

HYDREF RHIFYN 49 2022

OCTOBER ISSUE 49

# Babell Zion Newydd

ENTER THE TEMPLE GATES WITH  
THANKSGIVING, GO INTO ITS COURTS  
WITH PRAISE. GIVE THANKS TO HIM  
AND PRAISE HIM

Psalm/Salm 100

DEWCH I MEWN I'W BYRTH Â DIOLCH  
AC I'W GYNTEDDAU Â MAWL.  
DIOLCHWCH IDDO A BENDITHIWCJH EI  
ENW.

## The Congregation/ Y Gynulleidfa

### A sing- a - long.

The singalong continues every other Tuesday and the singing improves every time. All are welcome to join in this new venture for us at Babell Zion Newydd. Mae'n hyfryd croeshawu pobol o bob rhan o'r gymuned a da oedd gweld cynrychiolaeth o Towy Castle gyda ni ddydd Mawrth diwethaf.

### Camp enfawr/ A huge achievement

We mentioned Lleucu, Erin a Ffion's marvellous achievement last month of climbing Penyfan, not once, but five times in succession. Here they are with Vi and Ruth presenting a cheque of £5555 in memory of their mother Mandy at Skanda Vale Hospice. Llongyfarchiadau mawr.



### Yn yr Ysbyty/In Hospital

Ryn ni'n meddwl am bawb sydd yn anhwylus neu'n cael bywyd yn anodd ar hyn o bryd ond yn enwedig Alun Evans sydd nôl yn yr Ysbyty ar ôl cyfnod byr yn ei gartref. Dymunwn wellhad buan iddo.

### Penblwydd hapus

Penblwydd hapus i Janet Pentremeurig a fu'n dathlu penblwydd arbennig ar ddechrau mis Medi. Pob dymuniad da oddi wrthom i gyd.

### Bore Coffi



Cynhaliwyd Bore Coffi yn y Capel fore Sadwrn Hydref 8fed. Roedd hi'n hyfryd i weld y gymuned yn dod at ei gilydd unwaith eto ar ôl cyfnod hir o gyfyngiadau Covid 19. Diolch i bawb am y gwaith paratoi ac am bresenoldeb Cadeirydd Cyngor Cymuned Llangynnwr, y Cynghorwr Geraint Bevan. Diolch iddo am ei gefnogaeth parod a diolch i Linda Owen am gyd-lynur cyfan. Thank you Linda for co-ordinating the preparations. We raised £536 for the chapel funds which will go towards window and wall renovation and exterior painting. Codwyd £536 ar gyfer gwaith sydd angen ei wneud i adeilad y capel. Bydd angen gwneud gweliannau i'r wal allanol, paentio'r capel a newid y ffenestri er mwyn cadw'r gwres i fewn. Dyna'r prosiect nesaf.

## Gwasanaeth Diolchgarwch/ Harvest Thanksgiving Service

The chapel was tastefully decorated for the Thanksgiving service which was held on October 2<sup>nd</sup> with our Minister Emyr leading our worship. The children of the Sunday Club took part and performed well.



Emyr took the theme of trust and faith and Leia was the first to volunteer to put her faith to the test in a little experiment which Emyr had prepared. All donations of tinned food were taken to the Food Bank in Johnstown the following day together with the loose collection of £60.

Thank you one and all.



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## Ffarwelio

Yn anffodus roedd rhaid i ni ffarwelio gyda Corey, Catrin, Peris a Lleu ar ddiwedd mis Medi. Ryn ni'n gweld eisiau gwersi diddorol Catrin yn y Clwb plant yn barod. Pob dymuniad da i'r teulu bach yn y Wyddgrug a phob bendith ar y bennod newydd hwn yn eich hanes.

The Sunday Club meets every Sunday at alternate times to the service. We are following the story of Moses this term with fun games and even a tiffin recipe to highlight the main points of the story. We welcome children aged 4 and above. Mae'r cyfan yn ddwyieithog ac mae llawer o hwyl i'w gael. Dwedwch wrth eich ffrindiau amdanom.



## AUTUMN LEAVES

A Methodist minister, the Rev. Professor William Stidger of the School of Theology in Boston, Massachusetts, was preparing a sermon for Thanksgiving Day. He began to think of the blessings he had received in life and of things for which he was truly thankful. He remembered, amongst other things, the woman who had taught him in infants' school and who had first introduced him to rhyming verse, an interest that had remained with him over many years. He decided to send her a belated word of thanks and, days later, received a reply. It was written in the feeble scrawl of the elderly, and it brought a lump to his throat:

*My Dear William,*

*I cannot tell you how much your note meant to me. I am in my eighties, living alone in a small room, cooking my own meals, lonely and, like the last leaf of autumn, lingering behind. You will be interested to know that I taught in school for fifty years and yours is the first note of appreciation I ever received. It came on a blue, cold morning and it cheered me as nothing has in many years.*

I must admit that I was also moved by the letter with the writer's description of herself as being like 'the last leaf of autumn' provoking feelings of deep sadness in me. If nothing else, it provoked me to write a note of appreciation to people who, in varying ways, had influenced my own life, the hope being that their leaf was still green and that they had not yet fallen from the tree.

There is something very poetic about such an analogy and it has long remained in my memory. If it inspires us to thank people who have played a formative role in our lives before they leave the world it will have done its job well.

To use such language about our latter years is nevertheless to paint an overly gloomy picture of old age and is, I think to be discouraged. To see oneself as a leaf clinging on to the tree of life is to embrace a very negative attitude and is tantamount to asserting that we have nothing further to contribute to our community or world.

I thought along these lines, quite recently, when driving past a residential home for the elderly and noting that it bore the name *Autumn Leaves*. I

found myself wondering who had decided on so miserable a designation and if they had thought the matter through. I cannot imagine that any elderly person would choose, of their own volition, to live in such a place.

The years of life's autumn are, surely, one of the most productive periods of life with the poet's description of them as a season of 'mellow fruitfulness' being highly significant. Few of us would want to return to the tempestuous period of our youth or early twenties with the words of the actor, Omar Shariff, containing wisdom as well as humour: *"I was glad to get to the age of thirty-nine and to take more pleasure in going to bed with a good book than with a good woman!"* Nor would we 'oldies' crave those stressful middle years when we had to balance work responsibilities with caring for young children or, worse still, teenagers. Nor would we wish to revisit our failures and disasters, save to express gratitude for lessons learned and wisdom gained. If we were to see it, our latter years are a time of harvest and for reaping fruits that can be passed on to younger spirits.

I take great comfort from the fact that some of the leading figures in the Bible were called by God, not in the days of youthful enthusiasm but, rather, in their later years. This was true of Abraham, and of Moses, it being likely that life experience was necessary to equip them for the task in hand. It is in the Bible, also, that we find inspirational passages relating to age with the words of the prophet Joel being well suited to our theme. He cites God as promising that "Your old men will have dreams" (2:28). We might lack the strength and stamina of youth but who is to say that we cannot inspire them with dreams of what they might achieve.

I, for one, refuse to become a leaf with no other purpose save that of clinging desperately to the tree. The day will come when my leaf flutters downward to enrich the soil for those who come after me. It is then that my soul will fly upward in search of new challenges and adventures. In what remains of this life I will strive to fulfil those wonderful words of the poet, Robert Browning.

*Grow old along with me! The best is yet to be, the last of life for which the first was made. Our time is in his hand who saith, 'a whole I planned, youth shows but half; Trust God; See all, nor be afraid!*

Meanwhile, I will avoid taking up residence in a home named 'Autumn Leaves.'

MIKE SHEPHERD

## Cerddwyr Cynnwr

Am dro o amgylch Cydweli: Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> of October 2022

by Gareth Jones

It is Saturday and we are off on a walk again. This time we are heading for Cydweli and we are starting at St Mary's Church where we are met by Canon Brian Witt who has kindly agreed to show us the church. It is known that the roots of this striking church go back to the 7<sup>th</sup> century when the area was a hotbed of Celtic Christianity under such early saints as David, Cadoc and Teilo.

In around 1110 Bishop Roger of Salisbury founded a Benedictine Priory. The nave or body of the Priory Church served the lay people and the monks used the east end of the church. The Canon drew our attention to the church roof which has no ceiling and therefore resembles the bottom of a ship. He explained that it was thought to be because of Noah and the ark which he built under God's instruction. The tour became even more interesting as we were shown 4 small doors in the church high up on the walls some



leading to tiny chambers but some leading nowhere and no explanation was available for their existence. There were also a few niches in the walls that had no explanation. One niche however used to contain a life-sized alabaster statue of the Virgin Mary and Christ-child in the chancel wall. This became an object of veneration and pilgrims



travelled to Cydweli to see it. One of the bishops did not agree with the people genuflecting before an idol and took it down. Somehow it was

broken and the smaller version was eventually placed in a niche near the altar.

We were shown into the Lady Chapel

where services are still held. On one wall there was a lit candle next to a small safe which contained blessed wine together with some bread in order that persons who could not attend church due to illness could have communion.

Canon Witt also pointed out that the font which they used for christening was positioned at the back near the door so that it was a sign of welcoming all who were entering the church. The tour was enjoyed by all and Canon Witt was thanked by myself and the group collectively.

When we turned to leave the church we were greeted by the lovely sight of "HEN FENYF FACH CYDWELI" who sells the black sweets at a price of 10 for half a penny but of course eleven for me. She was dressed in the full regalia of red full skirt and pinafore topped by the tall black hat. A sight for sore eyes especially her basket which contained the sweets. Mrs Peggy Davies has appeared as the lady over many years and raised lots of money for charity. Everyone present bought a packet of sweets for £1 and some also donated to her charity. The cameras worked overtime to ensure that they had a picture of this old tradition which might not survive after Peggy decides to retire again.

As we continued our walk someone spotted a blue plaque on one of the little cottages on our right. It was the home of John Charles Williams [1876 – 1936] who at 21 years of age emigrated to America where he became president of a large tin works and set up a charity that still provides money for local people to enter post graduate study in the U.K or abroad. Not bad for the son of a local tin plate worker!

We are now in Gwendraeth Town, in the area known as the "Forties." The town is a terrace of twenty cottages all well kept. Apparently they are known as the "FORTIES" because there is another row of twenty cottages mirroring the front ones.



After a pleasant walk along a grassy track of about a mile we emerged out onto the Cydweli - Meinciau road. Uphill to Mynydd y Garreg to eat our packed lunches near the memorial to Ray Gravelle or Ray o'r Mynydd as he is known. He played rugby for the Scarlets, Wales 23 times, British and Irish Lions and was in the Scarlets team that famously beat the All Blacks 9-3. He

unfortunately passed away at the young age of 57.

Over lunch we enjoyed the views over the town with the 135ft high St Mary's Church spire and the castle plainly seen together with coastal views to Worms Head on the Gower and due to the mist over the sea some glimpses of Pembrokeshire.

After lunch it was a gentle stroll down hill towards the town passing the rugby club and the Industrial museum on our way. As we passed a farm the lady of the house was hanging her washing out and shouted to us that we could help ourselves to the fallen apples as she had lots. She was thanked but informed that some of the group were in the same position. We carried on along a path for about a mile and then had to cross the bypass before continuing on to the main road that leads into Cydweli from The Box roundabout. With the onset of a shower a few of us stayed the course to pass the cottage which won the title of House of the Year 2022. We finished our tour by car to see Thomas Kymer's canal and quay near the mouth of the Gwendraeth Fach. In the 1760s Kymer owned some coal mines in the Llanelli and Gwendraeth area and exported the coal from Cydweli by sea. He built a quay and a canal some three miles long to facilitate this and subsequently extended the canal towards the Gwendraeth valley to the mines that he owned in that area. The canal was some 26ft wide but was wider in some areas to allow barges to pass each other or turn around if required. The canal can still be traced for many miles but the quay was closed due to the silting up of the Gwendraeth Fach and closed in 1902. A lovely meal was enjoyed at The Red Lion Llandyfaelog to end the day where we were joined by Doreen.

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### **Friendship Centre Rota**

<b>27/10/22</b>	<b>Helen and Sian</b>
<b>3/11/22</b>	<b>Maisie and Rosemary</b>
<b>10/11/22</b>	<b>Molly and Pat</b>
<b>17/11/22</b>	<b>Nan and Tina</b>

Flowers/ Blodau		Clearing/ Glanhau	Announcing and Communion Paratoi'r Cymun
Nelda Davies	Tachwedd/November	Owen and Kim	Lynn Davies
Nan Thomas	Rhagfyr/December	Carole/Meurig /Sian	Helen Gibbon
Vi Williams	Ionawr/January	Helen and Gwyn	Molly Thomas



**Wi-fi comes to Babell Zion Newydd**  
 Our first service relayed via the newly installed Wi-fi was the Harvest Thanksgiving Service which Nan and Tina successfully accessed from Narberth. A big thank you to Emyr for making all the arrangements and for being at the chapel on the day of the installation. The camera is now in situ and all that is left for us now to do is to have a training day in how to use it when Emyr is not with us.

### **Swper codi arian i Hadau Gobaith/Seeds of Hope Appeal Supper**

Pryd? Nos Fercher 9fed o fis Tachwedd. Wednesday night 9<sup>th</sup> of November  
 Amser? Cwrdd am 6:00 Bwyta am 6:30. 6pm for 6.30. No later than 6.30  
 Ble? Bwyty Iona Marks, Mart Caerfyrddin. At the Mart Nantyci  
 Menu Pryd Dau Gwrs. Cinio Tato a grefi ~ Cig neu Dwrci, a Phwdin Cartref. Two course meal: Roast dinner with homemade pudding to follow  
 Cost: £18

Names to Sian please by the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November

### **Dates for the Calendar**

#### **Gwendraeth Pastorate Meeting**

**Capel Newydd Llanddarog Thursday October 27th 2pm:  
The way forward**

**Myrddin Presbytery Sisterhood meeting at BZN led by Elizabeth Jackson Burry Port. November 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Cwrdd Chwiorydd:** Tachwedd 9fed yn y Babell Zion Newydd am 2 o'r gloch. Croeso i bawb. Parchg Beti Wyn yn annerch. Oedfa Gymraeg

**Henaduriaeth Myrddin: Tachwedd 10fed** am 6 o'r gloch: lle i'w gadarnhau.

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

**Next Elders' / Meeting:** November 14<sup>th</sup> 6pm. at the chapel

### **Cwrdd Dosbarth**

Cwrdd Dosbarth nesaf ym Mancyfelin ar Ionawr 23ain 2023 am 7 o'r gloch.

### **Singalong**

The dates for the Tuesday singalongs for this year at 2pm with refreshments to follow are as follows:

November 1<sup>st</sup>. November 15<sup>th</sup>. November 29<sup>th</sup>. December 13<sup>th</sup>  
 All are welcome

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### **Sunday Services/Gwasanaethau ar y Sul**

Mr Alun Lenny	Gwasanaeth Cymraeg	2pm	30/10/2022
Mr Dafydd Evans		10am	6/11/2022
Revd Mary Thorley		10.30am	13/11/2022
Revd Emyr Williams		10am	20/11/2022
Mrs Pat Morgan		10.30am	27/11/2022

## Finding Hope under Bethlehem Skies

By Robin Ham

Last Christmas Revd Geraint Lloyd presented me with a book by Robin Ham which contained 25 daily reflections from the book of Ruth. During that time I derived a great deal of comfort and hope from those daily reflections. Over the next two months let us remind ourselves of the story of Ruth and Naomi and try to understand it in the context of Christmas.

The book of Ruth comes after the book of Judges in the Old Testament and the last verse of the book of Judges reads like this: "There was no king in Israel at that time. All the people did just as they pleased". Ruth's story happens at a time when Israel did not have a king. This can be dated back to the years 1200-1000 BC when Israel was ruled by judges or leaders who were chosen to remind the people of their covenant with God. But the people of Israel soon forgot their promises to God and lived as they wanted.

We are told also in Ruth chapter 1 verse 1 that there was a famine in the land and that Elimelech took his wife Naomi and their two sons from Bethlehem to the land of Moab to live and work.

### A reflection

Was the famine a result of the way people lived in Israel at that time? They were disobedient to God's laws and lived as they pleased. Actions have consequences.

Elimelech decided to leave and escape the famine. Are we too ready to turn away from broken situations instead of facing up to them?

Robin Ham emphasises that the famine was the result of a broken relationship with God. Should we be more ready to face the reality of our failings?

In his words, "Advent is understood as an opportunity to face up to the darkness in order to appreciate the light".

Are there things in our lives now, or in our country now that are signs of a broken relationship with God?

How can we face them and attempt to put things right?

## Tudalen y Plant/Children's page

1. Who found Moses in the river?
2. Why did Moses flee from Egypt?
3. To what place did he flee?
4. Give his wife's name.
5. Who was his father-in-law?
6. At what was Moses looking when a voice called to him to put off his shoes?
7. Give the name of Moses' brother.
8. How many plagues fell upon Egypt?
9. What memorial feast did Moses institute?
10. What food did God send his people in the wilderness?
11. What did Moses receive from God on Mount Sinai?
12. How old was Moses when he died?

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

Find the following words in the wordsearch  
MOSES; ZIPPORAH; AARON; MANNA; COMMANDMENTS;  
SINAI; BURNING BUSH; PASSOVER; JETHRO; TEN

