

Chwefror 2025 February

ISSUE/ RHIFYN 72

BABELL ZION NEWYDD



The Sunday Club

This term we are following the story of Joseph and the coat of many colours, his father Jacob and the fortuitous role his brothers played in his destiny to take on a very responsible role in Egypt.

Rydym hefyd yn brysur yn paratoi ar gyfer Gwasanaeth Gŵyl Ddewi Plant y dre a gynhelir ar fore Sul Chwefror 23ain yng Nghapel y Tabernacl am 10.30 y bore.

The children will be taking part at the St David's Service on February 23rd at Tabernacle Chapel at 10.30. All are welcome to join. In the evening at BZN there will be a Communion service at 5 pm with guest preacher Revd Hywel Davies.

Translation service available.

Help for Ukraine

Donations to the Ukrainian Appeal came to £664 and a cheque was sent to Mike Hnyda via Revd Mike Shephard at the end of December.

Here is part of the message of thanks received from Mike Hnyda

This is an incredibly generous donation to support Ukraine and I would be grateful if you could thank everyone at Babell Zion Newydd Chapel and the Friendship Centre for this donation and helping the people of Ukraine at this very difficult time.

I have undertaken 8 trips to Ukraine, mainly delivering medical aid to military hospitals and general hospitals across Ukraine. We source some great medical equipment and aid from hospitals across South Wales as well as buying specialist medical equipment and medicines, requested by surgeons and hospitals in Ukraine, which are badly needed to save lives.

The last trip which we undertook at the end of August/early September was slightly different as we delivered a 4x4 pick up to evacuate the injured from the front.

Since the last trip we have also bought an ambulance for a volunteer medical team at the front, which was delivered this week, fully fitted out and resprayed, to start its work taking the injured to hospitals in Ukraine.

Thank you once again for your generosity and kindness- it is much appreciated – and I will keep you all informed of progress with my fund raising and further trips to Ukraine.

Best wishes

Michael Hnyda

Mike writes

ON GROWING WINGS AND TAKING FLIGHT

One of the most difficult parts of a minister's role is officiating at a funeral service – a task especially onerous when the deceased is a child. How is one to offer comfort to heartbroken parents? What is the point of mere words when the very light has gone out of one's life? There are some who would advise that we say as little as possible and let a hug express feeling that cannot be articulated. Any kind of explanation at that point, or indeed in the early stages of grief, is quite untenable and is best avoided.

But what about bereaved children – siblings or fellow classmates – all seeking answers to difficult questions? Are we to say nothing to them?

I have just read a very wonderful book containing words of wisdom and courage. It is called *'The Swallow, The Owl and the Sandpiper'* and is edited by Claire Maitland for The Sandpiper Trust. The illustrations are by Rodger McPhail, and I recommend that we all read it.

The book contains an 'answer' to the question posed above but it is in the form of a story with which children, I think, can identify. Here it is.

The Dragonfly by Doris Stickney

Once, in a little pond, in the muddy water under the lily pads, there lived a water beetle in a community of water beetles. They lived a simple and comfortable life in the pond with few disturbances and interruptions.

Occasionally, sadness would come to the community when one of their fellow beetles would climb the stem of a lily pad and would never be seen again. They knew when this happened their friend was dead, gone forever.

One day, a little water beetle felt an irresistible urge to climb up the stem. However, he was determined that he would not leave forever. He would come back and tell his friends what he had found at the top.

When he reached the top and climbed out of the water onto the surface of the lily pad, he was so tired, and the sun felt so warm, that he decided he must take a nap.

As he slept, his body changed and when he woke up, he had turned into a beautiful blue-tailed dragonfly with broad wings and a slender body designed for flying. And fly he did! And, as he soared, he saw the wonder of a whole new world and a way of life that he had never known existed.

Then he remembered his beetle friends and how they were thinking by now he was dead. He wanted to go back to tell them and explain to them that he was now more alive than he had ever been before. His life had been fulfilled rather than ended. But his new body would not go down into the water. He was unable to get back to tell his friends the good news.

Then he understood that their time would come and that one day they, too, would know what he now knew.

So, he raised his wings and flew off into his joyous new life!

I understand that the author and her minister husband were looking for a meaningful way to explain to neighbourhood children the death of a five- year-old friend.

I think it wonderful and am quite convinced that it could be as meaningful and helpful for adults. I was certainly moved by it.

The analogy informed the way in which I see the seeming finality of death and is an answer, if only in part, to those who protest that *no one has ever come back to evidence the existence of an afterlife.*

We would not be able to understand them even if they did come back. They have 'moved on' to a different plane of existence. They are no longer able to exist in our muddy water. Their 'wings' mean that they are equipped for spiritual flight – as ours will one day.

Think for a moment, not about the larvae of a dragonfly but, rather of a lark's nest in a field. It contains eggs, one of which I hold in my hands. It contains life – a very shut-in life. Yet there is promise here that can only be fulfilled when the little bird inside breaks the shell and escapes. Within the egg are wings and the apparatus – not yet fully developed – which will be capable of producing the lovely song as, later, it flies up into the sunlight of a summer morning.

I do not relish the thought of death and yet do not fear it as once I did. A part of me overcomes any apprehension and relishes the prospect of those wings. In imagination I can even hear a lark singing.

Mike Shephard

A prayer for the beginning of a New Year

Ein Duw cariadlon, ar ddechrau
blwyddyn newydd a dechrau pennod
arall ym mywyd yr eglwys hon deugn
atat yn ceisio dy arweiniad ac yn
cyflwyno ein hunain unwaith eto i'w
wasanaeth. Cymer ni fel yr ydym a
chyfarwydda'r hyn a fyddwn.
Cynorthwya ni i wneud y gorau o'r
dyddiau sydd o'n blaenau- i'w
defnyddio yn llawn, yn mwynhau pob
un, yn dathlu dy fendithion niferus ac
yn dwyn anrhydedd i ti trwy ein ffordd
o fyw. Cymer ni fel yr ydym a chyfarwydda'r
hyn a fyddwn. Amen

Loving God, at the beginning of a new
year and a new chapter in the life of
this church we seek your guidance and
offer ourselves once again into your
service. Take us as we are and direct
us as we shall be. Help us to make the
most of the days ahead of us, to use
them, to enjoy them all, to celebrate
their many blessings and to make us
worthy of your name. Take us as we are
and direct us as we shall be. Amen.

A favourite hymn from the past

Come, Holy Spirit, Come: Joseph Hart [1712-1768]

We would sing this hymn regularly years ago at Babel before we moved to Caneuon Ffydd and Songs and Hymns of Fellowship. Joseph Hart who wrote the words has a very interesting story.

Come, Holy Spirit, come;
let thy bright beams arise;
dispel the darkness from our minds
and open all our eyes.

Revive our drooping faith;
our doubts and fears remove;
and kindle in our breasts the flame
of never dying love.

Tis thine to cleanse the heart,
to sanctify the soul,
to pour fresh life in every part,
and new create the whole.

Dwell, therefore, in our hearts;
our minds from bondage free;
then shall we know and praise and love
the Father, Son and Thee.

Joseph Hart was born and raised in London to godly and devout parents but not much is known of his early years except to say that, unlike his parents, his spiritual journey was a tempestuous one. However, while listening to a sermon at the Moravian Church in Fetter Lane on Whit Sunday in 1757 he was converted. At last, after a life of much soul - searching and a life spent very much like the prodigal son, 'light and comfort flowed into my heart as no words can paint.'

Within two years he had written 120 hymns which were to become very popular with the congregations of the day. This hymn seems to express the journey he went through and is an encouragement to others who are going through the same experiences.

An interesting point here is that the hymns of the day were usually hymns for believers to be sung at church meetings and the Seiat as they were known, for instance the hymns of Williams Pantycelyn. But here we find Hart writing for the Holy Spirit to descend upon those who had doubts, who felt the burden of life or who had lost faith along the way.

He became Minister of the English Methodist Church in Jewin Street, a huge chapel with 4 galleries which was full during his ministry. 20,000 are said to have attended his funeral and he is buried in Bunhill Fields. Here too are buried Isaac Watts, William Blake, John Bunyan, Daniel Defoe and Susanne Wesley to name just a few.

HG

Manipur Appeal/Apêl Manipur

Due to the conflict in Manipur 400 churches, 36 Church headquarters and 2 Theological Colleges have been burnt to the ground and 41,000+ people displaced, many to the Northern region of Mizoram. The Presbyterian Church has a connection with Mizoram through the Welsh missionaries who served in India following the 1904/5 revival. The Mizoram Synod Choir entertained at the General Assembly Meeting in Aberystwyth last summer and led us in the hymn singing with Calon Lân sung in Mizo and Welsh. Sharon Singsit-Evans, from Manipur, North East India, gave us an insight into what is happening in Manipur at present. That is why the Presbyterian Church has launched an appeal to help and pray for the people of Manipur that the church will regain its normality and that it will be a haven and a home for people of all faiths.

We shall be grateful for all Friendship Centre donations and all loose collections which will be donated to the Manipur Appeal during the next three months.

Carmarthen Food Bank/ Banc Bwyd Caerfyrddin

Thank you for your continuing support. They are very grateful for all donations but, in particular, are short of the following

Tinned Vegetables
UHT Milk
Longlife Juice
Jam

Dates for the Diary

Wednesday March 5th Cawl and Quiz
Quizmaster: John Green

Friday March 7th World Day of Prayer at
BZN

10.30: Gwasanaeth Cymraeg
2 pm: Gwasanaeth Saesneg

Ebrill 9fed yn BZN: Gwasanaeth Pasg Chwiforydd yr Henaduriaeth



Cyngerdd yn Neuadd Bronwydd er budd Llyfrau Llafar

gyda 'Pedair' a Chôr Seingar

Nos Sadwrn Chwefror 15fed am 7 o'r gloch

'Talking Books Wales' Concert on the 15th of February
with the Welsh folk group 'Pedair' and Côr Seingar



Bird watching

It was 'bird watch weekend' between January 24-26. How many birds did you see in your garden and could you recognise them? We don't associate the Bible with bird watching but birds are often mentioned in the Bible, some as messengers of God, and many have a symbolic significance e.g. the dove at the baptism of Jesus, the wisdom of the owl, the strength and victory of the eagle - and are a crucial part of God's creation.

I wonder how many different kinds of birds are mentioned in the Bible. Let's ponder on some of them by looking up the following references.

1. The Psalmist longed for its wings. Psalm 55:6
2. The Psalmist likened himself to this bird 'of the wilderness.' Ps 102:6
3. These were two for a farthing [Mathew 10:29]
4. This one's voice was a sign of spring in the Holy Land. Song of Solomon 2:12
5. This one was the first to leave Noah's Ark.[Genesis 8: 7]
6. Associated with those 'that wait upon the Lord.' [Isaiah 40:31]
7. This one 'leaveth her eggs in the earth, and warmeth them in dust.' [Job 39:26]
8. Jesus referred to this one, outside Jerusalem. [Mathew 23:37]
9. It nested in the Temple. [Psalm 84:3]
10. A navy brought them to King Solomon. [1 Kings 10: 22]
11. Mary brought two young ones to the temple. [Luke 2: 24]
12. "Consider thethey neither sow or reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than birds." [Luke 12:24]

Sunday Services/Gwasanaethau ar y Sul

Mr Dafydd Evans Meidrim	10am	2/2/2025
Minister Communion	10am	9/2/2025
Mr Hugh Waddell.	2pm	16/2/2025
St David's Day Communion Service at BZN Guest preacher Rev Hywel Davies Translation Service available Communion officiated by our Minister	5pm	23/2/2025
Gwasanaeth Cymraeg	10am	2/3/2025
Minister Communion	10am	9/3/2025

Flowers/ Blodau		Cleaning/Glanhau	Announcing and Communion Cyhoeddi a Pharatoi'r Cymun
Jackie Evans	February/ Chwefror	Helen and Gwyn Andrew & Sarah	Pat Morgan
Maisie Johnson	March/ Mawrth	Jackie and Maisie	Lynn Davies
Janet Davies	April/Ebrill	Lynn and Janet	Helen Gibbon

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

18th of February at Plas y Dderwen

18th of March at Towy Castle

Four Lenten Bible studies with Pat. Time and date details to follow

Friendship Centre Rota

6.2.25	Helen and Sian
13.2.25	Maisie and Rosemary
20.2.25	Pat and Carole
27.2.25	Centre Closed
6.3.25	Tina, Nan and Kevin

Golygydd y mis hwn: Mrs Helen Gibbon. Please forward any news/articles to

Mrs Carole Rees at carolerees@gmail.com for next month's newsletter