

Ionawr/Chwefror RHIFYN 60 2024

January/February

ISSUE 60

# 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 gweddiwn am heddwch

yn ein calonnau,  
yn ein cartrefi,  
yn ein cenedloedd,  
yn ein byd.

Heddwch dy ewyllys,  
Heddwch ein hangen.

*Amen.*

# **Christmas Services/Gwasanaethau'r Nadolig**

## ***Plygain Merched y Wawr ar Nos Sul Rhagfyr 3ydd***

Cynhaliwyd y Blygain eleni yng Nghapel y Tabernacl gyda chynrychiolwyr o gapeli, eglwysi a mudiadau'r dref yn cymryd rhan. Babell Zion Newydd was represented this year by our singing party- our Minister Emyr, Sian, Carole, Nelda, Rosemary, Helen together with a guest appearance by Linda Williams from Craig Cefn Parc whom we can always depend upon to keep Emyr on track. The carol chosen was 'Seiniau Gorfoledd o Fethlehem a glywir' written by the late Rev Maurice Loader with music composed by Caradog Williams. Tabernacle raised a choir for the occasion. Seingar mixed choir and Tonic, Ladies' choir also took part. Capel Priordy had a separate Ladies' Choir and a hearty male chorus. There was a quartet from Llangunnor, as also from the YFC with a flute and reading from Penuel and a solo from Elim. The collection this year was donated to Ty Hafan.

### ***What is the meaning of Plygain?***

The word Plygain comes from the Latin words 'pulli cantio' meaning the song of the cockerel and originally the Plygain service would have been held at cock's crow, early on



Christmas morning between 3 and 6 am to herald the celebration of the birth of Christ. It later became a tradition to hold the service at night and today it is held in different venues throughout Wales and throughout the Advent with the last one being held at Llandeilo Fawr Church on the last Sunday of January.

The true Plygain begins with a reading, a prayer and congregational carol and then it is announced that the Plygain is open: "Mae'r Plygain yn awr yn agored." Groups come forward in turn to sing a special Plygain carol which records the life, death and resurrection of Jesus and which could in olden days be up to twenty verses long and theological in content. Today verses are much shorter. The words were sung to the popular tunes of the day which would have been the traditional Welsh folk tunes.

The chapel which hosts the service is the first to sing and then people come forward in no prearranged order. The second half of the evening begins after the singing of a congregational carol and then the groups come forward in exactly the same order as the first half ensuring that no-one sings the same carol twice which means that you have to have one or two ready just in case. In years gone by it was whole families who used to sing at the Plygain services following weeks of rehearsing at the fireside

on those dark winter nights. At the end of the service all the men come forward to sing “Carol y Swper” which, as the title suggests, is followed by a hearty supper in the vestry or church hall.

It is thanks to the people of Montgomeryshire in the main for preserving this tradition over the centuries and it is in this county that the Plygain remains strong to this day. I’m sure we look forward to learning another carol in the tradition of the Plygain for next year. Let’s not leave it too late.

### ***Community Carol Service/ Gwasanaeth Garolau i’r Gymuned***

On December 10<sup>th</sup> we hosted a Community Carol Service for the first time in very many years. Cymdeithas Sant Cynnwr back in the day used to arrange a Carol Service for the parish alternating between Llangunnor Church, Babell and Philadelphia with groups within the parish taking part and being represented in different ways. It was lovely to see so many present this year. Our Minister presided over the service and the following took part: Crescendo Choir, under the baton of Debbie Peake, sang two items; the readings were taken by Shirley Ingram [WI], Peter Evans [Eglwys Llangynnwr], Lynette Jones [Philadelphia], Pat Morgan and Helen Gibbon [BZN], Isobel Hughes [Cyngor Ysgol Llangynnwr], Councillor Elwyn Williams [Community Council] and Mr Aled Davies [Pennaeth Ysgol Llangynnwr headmaster]. The organist was Carole Rees.

### ***Dydd Gweddi’r Byd/ World Day of Prayer***

On the morning of November 29<sup>th</sup> Molly and Helen represented BZN in Heol Awst Chapel Vestry for the preparation of the World Day of Prayer to be held on the first Friday in March 2024. The service had been prepared by Christian Palestinian women six years ago and many wondered what may have happened to them during these last few months during the war in Gaza. The focus of the service is based on the passage from Ephesians 4:1-7 ‘...to bear with each other in love, despite all difficulties and oppression.’ Little did they know at that time that their world would be turned upside down within six years and that the words of Jesus quoted by the Apostle Paul to the church in Ephesus would have fallen on deaf ears.

### ***Christmas Eve Service***

Our Minister led the candlelit Communion Service on Christmas Eve and it was good to see so many present. We were also joined by Rev Adelaide and members of her family. The Plygain party sang the carol they had prepared for Tabernacle and as it neared midnight the Minister led us to the Communion table after a purposeful message reiterating the question “Is there room in the Inn?”



## ***The Children's Service December 17<sup>th</sup>/ Gwasanaeth Nadolig y plant***

This year's service was based on an idea from the Bible Society's Festive Fred booklet. The cast in order of appearance:

Narrator: Ellie Grace

Fred: Noah McClavy

Fred's mother: Rebecca McClavy

Shepherd: Paige McClavy

Angel: Sara Davies

Mary: Ellie Mae

Joseph: Leia

Readers: Sian Cassell, Liz Amery,  
Carys Davies

Prayers: Pat Morgan

Organist and accompanists: Carole  
Rees and Helen Gibbon



Well done to you all. Roedd yn bleser gweld y plant wrth eu gwaith a diolch yn fawr i'r rhieni a'u teuluoedd am eu cefnogaeth.

At the end of the service the Challenge Cup for best attendance was presented to Sara Davies on attending the Sunday Club 34 Sundays out of a possible 37 during the year. The children were all presented with the Bible Society booklet in Welsh and in English and the Good News special edition of the Bible was presented to Ellie Grace.



The Sunday Club party was held on Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> and the children were all rewarded with a visit from Father Christmas.



*A Poem by the late Rev J Eirian Davies*

The poem below was written in the early nineties By Rev Eirian Davies on the situation in Israel when Itzak Rabin and Yasser Arafat were on the verge of signing a peace document to end the Israel-Arab conflict. However Rabin was assassinated in Tel Aviv by one of his own who was against any peace agreement. Eirian Davies in this poem reflects on the irony of such hatred in a country where the Prince of Peace was born and that our world has not changed nor learned from past history such as the War that was to end all wars. He ends by saying that it is dangerous to speak of world peace while weapons remain in the hands of men.

**Cân y Gwaed**

Dros bedwar ugain mlynedd yn ôl  
Fe grynwyd y byd hyd ei seiliau,  
Rhwyng Prydain a'r Almaen rhedodd trê  
Dynoliaeth oddi ar y rheiliau.

Ond wedi uffern y Rhyfel Fawr  
Oedd i orffen pob rhyfel sinister,  
Daliodd, mewn gwledydd ar  
draws y byd  
Gasineb, ymladd a dinistr

Bellach fe welwyd ffrwtian y pair  
Rhwyng Arab ac Iddew'r anialwch;  
Miloedd marw yw cynhaeaf drud  
Y gwleidyddion a'u hanwadalwch.

Ac yna cododd arweinydd dewr  
Yn ninas Dafydd a lle'r elai  
Itzach Rabin, roedd yn gennad hedd  
A'i fryd ar dawelu'r magnelau.

Canodd ei olaf gân o flaen torf  
Yn Tel Aviv. Ar ôl y canu  
Taniodd ynfyty'n fwledi brad  
At gymodwr oes, a'i drywanu.

Rhwygodd fwled nodau y gân  
Ym mhoced ein dewraf weledydd;  
Ar amrant troes ei genhadaeth fawr  
Yn gecru'r Dwyrain rhwyng y  
gwledydd.

Rhyfedd fu gweled Iddew yn lladd  
Cyd-Iddew yng ngwlad yr  
Addewid;  
Er dod Tywysog Heddwch i'n byd  
Nid ydyw ein byd wedi newid.

Cofied trigolion y ddaear lawr,  
Yn felynion, duon a gwynion,  
Peryglus yw sôn am heddwch byd  
Tra fo arfau yn nwylo dynion.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all who are proving life difficult at this time, those who are unwell and facing terminal illness and in need of the care of others. We especially pray for Molly who is now home and in the care of her family. Please keep them and anyone else known to you in your prayers.



## **Epiphany**

Have you taken down the Christmas decorations yet? Tradition has it that this should be done by January 6<sup>th</sup> which is the Feast of Epiphany. This is the festival which celebrates the arrival of the Three Kings at Bethlehem. The Three Kings or Magi finally arrived at Bethlehem after seeking the New King Jesus at the palace in Jerusalem. They had come from the East which would have been from the direction of Persia, modern day Iran. Epiphany comes from the Greek meaning a sudden realisation or manifestation and in this context it is the manifestation that Jesus had not only come for the Jewish nation but for the Gentiles- the whole world. God reveals himself to the world in the East and West.

The Three Kings went back to their homes along another route avoiding Herod and his cunning plans. They chose another way, a different way, for they had been changed and that is significant for us at the beginning of a new year. If we need to change our ways and choose another path towards Jesus there is no better time than the present. Let us leave the manger inspired to walk with the Lord Jesus along another route into a life worthy of our calling.

### ***Friendship Centre Rota***

|                       |                            |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| <b><i>11/1/23</i></b> | <b>Sian and Helen</b>      |
| <b><i>18/1/23</i></b> | <b>Maisie and Rosemary</b> |
| <b><i>25/1/23</i></b> | <b>Pat and Carole</b>      |
| <b><i>1/2/23</i></b>  | <b>Tina, Nan and Kevin</b> |
| <b><i>8/2/23</i></b>  | <b>Sian and Helen</b>      |
| <b><i>15/2/23</i></b> | <b>Maisie and Rosemary</b> |

## Dates for the Calendar

**Next Elders' / Meeting:** Tuesday January 9<sup>th</sup> 10 am

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

**Friendship Centre/Canolfan Dydd**

Every Thursday from 10.30-1.30pm

**Cwrdd Dosbarth**

Cwrdd Dosbarth nesaf yn y Babell Zion Newydd **Ionawr 29ain am 7 o'r gloch.**

**Singalong Tuesday dates at 2pm every first and third Tuesday of the month**

**January 16<sup>th</sup>**

**February 6<sup>th</sup>**

**February 20<sup>th</sup>**

**March 5<sup>th</sup>**

**March 19<sup>th</sup>**

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### ***Collection for the Food Bank***

A special thanks from Christ Church Food Bank for your contributions during the last few months.

*Banc Bwyd Eglwys Crist  
Christ Church Food Bank*

**CAPEL  
Y BABELL ZION NEWYDD  
CHAPEL**

*Diolch yn fawr iawn am eich  
cyfraniad hael i'r banc bwyd  
Thank you for your generous contribution  
to the food bank  
Rhagfyr/December 2023*



## ***Sunday Services/Gwasanaethau ar y Sul***

|                         |                     |       |           |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-------|-----------|
| Minister                | Communion/ Cymundeb | 10 am | 14/1/2024 |
| Parchg Geraint Lloyd    |                     | 2 pm  | 21/1/2024 |
| Minister                |                     | 2 pm  | 28/1/2024 |
| Mr Dafydd Evans Meidrim |                     | 2 pm  | 4/2/2024  |
| Minister Communion      |                     | 10 am | 11/2/2024 |
| Mr Hugh Waddell         |                     | 2 pm  | 18/2/2024 |
| Minister                |                     | 2 pm  | 25/2/2024 |

| Flowers/<br>Blodau | 2024              | Cleaning/<br>Glanhau             | Announcing and Communion<br>Cyhoeddi a Pharatoi'r Cymun |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Helen<br>Gibbon    | Ionawr/January    | Pat, Doreen, Molly,<br>Charmaine | Sian Cassell  |
| Doreen<br>Davies   | Chwefror/February | Gwyn and Helen                   | Pat Morgan  |
| Carole<br>Rees     | Mawrth/March      | Jackie/Maisie/<br>Rosemary       | Lynn Davies   |

**OEDAFON GWYL DEWI CAPELI AC EGLWYSI CYMRAEG TREF  
CAERFYRDDIN/ St David's Day Services**

**DYDD SUL, 25 CHWEFROR 2024**

**OEDFA'R BORE AM 10.00 YNG NGHAPEL HEOL AWST**

**OEDFA'R HWYR (CYMUN) AM 5.00 YN EGLWYS SAN PEDR.**