. It is they, though, who will gain most from that involvement – as I have. My warmest regards to you all.

Mike Shephard

If you would like to purchase a copy of Mike's new book at £14 please make sure you order it in good time by emailing Mike at Mike.Shephard49@gmail.com



Cyflwyno Beiblau / Presentation of Bibles

Rev Emry Williams, Sian Cassell and Helen Gibbon with Llangunnor School's Year 4 and 5 following a short assembly and presentation of Welsh and English Bibles, donated by the Sunday School and Bible Explorer.



ESME PHILLIPS WRITES

I enjoy reading novels with a local twist to them and that are based on recognisable, if disguised, situations and people.

One such book was written by the author, Joyce Delaney and bears the intriguing title, 'No Starch in my Coat.' It is autobiographical in that it tells the story of how, as a younger Irish woman, she went against the advice of family and friends and succeeded, despite the odds, in qualifying as a doctor, general practitioner, ships medical officer and psychiatrist – all this before being employed, for a time, at St. David's Hospital, Carmarthen where she worked for some six months – this being in the 1950s.

Her story fascinated me in that, somewhat later, I would work there as a nurse. In the interests of confidentiality, the author changed its name to St Hughes and, in the same way, gave different names to staff members. If I recognised the individuals concerned it was due to the author's easy, lucid, literary style and every one of us, if we are honest, will admit to characteristics identifiable to others if not to ourselves. If I disagree with the writer, it is that she tends to highlight a person's more unpleasant facets and rushes to value judgements based on what was, when all is said and done, a very short stay in our town. Her tone, in my opinion, is sometimes patronizing and comes across, at times, as unkind.

As I read the book, I found myself wondering if we all rush to conclusions about people which are overly hasty and that would be more moderate were we to have taken the opportunity of getting to know them better. Perhaps Jesus' words to the effect of 'Judge not lest you be judged' is advice that we all need to follow.

Even so, 'No Starch in my Coat' was a gripping read and I commend it to others. These days one would be able to obtain it via the internet or through a good second-hand-book shop. If the book reminds us to be kinder in our appraisal of others, it will have served its purpose well.

ESME PHILLIPS

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Flowers/ Blodau		Cleaning/ Glanhau	Announcing and Communion Cyhoeddi a Pharatoi'r Cymun
Pat Morgan	Medi/September	Janet and Lynn	Lynn Davies
Maisie Johnson	Hydref/October	Rosemary and Helen	Carole Rees
Nelda Davies	Tachwedd/November	Owen and Kim	Molly Thomas
Nan Thomas	Rhagfyr/December	Carole/Meurig/ Sian	Helen Gibbon

Cerddwyr Cynnwr

On Saturday June 25th Gareth and Dawn Jones led a walk from Bracelet Bay to Langland in the Mumbles. The weather forecast was not good and they had both considered cancelling but Saturday morning came bright and ideal for walking so off we went.

This is Gareth's story:

"We arrived at Mumbles without incident and parked in the main car park at Bracelet Bay near the coastguard station. The sea was a little choppy due to the wind but the weather was good for walking. After a coffee we started the walk proper by climbing Mumbles Hill up to the war time gun emplacements – a slow but steady climb which all completed comfortably. I explained the purpose of the guns that were there for the protection of Swansea with its port and export and import of vital war effort materials. It was clarified that there were emplacements all around the semi circular bay. However it did not prevent the area being badly damaged by the Luftwaffe. Fires could be seen from high ground even as far away as Carmarthen.



The sky by this time was very dark and we saw flashes of lightning and heard the



rumble of thunder. Dawn and I were already wearing leggings and hooded rain jackets, so were prepared for what came next which was of course a good shower. Several of the group were not quite as equipped but luckily the shower only lasted a few minutes and was not that heavy. The ground was now level as we headed for the lookout point where the surrounding countryside and the city could be clearly seen. Each of the slabs of thick concrete showed the location of a Gun with the occasional red brick ruinous remains of buildings that had long since

disappeared into the vegetation that was growing wild. We discussed the hardship seen during the war period and were all grateful that we had missed that time. (Although some half of us were born during the war years 1939-1945).

Time to leave Mumbles mountain and travel down Thistleboon Drive and join the road that leads back to Bracelet Bay. On our way we came across the house where the gifted musician Morfydd Llwyn Owen had died."

At this point Gareth gave a resume of the life of Morfydd Llwyn Owen which will be included in next month's newsletter. Gareth continues:

"As we continued our walk we passed the homes of Catherine Zeta Jones and her husband Michael Douglas and her parents. Having no hope of a cup of tea there we leave and head for the cricket ground nearby where we can sit in the sun, have our packed lunch and watch the local team play. After a restful half an hour we set off again heading for Langland. We started climbing to the top of the rise from where

there is a great view of the coast. And then we had everything thrown at us: heavy rain, hailstones, thunder and a strong wind across the cliff top landward. We took a hedge for shelter and then braved the storm and continued towards our goal.

Upon reaching Langland we could see the lovely little wooden huts in rows in several locations, in all there were probably a couple of hundred. Ladies in swimsuits came out heading for the sea to join some other hardy individuals who were in the sea already. A few hundred yards more and we arrive at the café area and sit down for a well-deserved hot drink only to be caught in a heavy shower again.

It was then a nice flat walk back to Bracelet Bay and to the cars. An end of walk meal was enjoyed at the Rasoi Indian Restaurant in Pontlliw.

(1) Bracelet Bay :-Thought to be a corruption of Broad Slade.

(2) Limeslade Bay :- again a corruption of Broad Slade

(3) Rother Slade :- used to be little Langland

(4) Langland :- Long land or Territory(Norwegian)

(5) Caswell Bay:- Straw Fortress but is also a Scottish surname

SLADE is little valley or dell and can be an open piece of green grass in a wood or between two woods.

(6) Oystermouth:- Believed to be a corruption of the Welsh word YSTUM LLWYNARTH. Ystum meaning a movement of part of the body especially the head or hand and Llwynarth being BEAR BUSH. It is also suggested that the name is associated with the oyster industry that flourished there. It is now accepted as part of Mumbles.

(7) Mumbles:-alleged by some to be so called due to the fact that there are two small islands at the end of the 7romontory that resemble female breasts and the French for that is mammoires which somehow has been corrupted to Mumbles.

Mumbles is also home of the first fare paying passenger railway in Britain. In 1807 Benjamin French started a horse drawn carriage on rails taking customers around the bay from mumbles to Swansea for one shilling (1/-) each way. Expensive at that time. In 1877 it was converted to steam and in 1929 to electric.

I can remember in the late 40s being taken for that ride by my parents but understand that the fare then was 3 old pence. You can still see the electric tram in the maritime museum on Swansea Dock. Another enjoyable walk in good company and of course lots of leg pulling and laughs.”

Gareth Jones

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Friendship Centre Rota

1/9/22	Helen and Sian
8/9/22	Rosemary and Maisie
17/9/22	Pat and Molly
24/9/22	Nan and Tina

Answers to last month's Quiz

1. Sinner; 2. Silver coins; 3. Tents; 4. Daughters; 5. Husbands; 6. Talents
7. Churches; 8. People; 9. Bed; 10. The Commandments; 11. Sons; 12. Disciples; 13. Circumcision; 14. Years

Gwasanaethau Cymraeg y Dre yn ystod mis Awst

7fed 10.00: Oedfa yn Heol Awst dan arweiniad Alun Lenny.

14eg 10.30: Oedfa yn Penuel dan arweiniad Clyde Briggs.

21ain 10.30: Oedfa Gymun yn y Tabernacl: Y Parchg. Desmond Davies.

28ain 10.00: Oedfa yn y Priordy dan arweiniad Y Parchg. Wynn Vittle

English Services during the month of August

7th. 11 o'clock at English Congregational Church; Mr Dafydd Evans Meidrim

14th 10.30 at Babell Zion Newydd Rev Mike Shephard

21st 10.30 at Wesley Chapel Mr John Birch

28th 11 o'clock at English Baptist Mr Martin Dalling

Dates for the Calendar

Friendship Centre/Canolfan Dydd

The Friendship Centre will be formally opened on Thursday September 1st serving light refreshments from 10 until 2pm.

Cwrdd Dosbarth

Cwrdd Dosbarth nesaf yn y Babell Zion Newydd Hydref 3ydd am 7 o'r gloch.

Next Elders' / Meeting: 19th of September at 6pm. Note change of time.

Alzheimers/Dementia

A hymn sing-along session will take place on Tuesday September 20th at 2pm for people affected by Alzheimers/Dementia and their carers followed by tea and biscuits. All welcome.

Coffee Morning

Saturday Morning September 17th Coffee Morning and various stalls at BZN

Sunday Services/Gwasanaethau ar y Sul

Revd Emry Williams	Communion	11.30am	4/9/2022
Rev Desmond Davies		2pm	11/9/ 2022
United Pastorate Service Y Drindod Cross Hands		2pm	18/9/2022
Mr Geraint Lloyd		2pm	25/9/2022
Revd Emry Williams Harvest Family Service		10am	2/10/2022
Revd Mike Shephard		10.30am	9/10/2022

