

Ebrill /April 2021

Rhifyn / Issue 34

Cylchlythyr / Newsletter

BABELL ZION NEWYDD

Rhiw Babel Pensarn Caerfyrddin SA31 2DJ


**Babel Zion
Newydd**

Babel Zion

Gweinidog
Parch / Rev
Cynorthwy-ydd Gweinidog
Mr Core

 Sunday Serv

Sunday



Drws Ag
Bob Dy

This newsletter has been digitised as part of a project to archive material relating to Llangunnor so that a record exists for future generations

Thanks to Rhell Zion Newydd Chapel for

Llangunnor Network
*Preserving and Promoting
Llangunnor*

Mr Emyr Williams writes....

Those who know me are aware that I like walking. Nothing serious just a few miles here and there. It has been a great blessing during this last year, and possibly helped to keep the weight down avoiding a lot of snacking etc.

Spring in the countryside is always a source of great pleasure, and the recent lockdowns have certainly highlighted awareness of the different seasons. Nature and the countryside have not changed much over the centuries but having more time to notice and contemplate on small things has certainly been of great benefit to our family and many others too. Even if we think that we have been couped up, nature has carried on regardless. Seeing the snowdrops, daffodils and now the bluebells pop their heads out, seeing the buds grow and then the flowers brightening the hedgerows cannot fail to brighten any day. The spring lambs are another source of pleasure. Seeing the heavy-laden ewes and then the first few lambs, with the lively running and jumping as they gain confidence. The field fills with more lambs. Such is the joy of Spring.

Even though the lambs as they get older, tend to stray further and further from their mother, she does not lose sight of them. She keeps an eye for danger all the time.

The shepherd or farmer may come and go without too much commotion, but other unfamiliar people will cause a stir in the field. We can listen to lambs calling for their mothers and ewes calling for their lambs if any feel insecure. A lamb and ewe in chorus, all calling together, all listening for each other's call. Even though we might just hear a mishmash of different bleats and calls, it is far more meaningful for the flock.

A few years ago while at college we were discussing prayer, and the orderly way we pray in church services and prayer meetings. All has to be in a well presented, very traditional way, waiting patiently for one to finish before someone else continues. All this was a good discussion until someone asked the question, 'How does God hear us?'. Imagine if we all waited in turn and had a minute each. If it was just BZN, then yes, we could each have a minute's prayer every half an hour. If it was the whole Presbytery, we could each have a minute's prayer every 20 hours. The population of Wales is over 3 million, so we could each have a minute's prayer, every 6 years. The population of the UK, Europe and the whole world would certainly decrease the chances of a minute's time slot making it virtually non-existent.

But God is not like that, he does not make us wait our turn, he does not give us a strict time slot, he does not ask for prayers to be public and heard by others. We can all pray a few words or a few chapters at any time with no restrictions, with loud words, quiet whispers or no spoken words at all. He listens to each and everyone of us even though there are many, many other prayers being said at the same time.

He hears our voice and recognises us and knows us by name and knows our needs before we ask.

Just as the sheep in the field know the farmer and know every individual bleat, God knows us intimately. Even though to our ears it sounds a lot of noise, to the individual ewe and lamb on the field it makes total sense, each listening and knowing who is calling.

I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. (John 10: 14,15 NRSV) Pray, knowing that God listens to us, listen, knowing that God speaks to us, and believe that God is at work in our lives, even when we don't realise it.

The Congregation/Y Gynulleidfa

April has been a month to celebrate and give thanks for numerous blessings. Congratulations to Nelda on her 70th birthday on April 3rd, Vi on her birthday on April 20th and to Gwynedd and Helen who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on April 21st. Diolch i chi gyd am eich cyfarchion a'ch dymuniadau gorau mewn gair a gweithred. Many are now waiting patiently for their second Covid vaccination and we give thanks to those teams across the world who are working tirelessly for a way out of this pandemic.

We are aware that Trevor Lloyd is in hospital at this time and our thoughts and prayers are very much with him as we wish him a full and speedy recovery.

Mike has been busy writing lately, as we know, and we are grateful to him for submitting the articles which he produces for the Ambulance Service's weekly newsletter. The printing of his book "**The Worst of Times and the Best of Times**" has been delayed until July or September and there will now be no Welsh version. Mike is dedicating his book to the Ambulance Service to which all proceeds will go. Please contact Mike if you would like a copy on 01267234759. Cost is £12. Also Mike's email address has been changed to the following: Mike.Shephard49@gmail.com

Meurig Rees is continuing to build up miles for his Brecon Beacons 26 mile challenge for the Alzheimers' Society which he is doing on July 3rd in memory of Lilian. To support Meurig please go to the "Just Giving" page at this address: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/meurig-rees

Gweddiwn

Arglwydd fy Mywyd,
rhoddaf iti fy amser,
fy enw da,
fy ngofidiau a'm dyheadau.
Diolch i ti am dderbyn yr hyn rwyn
gynnig a'i drawsnewid,
Fel y derbynir
Y rhodd hon o'm bywyd
I'th egni mawr o gariad, Amen

Angela Ashwin(1949-)

Cyf Edwin C Lewis

Let us pray

God of wisdom,
bless medical scientists and
researchers around the world
with insight and skill, dedication and
fortitude
as they combat coronavirus, so that
their work yields knowledge and
understanding, speedily finding a
vaccine, treatments and deterrents to
its spread. In the name of Jesus,
Amen.

Mike Shephard writes....

THOSE WONDERFUL 'F' WORDS

A new vicar had moved into the parish and was walking with his six year old son to church. The boy was clutching his favourite toy, a small soft, cuddly fox. On the way the father decided to teach his son about alliteration – stringing together words beginning with the same letter. ‘The fiery fox frightened a fire-fly,’ he said. His son was slightly impressed with this and his father, encouraged by the response really got into his stride. ‘The fierce fox as quick as a flash fled through a forest then fell on his face.’ The boy moaned; ‘Oh Dad!’ But the father was not deterred. As they approached the church he continued his creative flush. ‘Flash the fox fed up with fighting, frightening and fleeing flew off as fast as’ The child, in the hearing of numerous parishioners and exasperated beyond measure interrupted his father and shouted, ‘Oh Dad, stop using all those awful F-words!’ The expression on the faces of his new flock suddenly made him lost for words.

It is a silly story but reminds us that some F-words can be used quite legitimately to proclaim a message relevant to life in today’s world.

One such word is *Foundation*. If foundations are deficient any structure erected on them will collapse. I read, some years ago, of how Winchester Cathedral faced this very danger, the truth being that it had been built on marshy ground. The original builders had placed massive timbers over the boggy earth and had built upon a foundation which, whilst lasting some hundreds of years eventually began to rot away. The building had to be underpinned with concrete – work of a very time consuming nature. What is true of cathedrals is true also of society. It needs to be built on foundations of justice and fairness for all. It must serve the aspirations of the many and not simply of the few. The voices of the disenfranchised and marginalised must be heard and the aim must always be that of equality. We, in the western world have built our values on a foundation of democracy and when that is undermined, as during the last days of the Trump Administration in America then the very fabric of our civilisation is at risk of tumbling down.

Another such word is *Family*. Where would any of us be without the support of our families? I am writing this after three periods of lockdown which were an attempt to reduce the spread of Covid 19 and its variants. Essential though those lockdowns were they came at a price and the cost to our mental health is impossible to calculate. Residents in care homes were unable to have visits from loved ones whilst others, either in care or in hospital, died without that all important family gathered around. The strain upon some families has been increased by a loss of employment and by anxieties of a financial kind. Enforced togetherness has increased stress levels in many homes and family breakdown is said to be on the increase. When this pandemic is over we will, I think, value family ties much more than in the past and will never again take them for granted.

The pandemic has compelled us to see the worth of another ‘F’ Word – that being *Friendship*. Some people, it is true, have felt forsaken by people who were once counted as friends and one notes their disappointment in letters written to the problem pages of daily newspapers. For the most part, though, people speak glowingly of the

way in which friends have reached out to them and have gone that 'extra mile' in offering practical and emotional support. It can also be said that neighbours who were relative strangers have become friends as a consequence of Covid 19 and will, one hopes, continue to be there for each other.

Closely allied to the concept of friendship is that of *Fellowship* – A very wonderful 'F' Word. It entails something deeper than friendship and describes a bond between people, the meaning of which cannot easily be put into words. One of the best definitions of the word must surely have been coined by W.C. Willoughby, in his book 'The Christian Imperative.' Just listen to this: '*Fellowship is the joy of going through life hand in hand with the comrade of one's choice, sharing one another's burdens, stimulating one another's courage, doubling one another's wisdom, buckling on one another's armour, wearing one another's laurels, and easing one another's pain.*'

That must definitely be a situation for which we should always strive and it is not easily achieved. W.H. Davies, the tramp poet, painted an interesting and significant picture in one of his volumes of autobiography. He tells how he was in Ebbw Vale, in what was then North Monmouthshire. He saw two men who were slightly drunk. Another man passed. One of the men said to the other: 'Is that an Abertillery man?' And, as he said it, his face was angry and his fists were clenched. His companion answered that the man was local and they walked on. Now, says Davies, if that man had been from Abertillery, these two Ebbw Vale men would have set upon him without provocation, and would have beaten him up. Why? Because there was a steep, rough, mountain between Ebbw Vale and Abertillery and the mountain prevented the two towns from growing and joining together. For that reason their people were bitter enemies. The situation, these many years on, is different now but what we might call 'the sin of mountains' is with us still. It is human nature to be suspicious and hostile towards the stranger.

I feel somewhat hypocritical in saying that the Welsh Ambulance Service must endeavour to be a *family* and a *fellowship* as I represent an institution that has bickered and fallen out over many hundreds of years. Readers might well be justified in saying, 'Physician, heal yourself!'

Let me close with one other 'F'-word. It is *Fashioner*. The word means 'Builder.' It is our task to build a better world for our children and grandchildren. It is often said that 'Rome was not built in a day.' That is true. We should nevertheless make a small start on the project or it will never be built at all. The *Future* is in our hands. We may *fail* in the task but it should not be for want of trying.

Mike Shephard

Easter Services/ Gwasanaethau'r Pasg

Oedfa yr Henaduriaeth Nos Iau Cablyd

Daeth nifer fawr ar hyd a lled y sir i ddathlu'r Swper Olaf ar y nos Iau cyn y Pasg. Wedi'r darlleniadau a'r emynau fe'm harweiniwyd ni at y Cymun Sanctaidd a ddechreuwyd gan Iesu yn ystod y Swper Olaf a gafodd gyda'r disgyblion yn yr oruwchystafell ar y nos Iau tyngedfennol hwnnw. Yna prynhawn dydd Gwener cafwyd gwasanaeth i gofio am ddiodefaint a marwolaeth Iesu gyda recordiad Gareth Ellis o'r Unawd 'Gethsemane' allan o "Jesus Christ Superstar." Dirdynol yn wir. Trefnwyd y ddwy oedfa gan Mr Emyr Williams.

Dydd Gwener y Groglith/ Good Friday

A special Good Friday Service was held via Zoom at 11 in the morning led by Corey. It took the form of the 'Tenebrae' service'. 'Tenebrae' is the Latin word for 'darkness,' and is also the name of a Good Friday service, which has been practised in the Christian Church since the Middle Ages. In the service, there were seven candles to represent the seven 'last sayings' of Jesus from the cross. As we went through the service consisting mainly of seven readings from the gospel of John a candle was blown out after each reading until only one was left at the end of the service. That one was the one each member of the congregation was holding. We individually blew out our candles to signify Jesus being placed in the tomb and Corey was then able to bring the service to a close in complete silence. The seven readings in English and Welsh alternately were taken by Carole, Lynn, Pat, Helen, Meurig, Catrin and Corey.

Oedfa Sul y Pasg/Easter Day Service

Rev Adelaide Wheeler Cocks led us in our morning worship via Zoom by telephone. After the sermon which was centred on the appearances of the Risen Christ to the disciples, we heard Helen and her niece Heledd singing a pre-recording of "Panis Angelicus" before we participated in Holy Communion led by Corey. Another very special service.

Yr Ysgol Sul/ The Sunday Club



Leia Rose, Ellie Mae and Ellie Grace with their Palm Sunday Craft work all achieved within the hour. It is surprising what we can achieve on our Zoom Sunday Sessions

Babell Zion Newydd**Rota for Announcements / Rota Gyhoeddi***Rota Darllen a Gweddi 2021***Ebrill: Lynn****C** – Cymraeg **E** - English**Mai: Meurig****Readings/Darlleniadau****Mehefin: Molly****Gweddi/Prayer****Gorffennaf : Sian**

Catrin	25.4.21
Molly	2.5.21
Tina	9.5.21
Lynn	16.5.21
Pat	23.5.21
Helen	30.5.21
Sian	6.6.21
Carole	13.6.21

Elders' Meeting/Cyfarfod BlaenoriaidThe next Elders' Meeting will be held on May 17th at 6pm via Zoom**Services/ Gwasanaethau**

Zoom services continue every Sunday morning at 11am.

The details for the zoom links are as follows: Zoom

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87986477837>

Telephone: +44 203 481 5240

Meeting ID: 879 8647 7837

Vi C Owen E	25.4.21
Nan T C Carole E	2.5.21
Lynn C Pat E	9.5.21
Helen C Ian W E	16.5.21
Molly C Rosemary E	23.5.21
Catrin C Pat E	30.5.21
Molly C Owen E	6.6.21
Vi C Sian E	13.6.21

Cyfle i rannu mewn astudiaeth ar y gwragedd a gwrddodd â Iesu

Prynhawn Gwener am 1.30 –

Ebrill 23, 30; Mai 15, 29; Mehefin 11, 25; Gorffennaf 9

**MERCHED GYFARFU Â IESU
A'U NEGES I NI HEDDIW**

7 astudiaeth Feiblaidd dros Zoom

Cysylltwch â Sarah neu Carys am y linc Zoom:
sarah.morris@ebcpcw.cymru
carys.davies@ebcpcw.cymru

**CROESO
CYNNES I
YMUNO Â NI
DROS DYMOR
YR HAF**

Trefnwyd gan Raglen Dorcas,
Is-bwyllgor y Chwiorydd



The Vestry Extension

Work is gradually coming along in the Vestry and we are grateful to Ian Wilkins for taking on the painting



work of the new toilet block and to Gwynedd for installing the electrical fittings. The new doors have been fitted and the old kitchen cupboards removed. Once the vestry walls have been insulated there will be more opportunity for



people to help with the painting and decorating and general cleaning

Corey writes.....

Cofiwch cysylltu os gallai fod o gymorth i chi. Dw i wastad ar gael am sgwrs.

Remember to connect with me any time. I'd love to hear from you. **07983 681610**