

Tachwedd /Rhagfyr RHIFYN 50 2022

November/December ISSUE 50

Babell Zion Newydd

Awn i Fethlem, bawb dan ganu,
neidio, dawnsio a difyrru,
i gael gweld ein Prynwr c'redig
aned heddiw, Ddydd Nadolig.

Rhys Pritchard

Repeat the hymn again:
'To God on high be glory
and peace on earth. Amen'
[From 'A great and mighty wonder']

The Congregation

Condolences

We extend our sincere sympathies to Meurig and Carole Rees. Meurig's mother passed away on Friday November 18th.

Also to Ken and Maisie Johnson on the passing of Ken's brother.

Estynnwn ein cydymdeimlad llwyraf â chi.

Yn yr Ysbyty/In Hospital

Dymunwn bob rhwyddineb i Mr Alun Evans sydd yn yr Ysbyty. Mae ein meddyliau a'n gweddïau gyda phawb sydd yn anhwylyd ac yn cael bywyd yn anodd ar hyn o bryd. Codwch y ffôn, Ryn ni yma ar eich cyfer.

The sing- a - long.

Our Singalongs with Helen and Carole continue every other Tuesday. We have enjoyed the company of the residents of Plas Y Dderwen during the last few times. All are welcome to join. Croeso cynnes i chi gyd i ymuno gyda ni. Mae'r canu wir yn wefreiddiol. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 30th of November when we shall be singing carols in the Advent season.

Clwb Sul/The Sunday Club

We have been studying Leaders in the Sunday Club beginning with Moses and Joshua with many games and craft work included. We are now preparing for our Christmas Service which will be held on the 18th of December at 2pm. A warm welcome to all.

Te a Thrafod/Discussion over a cup of tea

Mae'r Parchg Emyr yn cynnal sesiwn drafod dros baned o de yn festri Soar Pontyberem bob prynhawn dydd Llun am 2 o'r gloch i'r Ofalaeth gyfan. [Also on zoom.] Y maes y tymor hwn yw Efengyl Mathew. In the first session we looked briefly at the authorship. Who was Mathew? He writes from a Jewish perspective but was he indeed the disciple/apostle Mathew, the tax collector? There is a great deal of doubt. In the second session we discussed Jesus' teaching on the giving of charity. "Don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing." Mae'r drafodaeth yn gallu arwain i gyfeiriadau annisgwyl. Discussion can often lead to ideas which may one day lead to actions. Mathew's Gospel divides into 5 books forming a sandwich between the Introduction [Chapters 1 and 2] and the events of Holy week [chapters 26 to 28]. The five books or sections remind us of the Five books of Moses or the Law of Moses which are the first five books of the Bible. The sections end with the words in brackets.

1. Chapters 3-7 [When Jesus finished saying these things]
2. Chapters 8-11 [When Jesus finished giving these instructions]
3. Chapters 11-13 [When Jesus finished telling these parables]
4. Chapters 13-19 [When Jesus finished saying these things]
5. Chapters 19-26. [When Jesus had finished teaching all these things]

Finding Hope Under Bethlehem's Skies. Based on a book by Robin Ham

An Advent Devotional

Elimelech and Naomi would have been refugees in the land of Moab, fleeing Israel because of famine, searching for hope in a foreign country and they were probably not alone. We remember how Jacob's sons brought their families down to Egypt in search of food during the great famine in Canaan. And today we are only too aware of people continually on the move due to warfare, persecution, drought, earthquakes, and famine.

In the case of Naomi, she lost her husband and her two sons within 10 years. During that time she had gained two Moabite daughters in law, who were both ready to support their mother in law, so much so, that when Naomi decided to return to Judea and to Bethlehem, they were both adamant that they would accompany her. Naomi tried to persuade them both to stay in their native country. Orpah yielded but Ruth clung to her mother-in law. We remember her powerful words:

"Wherever you go I will go, wherever you will live I will live. Your people will be my people and your God will be my God. Wherever you die, I will die and that is where I will be buried."

Ruth, as a Moabite would have been brought up to worship other gods and not the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob: the God of the covenant with Israel. We can only presume that she had grown to know God through Naomi's family, their conversations, their behaviour and traditions. Her unfaltering love for Naomi was indeed God's love in action, the kind of love that changes everything.

At the same time Naomi felt that she had been dealt a bitter blow at the hands of God and who could blame her. She says: "the Lord has turned against me." Then again, when she arrives in Bethlehem and people are glad to see her and call out Naomi, a name meaning pleasant in Hebrew, she requests of them to call her "Mara" meaning bitter. –'.....because Almighty God has made my life bitter.' They were indeed dark days for Naomi. However, through the events and responses of other people, like Ruth, Naomi is to find that God has not left her and would never leave her. Bethlehem was to become her sanctuary, her hope in the darkest of times and a thousand years later it was to become the scene of hope once more for a world which was also in the midst of the darkest of times.

To be continued

Friendship Centre Rota

24/11/22	Helen and Sian
1/12/22	Molly and Pat
8/12/22	Maisie and Rosemary
15/12/22	Nan and Tina
22/12/22	Sian and Helen

ON FINDING MEANING IN ROADSIGNS

I am sometimes asked where I get the ideas for my weekly musings. The answer is that themes are suggested by very ordinary things – Road signs for instance. Think of that very common sign advising that NO U TURNS are allowed. Every one of us, on occasion, wishes that we could recapture the past, our lives and, possibly undo the mistakes made.



*Oh, how I long for some marvellous place,
Called the land of beginning again.
Where all our mistakes and all our heartaches,
Could be hung like a dusty old coat on the gate
And never put on again.*

Life, alas, is not like that. All that any of us can do is to admit to having made mistakes and then resolve that they will not be repeated. Where apologies are needful let us have the grace to offer them. Where restitution is possible let us make it. Let there be no minimising of previous misjudgements but, rather, genuine sorrow for any hurt caused others.

How I wish, as one who officiates at many funerals, that fewer services would feature the song 'My Way.' There is something incredibly selfish about the words and never more so than when 'regrets' are dismissed as being 'too few to mention.' They could be more numerous than we care to admit and must surely be acknowledged if we are to put them behind us. It also seems egotistical to have done things 'my way' the fact being that life might have been happier had we taken other people's wishes into account.

Such an admission having been made, we must then learn to forgive ourselves and endeavour to make the future a positive adventure. On this journey of life U turns, for good or for bad, are not part of the equation.



I cannot help but smile when I see the 'FALLING ROCKS' road sign. Seeing that there is nothing I can do about such an occurrence there seems to be little point warning me about it. What action is one meant to take, especially having already noted that U TURNS are not permitted? The sign reminds us nonetheless, that life is a hazardous journey and can never be completely free of risk. Recall, if we will, those first tentative steps taken by our young children. Why did table edges have to be so sharp and be at the same height as a child's head? Why did cats have claws that could injure an inquisitive toddler? Why couldn't we simply wrap our little ones in cotton wool to prevent them being hurt? Because we would infantilize them – that is why. Coping with the knocks and scratches and tumbles of life is necessary if the child is to become resilient and able to cope with living in a harsh universe. Falling Rocks might be painful. Their existence, though, is also necessary.

I always find the TRAFFIC MERGING FROM LEFT sign very thought provoking. It reminds me that I must make room in my mind for the arrival of new ideas and am to make room for them. Just as I have to accommodate merging traffic so I have to listen to the thoughts and interpretations of people who think differently to me. Not one of us possesses all of truth and those who believe that their view, alone is valid will ultimately be proven wrong. When we reach journey's end we will see that we spent much of our lives playing in the shallows never thinking of the vastness and depth of the ocean in all its glory. Let us welcome the insights that others bring with them. Let us make space for merging traffic.

*Truth is out there in the distance,
But there comes to you and me,
The time to comprehend it –
It is called 'Eternity.'*



There is one very important road sign. I see it regularly when I travel along the M42. The reader may have seen it elsewhere. It reads TIREDNESS KILLS. TAKE A BREAK. What busy lives we lead. We can scarcely fit in all that we have to do. We spend our day saving time, chasing time, worrying about time. We are like people in a breathless haste

driving ourselves into a state of perpetual exhaustion. We are on a treadmill and cannot get off it – even when on holiday. In effect, we no longer work to live; we live to work – and the inevitable stress leads to nervous debility and emotional breakdown. The answer must surely be to learn the art of taking minute vacations; of making time for relaxation and for doing nothing. It is to discover the secret of 'being' rather than 'doing.' It is being prepared, on occasion, to admit that we are not indispensable and that the world will go on without us. I knew of a minister who worked relentlessly for what was a demanding church. He sacrificed wife and family on the altar of his calling. Even on holiday he refused to switch off. He burnt himself out, quite literally, and died prematurely. I preached at that church fifteen years after his death. I mentioned his name in conversation and discovered that the majority of people, then present, had very little memory of him. Tiredness does indeed kill. Take a Break.

Mike Shephard

Flowers/ Blodau		Cleaning/ Glanhau	Announcing and Communion Cyhoeddi a Pharatoi'r Cymun
Nan Thomas	Rhagfyr/December	Carole/Meurig/ Sian	Helen Gibbon
Vi Williams	Ionawr/January	Pat, Doreen, Molly, Charmaine	Sian Cassell

Dates for the Calendar

Paratoi ar gyfer Dydd Gweddi'r Byd: Priordy Tachwedd 30ain 10.30-12pm

Plygain Merched y Wawr: Nos Sul Rhagfyr 1 leg 7pm Priordy. Singers needed.

January Prayer Meeting: date and time to be announced

Next Elders' / Meeting: January 17th 10am

Friendship Centre/Canolfan Dydd
Every Thursday from 10.30-1.30pm

Cwrdd Dosbarth
Cwrdd Dosbarth nesaf yn Bancyfelin Ionawr 23ain am 7 o'r gloch.

Singalong Tuesday dates at 2pm
November 29th.
December 13th
January 10th

Children's Christmas Party: December 17th 3pm
All welcome to join from 4pm onwards.

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Sunday Services/Gwasanaethau ar y Sul

Minister	Communion/ Cymundeb	11.30am	4/12/2022
Candlelight service/Oedfa yng ngolau kannwyll		4pm	11/12/2022
Children's Service/ Gwasanaeth y plant		2pm	18/12/2022
Minister Christmas Eve/ Noswyl Nadolig		11.15pm	24/12/2022
Minister/Gweinidog		10am	8/1/2023

Gofalaeth y Gwendraeth/ The Gwendraeth Pastorate



Te a Thrafod

Taith trwy Efengyl Mathew

Yn Festri Soar, Pontyberem

ac ar Zoom

Prynhawniau Llun

2yp

Tachwedd 14, 21, 28

Rhagfyr 5

Ionawr 30

Chwefror 6 & 13

1. **Te a Thrafod/ Discussion over a cup of tea: November 14/21/28/December 5; January 30; February 6/13 at Soar vestry and via Zoom**
2. **Prayer meeting at Llanddarog and via Zoom January 9th at 2pm**
3. **Pie, Mash and Pudding Night February 23rd at Llanddarog 7pm**



Nos Wener 23ain Chwefror 2023 Am 7 yr Hwyr

**NOSON PEI, PYS PWTCH A PWDIN
ac Adloniant gan 'Bois y Rhedyn'
Neuadd Llanddarog**

**(Dewch â diod eich hunan)
(Tocynnau ar gael wrth Aelodau y
capeli)**

**Elw'r Noson at Apêl Hadau Gobaith
Cymorth Cristnogol ac EBC**

PIE, MASH & PUDDING NIGHT And Entertainment 'Bois y Rhedyn'

**at Llanddarog Hall Friday 23rd February 2023 7PM (Bring your own drink)
(Tickets sold by Chapel Members)**

Proceeds will go to the Christian Aid a PCW Seeds of Hope Appeal

How well do you know your carols?

These are lines from well known carols, but what is the first line of the first verse?

1. And through all His wondrous childhood.
2. "Bring me flesh and bring me wine..."
3. But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
4. All is calm, all is bright.
5. "To you in David's town this day...."
6. Bearing gifts, we traverse afar...
7. Then let us all with one accord
8. And i-o,i-o,i-o, by priest and people sungen
9. Mild he lays his glory by
10. How still we see thee lie
11. Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb
12. Snow had fallen, snow on snow
13. O now carry me to Bethlehem.
14. Let earth receive her king.
15. Let nothing you dismay

1. Crist, Tad tragwyddoldeb yw
2. Faban annwyl ynghwsg yn y gwair,
3. Tyrd Iesu i'm hymyl ac aros o hyd
4. Dros bant a bryn at breseb syn
5. Geni Seilo, gorau swydd;
6. Henffych well it heddiw
7. Nid ym mhreseb yr anifail
8. Saint fu'n hir yn ofnus ddisgwyl
9. Ei ras O! derbyniwn- ei haeddiant cyhoeddwn
10. Eira'n drwm o fryn i dref
11. Ganwyd Iesu'n Frenin nef
12. I fachgennyn Mair
13. A deimli di heddiw fod rhyfedd wyrth
14. Cwsg am dro, cwsg am dro
15. Neidio, dawnsio a difyrru

Nadolig Llawen i chi gyd

A Merry Christmas to you all