

April/Ebrill 2024

Cylchlythyr/Newsletter

Rhif/Issue 63

# BABELL ZION NEWYDD

Rhiw Babel Pensarn Caerfyrddin SA31 2DJ



Babell Zion

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## JESUS LOVES US ALL SO MUCH

Jesus loves us all so much  
That He would bleed and die  
He took upon His beaten back  
The cross that saw Him crucified.

Yes, He loved us all so much  
That He was scorned and scoffed,  
He took it all upon Himself  
For it was the will of God.

God knew it was the only way,  
The final sacrifice,  
Jesus Christ, a sinless man,  
Would need to give His life.

And even in the gift He gave,  
We still have not yet known  
The fullness of His mighty love,  
And the grace so freely shown.

All He asks is that we all  
Repent and follow Him,  
For He has made the way for us,  
Free from hurt and sin.

Yes, God loved us all so much,  
And yes, He loves us still,  
He longs for us to trust in Him,  
And do the Father's will.

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Again we have been saddened to hear of the passing of yet another member of our church community – Mrs Nancy Butters. Mrs Butters was a faithful member at Zion but had moved into Towy Castle Care Home before Zion members joined Babell. She had just recently celebrated her 108<sup>th</sup> birthday at the home but sadly passed away the day after. Many would possibly remember Mrs Butters from their primary school days as she taught in both Pentrepoeth and St Mary's schools. She was also one of the many volunteers in the Lyric theatre. We think of her sons Colin and Alan and their respective families at this sad time. The funeral will be held at Narberth Crematorium on April 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm.



## **HOLY WEEK**

### **Palm Sunday/ Sul y Blodau**

Mrs Carole Rees kindly took the service at short notice on Palm Sunday as our Minister Emyr was ailing as many of our congregation have been of late. She emphasised the many different faces in the crowd who witness the triumphant journey into Jerusalem on that first Sunday. There were the “expectant” faces, waiting for Jesus to do something for them. They wanted Jesus to put on a show by performing more miracles and more importantly, free them from the Romans. However, they were quick to change their cries from “Hosanna” to “crucify Him” when this didn't happen. There were also the “true followers” who worshipped Jesus purely for who He was and is – The Son of God. The Pharisees were there too and they hated Jesus and everything He stood for. They wanted the people to stop praising and worshipping Him. The service ended with a simple question. “Which “face in the crowd” do we associate with? The choice is ours.

### **Maundy Service and Supper**

On Maundy Thursday a special service of remembrance was arranged by our minister Emyr and his family at Llanarthney Hall. A handsome supper awaited us followed by a Communion service. All the hymns were sung seated at the tables and, following the first hymn, Mrs Lilibet Jones of Capel Hendre read the Word taken from Mark's account of Jesus celebrating the Passover with the disciples which was also the theme of Emyr's message. Helen led the prayers before the third hymn during which Emyr distributed the bread rolls and the glasses of wine. The Bread was passed around and shared as Jesus would have shared with his disciples in the upper room on the night before he was betrayed. The last hymn written by Elfed “Nefol Dad, mae eto'n nosi..” is a favourite of mine, for it reminds me of the epilogue which we would have sung, as teenagers, every night before retiring, at the Urdd Camp in Glanllyn. As Emyr said we very rarely sing this hymn today for not many chapels have evening services. Diolch yn fawr i Emyr ac Eleri am drefnu'r wledd a'r oedfa fendithiol hwn. Diolch yn fawr.

Nefol Dad, mae eto'n nosi,  
gwrando lef ein hwyrol weddi,  
nid yw'r nos yn nos i ti;  
rhag ein blino gan ein hofnau,  
rhag pob niwed i'n heneidiau,  
yn dy hedd, O cadw ni.



**Good Friday.** Mr Martin Dalling led the town's united service at the English Baptist chapel where we were divided into small groups and each group given the opportunity to stand before a wooden cross (made many years ago by one of their members), to give us a closer experience as to what happened on that first Good Friday and how the followers of Jesus must have felt.

**Easter Sunday** Service was led by Rev Mike Shephard, where the children of our Sunday Club also took part. This was quite a lively service and the children enjoyed searching the worship area for some well hidden Easter eggs. There was an additional surprise for the children where Mike kindly offered some of his treasured teddy bears to the children as well as to a couple of the adults.



## **History of some Easter Hymns**

The great theologian Charles Spurgeon once said, "... *the singing of the pilgrims ... is the most delightful part of worship and that which comes nearest to the adoration of heaven.*" I couldn't agree more, especially at Easter when we, as Christians, come together to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour through hymns and songs of faith.

Our Easter memories can be centred around singing together as a congregation. I can remember the church being filled with Easter lilies and girls decked out in their new, pastel-coloured Easter dresses. The stories behind the hymns we sing and the history of these Easter songs hold lessons about the songwriters' great faith.

Alfred Ackley, a musician and preacher, wrote "He Lives" in 1933. Many know the hymn by its first line, "I serve a risen Saviour."

At the time, Ackley was challenged by a young student who was confused as to why Christians worshipped someone who had died centuries earlier. In response, Ackley is quoted as saying, *"He lives! I tell you, He is not dead but lives here and now! Jesus Christ is more alive today than ever before. I can prove it by my own experience, as well as the testimony of countless thousands."*

Fuelled by the student's questions, Ackley wrote these popular lyrics. His refrain is joyous, reminding us all that Jesus rose from the dead as promised and remains alive today in the heart of every believer.

*Refrain:*  
*He lives, He lives,*  
*Christ Jesus lives today!*  
*He walks with me and talks with me*  
*Along life's narrow way.*  
*He lives, He lives,*  
*Salvation to impart!*  
*You ask me how I know He lives?*  
*He lives within my heart.*

To God Be the Glory is a hymn with lyrics by Fanny Crosby and tune by William Howard Doane, first published in 1875.

It appears to have been written around 1872 but was first published in 1875 in Lowry and Doane's song collection, *Brightest and Best*. It was already popular in Great Britain before publication. Ira Sankey had introduced it there during Moody's 1873-1874 evangelistic campaigns.

The song failed to achieve wide usage in the United States and was included in very few hymnals. In 1954 Cliff Barrows, song leader for Billy Graham, was handed a copy with the suggestion that it be added to the song book for the London Crusade. It was so popular that he included it again later that year in the Crusade in Nashville, Tennessee. The audience responded enthusiastically and from that time on, he used it regularly. With this exposure, the song rapidly became familiar to Christians worldwide and is included in most modern hymnals.

To God be the glory, great things He hath done;  
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,  
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,  
And opened the life gate that all may go in.

**Refrain**

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,*  
*Let the earth hear His voice!*  
*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,*  
*Let the people rejoice!*  
*O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,*  
*And give Him the glory, great things He hath done.*

**Rev Mike Shephard writes:**

### **ON LEARNING TO SLOW DOWN**

I must be one of the few people in Wales who is welcoming of the new speed limit introduced in the early Autumn of 2023.

It is said that 'familiarity breeds contempt' and I find, these months on, that many drivers have become oblivious to the new restrictions.

In the very early days, most drivers seemed to be complying with the regulations, albeit begrudgingly. An increasing number seem now to be resentful of those who continue to travel slowly and are demonstrating their displeasure by keeping overly close to the car in front of them. When not thus impeded they speed at will, giving the proverbial one fingered salute to any pedestrian brave enough to remind them by means of a calculated glare or arm gesture that they need to slow down.

Part of the problem is that speed restrictions are without meaning if not rigidly enforced and selfish motorists, who drive as if they are above the law, know full well that there is little likelihood of them being prosecuted. Indeed, had the thirty mile an hour limit been policed there would have been no need for the lower restriction, save near schools or children's play areas.

I live in the village of Cwmffrwd near Carmarthen and there was a time when I walked regularly from home into town via a back road. The road, alas, has no pavement and contains more than one blind bend. This makes it unsafe for walkers, but only because uncaring drivers constitute an accident waiting to happen. They have no concern for others, and they have, in short, made it impossible for me to walk the route in safety. I have lived in the area for four years and never once have I sighted a mobile speed van in the vicinity. An officer can often be seen standing on the road but is monitoring the motorway running beneath it, choosing to focus on the 'easy pickings' that this affords.

All of this begs the question why are we all in such a hurry? Why are we always in a rush? Why are we so aggressive towards those who wish to travel at a slower pace?

Do we honestly believe that the only purpose to life is to live in the fast lane? Is it not time that we slowed down and started enjoying the journey? What exactly do we intend to do with all the time saved by rushing along like fools? And is it not better to be ten minutes late in this world than ten or more years early in the next?

I was once part of a church walking group led by friends, Gareth and Dawn Jones. They insisted that we walked at the pace of the slowest member, the fact being that our purpose was not to win a race but to enjoy the road and the company of each other. It was also to take note of our surroundings and to observe the natural world. I recall one walk in the Carmarthen countryside which was accessed via a kissing gate and descent to a stream.

Some of the more able walkers crossed the shallow water by means of stepping stones and, clambering up the other bank, began to walk on. Dawn called the group together and, asking that we stand still, requested that we each listen to the babbling of the brook and hear what it was trying to say to us. I, for one, experienced the consequent silence as a very sacred moment and remain grateful to Dawn for reminding me that it is good at times not to 'do' but simply to 'be'. A little later, incidentally, we walked through a wood where a thousand snowdrops bloomed. We stopped there too and not one of us was anxious to rush onward to journey's end.

Slow me down, Lord!  
Make me to become as tortoise – not hare.  
For the race is not always to the swift,  
Hurrying, scurrying – they know not where.  
Help me to appreciate stillness and to lift  
Tired eyes upward in silent prayer  
Until, at last, they begin to see.

Slow me down, Lord!  
Help me to hear what the ancient trees tell –  
That they grew great and strong,  
Because they grew slowly; and so grew well.  
Quieten my spirit, Lord, for at heart it really longs  
To pause more; and to fully dwell  
In your serenity.

Mike Shephard ©



## Dates for the Calendar

**Friendship Centre Singalong Tuesday Dates**      Every Thursday 10:30 – 1:30  
**Every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month.**  
**April 9<sup>th</sup> & April 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**May 7<sup>th</sup> & May 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**June 4<sup>th</sup> & June 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**Please note the change of dates for April.**

**Elders Meeting**      **Week Commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> April. To be confirmed during Sunday Announcements**

**Cymdeithasfa'r De**      **Will be held at Babell on Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>**

### Sunday Services/Gwasanaethau ar y Sul

Mr David Davies	10 am	07/04/24
Rev Emyr - Communion	10 am	14/04/24
Mr Hugh Waddell	2 pm	21/04/24
Rev Emyr	2 pm	28/04/24
Rev Mike Shephard	10 am	05/05/24
Rev Emyr – Communion	10 am	12/05/24
Mr Martin Dalling	10am	19/05/24
Rev Emyr	2 pm	26/05/24

### Friendship Centre Rota

04/04/24	Sian and Helen
11/04/24	Maisie and Rosemary
18/04/24	Pat and Carole
25/04/24	Tina, Nan and Kevin
02/05/24	Sian and Helen
09/05/24	Maisie and Rosemary

	<b>Flowers/Blodau</b>	<b>Cleaning/Glanhau</b>	<b>Announcing and Communion/ Cyhoeddi a Pharatoi'r Cymun</b>
April	Janet Davies	Lynn & Janet	Carole Rees
May	Pat Morgan	Rosemary & Nelda	Helen Gibbon
June	Sian Cassell	Owen & Kim	Meurig Rees
July	Vi Williams	Sian, Carole & Meurig	Sian Cassell

Have you any news or items for the newsletter? Please forward to Carole at  
[carolerees4@gmail.com](mailto:carolerees4@gmail.com)  
 or Helen at [helengibbon1@btinternet.com](mailto:helengibbon1@btinternet.com)