

Mai 2023 May
ISSUE/ RHIFYN 53

BABELL
ZION
NEWYDD

The Easter Story remembered in 2023

Holy Week: Palm Sunday/ Sul y Blodau

The week began with the Palm Sunday message conveyed to the congregation by Mrs Carole Rees in the absence of the Rev Adelaide Wheeler Cocks who is very much in our thoughts at this time following a fall before Christmas. We wish Revd Adelaide a speedy recovery.

Maundy Service and Supper

On Maundy Thursday a special service of remembrance was arranged by our minister Emrys and his family at Llanarthney Hall which was full to capacity. Emrys, Eleri, Dafydd and Sion had prepared a lovely supper to commemorate the Last Supper after which we heard the thoughts and meditations of the disciples Philip and Judas, a Temple guard and the High Priest Annas interspersed with Scripture readings and hymns, read and announced by members and friends of the Pastorate. The service then ended with the Bread and the Wine as Jesus had shared with his disciples in the upper room on the night before he was betrayed. Cymerwyd rhan gan aelodau a ffrindiau capeli'r ofalaeth. Diolch i Emrys a'i deulu am baratoi gwledd.

Good Friday

The United Town services in the morning were held at the English Congregational Chapel with Mr Hugh Waddell and at Tabernacle with the Parch Aled Davies Chwilog. In the afternoon the pastorate service was held at Capel Newydd Llanddarog where we heard a continuation of the possible thoughts of various people present during the Crucifixion such as Pilate the Roman governor, Pilate's wife who warned him not to have anything to do with "that innocent man", the Centurion at the cross, Peter the disciple, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus. Cymerwyd rhan gan aelodau Capel Newydd Llanddarog. Diolch am wasanaeth a wnaeth i ni feddwl ac ystyried teimladau y rhai a fu yn dystion i'r Croesheliad.

Easter Family Service

It was the turn of the Sunday Club children to take part on Easter Sunday. They all did well with the portrayal of the Resurrection on the word Easter, the scripture readings and the singing of the two hymns, Hosanna and This Little Light of Mine. The eggs had been well hidden this year judging by the longer time it took to find them but all were found and all the congregation were presented with one at the end of the service including one from our Minister Emrys. Fe wnaeth Emrys ein hatgoffa am ystyr y Pasg trwy weithgaredd papur ar y Groes: y Groes wag oherwydd neges ysblennydd y trydydd dydd yw bod Crist wedi concro angau a 'daeth o'i rhwymau'n rhydd'.



Nesta Wyn writes

Diolch i Nesta Wyn am ei chyfraniad y mis hwn. Ysgrifennodd Nesta lawer o gerddi tra'n profi amseroedd anodd yn ei bywyd. Dyma ddua ohonynt. Ysgrifennodd y cyntaf yn dilyn cyfnod o salwch ond cafodd nerth trwy ei ffydd i'w oresgyn ac ailgydio yn ei gwaith fel nyrs mewn ysbty. Cafodd yr emyn ar y dde ei ganu yn angladd ei phriod.

Nesta has written several poems during her lifetime to mark the difficult as well as the happy times. here are two of them. In the first poem below she describes how following a nervous breakdown she regained her strength through her faith to continue her hospital nursing. The second hymn was sung at her husband's funeral.

Pan oeddwn yn y carchar du,
Tydi a roddais nerth i mi;
fe godaist fel y wawrddyd wawr,
molianwnwn wnawn trwy'r cariad mawr.

Fe glywais lais o'r anial dir
yn galw'n dirion arnaf fi;
fe gydiast ynof trwy dy ras
i faeddu pob rhyw bechod cas.

Rhoist eto nerth i wneud fy rhan
i weini'n dirion ar y gwan.
Diolchwn am y nefol hedd
sy'n dod o'th ras ar ddwyfol wedd.

Moliannwn Di, O Arglwydd Mawr,
ein cyfaill beunydd ar y llawr.
Diolchwn am fendithion lu
sy'n dod, o'th ofal, arnom ni.

O tyred Iesu, tyrd i lawr,
at holl drigolion gwael y llawr;
O nertha ni ymlaen drwy ffydd
i'th ganlyn Di yn fwy bob dydd.

O tyred Iesu atom nawr,
trugarog wyt wrth blant y llawr;
Ti sydd yn dangos drwy dy ras
Y ffordd i fyw fel plentyn bach.

O tyred Iesu, dysg i ni
i gadw dy orchmynion Di;
O tywys ni i'th gorlan glyd
fel byddwn oll yn byw'n gytun.

O Iesu addfwyn derbyn ni
I fod yn llwyr yn eiddo'i ti;
O tro bob rhodd a phob rhyw ddawn
i'th wasanaethu Di yn llawn.

Nesta Wyn

Dates for the Diary

Christian Aid meeting on April 27th at 10.30 am at 75 Heol Dŵr to discuss this year's collection arrangements. BZN representatives needed.

Cwrdd Dosbarth nesaf yng Nghwmdwyfran Mai 9fed am 7 o'r gloch

Cyfarfod Cymanfa Caerfyrddin a'r Cylch yn Heol Awst am 5 o'r gloch Mai 14.
Cynhelir y Gymanfa ym Mhenygraig Medi 24ain am 5 o'r gloch dan arweiniad Mrs Meinir Richards.

Elders' Meeting/Cyfarfod Blaenoraid: May/Mai 17th at 10 am



The story of Ruth and Naomi Continued.

HG



When Ruth tells Naomi that she has been gleaning in a field owned by a man called Boaz she exclaims: "The Lord bless him!" for she knows something that Ruth doesn't. Boaz was related to Naomi's deceased husband. Perhaps he knew this when he made enquiries as to who Ruth was. Old Testament Law stipulated that the male relative should step in to help in whatever way he could on the death of a relative. This is Boaz doing his duty. Naomi says, "*He has not stopped showing his kindness to the living and the dead.*" Naomi could be referring to Boaz here but she could also be referring to God who never leaves our side. God works through the events in our lives and does not abandon his people.

There is hope for Naomi and Ruth in the generosity of Boaz. Ruth stays because Boaz encourages her to stay with his workers until the harvest is over and Naomi replies that staying with Boaz will be 'good for you'. So Ruth stays until the harvest is over.

The question here is why wouldn't Ruth have stayed. Going elsewhere would have been another walk into the unknown or even a dangerous one. And yet how often do we wander even though we know that we are taking the wrong course. This brings us to the hymn which we haven't sung for quite a while "Come Thou fount of every blessing" by Robert Robinson. The story behind the hymn is very interesting.

Robert Robinson lost his father at the tender age of eight and he was sent to London and apprenticed to a barber. In 1752, when he was 17, he heard a sermon preached by George Whitfield which disturbed him. This led to his conversion to the Christian faith three years later and then the writing of this particular hymn when he was about 22 years old. He could not have foreseen what would happen next but the words

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I Love

did in some way come true. First of all he became a minister with the Methodists, then with the Congregationalists and then with the Baptists. In the last year of his life he was associated with the Unitarians in Birmingham. He lost his way, always seeking change, being rather self-conceited and eccentric and died at the early age of 55 in 1790. There is a story told of him that highlights his regret. Towards the end of his life having, unfortunately fallen back into 'unworthy habits', he was travelling on a stage coach opposite to a lady who was reading a poem. She began to talk to him about the poem and when he glanced at the verses he became quite uncomfortable. He exclaimed, "Madam, I am the unhappy man who wrote that hymn many years ago and I would give a thousand worlds, if I had them, to enjoy the feelings I had then!"

Come Thou Fount of every blessing.
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace:
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious measure
Sung by flaming tongues above;
O the vast, the boundless treasure
Of my Lord's unchanging love.

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm contrained to be!
Let that grace, Lord, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Take my heart- O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.



Revd Mike writes

I am in the process of writing a book on the theme of doubt and faith. It will be entitled 'As a Doubter to Doubters.' The aim is to demonstrate that the strongest faith is often hammered into shape on the anvil of doubt. The book will be challenging but, I hope, helpful. That is certainly my intention. It will be available in the early Autumn.

A substantial part of any proceeds will be given to a cancer charity that helps – amongst others – children like Morgan Ridler and family.

Morgan is three years old and has been diagnosed with an extremely rare and aggressive cancer, namely, Adrenocortical Carcinoma (ACC). It affects the wider family in that a sister is likely to contract breast cancer in her 20s. The father has a high risk of developing cancer in his life. The family live in Swansea. I write in March 2023. Morgan is, presently, far from well.

If you would like to order a copy of the book I can be contacted by telephone or email.

It is likely that the book plus postage will cost somewhere in the region of £17. I will deliver personally whenever possible though, so the cost will be less, at least for many.

Thank you for your support. It is greatly appreciated.

Mike Shephard

01267 234759

Or via email

Mike.Shephard49@gmail.com

I would be grateful if you could pass this email / letter to one other person who might be interested in purchasing the book and in supporting this cause.

Some will find the theme unusual – particularly for a Christian Minister. It might help if I explain that I lost 'all' faith some years ago. When I returned to ministry, I vowed that my calling, henceforth, would be that of one who would preach 'As a Doubter to Doubters.' I think that, in this way, I have reached people who could not have been reached by other means. I hope that makes sense.

Out and about



Cerddwyr Cynnwr

Ferryside was the venue for the walkers on Saturday April 15th. Gareth and Dawn took us along country lanes with lovely views of Llansteffan and the castle behind us, past working farms and farms of bygone days where buildings were now converted into holiday cottages. We ate our packed lunches on the farmyard at Iscoed in lovely sunshine and then at Iscoed Mansion we were

reminded of the chequered history of General Picton. Up another steep hill past Bethania Cemetery before beginning the climb down again to the car park. Pryd o fwyd wedyn yn y Llew Coch i ddiweddu diwrnod hyfryd. Diolch Gareth a Dawn.

CORNEL Y PLANT/ THE CHILDREN'S CORNER

Ryn ni wedi bod yn edrych ar sut frenin oedd y Brenin Solomon a sut gymeriad oedd Daniel yn y Clwb Sul. Using the words below have a go at writing a paragraph or drawing a picture to describe what Solomon did and what happened to Daniel.

Word Search/CHWILAIR

SOLOMON; WISDOM; PRAYER; KING; TEMPLE; OBEY

DANIEL; BABYLON; LIONS; ANGEL; DARIUS; DEN

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

Chwilaig Cymraeg

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

SOLOMON; DOETH; GWEDDI; BRENIN; TEML; UFUDDHAU

DANIEL, BABILON, LLEWOD; ANGEL; DARIUS; FFAU

Beth am ddefnyddio'r geiriau i ysgrifennu paragraff neu dynnu llun am yr hyn wnaeth Solomon a beth ddigwyddodd i Daniel.

Penblwydd hapus

Dymuniadau gorau i Mr Ken Johnson ar ddathlu ei bedwar ugain oed yn ddiweddar. Carreg filltir go arbennig.

Sunday Services/Gwasanaethau ar y Sul

Rev Mike Shephard	10 am	7/5/2023
Communion Service with Rev Emrys	10 am	14/5 2023
Mr Martin Dalling	10 am	21/5/2023
Rev Emrys Williams	2 pm	28/5/2023
Rev Ainsley Griffiths	10 am	4/6/2023

Flowers/ Blodau		Cleaning/Glanhau	Announcing and Communion Cyhoeddi a Pharatoi'r Cymun
Mrs Nesta Davies	May/Mai	Rosemary and Nelda	Molly Thomas
Sian Cassell	June/Mehefin	Owen and Kim Jones	Helen Gibbon
Charmaine Williams	Gorffennaf/ July	Sian/Carole/Meurig	Carole Rees

Singalong Tuesdays: May 2nd

May 16th

May 30th

June 13th

June 27th

June 24th: Strawberry tea/ Summer Fayre

June/July: Are you interested in going on a trip again? Ideas please to HG.

Friendship Centre Rota

27/4/2023	Tina and Nan
4/5/2023	Sian and Helen
11/5/2023	Maisie and Rosemary
18/5/2023	Sian and Helen
25/5/2023	Tina and Nan
1/6/2023	Closed for half term

Have you any news or items for the newsletter? Please forward to Carole at carolerees4@gmail.com or Helen at helengibbon1@btinternet.com