

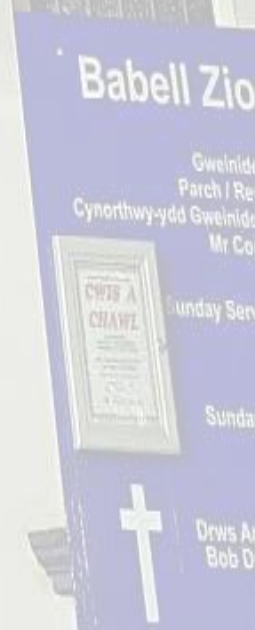
February/Chwefror 2026

Cylchlythyr/Newsletter

Rhif/Issue 83

BABELL ZION NEWYDD

Rhiw Babell Pensarn Caerfyrddin SA31 2DJ

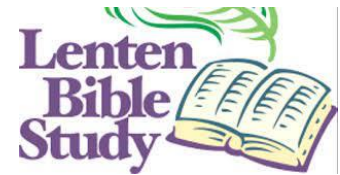




There will be a service on Sunday March 1st at 10 am in Priordy as part of the town's celebration of St David's Day. The message will be given by Mererid Hopwood and the children of all the Welsh Sunday Schools will also be taking part.

An evening service will be held at Elim Chapel, Ffynnonddrain which will include Holy Communion led by The Venerable Randolph Thomas. This service will be at 5 pm.

The period of Lent begins on Wednesday 18th February. As in previous years, we will be holding our Lent Studies beginning on Monday 23rd February at 12:30 pm. The remaining 3 sessions will be held on Monday 9th March, 16th March and 23rd March. These will be led by Pat. All are welcome to attend.



Cawl & Quiz Night



Time to sharpen those little grey cells in preparation for our annual Cawl & Quiz evening.

This will be held on Wednesday 4th March at 6 pm.

Entry will be £5 per person and teams to comprise of 4 members. Again this year, we are delighted that Mr John Green has agreed to be our Quiz Master.

RECYCLE FOR GOOD CAUSES!

Do you have any old items cluttering up the home after Christmas?

Why not help us raise money for the chapel funds? The box is in the vestry and all donations will be gratefully received.

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!)
- Used stamps and coins.



Rev Emyr writes:

We are all familiar with the Hymn ~ Onward Christian Soldiers.

*Onward, Christian soldiers, Marching as to war
With the cross of Jesus, Going on before
Christ, the royal Master, Leads against the foe
Forward into battle See His banners go*

Possibly in 2026, it has become less popular and less politically correct. But it speaks to us in a language that encourages us to be more active in our faith. During some time at Trefeca this month, I was shown a parody of the hymn prepared by George Verwer in the book *Timely Insights Into Timeless Truth*.

*Backward Christian soldiers, Fleeing from the fight,
With the cross of Jesus, Nearly out of sight.
Christ our rightful master, Stands against the foe;
Onward into battle, we seem afraid to go.*

*Like a might tortoise, Moves the church of God.
Brothers we are treading, Where we've often trod.
We are much divided, Many bodies we,
Having different doctrines, but not much charity.*

*Crowns and thrones may perish, Kingdoms rise and wane,
But the cross of Jesus Hidden does remain.
Gates of hell should never 'gainst the Church prevail,
We have Christ's own promise, but we think it might fail.*

*Sit here then ye people, Join our sleeping throng.
Blend with ours, your voices in a feeble song.
Blessings, ease and comfort Ask from Christ the King,
But with our modern thinking, We won't do a thing.*

Chorus:

*Backward Christian soldiers, Fleeing from the fight,
With the cross of Jesus, Nearly out of sight.*

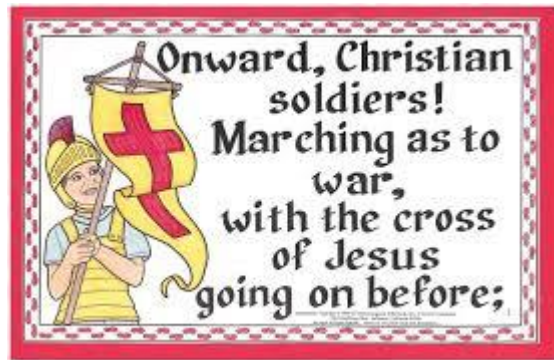
These words hold up an uncomfortable mirror to the Church. Where once the cross was carried boldly, it now fades into the distance. Not because Christ has moved—but because we have drawn back. Fear, comfort, and caution have quietly replaced courage and costly obedience.

The poem speaks of a Church that moves slowly, divided within itself, more certain of its doctrines than its love. We tread familiar ground, repeating old patterns, while hesitating to step forward in faith. Christ still stands against the foe, yet we hold back, unsure whether His promises will truly hold.

And still, the truth remains: kingdoms rise and fall, power fades, and institutions crumble—but the cross endures. Even when hidden from sight, it has not lost its power.

The church today is called to wake from spiritual sleep. To move beyond comfort and song alone, and into lives shaped by sacrifice, compassion, and courage. Not backward in fear—but forward in trust.

Let us pray that God give us eyes to see the cross again, hearts to love deeply, and feet willing to follow Christ—whatever the cost.



“Onward, Christian Soldiers” was written in 1865 with no intention of ever being published, especially in adult hymn books. Rev. Sabine Baring-Gould, its author, was at that time the curate of a parish in Yorkshire county in the north of England, and he recounts how and why he wrote it:

“It was written in a very simple fashion. Whitmonday is a great day for school festivals in Yorkshire, and one Whitmonday it was arranged that our school should join its forces with that of a neighbouring village. I wanted the children to sing when marching from one village to the other, but couldn’t think of anything quite suitable, so I sat up at night resolved to write something myself. “Onward, Christian Soldiers” was the result. It was written in great haste, and I am afraid some of the rhymes are faulty. Certainly nothing has surprised me more than its great popularity.”

Though it was never meant for publication, it nevertheless found its way into a periodical later that year, and soon it became included in English hymnals around the world.

In 1871 Arthur Sullivan wrote the tune “St. Gertrude” for the hymn, which further popularized the hymn and has ever since been its standard melody.



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Annwyl Aelodau

**GWAHODDIAD I YMUNO YN EIN PARED GŴYL DDEWI
11am Sadwrn Chwefror 28ain 2026**

Pleser o'r mwyaf yw i mi estyn gwahoddiad cynnes iawn ichi i ymuno gyda ni yn ein Pared Gŵyl Ddewi eleni ar
Sadwrn Chwefror 28ain yng Nghaerfyrddin. Bydd hwn yn uchafbwynt cyfnod o weithgarwch Cymreig yn
ein tre.

Dyma fanylion Y Pared:

- Cwrdd yn Eglwys San Pedr erbyn 10.45yb. Y Pared yn cychwyn am 11.00yb yn union.
- Gorymdeithio draw i'r Clos Mawr (Sgwâr y Guildhall) lle cawn gyfarchion ac eitemau.

Ynghyd a'r baneri gofynnir eleni i chi ddod a chlychau i'w canu wrth gerdded lawr i'r Clos Mawr a hefyd
gwisgo
rhywbeth melyn neu fel daffodil.

Gan edrych ymlaen yn fawr iawn at gael eich cwmni ar y dydd.

Dear Members

**INVITATION TO JOIN IN OUR ST DAVID'S PARADE
11am Saturday, 28th February 2026**

I'm pleased to extend a very warm invitation for you to join in this year's St David's Parade in
Carmarthen on
Saturday, 28th February. This will be the highlight of a period of Welsh events in our town.

Here are the details:

- Meet at St Peter's Church by 10.45 a.m. The Parade will commence at exactly 11.00 a.m.
- Parade to Guildhall Square where we will receive greetings and items will be performed.

Along with the flags this year we ask that you bring bells to ring when walking down to Guildhall Square
and also
wear something yellow or like a daffodil.

I very much look forward to your company on the day.

Yr eiddoch yn gywir / Yours sincerely

**Cynghorydd Heledd ap Gwynfor (Maer Tref Caerfyrddin /
Councillor Heledd ap Gwynfor (Mayor of Carmarthen Town)**

**PARCIO AM DDIM YM MEYSYDD PARCIO'R CYNGOR AR DYDD SADWRN CHWEFROD 28ain
THERE WILL BE FREE PARKING IN THE COUNCIL CAR PARKS ON SATURDAY 28th FEBRUARY**

HOFF ADNODAU FAVOURITE VERSES



Hoff adnod Janet

This verse was part of our call to worship one Sunday, and was really special to Janet.



“Gwybyddwch mai'r Arglwydd sydd Dduw,
Efe a'n gwnaeth ni ac nid ni ein hunain;
Ei bobl ef ydym a defaid Ei borfa”
(Salm 100 : 3)



When We Let Him Have Control

Why is it as though
We struggle so much
And live in constant despair?
We don't need to carry
Such burdensome loads
But should go to God in prayer.

Give Him your burdens
And all of your hurts,
Just lay them at His feet,
He's such a big God,
He can handle it all,
And watches over His sheep.

He cares so much more
Than we'll ever know,
And just wants the best for our lives,
Each one of his children
Has so much potential,
If we'll only begin to rise.

To be all that God
Has intended us to be,
To walk through His open doors.
We need to stay focused
And open to God,
And put our trust in the Lord.

For when we all come
To realize God's love,
Our hurts will not have a hold,
For God's love will cover
And free us from fear
As we give Him total control.

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Sunday Services/Gwasanaethau ar y Sul

Rev Geraint Lloyd	2 pm	01/02/2026
Rev Emyr – Communion	10 am	08/02/2026
Rev Mike Shephard	10 am	15/02/2026
Rev Emyr	2 pm	22/02/2026
Oedfa Gwyl Ddewi'r Dre Morning service at Priordy	10 am	01/03/2026
Evening service at Elim Chapel, Ffynnonddrain - Communion	5 pm	
Rev Emyr – Communion	10 am	08/03/2026

Friendship Centre Rota

05/02/2026 *	Helen & Siân
12/02/2026	Maisie & Rosemary
19/02/2026	Pat & Carole
26/02/2026	Tina & Kevin
05/03/2026 *	Helen & Siân
12/03/2026	Maisie & Rosemary

* We will be running a craft session during Friendship Centre on these dates where you will be given the opportunity to try out different forms of craft. Please come and join us.

	Flowers/Blodau	Cleaning/Glanhau	Announcing and Communion/ Cyhoeddi a Pharatoi'r Cymun
February	Doreen Davies	Helen & Gwyn	Pat Morgan
March	Pat Morgan	Jackie & Maisie	Lynn Davies
April	Carole Rees	Lynn & Janet	Carole Rees

Dates for the Calendar

Singalong Tuesdays:	February 3 rd	Babell
	February 24 th *	Towy Castle
	March 3 rd	Babell
	March 17 th	Plasydderwen

Cawl & Quiz Night: Wednesday 4th March

Have you any news or items for the newsletter? Please forward to Carole at

carolerees4@gmail.com

or Helen at helengibbon1@btinternet.com