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BABELL ZION NEWYDD

Rhiw Babell Pensarn Caerfyrddin SA31 2JQ



D. M. B. W. 1997

This newsletter has been digitised as part of a project to archive material relating to Llangunnor so that a record exists for future generations

Llangunnor Network
*Preserving and Promoting
Llangunnor*

[Http://www.llangunnor.net](http://www.llangunnor.net)

**Thanks to Babel Zion Newydd Chapel
for permission to do this**

The Congregation at Babel Zion Newydd

Get Well wishes to all who have been poorly recently. You have been missed in both Friendship Centre and Sunday Worship. *“Heavenly Father, be with our friends right now. May they sense your presence. May they feel your power. May they know your love. May they be overwhelmed with light and truth, healing and wellness.”*

Ten Pin Bowling. We had a most enjoyable evening on Friday 8th June down at the Xcel Bowling Centre. There were 4 teams of 6 and the competition was fierce amongst some of the team members! A huge “well done” must go to Ellie Grace who, despite being the youngest member in her team, played exceptionally well and at the end of the game was further up the leader board than her Sunday Club leader. We will try and make this a regular event starting in September. To make it a bit more interesting, we thought that each team would keep a record of their scores and at the end of the year a prize would be awarded to the best Team and individual.

Massed Choir Concert. Meurig and David thoroughly enjoyed their experience of singing with the Massed Choir at the Albert Hall back in May. Two years of hard work by all the choirs involved culminated in this wonderful event. I’m afraid that emotions got the better of me and I was in floods of tears before the choir had even finished singing the first line of the first piece!! Needless to say, one packet of tissues was not enough. 😥



Trip to Canolfan Hedd Wyn & Byd Mari Jones in Bala. This will be on July 28th. Anyone interested who has not yet given their names in to Helen, please do as soon as possible. The more people attending will reduce the cost per person.

Quiz in May/June Newsletter. The winner of this quiz, getting all the answers correct was Sian

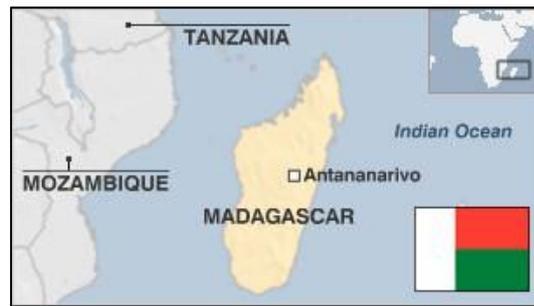
BRAVE THE SHAVE

Carole and Sian have bravely volunteered to shave their hair off during our forthcoming MacMillan Coffee Morning which will be held on the last Friday of September (28th). There will be a sponsor form in the schoolroom for anyone wishing to sponsor us.

Pastorate News. Following the voting which took place in all the chapels in the Pastorate Rev Nicolas Bee will be our Minister from September. He will be assisted by Co-worker Mr Corey Hampton. It was agreed during the last Pastorate Elders meeting that Rev Nicolas Bee would take 2 services a month at Babel Zion Newydd. The Induction Service will be held on Saturday 22nd September at 2 pm in Llanddarog. Mr Corey Hampton will also be commissioned during that service.

Christian Aid. Thank you to everyone who assisted in the door-to-door collecting. A total of £227 was raised.

Helen writes:



Seventeen years ago, during a visit to Penrhys in the Rhondda with a group of GCSE pupils, I met Hanta and Nicholas from Madagascar, two young missionaries working at the church community of Penrhys. During their two year stay at Penrhys they came to Bro Myrddin for the day to talk to Religious Education classes and they stayed with us overnight. On their return to Madagascar we kept in touch by email for a while but somehow over the years we lost contact.

This year celebrates the two hundredth anniversary of the departure of two young men, called to be missionaries, Thomas Bevan and David Jones, from Neuadd Lwyd near Aberaeron to Madagascar, and to celebrate that fact, a weekend of special services was held at Neuadd Lwyd by the Welsh Independent Congregational Church at the beginning of June. 70 members of the church at Antananarivo had made the journey to Aberaeron for the event since Thomas Bevan and David Jones amongst others are still revered among the Malagasy people for bringing the gospel to Madagascar. It was there on the Friday night at a special performance of the Missionaries' story that I thought I recognized Hanta and indeed it was. What a lovely surprise. I learned later on that she had made the journey alone in order to stay at Penrhys for a few days and visit Cheltenham and London, which were also on the itinerary as part of her mission to raise awareness of the work that she is now doing as director of an orphanage in Antananarivo, Akany Avoko Favoravito. Hanta, herself, had been brought up in an orphanage.

I met up with her later on that week in Penrhys with Sharon Rees, who has run the place for many many years, to learn more of her story. Many of you will remember that we visited Penrhys with other chapels a few years ago and Sharon is very eager that we should come again soon.



Llanfair Church at Penrhys is a community building housing a worship room, café, library, clothes shop, after- school homework club, laundry room, recreation room.



What happened to Thomas Bevan and David Jones?

Thomas Bevan and David Jones, young men in their early twenties, were ordained as missionaries in front of a congregation of 5000 people and 50 ministers on the fields of Neuadd Lwyd. They were educated young men, excellent linguists and eager to bring education and Christianity to Madagascar. They both got married before their departure and both couples were delivered of a child. However within months of their arrival on August 18th 1818 tragedy struck. They were infected by malaria and only David Jones survived. What is so amazing is that he did not give up but continued with the work and within a year another missionary, David Griffiths from Gwynfe, arrived together with his wife and young son. Both young men translated the Bible into Malagasy. The New Testament was translated by 1825 and the whole Bible, with the help of another Welsh man from Ceredigion, David Johns, by 1835. This was the first Bible to appear in one of the native languages of Africa.

The Church of Christ of Madagascar continues to keep alive the memory of the early missionaries. A school has been named after David Jones and a street after Thomas Bevan. Their legacy is enormous, reflected in the architecture of the chapel buildings, the emphasis on education, music, hymn singing, [including solffa] and the humanitarian gospel of Christ in a country where there is poverty on a huge scale.

Llanfair Church at Penrhys

The work, began by Rev John Morgan and his wife Nora, continues at Penrhys and is a true example of Christianity at work in a community which has and still needs a great deal of support. It was here that I met Hanta and Nicholas, missionaries from Madagascar and this still continues year by year with the latest missionary being Miara Rebearisoa. It is remarkable, how two hundred years on, there is such activity, enthusiasm and co-operation between our two nations to spread the word of the Gospel and that Christ's command written by Mathew at the end of his Gospel is as relevant today as it was two thousand years ago:

“Go then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I shall be with you always, to the end of the age.”

	Blodau/Flowers	Glanhau am y mis/Cleaning for the month
July	Mrs Sally Evans	Mrs Pat Morgan
August		
September	Mrs Molly Thomas	Sian Cassell
October	Mrs Janet Davies	Carole & Meurig

David Folland writes:

The role high quality books play in our lives is absolutely critical. So why do so many Christians find it difficult to apply themselves to books? A.W. Tozer said that *“to enjoy a great religious book requires a degree of consecration to God and detachment from the world that few modern Christians have.”* While it takes great determination to form new habits and cultivate our minds through books, even greater are the rewards you’ll see in your thought patterns and your spiritual growth. When it comes to how we spend our spare moments, have we passively allowed the world to squeeze us into its mould? What can we do to change that? Here are some wonderful books concerning the country we all live in and the great works that God has performed there!



BOOKS ON THE LAND OF REVIVAL: WALES
THE CALVINISTIC METHODIST FATHERS OF WALES: John Morgan Jones & William Morgan

Babell is a Calvinistic Methodist Chapel and this book contains the history of the movement. Do not be put off by the wordy title and the fact that these two volumes runs to some 1500 pages- it is a truly great and inspiring read. The original publication is over 100 years old and written in Welsh, but this is the first time that the work has been translated into English. John Aaron is to be commended for bringing this important work to a wider audience thereby. Revival essentially is a return to Pentecost and there are constant features in all revivals thereafter,

including an awe and wonder of God, and awareness of the sinfulness of man, an acknowledgement of the divine authorship of the Bible- all achieved by God, The Holy Spirit. Therefore the fact that the events described in this book are of many years ago does not make it any less relevant to the reader today.

As locals, you will be aware of many of the locations described. Knowledge of local geography gives you a greater awareness as to the enormous efforts these great men went to, often having to cross mountains to get to their next destination! It is said, that whatever the weather and conditions that Howell Harris almost always kept his appointments.

Harris, of course occupies a lot of space in this tome for two reasons- his many achievements and the fact that he kept a detailed diary. There are many other familiar names- Daniel Rowland, William Williams, John Elias together with the Englishman George Whitefield. Other names, I was not familiar with before I read the book. One such was Robert Roberts of Clynog. Forgotten today, but then one of the giants of the pulpit and in his short life had a ministry of a mere 15 years when he shook Wales to its roots. *“He was compared to a great volcano pouring forth molten lava in terrible streams that set whole neighbourhoods aflame.”* For me, the one section on this man was worth the whole purchase price of the book being moved at the account. He will never be forgotten by me!

A most hearty recommendation- if anybody reading this review is encouraged to buy the book, I only hope and pray that it will give them as much joy as it did me.

Far shorter, but still excellent paperback reads:-

HOWELL HARRIS AND THE DAWN OF REVIVAL- Richard Bennett

Nothing is more profitable, after reading the Bible itself and books that help us to understand it, than reading the biography of a great Christian. He was not as great a preacher as Daniel Rowland and George Whitefield, but as an exhorter he was probably superior to both. He was one who submitted himself to his Saviour at all costs. This is why God used him in such a mighty manner.

REVIVAL COMES TO WALES- Eifion Evans

An estimated 110,000 people were converted during this amazing revival. David Morgan was one of God's key instruments in these momentous events. He had become only too aware of the sad state of the churches, the ineffectiveness of his own ministry and the great need for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. I identify most strongly with his feelings both of myself and the churches and chapels throughout Wales.

THE WELSH REVIVAL OF 1904- Eifion Evans

A great study on revival. I can but echo Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones's comment thereon: *"It is my prayer and my hope, that it will lead so many to realise anew and afresh the glory and the wonder of "the power of God" that they will begin to long and yearn and to pray for another "visitation from on high" such as was experienced in 1904-5."* May we all add our "Amen" to that!

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Revival

God gives revival every day as we look to Him in Prayer,
Wherever we may be His Holy Spirit's there -
The Great Almighty God, yet our dearest, closest Friend,
As He communes with us our hearts are stirred within.
No man can bring revival, nor can it be worked up;
Only God can touch a heart and fill an empty cup.
Whether in the deepest valley or on the mountain high,
Revival comes from God alone as souls to Him draw nigh.
It may be in the morning, or in the noonday bright;
It may be in a crowded place, or alone in the darkest night;
It may be in a warm, loving church where spiritual blessings flow,
Or behind cold prison walls where no spiritual life doth show.
God's hand is always extended, no matter where we are,
To draw closely back to Himself souls who've wandered far.
Revival's for those alive in Christ, who've gone their selfish way...
Oh, how we all need Revival each and every day.

TEAMWORK IN THE CHURCH

As we know, the church is not a building. It is not a social club or a self-benefit society. The church is the people of God. That means both ministers and lay members. Now, let's consider that the church has a mission to the world. The people of God have a mission to the world. Both ministers and members have a mission to the world.

The church meets for worship and fellowship a few hours each week. What is the church doing most of the time, during the rest of the week? Much of our time is spent mixing with the world, in our jobs, in our neighbourhoods, even in our families. Most of the time, the church is *dispersed*, setting an example in the world. This is part of our Christian calling, part of our mission, even part of our worship as we seek to glorify God in all that we do. Our weekly worship services should fill us with the joy of salvation and strengthen and instruct us in living in Christ throughout the week. They remind us of what life is for. They also give us opportunity to come together into the presence of God and express thanks to him for what he has done in our lives the preceding week. They give us opportunity to join the angelic choir in praising him in collective song and prayer. They help us seek guidance from his Word regarding how we serve him in the coming week. Likewise, our small group meetings give us opportunity to reflect on the Word of God and share with one another the work God is doing in our lives, so that we might encourage one another, and pray for one another that our service might be all the more effective.

All members are ministers of Jesus Christ. We all serve him. Some serve him primarily in prayer, some in helping the poor, some in their family and neighbourhood responsibilities, etc.- each according to our circumstances, each according to our abilities. Pastors serve him in pastoring his flock; members serve him in contributing to the spiritual health and unity of the flock, and we all serve him throughout the week in our ordinary activities, too. When Christ said, take up your cross and follow me, he was not referring to pastors only! We cannot pay someone else to do our Christian service for us. Pastors are to lead, to teach, to equip members for service. But each of us must do our own duty, as we have been called and gifted by the Holy Spirit.

Throughout the week, members are at the "front line" of the church's work. We can support each other in prayer in this work. We need to be *aware* of how we are serving, and how others are serving, so that we might better encourage them. We can share our experiences and opportunities whenever we meet. Worship services can also strengthen and equip us for this work. Our success as a church is measured in large part by what we do *during the week*. When members are doing good in Jesus' name throughout the week, and when they are being energized and encouraged by what they do and hear at worship services and in their small group meetings, then the gospel is being spread.

This is a story about 4 people named: **Everybody**, **Somebody**, **Anybody** and **Nobody**. There was an important job to be done and **Everybody** was sure that **Somebody** would do it. **Anybody** could have done it, but **Nobody** did it. **Somebody** got angry about that, because it was **Everybody's** job. **Everybody** thought **Anybody** could do it, but **Nobody** realized that **Everybody** wouldn't do it. It ended up that **Everybody** blamed **Somebody** when **Nobody** did what **Anybody** could have done.

Services for the next three months/Gwasanaethau'r tri mis nesaf

	Pregethwr /Preacher
08/07/18	Sul Sbesial Ysgol Bro Dinefwr
15/07/18 10:30am	Mr Martin Dalling
22/07/18 10:30am	Family Service
29/07/18 2pm	Mr David Davies
12/08/18 10:30am	Rev Mike Shepard
02/09/18 2pm	Mr Hugh Waddell
09/09/18 10:30am	Rev Nicholas Bee
16/09/18 10:30am	Rev Adelaide Wheeler-Cocks
23/09/18 10:30am	Family Service
30/09/18	Cymanfa Ganu Gwyl Mawl Medi

Preachers and times of services have been taken from the Blwyddlyfr. As this is published at the beginning of the year, Ministers and Service times may be subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.

Announcements and Preparing Communion Table

July	August	September	October
Mrs Helen Gibbon Mr Meurig Rees		Helen Gibbon/ Carole Rees	Mr Ian Wilkins

Editor this month: Mrs Carole Rees
Please forward any news/articles to Carole at carolerees4@gmail.com
[01267 222573] by 20th August

