

Ebrill 2022 / April 2022

Cylchlythyr / Newsletter

Rhif/Issue 44

Rhiw Babell Pensarn Caerfyrddin SA31 2DJ

BABELL ZION NEWYDD

God of the exiled, you 'called your son out of Egypt' where he was protected from the powerful elite who meant him harm, stir our consciences to offer refuge, to express friendship and to challenge those who frustrate the purposes of your love.

Dduw'r alltud, 'gelwaist dy fab o'r Aiff' lle cafodd ei amddiffyn rhag yr elît pwerus oedd am beri niwed iddo, rho yn ein calonnau yr awydd i gynnig lloches, i estyn allan mewn cyfeillgarwch ac i herio y rhai hynny sydd am rwystro pwrpas dy gariad Di.

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 Babel Zion Newydd Chapel for permission to do this

Llangunnor Network
*Preserving and Promoting
Llangunnor*

The Easter Story remembered in 2022

Maundy Service and Supper

A lovely supper was prepared by our Minister Emyr and his wife Eleri to celebrate the Last Supper at Llanarthney Hall on the evening of Maundy Thursday. There were 65 people present from the pastorate and a service to commemorate The Last Supper had been especially prepared by our Minister to follow. The hymns were sung seated and the scripture readings, as also the responsive prayers, were read seated at the different tables. The service of remembrance then ended with the Bread and the Wine as Jesus had shared with his disciples in the upper room on the night before he was betrayed.

Good Friday

The United Town service was held at Wesley Chapel in the morning and in the afternoon the pastorate service was held at Soar Pontyberem. Molly Thomas took the readings and Corey Hampton led the prayers. In his sermon Corey emphasised that the Cross taught us two things: that Jesus was man and was also divine. Here is a resume of his message in his own words:

Corey writes

In my Good Friday message, I emphasised two simple yet deeply transformative truths: Jesus Christ is fully God and Jesus Christ is fully human. I believe that these truths are at the heart of everything that the New Testament has to say to us, because they teach us that if we want to know what God is like, we need to look to Jesus Christ; and if we want to know what it means to live into the fullness of our humanity, we need to look to Jesus Christ. This is what I called a *Christo-logical* understanding of God and humanity, one that follows the logic of the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ. But the question for us on Good Friday was, what does the *cross* show us about what it means for God to be God and for us to grow into our humanity in Christ. Firstly, we answered this question by seeing that self-giving love is at the heart of God's nature. For God doesn't leave us to fend for ourselves against the weight of evil and death, but God takes them upon himself in Jesus Christ so that we might be freed from their power. And secondly, we saw that to be human is to live into the fullness of this reality. Jesus Christ is *the* image of God and God calls *us* to grow into *that* image. Thus *we* are called by grace to live into this new life together by power of the Holy Spirit. This doesn't tell us *everything* about God or humanity—we need to wait until Easter and Pentecost for that—but we can't understand Easter until we've felt the depths of Good Friday. This is God's gift to us which is for us and for our salvation.

Covid

Catrin and Peris have been suffering with Covid these last few weeks. Our thoughts and prayers are with them for a swift and full recovery as also with everyone who is poorly at this time.

Easter Family Service

The chapel came alive on Easter Day with a service to commemorate the Resurrection of Christ and with new beginnings it was also apt to have a Christening that morning as well. A twice postponed service due to Covid did finally take place on Easter Sunday and it was a joyful time with the Sunday School children present with their families together with the Christening party members and Babel Zion Newydd members and friends. Two year old Alice Rees of Capel Dewi was welcomed into baptism by Corey and the vows taken by the parents Geraint and Elinor Rees. Liz and Sian took the readings and Catrin the prayers. Ellie Mae, Leia, Sara, Holly and Eva re-enacted the Easter story with Ellie Grace as narrator and Ellie Mae sang the well known hymn "Jesus Loves me, this I know". All performed beautifully. The children were well rewarded with the customary Easter Egg Hunt and craft time with Catrin in the vestry. Carole and Helen accompanied on organ and piano. A wonderful tea had been prepared by Alice's family and this was the first time in two years that refreshments were served after the service.

Welcomed into Membership

Mr Kevin Bowen was welcomed formally into membership of Babel Zion Newydd on April 24th by Revd Adelaide Wheeler Cocks. Kevin had been an Elder at Cwmbach Chapel for many years before its closure in 2019. We welcome him warmly to our midst. Croeso cynnes.

Emyr's Induction Service/ Cwrdd Sefydlu Emyr Mai 7fed/May 7th

Our Minister Emyr will be inducted as minister of the Gwendraeth Pastorate on May 7th at Soar Pontyberem at 2pm. There will be translation service on the day and also a grand tea in the vestry to follow. Emyr would like to have some idea of numbers for the tea for ordering purposes so would you please let Helen know as soon as possible.

Dymuniadau gorau a phob bendith i Emyr, Eleri, Dafydd a Sion am ddiwrnod hapus a bendithiol. Er bod Emyr wedi dechrau yn ei weinidogaeth ers blwyddyn mae'n addas ein bod yn dymuno'n dda iddo nawr wrth iddo ddechrau ar bennod newydd yn ei hanes.

Friendship Centre/Canolfan Dydd

The Friendship Centre will re-open on Thursday May 5th from 10-12 serving teas, coffees and biscuits. Looking forward to seeing you all.

Next Elders' / Meeting June 27th at 6pm at BZN

Rev Mike Shephard writes....

HOPE IN CRISIS

One of the finest Easter messages, this year, was delivered, not in a church, but in a fortified underground bunker in the city of Kiev, Ukraine. It was preached by President Zelenski to Clive Myrie, of the BBC, who interviewed him. The message, though, will have reached millions and, inevitably, will have struck a chord with them, as it did with me.

Clive Myrie, aware of the terrible odds stacked against Ukraine, asked the president how on earth he managed to retain hope in such a situation. Here is the reply: "It is not hope. It is certainty. We will win." What an inspirational man he is. The biggest mistake in this war was made by Putin when he underestimated, not only Ukraine, but its president. One takes no pleasure, incidentally, in the loss of Ukrainian or Russian lives. This is 'Putin's War' and every death – every breaking heart – on both sides of the divide – is his responsibility. I hate that man – and believe – as a Christian minister – that my loathing of him is justified.

We need not be practising believers to find comfort and strength in the message of Easter. It is a story of the Roman Empire, with all its might, crucifying a man who was perceived to be a threat but within the space of three hundred years, the ideas for which he was killed, became the official belief system of the Roman world. The amazing thing is that this 'peasant' king who rode into Jerusalem, not on a war horse, but on a donkey, believed that such would be the outcome. He saw the future, not in terms of hope but of certainty. I repeat that we need not be people of faith to believe that goodness will always triumph over evil and that seeming weakness, when used correctly, can be strength. I think it is in that truth that one's admiration for Zelinski lies.

Think, though, of that first Easter Day. I need not try to explain what happened because no one really knows. What can be said is that the event, however it be interpreted, symbolised that the cross had not destroyed the work of the man nailed to it. It would go on. Darkness would make way for light. This is a message for everyone – including those of us who see no purpose in religion or who are disillusioned with churches and who see them as being irrelevant to the world and its problems.

As I see it, every one of Jesus' friends were happy that first easter day and all of them would have echoed words spoken many years later, of a very secular event – the French Revolution: "Bliss was it that dawn to be alive and to be young was very heaven."

All his friends were rejoicing save, perhaps, for one of them – Joseph of Arimathea. Joseph had been a supporter of the crucified felon but "secretly for fear of those who opposed him." He himself was a ruler of the people. He was a member of the council who condemned Jesus to death, though was not present when the vote was

taken. How tragic. His voice might have made a difference but was not heard. The trial, so called, was held, illegally, at night, and Joseph, no doubt was in bed. That is a tragedy repeated, time and time again, throughout history. Evil walks the world whilst goodness is asleep. Evil triumphs because good people do nothing.

Perhaps Joseph believed that the cause of the condemned man was a lost one? Did he conclude that it stood no chance of success? Did he count heads and, seeing that his friend was outnumbered, decided to play no part in the proceedings? True, he helped afterwards. He even provided his own tomb to bury the man's body in – and that took courage. But he did nothing to support the man's cause whilst he lived and, such an admission, on that first Easter morning, for Joseph, would have been an emotional crucifixion. The source of the following words is long forgotten but they continue to speak volumes: "The saddest of people is that man or woman who knows that once upon a time they could have done a fine thing – a brave thing – a courageous thing – a costly thing – and did not do it. The awful retribution awaiting such a person is that they will, one day, look at the thing accomplished – built without them. I do not envy any person who had the opportunity to help create something special but who must acknowledge, when it has come into being, that they never shed a drop of blood to bring it to fruition. We need not wonder that such a man or woman will, in later life, beg some power to give them an opportunity to prove that they are people of principle and are not to be equated, for all time, with the cowardice they once exhibited."

If we want to sum up the story of Joseph in one sentence here it is: **HAPPY ARE THOSE WHO, AT MIDNIGHT, ARE CERTAIN OF THE DAWN.**

Which brings us back to President Zelenskyy and his conviction that Ukraine will triumph at the last. I hope that such will be the case for, in this instance, the struggle is, quite literally, that of darkness against light – of evil against good – of totalitarianism against a yearning to be free. The free world might have to intervene, ultimately, to ensure that Ukraine, as an independent, sovereign, country, has the right to exist – to determine its own future – to live as it sees fit.

This remarkable man might not be victorious in conflict. He and his people might be hammered into submission. But the moral victory – the victory that matters – has been won – albeit at tremendous cost. I close where I began – with the words of President Zelenskyy: "Victory is not a hope. It is a certainty. We shall win."

Mike Shephard

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Social Event

A tenpin Bowling evening with a meal at the Xcel Bowl Carmarthen to be arranged for a date in July. Names please to Sian.

Seeds of Hope Appeal/ Apêl Hadau Gobaith

- Curry Night on a date to be arranged in June. Names to Molly Thomas. Interest and numbers to be known before we can go ahead.
- Coffee Morning at Babel Zion Newydd Saturday morning September 17th. Details to follow.

A message from Cytun

Representatives of your church are invited to meeting at the Christian Aid Office, 75 Heol Dwr/Water St at 10.30 on Thursday 7th May. As we have not been able to do as much for Christian Aid Week during the last two years, we would very much appreciate your support this year.

Sunday Services / Gwasanaethau ar y Sul

Mr Dafydd Evans Meidrim Communion	10.30	1/5/2022
Mr Clyde Briggs	2 pm	8/5 2022
United Service /Cwrdd Unedig with translation Capel Newydd Llanddarog	2 pm	15/5/2022
Rev Emyr Williams	10.00	22/5/2022
Rev Adelaide	10.30	29/5/2022

Flowers/ Blodau		Cleaning/Glanhau	Announcing and Communion Cyhoeddi a Pharatoi'r Cymun
Doreen Davies	May/Mai	Janet a Lynn Davies	Meurig Rees
Sian Cassell	June/Mehefin	Owen and Kim Jones	Sian Cassell
Helen Gibbon	Gorffennaf/July	Pat/Molly/ Doreen/Charmaine	Pat Morgan

An email from Christian Aid



Caerfyrddin Capel Babel Zion Newydd Pensarn Christian Aid Week 2022

This May we're fundraising to make a real difference to families like Jessica's. For the first time in a generation, global poverty is rising. Covid-19, conflict, and the climate crisis are pushing more of our global neighbours into a struggle for survival. By supporting our fundraising with whatever you can afford, Christian Aid partners could help Jessica learn how to sow drought tolerant crops, learn how to grow food in dry seasons and build a storeroom to preserve food and bounce back from future droughts. Please give today, and help this loving mum provide food - and hope - for her family. Thank you.

Christian Aid Week/ Wythnos Cymorth Cristnogol Mai 15-21 2022

Emyn David George Jones [1780-1879] Capel Dewi

Bydd myrdd o ryfeddodau
ar doriad bore wawr
pan ddelo plant y tonnau
yn iach o'r cystudd mawr,
Oll yn eu gynnau gwynion
ac ar eu newydd wedd
yn debyg idd eu Harglwydd
yn dod i'r lan o'r bedd.

Unnumbered are the marvels
The Last Great Day shall see,
With earth's poor storm tossed children
From tribulation free;
All in their shining raiment
Transfigured, bright and brave,
Like to their Lord ascending
In triumph from the grave.

Trans Rev Robert Parry

Bob nos Iau rwyn gwranddo ar yr Athro E. Wyn James yn trafod emynau William Williams Pantycelyn ond bob yn ail nos Iau mae e'n cynnwys waith emynydd arall. Roeddwn yn gyfarwydd â'r emyn uchod o'r Llyfr Emynau a Thonau ond nid yw'r awdur yn cael ei gydnabod fan honno. Nid yw chwaith yn cael ei gynnwys o gwbl yn Caneuon Ffydd. Yn Llyfr Emynau a Thonau Methodistiaid Calфинаidd Unol Daleithiau yr America mae'r geiriau gan "anadnabyddus". Yno ceir y cyfieithiad gan Parch Robert Parry.

Erbyn hyn caiff ei gydnabod mai Dai Siors y Sadler o Gapel Dewi oedd awdur yr emyn. Mae sawl stori am sut iddo gael ei ysbrydoli i ysgrifennu'r un pennill hwn. Un stori yw ei fod wedi gweld offeiriaid mewn mynwent Eglwys Anglicannaidd yn eu gwisgoedd gwyn – *'oll yn eu gynau gwynion'* ac un arall ei fod un noson dywyll yn cario glo o'r Tymbl i'w weithdy ac iddo gael gweledigaeth. Beth oedd yn ei daro oedd y sicrwydd bod plant y tonnau ar ôl mordaith bywyd caled yn cyrraedd y nefoedd ac yn dod yn rhydd o'u cystudd. Mae nhw ar eu newydd wedd fel mae'r Apostol Paul yn disgrifio yn ei lythyr at y Corinthiaid Pennod 15 yn yr Atgyfodiad. Ac mae'n werth i ni ystyried y geiriau hynny eto yng ngoleuni'r Pasg.

'Yn debyg idd eu Harglwydd' – mae hyn yn ein hatgoffa o eiriau Ioan yn ei lythyr cyntaf pennod 3:" Yr ydym yn gwybod, pan fydd ef yn ymddangos, y byddwn yn debyg iddo oherwydd cawn ei weld ef fel y mae."

Mae David George Jones wedi ei gladdu yn Mynwent Eglwys Llanarthne.

Every Thursday evening I listen in on Zoom to a discussion led by Professor E. Wyn James on the hymns of William Williams Pantycelyn and every other week he includes another hymnist. I was familiar with the above hymn in Welsh as it was included in our Old Welsh hymnal but unfortunately it has been omitted from Caneuon Ffydd. When I googled, out of interest, for an English translation it appears in 'Songs and Praise- the hymnal of the Calvinistic Methodist Church of the United States of America' with author unknown and translated by Rev. Robert Parry.

By today it is recognised that the hymn was written by David George Jones from Capel Dewi, or Dai Siors the Saddler as he was known locally. There are several stories as to how the hymn came about. One is that he was overcome by a scene in an Anglican churchyard of priests officiating at a burial in their white gowns, and another that he was carrying coal from Tumble late at night and was overcome by a vision. Hence the words- "*Oll yn eu gynau gwynion*" *'all in their shiny raiment'*. He was sure that a stormy earthly life will lead in the end to freedom from pain and tribulation and that we will be, as the Apostle Paul says in his letter to the Corinthians chapter 15, 'changed'.

"Like to their Lord" reminds us of the words of John in his letter Chapter 3: But we know that when Christ appears we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is."

David George Jones is buried in Llanarthney Church graveyard.

It seems apt at Easter time to include the words from the letter of Paul to the Corinthians Chapter 15 verses 51-52 as Handel portrayed them in his oratorio masterpiece "The Messiah." He gives the words to the bass soloist:

Recitative:

Behold I tell you a mystery;
We shall not all sleep,
but we shall all be changed,
in the twinkling of an eye,
at the last trumpet.

The Air:

The trumpet shall sound,
and the dead shall be raised,
and the dead shall be raised incorruptible,
and we shall be changed.
For this corruptible must put on incorruption,
and this mortal must put on immortality.
The trumpet shall sound,
and the dead shall be raised,
and the dead shall be raised incorruptible,
and we shall be changed.

HG

Cwrdd Dosbarth

Cwrdd Dosbarth nesaf yn y Babell Zion Newydd Gorffennaf 4ydd am 7 o'r gloch