

March/Mawrth 2024

Newsletter Issue/Cylchlythyr Rhifyn 62

BABELL ZION NEWYDD

A Prayer for hope

Arglwydd Gobaith, yn y dyddiau anodd hyn ynghanol ein hanwylderau personol, pan glywn am yr holl frwydrau sydd yn y byd a phobol yn cefnu arnat, helpa ni i ddal i obeithio. Pan fyddwn ni'n digalonni, yn gweld pwerau'r Drwg yn trechu'r Da, yn gweld y cryf yn bychanu'r gwan, helpa ni i gofio mai Ti sy'n llywodraethu ac nid neb arall. Ti wnaeth y byd, ti sy'n ei gynnal, ti biau'r Gair olaf ar yr hyn sy'n digwydd ynddo. Pa mor gryf bynnag yw'r Drwg heddiw, dy ddaioni di fydd drechaf yn y man, canys eiddot ti yw'r deyrnas, a'r gallu, a'r gogoniant, yn oes oesoedd Amen.

Lord of Hope, when we find life difficult in all kinds of different ways, illness, grief, the devastating situation in war torn countries, O Lord, help us to keep hoping. When we lose hope, when we see the powers of evil getting the better of the good, when the strong belittle the weak, help us to be reminded that you are in control of this world and no-one else. You made the world, you sustain it, you will have the last word as to what will happen in it. However strong the powers of evil, your goodness will prevail in the end, for thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory for ever and ever, Amen.

Gwasanaethau Dydd Gŵyl Dewi /St David's Day Services

Gwasanaeth y bore yng Nghapel Heol Awst

Cymerodd plant yr Ysgol Sul ran yng ngwasanaeth y plant yn y bore trwy gyflwyno'r trydydd emyn: Dilyn F'Arweinydd. Cawsom oedfa bendithiol gydag holl gapeli Cymraeg y dre yn cael eu cynrychioli. Martin Geraint oedd y siaradwr gwadd ac fe lwyddodd i gael ni gyd i fynd i hwyl trwy symud lan a lawr, stampio'n traed a throi yn ein seddau a hyn i gyd gyda Frank o Ffrainc ac Elvis oedd wedi dod cryn belter i ymuno gyda ni. Dysgodd e ni gyd sut i weddio trwy ddefnyddio ein bysedd i gofio am



Dduw ac am Iesu ar y Groes, i fod yn ffyddlon bob amser ac i weddio dros bawb heb anghofio'r bys bach- sef ein hunain.

The children of the Sunday School took part in the morning service at Heol Awst Chapel where an excellent representation from the chapels of Carmarthen were present to celebrate St David. The guest speaker was Martin Geraint who got us all moving in our seats with Frank from France and was that Elvis? He used the fingers of the hand to remind us of

how to pray, to remember our Father God, His Son the Lord Jesus, to be faithful, to pray for others and last but not least, yes that little finger, to pray for ourselves.

Oedfa'r hwyr/The Evening Service at St Peter's

Yr hybarch Eileen Davies oedd pregethwr gwâdd yr hwyr yn Eglwys San Pedr. Fe ddechreuodd hi'r bregeth fel y gwnaeth ein Gweinidog Emyr yn y prynhawn trwy ofyn beth yw Sant. Fe'm hatgoffwyd pa mor bwysig yw darllen yr Ysgrythurau a gweddio bob dydd. Rhoddodd Dewi Sant gyngor da i'w ddilynwyr sef i fod yn llawen, i gadw'r ffydd a'u crêd a gwneud y pethau bychain.

Canon Eileen Davies was the guest preacher for the evening service held at St Peter's church. She began her sermon just as Emyr had done in the afternoon with the question what is the definition of a saint. We were reminded of the importance of daily prayer and scripture reading and to carry with us day by day the words of Saint David which were, to be joyful, to keep the faith and to do the little things.

Lenten Bible Study: The Monday afternoons' study of John's Gospel is going well and we are very grateful to Pat for the way she leads us through the chapters without expecting participation. But once we start we all have a recollection or a story to tell. Thank you Pat. The next one will be this Monday March 18th at 1pm.

Cawl and Quiz Night

On a cold and damp February evening 13 teams, some with enthusiasm, some with excitement and others with trepidation, filled the chapel building to participate in a Quiz night prepared by Mr John Green. I think I'm right in saying that the starter course almost finished some of us off but after the first couple of questions we were away. It's surprising how much we actually know and how alert we are to what's going on in the world but perhaps observation skills need to be improved by next time! What a relief it was for the Rev Mike Shephard when Ellie Grace proclaimed she knew the answer to be Taylor Swift.

At half time it was the serving of the Cawl, patiently prepared the day before by a team of five with Carole at the helm and at the stove! All hands on deck and all done in time. Many thanks to all concerned. It was then back to the final 6 rounds before Linda announced the results in ascending



order. It was very close, with only a half mark between the first two teams. Of course there has to be a winner and a loser but all was done in a spirit of fun and plenty of humour. Many thanks to John for those searching questions, to Linda for scoring, to those who donated food items and to all who supported the evening. A donation of a £100 was made on the evening to John's chosen charity which is 'Talking Books Wales.'



Dydd Gweddi'r Byd/ World Day of Prayer

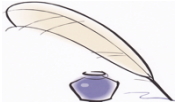
The services this year were held at Heol Awst Chapel on St David's Day with the English service in the morning and the Welsh service in the afternoon. We were already acquainted with the content which had been prepared by Christian Palestinian women six years ago with the focus of the service based on the passage from Ephesians 4:1-7 'To bear with each other in love, despite all difficulties and oppression.' Carole took the part of Lina in the morning service and Helen introduced the second hymn in the afternoon service. Next year it will be our turn at Babel Zion Newydd to host both services.

Cydymdeimlo

Gyda thristwch y clywsom am farwolaeth Mrs Edwina Jones ar Fawrth 2ail yn 93 oed. Bu Mrs Jones, "Y Cook," fel yr adnabuwyd hi, yn brif gogyddes yn Ysgol Llangynnwr am flynyddoedd lawer tan ei hymddeoliad. Bydd rhai ohonoch yn cofio amdani hi a'i phriod Wynford a'u merch Bethan yn byw yn Hazeldene cyn symud i'r dre yn ddiweddarach. Cafodd y gofal gorau gan Bethan ar hyd yr amser ac mae ein cydymdeimlad yn fawr gyda hi a'i gŵr David ynghyd â Sara a Mari a'r teuluoedd oll. Cynhelir yr angladd ym Mharc Gwyn ar Fawrth 16eg am 11.30 y bore. Coffa da amdani.

Flowers/ Blodau	2024	Cleaning/ Glanhau	Announcing and Communion Cyhoeddi a Pharatoi'r Cymun
Carole Rees	Mawrth/March	Jackie and Maisie	Lynn Davies
Janet Davies	Ebrill/ April	Lynn and Janet	Carole Rees
Pat Morgan	Mai/May	Rosemary and Nelda	Helen Gibbon

Over recent weeks, we have heard of a few of our friends who have been experiencing ill health. It was good to see that Charmaine is making a good recovery. Please hold the following in your prayers: Mrs Nesta Wyn Davies, Mrs Dawn Jones and Rev Adelaide and anyone else known to you who is ailing at this time. Our Minister is amongst many of the congregation who are suffering from a heavy cold at this time. Brysiwch wella Emyr.



Mike Shephard writes

GOOD GOLLY MISS MOLLY

Molly Thomas was one of the most courageous people I have met.

She and I were part of the same church walking group, and, at eighty years of age, she could give many a younger person lessons in endurance. We always walked at the pace of the slowest walker, but every walk had its challenges. Molly was up for them all and aided by her grandson, Ben, always acquitted herself well. In May 2022 she succeeded in reaching the top of Penyfan in the Brecon Beacons – no mean achievement. Her legs were ‘like jelly’ coming down but she refused to give in with determination and resolve being etched into her face.

Molly displayed similar courage when discussing the future of the Christian Church – which she so dearly loved. She argued for fundamental change and viewed our present denominations and divisions as nonsensical. The spectacle of believers walking into separate buildings to worship appalled her and her vision was of a united community bound together to love and serve others. Shortly before she died, she expressed regret that she would not live to see the dream become a reality and was critical of those who saw closure as preferable to unity. Molly demonstrated courage in standing up for her beliefs.

Molly was diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer towards the end of 2023. It had spread to the Liver and when I last saw her – early in January 2024 – she knew that she had weeks to live. Seldom, if ever, have I witnessed such courage in the face of death and her words are ingrained in my memory:

When death comes it will be a release for me and will arrive not as an enemy but as a friend. I have made all the necessary arrangements. I have chosen the hymns as well as the music to be played. There will be a chapel service which will be conducted by Emyr, our minister. I also want you to take part and would ask that you pay a tribute. I want it to be a tribute with a difference in that I want you to introduce humour into the service and tell a joke to lighten an occasion which is likely to be sombre. Do you recall the joke told in one of your books? I couldn't stop laughing when I read it. It was so silly! It was so stupid! That is the one I want you to relate.

I explained to Molly that I had never ever told a joke at a funeral service. It was not the done thing. What if it caused offence? What would the family think about the introduction of hilarity at so serious a time? Molly repeated that it was what she wanted and asked her son to witness that such was the case. She continued thus:

I know that the mood will be somewhat sombre, but I do not want it to be like that. I have no fear of death and see it as the gateway into the next stage of life's adventure. I will miss my family and they, I know, will be devastated by my passing. I can understand those feelings but want them to be happy for me. I want them to smile as they say goodbye to me. Promise me that you will tell that ridiculous story.

Here is the joke told at Molly's funeral:

Four men were walking down the road. Three of them were pushing prams as their wives had just given birth to babies – all boys. Their friend's wife had not yet given

birth, but the child was expected within weeks. He asked the others what names had been given to their children.

The first man said that his child had been born on St George's Day and had been called George. The second man explained that his son had arrived on St Andrew's Day and had been called Andrew. The third man's baby had arrived on March 1st – St David's Day – so had been given the name of David.

Later that day the man discussed the matter with his wife. He expressed the hope that their child would also be born on a special day so that he or she could be named accordingly.

Some weeks later four prams were being pushed down the road and the new father was questioned about the name given to the most recent arrival. He exclaimed: "This is our daughter. Her name is 'Pancake.'"

I am happy to report that the congregation 'all' laughed – all 180 of them! I have no doubt that Molly was there in spirit and was laughing as well.

Molly's funeral service, incidentally, took place on Tuesday 13th February 2024. This just happened to be Shrove Tuesday – Pancake Day!

Keep smiling Molly. May God smile on you and continue to hold you in the hollow of his hand.

Mike Shephard

Roedd y gwasanaeth a'r deyrnged gyntaf yng ngofal y Gweinidog Emyr. Offrymwyd gweddi gan Parch Beti Wyn, a chymerwyd y rhannau arweiniol gan Mr Hugh Waddell a Mr Corey Hampton. Parch Mike Shephard roddodd yr ail deyrnged sydd i'w gweld uchod.

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Bygone days

Thank you Doreen for submitting this photo. The Ladies would meet regularly to produce blankets for Pastor John Morgan who would then take them, along with many other items, to Rumania during the aftermath of the Ceausescu years.



Friendship Centre Rota

7/3/24	Sian and Helen
14/3/24	Maisie and Rosemary
21/3/24	Pat and Carole
28/3/24	Tina, Nan and Kevin
4/4/24	Sian and Helen
11/4/24	Maisie and Rosemary

Dates for the Calendar

Next Elders' Meeting: To be announced

Friendship Centre/Canolfan Dydd

Every Thursday from 10.30-1.30pm

Cwrdd Dosbarth

Cwrdd Dosbarth nesaf yng Nghapel Bro Dewi fawr Meidrim Mai 14eg am 7 o'r gloch.

Singalong Tuesday dates at 2pm every first and third Tuesday of the month. The next ones will all be at Babel Zion Newydd:

March 19th

April 2nd

April 23rd

Sunday Services/Gwasanaethau ar y Sul

Rev Mike Shephard	10 am	17/3/2024
Minister	2 pm	24/3/2024
Easter Sunday Rev Mike Shephard	2pm	31/3/2024
Mr David Davies	10 am	7/4/2024
Minister	10 am	14/4/2024
Mr Hugh Waddell	2pm	21/4/2024
Minister	2pm	28/4/2024

Easter Services

Maundy Thursday Supper /Swper Nos Iau Cablyd

Thursday March 28th 6.30 at Llanarthney Hall: Supper, Worship and Communion at the table. Gofalaeth y Gwendraeth

Ticket £11 Please give names to Helen or Emyr by March 21st stating any dietary requirements for allergies or vegetarian options



Good Friday/ Gwener y Groglith: March 29th

Morning United Service at English Baptist Church: 10.30 led by Mr Martin Dalling

Gwasanaeth Cymraeg Undebol yn y Tabernacl gyda'r Parch Peter Cutts am 10.30 y bore

2.30 pm Service at Soar Pontyberem led by our Minister Emyr. Also available on Zoom but no Hot Cross Buns on Zoom!



Easter Sunday/Sul y Pasg March 31st

Service at 2 pm led by Rev Mike Shephard in the company of the children at Babell Zion Newydd