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Gorffennaf/Awst

Cylchlythyr/Newsletter

Rhif/Issue 25

BABELL ZION NEWYDD

Rhiw Babell Pensarn Caerfyrddin SA31 2DJ

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Thanks to Babell Zion Newydd Chapel for permission to do this

Llangunnor Network
*Preserving and Promoting
Llangunnor*



A Message from Minister

A Message for the members and friends of Y Babell/Zion Newydd

As I put pen to paper for the final time, following a period of just two years as minister in the Gwendraeth pastorate, I extend my warmest appreciation for the opportunity afforded me to work among you. In comparison, this second year has presented more challenges. Coronavirus has stifled any activity and testimony during these last four months but I have also seen less of you, particularly at home, given my decision to allow Corey to undertake the pastoral work, leaving me to concentrate primarily on the other nine chapels in the pastorate. I am not convinced that such division of labour necessarily works and it will need discussion as Mr Emyr Williams succeeds me (presuming the vote is successful) and endeavours to make his mark. Both he and Corey will need your prayers and, at times guidance and I wish them the best for the future.

Sadly we lost Gareth Davies following a protracted period of ill health at the end of May with his funeral being held on 5th June in the Royal Oak Chapel of Rest, Johnstown. These last few months were challenging to the family, particularly Gaynor and his siblings of whom Doreen of course is a faithful member. Gareth bore his illness with dignity, appearing to accept his impending fate with a quiet equanimity. Gareth's faith will no doubt have been of comfort to him, his having been baptised to Christ merely a year ago. I do admire the conviction shown by adults who choose to make their own decision as opposed to having it made for them as a baby, which is the route many of us will have taken.

On a happier note, it is wonderful to be able to relate that Mrs Nan Thomas celebrated her 90th birthday on 7th July. Such longevity can be attributed in the main to her positive, vibrant personality and a desire to keep active. It was only three years ago that Nan relinquished the role of pulpit secretary, work which she had carried out with efficiency, and a certain aplomb. We thank her for this and trust that she has many more active years in front of her!

I shall be moving back to Llanddewi-Brefi on 28th July, travelling down to the pastorate as and when required during August until my employment with the Presbyterian Church in Wales terminates following seventeen years' service. I shall then be caring for my father until Christmas after which my sister takes up the reins. From January, as you might be aware, I shall be working as a deacon initially but, within six months, as a priest in the Lampeter and Tregaron Local Ministry Area with the Church in Wales. It will present a new, exciting challenge and one I am looking forward to, God willing, with great excitement. I was brought up an Anglican and thus will be returning to my roots. If you decide to attend the National Eisteddfod next year I shall no doubt see you there!

I trust that by September you will feel safe enough to return to Babell/Zion Newydd. It will take encouragement, conviction and a determination to pass through the chapel doors for the first time after such an extensive period 'in the wilderness' but please do make the effort. The life and witness of the chapel needs you to be strong!

Best wishes,
Nicholas (July 7th 2020)

The Congregation

Dymuniadau penblwydd/ Birthday wishes

Penblwydd hapus iawn i Mrs Nan Thomas oedd yn dathlu ei phenblwydd yn 90 oed ar Orffennaf 7fed. Edrychwn ymlaen i gael dathlu gyda chi yn y Babell Zion Newydd gyda phaned a chacen pan gawn ni gyfle. Dymuniadau gorau i chi Nan.

A word from Nan: *“Diolch o galon i bawb am yr holl gardiau a’r blodau hyfryd. Just a word of thanks for all the cards and the beautiful flowers that helped make my birthday so special.”*



Services

We held our third service via Zoom led by Corey on July 5th. Sian, Linda, Catrin and Helen took part in the service. The next service will be held on the 19th of July at 11am. The link will be sent out two days before and please feel free to share this link with members and friends. Telephone links are also free of charge.

Cyfarfod Gweddi

Mae Corey yn arwain cyfarfod gweddi bob bore Iau am 10 o’r gloch. Mae’r amser hwn gyda’n gilydd fel pobl ar draws yr Henaduriaeth yn fendithiol iawn. Fe glywn ni am brofiadau gwahanol ac mae ambell un yn dod â chan ar yr ukulele hyd yn oed. Mae’n dda cael gwerthfawrogi cwmniaeth sy’n cynnig cefnogaeth a gweddi.

Bereavement

Those of us who attend the Friendship Centre will remember Keith Anders. Keith had lost his much loved wife some time before we knew him. He once admitted to me that he was having the greatest of difficulty in coping with his grief and could not come to terms with his loss. It was that awareness which brought him to us in the first place. He had met a church member in Morrison’s who, recognising his pain, pointed him in the direction of Babell Zion Newydd.

Keith was to become increasingly immobile and in recent years was to spend time in hospital and, later, in long term residential care. Gwen and I visited him when he was resident at Maes Llewellyn Home, Newcastle Emlyn and it was there, on 11th June that he died. I do know that he thought a lot of Babell Zion Newydd and I would like to thank those who extended understanding and friendship to him in the time that he was with us.

Mike Shephard (Revd)

Digital links to the Treasury and Goleuad editions

The Treasury:

<https://www.ebcpcw.cymru/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Treasury-July.pdf>

Dyma’r cyswllt i’r Goleuad

<https://www.ebcpcw.cymru/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Goleuad-10-Gorffennaf-gyrru-copi.pdf>

Elders’ meeting: July 13th at 5pm via Zoom and telephone. Details to follow.

A Letter from the General Assembly

Dear Friends

The Executive Committee of the General Assembly Board (The Trustees) met today, 30th June 2020. The meeting discussed the decision of the Westminster Government to allow the re-opening of churches for public worship from 4th July 2020 in England. At the same time, we anticipate that a similar decision by the Welsh Government will come in the near future. As Custodian Trustees of Connexional property, the following was agreed:

i) The Officers of the General Assembly will prepare guidance for the churches we have in England on the guidelines issued by the Westminster Government as soon as possible, and send them to the churches to help them prepare for a date when they will reopen.

ii) As One Connexion, it was decided that none of our churches should be reopened until this could be done across the Connexion. When this is possible, we will inform you of the date when you may consider re-opening locally. In practice therefore, although it is legal to reopen our churches in England from July 4th, we do not think this is appropriate until we can move as one Connexion. When the churches are notified of the date to re-open, the decision to do this locally will be subject to the views of the Minister (where there is a Minister) and / or elders. We realize that this is affecting some churches that were planning to open from next Sunday, and we ask for your patience with this decision. Naturally, when the situation has changed in Wales, we will issue appropriate guidance and procedures to all our churches. Could you share this letter with your fellow elders and officers as well as your congregation.

Meirion Morris

Ysgrifennydd Cyffredinol/*General Secretary*

Marcus Robinson

Llywydd y Gamanfa Gyffredinol/*Moderator of the General Assembly*

Brian Huw Jones

Llywydd yr Ymddiriedolwyr/ *Chair of Trustees*

Forthcoming Services

Zoom Service for BZN: July 19th at 11am

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87986477837>

Telephone: +44 203 481 5240

Meeting ID: 879 8647 7837

Oedfaon gan Emyr Williams: Gorffennaf 12fed [Cymun] am 10 o'r gloch
Gorffennaf 19fed dan ofal Capeli Dyffryn Tywi am 10
Gorffennaf 26ain am 10 o'r gloch

Zoom Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88350840738?pwd=UHG0MzdyVEJxMWZrRXNXNHk2OFZiQT09>

Dial by your location

0203 481 5237 United Kingdom

0203 481 5240 United Kingdom

0131 460 1196 United Kingdom

0203 051 2874 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 883 5084 0738

Password: 015285



Rev Mike Shephard writes

Dear friends, I tend to be quite controversial in my views and once upset people by daring to criticise the children's hymn, 'All things bright and beautiful.' I argued that the

author, Mrs Alexander, had an overly romantic view of nature and failed to take account of the harsher realities of life.

She refers to the little flower that opens but makes no mention of the plants that tempt insects inwards and then, having trapped them, feast on their blood. She waxes lyrical about the little birds that sing but fails to speak of the Butcher Bird that impales its victims on spikes, where they remain until it's time for the next meal. Much as I love the Robin, it does tend to be aggressive and territorial, and its lovely song is warning other birds to back off.

I am sure that the purple headed mountain looks majestic. What though of the volcano erupting in fury and causing immense damage to life and property?

The river running by is a glorious sight. But there is no mention of floods or, as in the winter of 2020, the untold misery which flooding can bring.

The cold wind in the winter can be invigorating if one is wrapped up warm. It is not so wonderful when a person is homeless and in danger of hypothermia. We all love the touch of the pleasant summer sun. But too much of it can bring drought and misery to millions. It is also sunshine that causes deadly skin cancers.

It is marvellous to enjoy the ripe fruits in the garden. The shame is that some people have no harvest to celebrate and have to carve out a living on barren and unfertile soil.

We are grateful for our five senses, especially that of sight. But what of children born with cancer of the eye? What of those who are blind?

So many people use their lips, not to celebrate the wonders of the natural world but to utter cries of anguish and pain; or to pray for a deliverance which doesn't come.

The hearers were angry because I had sat in judgement on what was, at the end of the day, a children's song. I responded that we should not be teaching children things which they will have to unlearn in later life.

Why didn't Mrs Alexander devote a verse to insect life? Then I could have spoken of the Cicidomyian gall midge, whose young hatch inside their mother and literally eat their way out, devouring the mother as they go? She might have enthused about the Xenon peckii fly, sightless and flightless, which spends its entire life inside the innards of a paper wasp, feeding on it.

When writing about rivers she could have included the Amazon's Candiru catfish that swims its way up the urethra of an unsuspecting bather, then, extends its sharp spines, causing excruciating pain that can only be mitigated by surgical removal. It makes my eyes water even thinking about it!

Nor does she mention bad bacteria or organisms such as Coronavirus 19, which, in recent months has been the cause of worldwide pandemic, death, and chaos.

We must be honest enough to view the world in a realistic way. Here are some thought provoking words of Emerson:

How the world is managed or why it was created I cannot tell, but it is no featherbed for the repose of sluggards. Nature is no sentimentalist. She does not cosset or pamper us. Providence has a wild, rough, incalculable way to its end, and it is of no use to try to whitewash its huge, mixed instrumentalities, or to dress up that terrific benefactor in the clean shirt and white collar of a student in divinity.

This is a harsh world and not one of us will get out of it alive! Meanwhile we must strive to make it a kindlier place for those who come after us – the kind of world where menaces such as Covid 19 – become no more dangerous than the common cold to which it is related.

It is an immense challenge and will involve pain and loss and sacrifice along the way. Humankind will, however, triumph in the end. To quote the words of a song sang by Michael Ball and Captain Tom:

When you walk through a storm hold your head up high and don't be afraid of the dark. At the end of the storm there's a golden sun and the sweet silver song of a lark.

Those lyrics, recorded originally by Jerry and the Pacemakers, have a realism that 'All things bright and beautiful' lacks. Let us take the words to heart at this difficult time. If we listen very carefully we will hear the lark singing. All good wishes to you all, Mike

Do you know your hymns?

Carole writes, "Something light hearted for contemplation"

Dentist's hymn	Crown Him with Many Crowns
Weatherman's Hymn	There Shall Be Showers of Blessings
Building Contractor's Hymn	The Church's One Foundation
Tailor's Hymn	Holy, Holy, Holy
Golfer's Hymn	There is a Green Hill Far Away
Politician's Hymn	Standing on the Promises
Optician's Hymn	Mine Eyes Have Seen The Glory
Tax Man's Hymn	I Surrender All
Electrician's Hymn	Shine, Jesus, Shine
Shopper's Hymn	In the Sweet Bye and Bye

AND for those who speed on the roads:

55 mph	God Will Take Care of You
75 mph	Nearer My God To Thee
85 mph	This World Is Not My Home
95 mph	I Am Coming, Lord (I Hear Thy Welcome Voice)

A Reflection

Isaiah chapter 43 verses 18-23

But the Lord says" Do not cling to events of the past or dwell on what happened long ago. Watch for the new I am going to do. It is happening already- you can see it now".

These are the words of the prophet Isaiah to the Israelites in captivity in Babylon. They were words of hope then and they offer hope and comfort for us today. We have heard many times during the last few weeks from various directions that we hope we don't go back to the way we were. The prophets of the Old Testament were wise in that they read the signs of the times and were mouthpieces for the Lord. Jesus often referred to the prophets and applauded the tradition of the prophets. Some would say that we should be like the prophets and that the church must be prophetic and see what God is telling us through these times and how we can adapt to new situations and a new calling. I enjoy reading Patience Strong's Thoughts For the Day and this week included this very timely illustration. We are all on life's journey and are called to do different things for the Lord in different places. Saul who later changed his name to Paul thought that he was doing God's work by going to Damascus but the unexpected happened and he was stopped in his tracks. He had gone to persecute but he himself was baptized, he had gone to give orders but in fact he fell on his knees and asked: "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" Sometimes we are turned aside from our purposes and brought to a sudden stop. We may resent that we are not allowed to follow our own paths but we must learn to look for God in everything that happens. In the words of Patience Strong;" The thwarting of your desire may be a divine waylaying."

As we reflect on these words in our own lives, we wish our Minister well as the next chapter of the journey unfolds, a decision which must have come after a great deal of consideration as to where and how best he can serve the Lord. Dymunwn bob rhwyddineb i chi Nicholas wrth i chi ddechrau ar y bennod nesaf yn eich hanes a phob dymuniad da hefyd i'ch tad ac i'r teulu oll. Pob bendith.

Meurig writes.....

As most of you know, I love my walking and especially since this old “lockdown” business, it has been even more important. Many of you have also followed my treks on either Facebook or WhatsApp. Staying cooped up inside the house was slowly



driving me bonkers (and Carole!!) so I decided that I would set myself a walking target and for the month of June my aim was to walk 100 miles. Even though on some days I have clocked up 10 miles or so, each walk has remained within the permitted 5 mile radius of my house. I think I have been on most of the roads around Carmarthen, where some have been a lot steeper than others. On a few occasions I have been accompanied (social distancing of course) by Sian, so these walks, for me, have been the more “gentle” ones although I don’t think Sian would agree. A few days before full

lockdown was imposed, the intention was for Sian and myself to walk from Carmarthen to Llanybri; finishing off in the local hostelry for some much needed food and refreshment. Unfortunately 5 miles into the walk it started raining so we had to call Carole to come and pick us up. Needless to say, when she arrived 20



minutes later, we were like 2 drowned rats!!

On another walk, I took Sian up Merlin’s Hill to show her the stunning scenery. We messaged Helen and Gwyn to tell them where we were and Gwyn tried to spot us with his binoculars, across the Towy Valley. I must say that on my walks around Capel Dewi, the café at Brynawel has been a most welcomed pit stop!!!

Whilst out on my walks I often find myself thinking how beautiful and peaceful the countryside is. Why would people want to travel far and wide for their holidays when there is so much beauty to be seen on our own door step? I know the British weather can be a bit dodgy at times, but there is so much to see in our own country that the weather shouldn’t put us off. And it reminds me of the words of the hymn:

*For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise.*

*For the beauty of the hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower,
Sun and moon and stars of light:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise.*



Thank you Meurig for sharing your thoughts with us.

The Sunday School Corner: A Task for the adults

Catrin and Corey Hampton prepare a video for the children every week and come up with excellent tasks for us all. We have been looking at the beginning of the Book of Acts and how the church began after the events of the Pentecost or Whitsun as we call it today. The First Christians met in each others' houses, they prayed and ate together, and shared everything with each other so that no one had to go without.

Last week we reflected on the characteristics of a Christian and the Apostle Paul has a comprehensive list in his letter to the Galatians Chapter 5 verses 22-23.

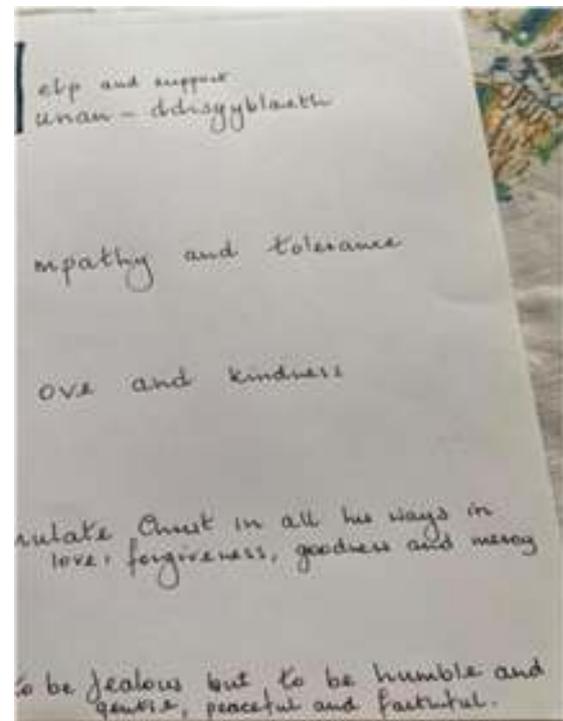
This was Catrin's challenge: For every letter of your name describe the characteristics of a Christian. Why not have a go with your own name?

Can you make out the names in the following? The second is more difficult than the first.

A box of Chocolates for the first one with the correct names and with the corrected characteristics.



Last week's challenge was to make flatbreads and what a pity we couldn't go over to the Amerys' for tea!



Have you any news or items for the newsletter? Please forward to Carole at carolerees4@gmail.com or Helen at helengibbon1@btinternet.com by August 7th

Resources sent By Gwyn Rhydderch Head of Projects and Communications

<https://www.ebcpcw.cymru/cy/addolicartref/>

Gwasanaethau dros y Ffon.

Gwasanaeth ffôn rhad ac am ddim lle y gall pobl sydd ddim yn defnyddio y rhyngwrwyd, fedru clywed oedfa, gan gynnwys darlleniadau, gweddi, emynau a phregeth drwy ddeialu 02920101564.

Addoli Digidol.

Rhestr o'i heglwysi sy'n ffilmio neu recordio unrhyw ddeunydd, p'un a'i yn wasanaeth neu'n weddi, pregethau digidol a darlleniadau i bobl sy'n methu mynychu'r eglwys oherwydd o pandemig coronafeirws.

Nesáu At Iesu.

Detholiad o emynau, salmau, darlleniadau a gweddiâu i'n hannog i nesáu at Iesu o ddydd i ddydd.

Adnod, Gweddi ac Eryn.

Darlleniadau o'r Beibl, gweddi ac emyn ar ffilm.

Ein pregethwyr gwadd heddiw yw...

Pregethau 20 munud yn cynnwys defnydd gweledol.

Darlleniadau o'r Beibl a Myfyrdodau.

Adnoddau Plant.

<https://www.ebcpcw.cymru/en/digital-worshipping/>

Church Services Over the Phone.

A free telephone service where people who are not confident in using the internet can hear a service, including readings, prayers, hymns and a message by dialing 02920101564.

Digital Worshipping.

A list of its churches which are live streaming acts of worship, offering sermons as podcasts or audio files, or offering recordings of services for people who are unable to access church due to the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic.

Recordings of familiar hymns, psalms, Bible readings and prayers to inspire devotion and worship in our daily lives as individuals and groups.

Verse, Prayer and Hymn

Bible readings, prayer and sing a hymn.

Our Guest Preachers.

20 minute sermons with visual material.

Bible Readings & Meditations. Bible readings and an appropriate meditation on film