

Ionawr/Chwefror RHIFYN 51 2023

January/February

ISSUE 51

# Babell Zion

# Newydd

## Happy New Year Blwyddyn Newydd Dda

### A Prayer at the beginning of the New Year

Oh Lord, we pray for peace

In our hearts,  
in our homes,  
in our nations,  
in our world.

The peace of your will,  
The peace of our need.

Amen.

### Gweddï ar ddechrau blwyddyn

O Dduw gweddïwn am heddwch

yn ein calonnau,  
yn ein cartrefi,  
yn ein cenhedloedd,  
yn ein byd.

Heddwch dy ewyllys,  
Heddwch ein hangen.

Amen.

### Christmas Services

Our Advent festivities began with a lovely Candlelight Service on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December at 4 o'clock which had been prepared by Carole Rees. The following members of the congregation took to the readings and the recitations; Andrew Convery, Linda Owen, Molly Thomas, Rosemary Kerr, Meurig Rees, Lynn Davies, Sian Cassell and Pat Morgan. The Prayers were led by Revd Emyr and the carols were a combination of the traditional and modern. Thank you to all who took part and to all who attended.

Yn yr hwyr cynhaliwyd Plygain Merched y Wawr yn y Priordy y tro hwn ac mi wnaeth Helen ganu yr hen garol gan Ann Griffiths "Rhyfedd, rhyfedd gan angylion" ar y dôn Penderyn. Roedd hi'n noson rhewllyd ond yn gynnes iawn y tu fewn gyda chyfraniadau gan Griw Llangynnwr, Côr Meibion Caerfyrddin, Capel Elim, Capel y Tabernacl, Clybiau Ffermwyr ifanc, yr Ysgol Farddol, Côr Tonic, Meibion a Merched y Priordy, Capel Penuel a Chôr Seingar. Roedd yr arian a godwyd yn mynd tuag at Eisteddfod yr Urdd Sir Gâr.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> it was the turn of the Sunday Club to re-enact the Christmas story with a little help from the older members.

The service centred around 5 boxes, each of which contained a token to remind us of the true meaning of Christmas. The candles and trimmings reminded us of the happiness of Christmas, the cards and crackers were symbols of

sharing and during the service cards were signed which were delivered to the local residential homes. The crackers each had a verse from the gospels read by Pat, Molly, Lynn, Nelda and Owen and it was these which reminded us of the events surrounding Jesus' birth. Newspapers reminded us of the change over the years, the Christian Aid Envelope reminded us of our duty to share



and lastly the symbol of the empty manger brought it home to us that we cannot stay with the baby in Bethlehem. We wouldn't do that with any other baby. "No, even at Christmas we are celebrating, not birth alone, but the child grown into a man and striding through History".

Ellie Mae and Sara Davies were Joseph and Mary respectively, Leia and Sian, shepherds, Liz, the angel and Ellie Grace the Inn keeper's wife while Helen took the part of one of the astrologers. The children did well and they were duly rewarded with a surprise visit from Santa Claus.

Unfortunately the Christmas party had to be cancelled because of the icy conditions on the Saturday but Santa hadn't forgotten the children. They all had a present and Ellie Mae was lucky enough to have a special gift for attending 33 Sundays out of a possible 37 with Ellie Grace coming a close second. Well done to you both.



On Christmas Eve our Candlelight Communion Service was led by our Minister who had prepared a powerpoint presentation with a video of a modern day representation of the birth of Jesus. Carole Rees was at the organ and Helen Gibbon and Linda Williams sang the well known Plygain Carol, 'Carol y Blwch' in the unaccompanied tradition.

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### **Bereavement**

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Mr Alun Evans Y Talar at the age of 92. Alun had been an Elder at Babell since 2009 and together with his late wife Sally had been a faithful member for as long as we can remember. He had been suffering for quite a while and his presence at the services had been missed. Estynnwn ein cydymdeimlad llwyrâf â'r teuluoedd yn eu colled. Coffa da amdano.

### **Cydymdeimlo**

Estynnwn ein cydymdeimlad gyda Mrs Nan Thomas ar farwolaeth ei chwaer Rose oedd mewn cartref yn Wickford. Mae ein meddyliau gyda Nan, Tina a Paul a'r teulu ar yr amser trist hwn.

### **Finding Hope Under Bethlehem's Skies.**

**Based on a book by Robin Ham**

The story of Ruth and Naomi Continued.

Last time we read how Naomi was feeling very let down by God but it is at this juncture that the story turns to Ruth, her daughter in law. Landowners were commanded by God to leave the edges of the fields unharvested so that foreigners, the fatherless and widows could glean for themselves. {Deuteronomy 24: 19-21} Of all the fields in Bethlehem Ruth wanders into a field belonging to Boaz. I quote: "But as we see throughout this book, nothing just 'turns out'. This is a world created, sustained and ordered by a God who does not fail to look after His people. A God who ensures Ruth doesn't end up in Billy's field or Barry's field, but in Boaz's field." This is called Providence and Charles Spurgeon described God's providence as "nothing more than his goodness in action."

Ruth didn't expect any favours, after all she was a Moabite, an outsider to God's covenant promises. But Boaz had learnt of her kindness towards her mother in law and that she had turned and trusted in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He tells her, "May the Lord repay you for what you have done."

Ruth is welcomed at the table and is shown kindness, above and beyond, when she gleans among the sheaves of barley. She goes home to Ruth with an exceptional amount of food. This is grace upon grace. Naomi trusted in God and we are invited to do the same. Our hearts are warmed by God's graciousness to us so that greed, pride and self-obsession will slowly be melted away. The seventeenth century pastor Richard Sibbes advised Christians that If we want to keep our hearts tender towards God and others we should always "be under the sunshine of the Gospel". "We are to meditate upon and marinate in the graciousness of God shown to us in Christ."

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### **Friendship Centre Rota**

12/1/23	Helen and Sian
19/1/23	Maisie and Rosemary
26/1/23	Molly and Pat
2/2/23	Nan and Tina
9/2/23	Sian and Helen
16/2/23	Maisie and Rosemary

## Dates for the Calendar

**Next Elders' / Meeting:** Tuesday January 17<sup>th</sup> 10am

**January Prayer Meeting: date and time** to be announced

**Friendship Centre/Canolfan Dydd**

Every Thursday from 10.30-1.30pm

**Service for Christian Unity Cytun Bethel Picton Terrace 6pm January 22nd**

**Cwrdd Dosbarth**

Cwrdd Dosbarth nesaf yn Bancyfelin Ionawr 23ain am 7 o'r gloch.

**Singalong Tuesday dates at 2pm**

**January 10<sup>th</sup> January 24<sup>th</sup> February 7<sup>th</sup> February 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Gwasanaethau Gwyl Ddewi > St David's Day Services February 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Priordy 10 o'r gloch**

**Elim Ffynnondrain 5 o'r gloch**

## Sunday Services/Gwasanaethau ar y Sul

Minister	Communion/ Cymundeb	10 am	8/1/2023
Parchg Geraint Lloyd		2pm	15/1/2023
Minister		2pm	22/1/2023
Gwasanaeth Undebol/ United Pastorate Service at Soar Pontyberem		10am	29/1/2023
Mr Dafydd Evans Meidrim Cymraeg		2pm	5/2/2023
Minister		10am	12/2/2023
Mr Hugh Waddell		2pm	19/2/2023
Gwasanaeth Gwyl Ddewi		2pm	26/2/2023

Flowers/ Blodau		Cleaning/ Glanhau	Announcing and Communion Cyhoeddi a Pharatoi'r Cymun
Vi Williams	Ionawr/January	Pat, Doreen, Molly, Charmaine	Sian Cassell
Marian Evans	Chwefror/February	Gwyn and Helen	Pat Morgan

## Gofalaeth y Gwendraeth/ The Gwendraeth Pastorate

1. Discussion over a cup of tea: January 30; February 6/13 at Soar vestry and via Zoom. A journey through the Gospel of Mathew
2. Pie, Mash and Pudding Night February 23<sup>rd</sup> at Llanddarog 7pm



NOSON PEI, PYS PWTCH A PWDIN ac Adloniant gan 'Bois y Rhedyn' Neuadd Llanddarog

(Dewch â diod eich hunan) (Tocynnau ar gael wrth Aelodau y capeli)

Elw'r Noson at Apêl Hadau Gobaith Cymorth Cristnogol ac EBC

PIE, MASH & PUDDING NIGHT and Entertainment 'Bois y Rhedyn'

at Llanddarog Hall Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023 7PM (Bring your own drink) (Tickets sold by Chapel Members)

Proceeds will go to the Christian Aid and PCW Seeds of Hope Appeal

## Answers to the Carol Quiz

- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Once in Royal David's City                    | 1. Clywch Lu'r Nef yn seinio'n un |
| 2. Good King Wenceslas                           | 2. Dawel Nos                      |
| 3. Away in a Manger                              | 3. I Orwedd Mewn preseb           |
| 4. Silent Night.                                 | 4. O Dawel ddinas Bethlehem       |
| 5. While Shepherds watched their flocks by night | 5. Wele'n gwawrio ddydd i'w gofio |
| 6. We Three Kings of Orient are                  | 6. O Deuwch Ffyddloniaid          |
| 7. The First Nowell                              | 7. Draw yn Ninas Dafydd Frenin    |
| 8. Ding dong merrily on high                     | 8. Engyl glân o Fro'r Gogoniant   |
| 9. Hark the Herald Angels sing                   | 9. O Deued pob Cristion           |
| 10. O Little Town of Bethlehem                   | 10. Ganol gaeaf Noethlwm          |
| 11. O Come All Ye faithful                       | 11. Ganwyd Iesu'n Nyddiau Herod   |
| 12. In the Bleak Midwinter                       | 12. Tua Bethlem Dref              |
| 13. See him lying on a bed of straw.             | 13. A welaist ti'r ddau           |
| 14. Joy to the world.                            | 14. Suai'r Gwynt                  |
| 15. God Rest you Merry Gentlemen                 | 15. Awn i Fethlem bawb dan ganu   |

A letter of thanks from the Lammas Street Centre

29/12/2022

Dear Friends

On behalf of the Lammas Street Centre I would like to thank you all for your kind and generous donation towards the fee Christmas Day lunch at the Centre. We were inundated with names this year, 97 meals were served with many 'take aways.'

I would like to wish all members of Babel Zion Newydd a Healthy New Year and thank you once again for your contribution

Every blessing

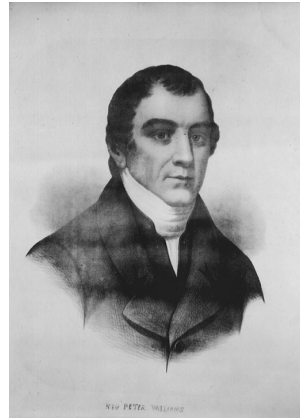
Dianne Stephenson [ Treasurer ]. [A special collection was made over two Sundays and £116 was donated].

## TRICHANMLWYDDIANT GENI PETER WILLIAMS

1723 – 2023

Er mwyn deall ein presennol, meddai rhai, rhaid i ni astudio a dysgu wrth ein gorffennol. Er bod rhaid i ni ddatblygu syniadau a gadael iddynt esblygu er mwyn ceisio ffyrdd newydd rhag aros yn y gorffennol, mae gan y gorffennol lawer i ddysgu i ni. Cymerwch yr hyn a gyflawnodd Ysgolion Cylchynol Griffith Jones Llanddowror. Roedd wedi gweld yr angen i bobol fel chi a fi fedru ddysgu darllen a thrwyddo ef daeth pobol i ddarllen y Beibl yn lle ei glywed o Sul i Sul yn unig yn yr eglwysi a chapeli. Ryn ni'n cymryd mor ganiataol ein bod yn gallu ysgrifennu a darllen heb feddwl am y personau a wnaeth hyn yn bosib dros y canrifoedd. Fe'm hatgoffwyd am ein dyled i Griffith Jones mewn gwasanaeth ar Sul 8fed o Ionawr yn Eglwys Llandyfaelog i nodi tricanmlwyddiant geni Peter Williams. Bu'n Weinidog gyda'r Methodistaid am gyfnod yng Nghapel Heol Dŵr Caerffyddin ond oherwydd dadl diwinyddol ynglyn â'r Drindod bu rhaid iddo adael yr Eglwys Fethodistaidd. Ei gyfraniad mawr oedd darparu Beibl darn wrth ddarn gydag esboniad yn dilyn pob pennod a'i argraffu yn argraffdy John Ross yn Heol Awst fel bod pobl gyffredin yn medru ei ddarllen a'i ddeall. Roedd Ysgolion Cylchynol Griffith Jones wedi sicrhau bod pobl gyffredin yn medru darllen ac felly eu bod yn gallu darllen y Beibl dros eu hunain yn lle eu clywed yn unig o Sul i Sul yn yr eglwysi. Eirug Davies roddodd hanes Peter Williams i ni ac roedd un o Feiblau Peter Williams ganddo yn ei feddiant- Beibl oedd yn eiddo i'w hen, hen, hen, hen, hen Famgu oedd wedi ei brynu am "Gini" sef £80 punt yn ein harian ni heddiw. Meddyliwch am hynny. Roedd yn aberth mawr i'w brynu. Roedd hi hefyd wedi dysgu darllen Cymraeg trwy un o'r Ysgolion Gylchynol. Mae gwaddol y ddau yn aruthrol.

Peter Williams was born near Laugharne, was educated at Carmarthen Grammar School and greatly influenced by the preaching of George Whitefield who visited Carmarthen in April 1743. His first curacy was at Eglwys Cymmin but he was drawn to Methodism and became an itinerant preacher. He came to live in Carmarthen in about 1765 and John Wesley wrote on August 11<sup>th</sup> 1769 that Peter Williams offered him his "preaching house." Howell Harris tells us that this was in Water Street. From these references it would appear that the chapel building was the property of Peter Williams. He called it 'Tabernacle'. In 1771 a second "Tabernacle" was built behind the first one which was also owned by Peter Williams who then made the first building his home. However, he fell out with Howell Harries, Williams Pantycelyn



and Daniel Rowland on a theological understanding of John Chapter 1 verse 1 and at the Llandeilo Meeting of the Association in 1791 was expelled on the grounds of heresy. On Peter Williams' death in 1796 the Methodists bought 'Tabernacle' from his widow and began to worship there in 1797. The name Tabernacle was no longer used. In 1813 a third chapel was built on the same site in Heol Dŵr and in 1815 the house in which Peter Williams had lived was bought by the Connexion and later demolished to expose the front of the Chapel which was rebuilt again in 1891 as seen today. Peter Williams' greatest achievement was producing a Welsh Bible with notes and comments at the end of each chapter. He published three editions printed by John Ross in Lammas Street. He lived in later life with his wife and two children at Gelli Lednais in Llandyfaelog and is buried in the graveyard of Llandyfaelog church. The first edition of the Bible, "Beibl Peter Williams" can be seen in Llandyfaelog church.



**Dyma Feibil annwyl Iesu,  
dyma rodd deheulaw Duw;  
dengys hwn y ffordd i farw,  
dengys hwn y ffordd i fyw;  
dengys hwn y golled erchyll  
gafwyd draw yn Eden drist,  
dengys hwn y ffordd i'r bywyd  
drwy adnabod Iesu Grist.**

A service was held at Llandyfaelog Church to celebrate the tricentenary of the birth of Peter Williams believed to have been on January 7<sup>th</sup> 1723 at which Eirug Davies, Chairman of the Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society gave an interesting resumé of the life of Peter Williams and the Ven Dorrien Davies, Archdeacon of Carmarthen officiated. Eirug Davies had in his possession a Peter Williams Bible which his great, great, great, great Grandmother had bought for a Guinea. Today a Guinea is estimated at £80. What a sacrifice. But what was interesting was that she had been taught to read in one of the circulating schools set up by Griffith Jones Llanddowror. What legacies these two men have left.