

Mawrth 2022 / March 2022

Cylchlythyr / Newsletter

Rhif/Issue 43

Rhiw Babell Pensarn Caerfyrddin SA31 2DJ

BABELL ZION NEWYDD

“Byddwch lawen, cadwch y ffydd a gwnewch y pethau bychain a welsoch ac a glywsoch gennyf fi”

“Be joyful, keep the faith, and do the little things that you have heard and seen me do”

Dewi Sant



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*

Corey writes

Annwyl ffrindiau | Dear friends,

I pray that this newsletter finds you well and that you know the nearness of God during this Lenten season. If you haven't heard the news already, I'm sad to say that Catrin and I have made the difficult decision of accepting a call to move back to north Wales later this Spring. We were approached by dear friends in Mold, Flintshire about helping establish a new 'pioneering' ministry in the heart of the community and, after many months of praying and speaking with friends and family, we feel that this is where God is leading us at this time. We're also pleased to say that we will have another baby boy with us by the end of the summer! Please know that it was a very difficult decision for us to make, and one that we didn't take lightly. We love our Babell Zion Newydd family and it has been an honour and a privilege to serve alongside you these past four years. We've learned so much about what it means to love God and one another by being members of this church family. We're grateful that Peris was baptised into the church and it's a memory that we'll always cherish. We will *definitely* be regular visitors when we come down south, and you're always welcome to our home when you find yourself in the north.

As we make our way towards Holy Week and the Easter season, I pray that we will all, in the words of the apostle, 'know Christ and the power of his resurrection,' that we may 'gain Christ and be found in him' (Philippians 3). And so let us 'press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.' Rwy'n wir edrych ymlaen at ddathlu'r atgyfodiad gyda chi yn yr wythnosau sydd i ddod. Cofiwch fod fi wastad ar gael am sgwrs.

Tan hynny | Until next time,
Corey Hampton

Gwellhad

Dymuniadau gorau am wellhad llwyr a buan i Mrs Vi Williams yn dilyn llawdriniaeth ar y glun yn ddiweddar. Edrychwn ymlaen yn fawr i'ch gweld yn ôl gyda ni yn y capel unwaith eto.

Hefyd i bawb sy'n dioddef o'r Covid-19 ar hyn o bryd. Mae'r amrywiolyn Omicron yn lledu'n gyflym yn ein cymunedau felly parhawn i fod yn ofalus. Mae yna anhwylderau eraill wrthgwrs. To all who are suffering we hold you in our prayers.



Thank you

Linda Owen would like to thank everyone for their support in raising money in memory of Trevor for Macmillan Cancer Support. As a result of the garage sale which Linda held last September at her home, and donations and funds raised from other sales, a handsome £1500 was raised. An excellent achievement.

Diolch i'r garddwyr, Pat a Molly am y blodau hardd o flaen y capel. Thank you to the green fingered Molly and Pat for the beautiful display in front of the chapel as seen on the cover.

World Day of Prayer / Dydd Gweddi'r Byd

Diolch/ Thank you

Thank you to **Rosemary Kerr** for taking part at the Annual World Day of Prayer English service held on the morning of March 4th at Christ Church and to **Molly Thomas** for taking part in the Welsh afternoon service.

This year the Booklet had been prepared by representatives from churches in Wales, England and Northern Ireland. They took a verse from the Prophet Jeremiah as their theme which was: "I know the plans I have for you." It was a particularly poignant service in the light of the war being waged in Ukraine at the moment.

Here are words from the service to reflect upon.

We rejoice that, although we have many things in common, we are a diverse people. Over the years the British Isles have welcomed people from all corners of the Earth, some who have chosen to live here and others who are refugees fleeing from persecution in their own lands.

The people in Jeremiah's time found themselves in a place where they did not want to be - far from their homeland Israel and excluded from their culture, worship and homes in Babylon.

Throughout the course of history nations have risen against nations and through selfishness and greed have sought to conquer and establish empires across the known world. Britain was one of those conquering nations.

This is a Prayer of Confession taken from the service

God told the exiles from Judah to care for the people and the place where they had been sent. Often we fall short of caring for God's world and God's people. So let us bring those times to God and ask God's forgiveness.

Merciful God, we come to you in confession.

We are aware that much of the suffering faced by our sisters and brothers across the world is a result of our colonial past. We acknowledge this and are sorry that as a country we have often put ourselves first at the expense of others.

We think of our beautiful world and how we have taken it for granted and squandered its resources.

Our fellow sisters and brothers cry out to you, we have failed to love them well.

We have not loved our neighbours as you have taught us. Sometimes we have not even loved ourselves.

Jesus, we thank you that through your sacrifice we are forgiven. Holy Spirit transform our hearts and minds so that we may live and love as Jesus showed us.

Amen

Rev Mike Shephard writes....

THE PARABLE OF THE SUN AND THE WIND

The fable of the Sun and the Wind will be known to us all. We will have been familiar with it since childhood. This is my telling of the story:

The Wind was a braggart – full of bluster, born of arrogance. It was bloated, with a sense of its own importance. It believed that ‘might was right’ and fell out with anyone who seemed to threaten its supremacy – even when no threat existed. It always wanted to ‘flex its muscles’ and display its strength, sometimes with calamitous consequences for the world. It would conjure up hurricane and tempest leaving a trail of destruction in its wake. There were occasions when it would blow gently but, invariably, this was a deliberate ploy to deceive those who were gullible – a period of calm before the storm. The truth was that the wind found it impossible to live harmoniously with anyone and, on every occasion, had to be seen as ‘top dog.’ It liked nothing better than to provoke arguments with others and these quarrels would, usually, end in defeat for opponents who were cowed into silence. It was not so much a case of the better argument having prevailed. It was more a case of weaker people being shouted down and bullied into submission. It seemed preferable to say nothing than to argue back and suffer ‘from the wind.’

There is a saying to the effect that ‘pride goes before a fall’ and the adage could well have been a summary of what occurred when an increasingly belligerent wind, challenged, a kindlier force, to a duel. Puffed up with conceit it provoked a quarrel with the sun and called upon, all of nature, to witness that it was he who would be supreme champion. The challenge was phrased in these terms:

I am wind and, in all of Nature, there is nothing to rival me for strength. One blast of my breath and forests are laid low. Not even the mighty oak can withstand my strongest blast. I ask you to witness my power as I challenge the sun to do battle with me. I see a man walking along the road with a raincoat wrapped around him. I will blow the covering away. I will demonstrate my power by such a means – a means which my rival, the sun, will never possess. The outcome is a foregone conclusion.

We know the story and are aware of its ending. The stronger the gusts of wind, the more tightly did the man wrap the coat around him. Ultimately, after many hours of work, the wind was completely spent and blew itself out.

Then it was the turn of the sun. It possessed but one quality. It had the ability to shine. It beamed down upon the man with unrelenting heat! He began to unfasten his coat and to mop his brow. He was hot – hotter than he had been in an age. He could feel the sweat trickle down his face. His shirt stuck to his back. He had no choice other than to remove his coat and, relieved of its weight, continued his journey. The wind had lost the battle. The sun had carried the day.

I wonder if that story has been translated into Russian? Did president Putin read it as a child? Did he understand what the fable was intended to convey? Does he

not see that he is a representative of a destructive wind? Is he incapable of understanding that love is more powerful than hate and forbearance superior to feelings of revenge? Has he never read history? Does he not realise that God seldom favours the big battalions? Has he not learned that it is the meek who will inherit the earth? Can it be that no one has advised him that ultimate victory belongs, not to those who nailed an innocent man to a cross but, rather, to the one who hung upon it, praying forgiveness for those who crucified him? Whilst the wind does its worst and blows across the land with primeval and elemental force, the sun just shines. It is the sunshine of suffering love that will win this one-sided war and the future, whatever shape it takes, belongs, not to the deranged, psychopathic Putin but, rather, to the people who are suffering because of him. Their children, one day, will call them 'Blessed.' Putin's children and grandchildren, sadly, will feel themselves to be tainted by his blood and will wish to disown his name.

I admit that I have always had a problem where forgiveness is concerned. If the ability to forgive were to be gauged according to a scale of 1 to 10, I dread to think about my score. I wish that I were more forgiving.

Some crimes, though, are so horrendous that they can never be forgiven. As someone said to me only yesterday: "There must be a hell – if only for the Putin's of this world." I fully concur with the sentiment expressed in so harsh a way! It encapsulates a plea to the effect that there must be a provision in the universe for justice for all – including the victims of Putin's psychopathic arrogance. He is like the wind. It is the sun that will win the day.

© Mike Shephard

Easter Services

Maundy Thursday Supper April 14th: A Communion Service followed by a meal at Llanarthney Hall for the Pastorate at 6.30pm. Tickets £10. Proceeds towards "Seeds of Hope" Appeal. Dewch i fwynhau yng nghwmni Emyr ac Eleri a fydd wedi bod yn ddyfal yn paratoi'r wledd.

Good Friday: Pastorate Service with Corey and Catrin at Soar Pontyberem at 2.30pm.

Neges wrth Parch Beti Wyn am y Bererindod i Fryn Myrddin
Gadael maes parcio fferm Allt y Fyrddin (SA32 7ER) am 2.30yp yn brydlon.
Cerdded a chario'r groes i ben Bryn Myrddin.
Oedfa ar ben y bryn am 3 o'r gloch.
Paned a chacen yn Fferm Allt Fyrddin ar ddiwedd y daith. Pris £3.50 y pen.
Cyswllt: Parchg Beti-Wyn beti.wyn@icloud.com. Ffon 01267 237696

Easter Sunday: Family Service at Babell 10.30am. Croeso i bawb.

Facts about St David/ Ffeithiau am Dewi Sant

1. Dewi Sant yw'r unig Sant i gael ei eni yn y wlad y mae'n nawdd sant ohoni./ He is the only British/Irish Saint to be born in the country of which he is patron

Ganwyd Dewi Sant yn Sir Benfro mewn storom ffyrnig. Nid ydym yn gwybod pryd ond credir ei fod wedi marw ar Fawrth y Cyntaf yn 589 OC. Mae Rhygyfarch, mynach o'r unfed ganrif ar ddeg yn nodi bod Dewi wedi byw tan iddo fod yn 147 oed.

Legend has it that St David was born on a Pembrokeshire hill-top during a fierce storm. The date of his birth isn't certain, but it is generally accepted that he died on the 1st March 589 A.D. The 11th century monk, Rhygyfarch, claims that he lived to the ripe old age of 147!

2. Roedd Dewi Sant wedi cyflawni gwyrthiau:

- Codi'r tir oddi tano fel bod y gynulleidfa gyfan yn medru ei weld
- Codi bachgen ifanc o feirw i fyw
- Goroesi bwyta bara wedi ei wenwyno
- Iachau Paulinus ei athro fel ei fod yn gweld eto.

St David performed miracles such as these

- *raising the ground under him to form a hill, so that his congregation could see him*
- *raising a youth from the dead*
- *surviving eating poisoned bread*
- *restoring the sight of his teacher Paulinus*

3. Roedd Dewi yn lyseuwr/ Vegetarian

Fel mynach cydwybodol byddai Dewi a'i frodyr ond wedi bwyta bara, llysiau a perlysiau ac yfed dim ond dwr. Byddai hefyd wedi trin y tir â llaw heb gymorth anifeiliaid a gofalu am y tlodion yn y gymuned.

As a devout monk, David and his brothers are said to have eaten only bread, vegetables and herbs, and to have drunk only water. David and the other monks were also required to tend the land by hand, without the aid of animals, and to look after the poor in their community.

4. Y Genhinen/The Leek

Roedd Dewi Sant yn ôl traddodiad wedi awgrymu y dylai milwyr Cymru wisgo cenhinen ar eu helmed er mwyn eu gwahaniaethu oddi wrth y milwyr Sacsonaidd a wisgai gwisgoedd tebyg. Mae'r Catrawdau Cymreig yn gwisgo'r genhinen hyd yn oed heddiw.

Legend has it that St David suggested Welsh soldiers wear a leek on their helmets to distinguish them from the invading Saxon soldiers who wore similar uniforms. The leek features in the uniforms of Welsh regiments to this day.

5. Geiriau olaf Dewi Sant: gweler y geiriau ar y clawr. You do know them but in case- they are on the front cover.

“Do the little Things:” suggests that the small actions we take in life can be just as significant as the big ones for ourselves and for others.

Seeds of Hope Appeal/ Apêl Hadau Gobaith

Lansiwyd Apêl Hadau Gobaith yn yr Henaduriaeth ar Fawrth 13eg. Daeth tyrfa dda ynghyd i gerdded o Gapel y Ddol Llanarthne i Gapel Newydd Llandarog lle cynhaliwyd gwasanaeth Gymun dan arweiniad y Parch Evan Morgan Caerdydd. Edrychwn ymlaen at ffyrdd o godi arian ar gyfer yr apêl sy'n tynnu sylw at effeithiau newid hinsawdd yn ein byd.



The Seeds of Hope Appeal was launched in our Presbytery on March 13th when a fine representation came together to walk the 5 miles from Llanarthney to Capel Newydd Llandgarog. A Communion Service was then held with Rev Evan Morgan officiating. We look forward to ways of raising money for this appeal which draws attention to the effects of Global Warming in our world.

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We continue to pray for the people of Ukraine and all displaced peoples in the world. On Sunday April 3rd we are invited as churches and Christians to come together in an act of witness to pray and light candles for Ukraine, for an end to the conflict and for all those affected by the impact of war. This is part of the message received from Christian Aid via the Presbyterian Church.

United in Prayer for Ukraine

#PrayforUkraine

Sunday 3 April

We have all watched the unfolding conflict in Ukraine and seen the heart-breaking stories of people fleeing violence, not knowing when they'll see their loved ones again. Over two million people have fled Ukraine. Many more have been forced from their homes to seek shelter. Lives have been lost and families torn apart. Homes have been destroyed and many roads are blocked. No one is safe.

Churches in Ukraine, in neighbouring countries and here in Wales alongside many others in the community have responded with generosity and hospitality to support and welcome refugees.

We all share a feeling of horror and powerlessness but **every prayer, every action brings hope to the people of Ukraine.**

- We are sharing a prayer that we would invite you to use on 3rd April during your worship for that Sunday and if possible, perhaps in a more public event with other churches and your wider community.
- There will be an event at near the Ukrainian and Russian embassies in London in the afternoon.
- There will also be one or two events in Wales, with details to follow next week.
- For further information and to access the prayer in Welsh and English, please visit: [Pray for Ukraine - Christian Aid](#)

Gyda'n gilydd fel Cristnogion ar draws yr ynysoedd hyn a chyda'n chwiorydd a'n brodyr yn eglwysi Wcráin, gweddiwn am ddiwedd i'r gwrthdaro ac am heddwch yn ein by

Sunday Services / Gwasanaethau ar y Sul

Mr Corey Hampton Christening and Holy Communion	10.30	3/4/2022
Mr Hugh Waddell.	2 pm	10/4/ 2022
Mr Corey Hampton Easter Service	10.30	17/4/2022
Rev Adelaide Wheeler Cocks	10.30	24/4/2022
Mr Dafydd Evans Meidrim	10.30	1/5/2022

Flowers/ Blodau		Cleaning/ Glanhau	Announcing and Communion Cyhoeddi a Pharatoi'r Cymun
Jackie Evans	March/Mawrth	Helen Gibbon/Maisie Johnson/Jackie Evans	Carole Rees
Janet Davies	April/Ebrill	Helen Gibbon /Sian Cassell	Molly Thomas
Doreen Davies	May/Mai	Janet a Lynn Davies	Meurig Rees
Sian Cassell	June/Mehefin	Owen and Kim Jones	Sian Cassell

Elders' Meeting on Thursday March 31st at 10.30 am at the chapel/ Cwrdd Blaenoriaid yn y capel dydd Iau Mawrth 31ain am hanner awr wedi deg.

Procession/ Gorymdaith

<p>Gwahoddiad gan Gwilym Dyfri Jones Profost Prifysgol y Drindod Dewi Sant i gymryd rhan mewn orymdaith i ddathlu dauganmlwyddiant Coleg Dewi Sant Llambod</p> <p>Gorymdaith Caerfyrddin 17 Mehefin 2022 1.30yp o'r gloch O Gapel Heol Awst i Eglwys San Pedr Gwasanaeth, Eglwys San Pedr, 2.15pm Lluniaeth, Canolfan Halliwell 3.30 ymlaen Bydd angen baner arnom. Oes diddordeb gan unrhyw rhai i ddod at ei gilydd i greu baner?</p>	<p>An invitation from Gwilym Dyfri Jones, Provost of The University of Trinity St David to take part in a procession to mark the bicentenary of St David's College Lampeter</p> <p>Carmarthen Procession 17 June 2022 1.30pm From Heol Awst Chapel to St Peter's Church Service, St Peter's Church, 2.15pm Refreshments, Halliwell Centre 3.30 onwards</p> <p>We'll need a Banner. Any interest in coming together to create a banner?</p>
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