

May/Mai 2025

Cylchlythyr/Newsletter

Rhif/Issue 75

BABELL ZION NEWYDD

Rhiw Babell Pensarn Caerfyrddin SA31 2DJ



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Thank you to everyone who has contributed so far to the foodbank box located in the lobby. This will be emptied periodically and contents distributed to the various foodbank organisations in town. Please ensure though, that all donations are in date.

How to support your local foodbank



The Sunday Club played an important role in this years' Palm Sunday Service as they told the story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and the removal of the money collectors from the temple. They finished with a song, assisted by the congregation in the chorus. Congratulations to the children, parents and the teachers of the Sunday Club.

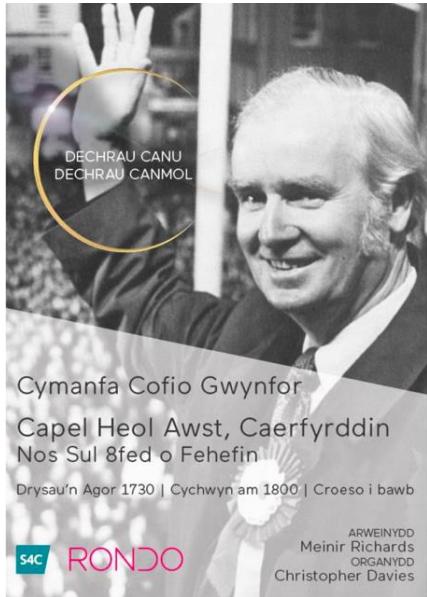
Maundy Service and Supper

On Maundy Thursday a special service of remembrance was arranged by our minister Emry and his family at Llanarthney Hall. A hearty supper awaited us followed by a Communion service. All the hymns were sung seated at the tables.



April appeared to be a very busy month for birthdays. Belated birthday greetings to all and to anyone celebrating their birthday in May.

"If God has answered your prayers, He is increasing your faith. If He delays, He is increasing your patience. If He doesn't answer your prayers, He's preparing the best for you. God's timing is always better. He is never late. We are just impatient. Very soon you will smile and say, "Thank You Lord."



Croeso cynnes iawn i 'Cymanfa Cofio Gwynfor' yng Nghapel Heol Awst, Caerfyrddin, Nos Sul, 8 Mehefin 2025 am 6 yr hwyr (drysau yn agor am 5.30). Bydd Dechrau Canu Dechrau Canmol yn recordio. Bydd rhaglenni ar gael wrth y drws ar y noson.

A very warm welcome to the 'Gwynfor Remembrance Gathering' at Capel Heol Awst, Carmarthen, Sunday evening, 8 June 2025 at 6pm (doors open at 5.30). Dechrau Canu Dechrau Canmol will be recording. Programs will be available at the door on the night.

One of the hymns in Dechrau Canu, Dechrau Canmol programme is BRO ABER.

O tyred i'n gwaredu, Iesu da,
 fel cynt y daethost ar dy newydd wedd,
 a'r drysau 'nghau, at rai dan ofnus bla,
 a'u cadarnhau â nerthol air dy hedd:
 llefara dy dangnreffed yma nawr
 a dangos inni greithiau d'aberth mawr.

The hymn tune "Bro Aber" was composed by John Haydn Phillips and premiered at the 1983 Anglesey National Eisteddfod in the Composing a Hymn Tune competition, where it won first prize. It is paired with the hymn text "Gweddi Heddiw" (O, tyred i'n gwaredu, Iesu da). The tune and hymn text are highly popular and considered one of the best Welsh hymns of the second half of the 20th century.

The words for this hymn were written by John Roberts. Born 2 June 1910 in Llanfachraeth, Anglesey, only son of William Roberts, farm-worker, and his wife Elizabeth, who soon moved to Glan-yr-afon in Llanfwrog. He went to Ffrwd Win School (but not until he was seven), and afterwards took a clerical course at "Owens' College" in Holyhead. From his early youth, his ambition was to become a preacher. In 1928 he entered the Connexion's preparatory school in North Wales, Ysgol Clynnog, which in 1929 was transferred to Rhyl. All his ministerial work was carried out in North Wales. He moved to Garth Chapel, Porthmadog at the beginning of 1945. From there he went, in 1957, to Capel Tegid, Y Bala, and then, in 1962, to Moriah Chapel in Caernarfon where he remained until he retired in 1975.

MANIPUR APPEAL

We have a special relationship with the people of north east India, we cannot walk away from our responsibilities, says church leader.

The Presbyterian Church of Wales (PCW) has launched a financial appeal to help thousands of displaced refugees in north East India. The appeal is a humanitarian effort to support the people of Manipur, India, who are facing severe persecution and violence. It's in response to the violent upheaval which took place in Manipur in May 2023, which led to the destruction of hundreds of churches, homes, and displacement of tens of thousands of people. Hundreds of people have since died. Many of the refugees are now displaced in refugee camps in neighbouring countries.



Rev Nan Powell Davies, General Secretary of the PCW recently visited a refugee camp in Mizoram. She was accompanied by Rev Rebecca Lalbiaksangi, minister of the East Montgomeryshire Pastorate and who comes from Mizoram. This camp, in the Mizoram hills, is now home to 40 families from Manipur.

Nan Powell Davies said: 'When Thomas Jones arrived in north east India in the 1840s, he preached the gospel and made a solemn promise to them. He devoted himself and his denomination to fostering a special relationship with them. He made a covenant with them and we cannot walk away from them in their hour of need.

The tribal peoples who were attacked by the Metei people group in 2023 are the descendants of the tribes that the Welsh Calvinistic Methodist missionaries worked with in the nineteenth century. They are part of us and we are part of them. I met peace loving families who have lost everything and experienced unbelievable pain and yet find hope in each other and in God.

'During 2025, we are asking individuals and churches to give generously, to help our brothers and sisters return home and rebuild their houses and businesses.'

During their visit, Nan and Rebecca met two survivors, whose stories made a great impression on them. Their names (changed for security reasons), are Robert and Kimteii:

My name is Robert

My house and business have gone, burnt to the ground. I had spent all my savings on building and establishing a kindergarten. I was so proud of my business and my work with families. And now it's all gone. Not only me this is true of many others. I had neighbours who had worked in the Army and spent their pension on building their own homes. These houses are also burnt down. I long to go home, we all do, but it is not possible. Everything has gone. There are no medical or school facilities. It has all been burnt down. When the Metei people attacked us, they set

fire to everything and we ran for our lives. We ran down the valley, me, my wife and children. I looked back and all I could see was a sky that seemed to be on fire.

My name is Kimteii

We had to flee when the fires started and we ran into the jungle, with our five year old son, my husband, parents in law and brother in law. My son is traumatised by what he saw and the terror of running away. We have lost everything, we have nothing now. Back in Manipur, we had a farm and a business, but that has all gone and we rely on the generosity of the Mizo people. We are exhausted and don't know what the future holds for us. My son is terrified by the thought that we might go back to Manipur. He has terrible nightmares about the burning and violence he witnessed – but we must go back when we can. It is our home.

Rev Nan Powell Davies also took part in an Ultra Marathon around Pen Llŷn on Saturday 12th April.



She wrote on the PCW website: "The intention is to walk, and who knows, maybe run a bit of the 50Km (31 miles) around Pen Llŷn.

It was agreed at an Elders' meeting, that the loose collection together with the income from the Friendship Centre for the 3 months February to April would be donated to this appeal. This total amounted to £393 – 22, which will be sent to Rev Nan Powell Davies.



Christian Aid Week this year will be held from 11th May to 17th May.

For 80 years, churches have supported and sustained the work of Christian Aid and together, united in hope, have been able to offer vital, practical support to communities who are working hard to leave poverty behind. Tragically, today, so much of what has been achieved is under threat with the climate crisis destroying the lives, lands and livelihoods of many of the communities Christian Aid work with. The focus of this years' Christian Aid Week is to help those people who are battling intense heatwaves, deadly droughts and savage storms to adapt and build on their resilience.

A Coffee Morning will be held at the English Baptist on Saturday June 7th from 10am to 12 noon.

There will also be a Christian Aid Service at St Peters Church on Sunday 11th May at 5pm.

Esme writes:

1947 was the year of a great surprise to us all as a close family. I was 10 years old and the time of the 11+ was not far away. My mother did tremendous volunteer work for the RED CROSS. One morning the Postman arrived with a very big box neatly packed. It was just a short time after the victory of the Second World War, thus nothing had come back into peoples' lives – food rations and clothes coupons had not ended.



There was no stamp on this box, but neatly packed, our neighbour came over and opened this box. When the box was opened, it contained a selection of tins e.g. pears, pineapple etc and inside a letter from Princess Elizabeth who got married in 1947. Most brides in that era would get married in uniform if in the forces, and the bridegrooms would also do the same. Sympathetic members of means, sent her their clothing coupons which the princess could not accept, as it was illegal. Instead, the Government sent her a gift of 200 coupons to buy the essentials for her wedding.

The parcel was opened at the back garden, in fear maybe. Inside was a letter addressed to my mother in Princess Elizabeth's own handwriting at the top. This was my vision as a child and here is the copy of her letter. The original letter was framed so long ago and it will go with my fathers' War Medals to the museum one day.

"Many kind friends overseas sent me gifts of food at the time of my wedding. I want to distribute it as best as I can, to share my good fortune with others. I therefore ask you to accept this parcel. With my very best wishes" and signed by herself – Elizabeth R.

This contribution from Esme seemed appropriate to include in this months' newsletter as we approach the VE Day 80th Anniversary celebrations. Some of us cannot even begin to understand or appreciate what life was like 80 years ago. Nowadays it is so easy to "take things for granted" in our daily lives, and that includes attending church and chapel services.

PRAYER FOR VE DAY

O Lord our God, as we remember, teach us the ways of peace. As we treasure memories, teach us to hope. As we give thanks for the sacrifices of the past, help us to make your future in this world, until your kingdom come. Amen.

During World War II in the UK, religious services adapted to wartime circumstances, with many churches holding services even after damage from bombing. Clergy actively engaged in wartime welfare, providing comfort and support through prayers and services in air raid shelters and military bases. The government also encouraged special acts of worship, and chaplains were deployed to serve the spiritual needs of soldiers, demonstrating interdenominational cooperation.

Music also played a crucial role in boosting morale during World War Two. Songs from both sides of the Atlantic topped the charts, got people on the dance floor and rallied spirits through many dark days and nights on the home front and abroad. Here are just a couple of tunes that kept people going.



The White Cliffs of Dover (1941)

Walter Kent & Nat Burton's response to the battles in the skies over the English Channel is perhaps the most popular wartime songs. Though recorded in 1941 by Glenn Miller & His Orchestra, it was Vera Lynn's 1942 recording which captured the hearts of listeners at home and abroad. It soon became an iconic song to rally the spirits of a nation, not to mention a bit of a signature tune for Vera Lynn.

We'll Meet Again' (1939)

Like 'White Cliffs of Dover' Ross Parker & Hughie Charles's 1939 song was made famous by Vera Lynn, the late singer and actress who entertained the troops during WW2 and left a nation spellbound. She sang it in the 1943 film of the same name and, along with 'White Cliffs.' was one of the songs she is most remembered for.

Sunday Services/Gwasanaethau ar y Sul

Mr Hugh Waddell	2 pm	04/05/2025
Rev Emrys – Communion	10 am	11/05/2025
Members – Tina & Sian	10 am	18/05/2025
Rev Emrys	2 pm	25/05/2025
Mr Geraint Lloyd	2 pm	01/06/2025
Rev Emrys – Communion	2 pm	08/06/2025
Mr Clyde Briggs	2 pm	15/06/2025

Friendship Centre Rota

08/05/25	Tina, Kevin & Nan
15/05/25	Helen & Sian
22/05/25	Maisie & Rosemary
29/05/25	Pat & Carole
05/06/25	Tina, Kevin & Nan
12/06/25	Helen & Sian

	Flowers/Blodau	Cleaning/Glanhau	Announcing and Communion/ Cyhoeddi a Pharatoi'r Cymun
May	Nesta Wyn Davies	Rosemary & Nelda	Carole Rees
June	Sian Cassell	Owen & Kim	Sian Cassell
July	Vi Williams	Pat, Doreen & Charmaine	Meurig Rees

Dates for the Calendar

Singalong Tuesdays: 6th May 2 pm @ Babell
 20th May 2 pm @ Towy Castle

Elders Meeting: Tuesday 6th May @ 11 am

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