

Medi 2021

September 2021

## Cylchlythyr/Newsletter

Rhif/Issue 38

# BABELL ZION NEWYDD

Rhiw Babell Pensarn Caerfyrddin SA31 2DJ



### **Yn ôl yn y capel/ Back in Chapel**

It was with joy and a little trepidation that we opened on September 5<sup>th</sup> for the first time since March 2020. True to say that technology has helped over the last eighteen months, so too the written services but there is nothing like coming together as a community in worship and thanksgiving. Within Community there is true blessing. And it is the season of thanksgiving and we have much to be thankful for. Let us hope in true faith that we can continue to set aside one day in our busy lives to come to the house of prayer to praise and to hear the Word preached in person.

Steps have been taken to make the building as safe as we can: chairs have now to be separated, masks worn, hymns curtailed to two and sung seated with masks on, doors left open for good ventilation, and hand sanitisers provided in the porch. These will remain for the foreseeable future.

The vestry is not quite finished but we hope that the flooring will be completed by the end of October.

The children's Sunday Club has re-started and we have welcomed new members taking the number to eight. We've also welcomed Catrin and Peris to our midst.

We shall proceed week by week and hope that we can continue to meet like this but please let us know if you are anxious in any way and please do not feel obliged to be present. If you would like to receive Communion at home please let Corey know. Corey also relayed the first Service via Zoom to those who could not be present- a lot of telephone data used there. We shall have to arrange Wi-fi very soon.

### **Cydymdeimlo/ Condolences**

It was with sadness that we heard of the passing of Mr Stan Jenkins Haulfryn. Stan was a familiar face at the Friendship Centre and as a church we express our sincere condolences to Vincent, Helen and Caron and their families who wish to thank the Friendship Centre for making their father feel so welcome these past years following the death of his beloved wife Rhiannon. We understand that donations in memory of Stan will go to the Friendship centre and for this we are very grateful.

### **Charity Walk Congratulations**

Llongyfarchiadau mawr i Meurig Rees ar gwbwlhau'r Daith Gerdded 26 milltir dros Bannau Brycheiniog i godi arian dros Gymdeithas Alzheimers. Meurig writes about his challenge in his own words on the next page.

### **New Organ Cover**

It is wonderful to hear organ music again after eighteen months silence. A new organ, you will remember, was purchased in February 2020 just before the three month lockdown and unlike the former organ it did not have a keyboard cover. Charmaine came to our rescue. Thank you Charmaine.



## Rev Mike Shephard writes....

### HEAVENLY MANSIONS

I like the story of the rather haughty woman who died and went to heaven. She was met by Peter who was acting in his customary role as gatekeeper. She had lived a very egocentric life and expected everyone to be at her beck and call. She saw no reason to adopt a humbler approach on this occasion and demanded, in effect, that Peter give her his immediate and undivided attention. "Aah, there you are! I had no wish to die so soon, but I am here now, so we had better get on with it. I think we should start with a guided tour. I have heard tales of heavenly mansions and cannot wait to see my new home. Lead the way my good man!"

Peter said nothing but indicated that she should follow him. They walked through the gates and along beautiful tree lined streets. Everything was perfect, including the houses, each of them situated in their own landscaped grounds. Seeing one incredibly special dwelling she enquired who occupied so grand a house. Her host informed her that it was the home of a man who, in life, had been her gardener. "My gardener!" She exclaimed. "If so common and lowly a person has been allocated so gorgeous a property then I can only guess what has been prepared for someone with my breeding! A veritable palace, one would imagine!"

To her surprise, however, the surroundings began to take on a shabbier and scruffier appearance. The houses looked more dilapidated, and their overgrown, weed-infested gardens gave the impression of being uncared for and neglected. The woman continued to follow her guide but grew increasingly silent. She could not understand what was happening.

Finally, they came to a slum like building that was no more than a tumbled down shack. The walls were in a state of ill repair; the windows had rotten frames and no glass; slates were missing from the roof and rusty zinc sheeting covered the holes. "This, Madam, is your house," said Peter. "I'm afraid that it was the best we could do with the materials that you sent ahead of you."

I often say at this point that we need not be religious to see meaning in such a story. It is nevertheless a very true statement to make. This tale is a parable and reminds us that the worth of our lives is determined by the acts of kindness that we do for others and by the love and compassion that we show for those in need. Another way of putting it is to say that we only keep what we give away.

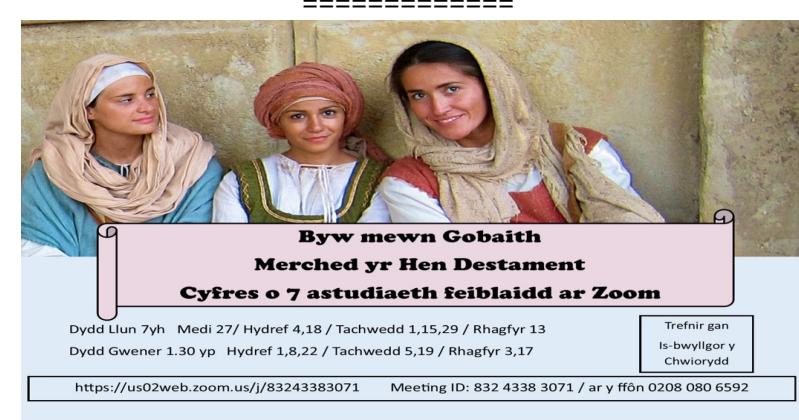
Jesus told a story recorded in the Gospels of Mathew and Luke of a wealthy man who went on a long overseas trip but, prior to doing so, gave sums of money to his servants instructing them to "trade with it until I return." Sometime later he came home and asked them to account for their actions. One man had doubled the amount originally received. Another had trebled it, and these were warmly commended. The third man admitted that he had done nothing with the money but had simply hidden it in the ground for fear of losing it. He received punishment, the judgement being that he had failed to use the gift entrusted to him. The words of the employer were these: "Unto him who has will more be given, but unto him who has not, even what he has will be taken from him." It is a very sobering thought.

It is always a sad thing when a person lives a completely selfish life and is only interested in their own happiness. It is a tragedy when we see our wealth as something to be used for our enjoyment alone. A man became famous in the field of catering and established a chain of restaurants right across the American continent. As he lay dying, his relatives gathered round his bed. They bent over him to hear his final words. His last whisper was: 'Slice the ham thin.' We laugh. It could be that we laughed too soon. It could be that we are laughing at ourselves. Do we happen to know Phyllis McGinley's poem 'Occupation Housewife'?

*Her health is good. She owns to forty-one,  
Keeps her hair bright with vegetable rinses,  
Has two well-nourished children – daughter and son,  
Just now away at school. Her house, with chintzes,  
Expensive, curtained, animates the caller,  
And she is fond of early American glass,  
Stacked in an English breakfront, somewhat taller  
Than her best friend's. Last year she took a class  
In modern drama at the County Centre.  
Twice on Good Fridays she's heard 'Parsifal' sung.  
She often says she might have been a painter,  
Or writer, perhaps, except she married young.  
She diets, and with Contract she delays  
The encroaching desolation of her days.*

The sting is in that last line – 'the encroaching desolation of her days.' It is clear why people are disillusioned about life and bored by it. They are hoarding what they should be giving away. They think they are here to be served. They are wrong. They are here to serve. As the surgeon, Benjamin Tenney, once said. 'It has taken me half my life to discover that my business in the world is not to make something of myself but, rather, to find a job worth doing and lose myself in it.'

Mike Shephard



## A Message from the Treasurer

I have received notification from HSBC that from November 1<sup>st</sup> all charities, clubs and community accounts will be moved to the banks' new Charitable Bank Account. Unfortunately, this type of account will involve a monthly fee and also we will be charged for each transaction made in person at the bank. The charges will be:

- £5 per month for the account.
- 0.4% fee for any cash deposits.
- 40p per cheque that is banked.

Many of you have already set up a Direct Debit/Standing Order during COVID lockdown in order to continue with your weekly contributions and for that I am extremely grateful. However, with these impending costs which will be incurred, I would like to appeal to everyone to continue with their Direct Debit/Standing Orders and urge those who still make their contributions in the normal way through weekly contribution envelopes to try and set up the electronic method.

I fully appreciate that some of you may not be able to set this up yourselves but your bank would be able to assist or I could help you. I also understand that a small number will want to continue with the contribution envelopes. It is my hope however, that the majority will adopt the electronic method as this will reduce the account induced costs to a minimum.

Many Thanks  
Carole

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*On a beautiful Autumn day in September the Cerddwyr were led by Gareth Jones along the country lanes, fields and woodland in and around Myddfai. This photo was taken at the beginning of the walk outside the community hall and visitor centre in the centre of the village where a welcome cup of tea and cake was had at the end of the eight mile walk.*

## Meurig's Challenge in his own words



On Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> September, I took part in the Alzheimers Challenge, sponsored by Regatta, to walk 26 miles across the Brecon Beacons. Myself and my 2 brothers who were also taking part, had travelled up the evening before as we had a very early start the following morning - up at 4:30am for a 6am start. Over 300 walkers took part on the Saturday walk with another 300 or so on Sunday. After being given a breakfast roll, the trek started in Brecon itself, through country lanes until we eventually began the climb up Pen Y Fan. It took us a couple of hours to reach the top of Pen Y Fan which unfortunately was covered in fog so we couldn't admire the view. The fog did start to clear as we walked around "Corn Du" so were able to see the stunning views across the Neuadd Valley, although sightseeing was not top of the agenda! The terrain was very challenging in places as it was so rugged underfoot, extremely narrow and with a very steep drop on one side. They say the hardest part of any walk is going downhill and the worse part for me was the descent known as Jacob's Ladder. It didn't help that I fell twice!! At this point we had only completed 11 miles. Still 15 to go!!!! At the bottom of Jacob's Ladder we walked through the forestry and around Talybont Lake and from this point onwards, there were sign markers telling us how many miles were left. Don't know whether this was a good thing or not because by now I was feeling really tired yet the signs started off at 10 miles to go. Throughout the trek, the organisers had placed refreshment stops where you could top up with fluids and have a light snack. The last one was at 19 miles ..... the end in sight. Each person taking part was allocated an event number (like those you see on the vests of athletes) and incorporated into the label was a tracking and timing device so you were monitored throughout. I finished the trek in 10 hrs 12 minutes but that included the stops for refreshments. Overall, the participants had raised over £750,000 for Alzheimers Research. I am extremely grateful for all the support and sponsorship I have received. I have raised just over £1,200 and I thank each one of you for your generosity.

Oedfa Ddiolchgarwch Chwiorydd yr Henaduriaeth trwy Zoom ar  
DDYDD LLUN, HYDREF 11eg am 2.00 y.p.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86013744312?pwd=OEI3TE9vUHNBVXVLcHBzdFFNDhCZ09>

Meeting ID: 860 1374 4312

Passcode: 439299

Mae'r casgliad eleni i helpu ein chwiorydd ym Mizoram, Lesotho, Uganda ac Indi

## Sunday Services/Gwasanaethau ar y Sul

Mr Corey Hampton	<b>2pm</b>	26/9/2021
Rev John Graham	<b>10.30</b>	3/10/2021
Mr Corey Hampton	<b>2pm</b>	10/10/2021
Rev Adelaide Wheeler Cocks	<b>10.30</b>	17/10/2021
Mr Corey Hampton	<b>2pm</b>	24/10/2021
<b>Gwasanaeth Diolchgarwch/Harvest Thanksgiving Service</b>		

Anrhodeddu PUMP â'r Fedal Gee o Gapel Newydd Llanddarog.  
yng Nghapel Newydd Llanddarog  
dydd Mercher Hydref 6ed am 2 o'r gloch

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86526744684?pwd=Mm1sVEZidm51VUY2Rm4vaHlBcThJdz09>

Meeting ID: 865 2674 4684  
Passcode: 01267275

Mae lle i 40-50 yn y capel ond rhwch wybod i Emrys Williams os hoffech fod yn bresennol.

### Elders' Meeting/Cyfarfod Blaenoriaid

The next Elders' Meeting will be held on Monday September 27<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at BZN  
Cyfarfod blaenoriaid nesaf am 6pm ar Fedi'r 27ain 2021 yn BZN

Cyfarfod Blaenoriaid y 5 eglwys sydd gyda Corey yn Jerwsalem Penygroes  
Hydref 11eg am 11 o'r gloch y bore

Flowers/ Blodau		Cleaning/ Glanhau	Announcing and Communion Cyhoeddi a Pharatoi'r Cymun
Rosemary Kerr	Medi/September	Sian Cassell Carole Rees	Pat Morgan
Maisie Johnson	Hydref/October	Helen Gibbon	Molly Thomas
Nelda Davies	Tachwedd/November	Janet and Lynn Davies	Meurig Rees
Nan Thomas	Rhagfyr/December	Molly, Doreen Charmaine and Pat	Sian Cassell

## The National Day of Prayer for Schools Tuesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>

I'm sure over the last 18 months our minds have often gone to thinking about our schools, and the incredible challenges both staff and pupils have had to come to grips with whilst balancing learning with safety in an ever-developing pandemic. Many staff are working long hours offering extra support and preparing to teach both online and in-person, often at short notice. Students have missed out on some of their formative years with friends, some missing exams, graduations, and just the normality of school years.

This coming Tuesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, many of us will be 'gathering' across the UK to have a special time of prayer for our schools, and I invite you to join in! There are several Zoom prayer meetings organised – head to [www.paismovement.com](http://www.paismovement.com) for details – or you could try one of these ideas:

1. Set an alarm : Remember the days where the school bell told us where to be and when?! Why not set your phone or clock alarm for 9am every weekday morning and have some time in prayer for our schools, staff and pupils?
2. Go for a walk: Schools are so central to our communities, and many of us live within walking distance to one, so why not take a lunchtime stroll and pray in your head as you walk that God would bless the school and the families it represents.
3. Step out: In our sermon series' recently in Acts we have heard much about prayer, and also the right kind of 'boldness' to share our faith. If you know a parent or staff member, why not offer to pray for them, it could mean a lot to them and give you a chance to share that your faith is real and active.

## Diwrnod Gweddi Dros Ysgolion Dydd Mawrth, Medi 28ain 2021

Dwi'n siwr dros y deunaw mis dwethaf mae ein ysgolion wedi dod i'n meddyliau yn aml, wrth i ni feddwl am yr heriau anferth sydd wedi wynebu staff a disgylion yn ystod argyfwng y pandemic. Mae staff wedi bod yn rhoi cymaint o egni ac oriau hir i wneud yn siwr fod plant a ieuengtied yn dal i dderbyn addysg, boed hynny mewn person neu o bell, mewn sefyllfa sydd yn newid yn aml. Mae plant wedi methu allan ar gymaint o amser gyda ffrindiau, a ieuengtied yn methu cerrig filltir pwysig megis graddio ac arholiadau. Dydd Mawrth hyn, Medi 28ain, mae diwrnod o weddi arbennig wedi ei drefnu gyda ffocws ar ein ysgolion, ac mae gwahoddiad i bawb ymuno! Mae sawl cwrdd gweddi dros Zoom yn cael eu cynnal, a gellir cael manylion o wefan [www.paismovement.com](http://www.paismovement.com). Neu, beth am weddio trwy un o'r ffyrdd hyn;

1. Gosod larwm: Gallwn dwi'n siwr i gyd gofio sain cloch yr ysgol oedd yn dweud wrthym ble i fynd ac erbyn pryd! Beth am osod larwm eich ffon neu cloc am 9yb a chymryd amser i weddio am ein ysgolion, staff a disgylion bryd hynny?
2. Ewch am dro: Mae ysgolion yn ganolbwyt ein cymunedau, a llawer ohonom yn byw o few tafliaid carreg i ysgol. Beth am fynd am dro dros amser cinio a gweddi o'n ddistaw am eich ysgol, a'r gymuned mae'n gynrychioli?
3. Camu allan: Os ydych yn adnabod rhiant gyda phlentyn yn yr ysgol, neu aelod o staff, beth am holi os allech weddio amdanyst? Gall feddwl llawer iddyn nhw, a bydd yn gyfle i rannu eich ffydd a'r gobaith sydd gyda chi, wrth ofyn i Dduw symud!