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Cylchlythyr/Newsletter

Rhif/Issue 24

# BABELL ZION NEWYDD

Rhiw Babell Pensarn Caerfyrddin SA31 2DJ

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*

# A Message from The Minister



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

These last few weeks have proven a challenge for many people. The isolation imposed on our lives has not been easy to bear but as the weeks have progressed we have no doubt tried to adapt and make the most of the situation. Personally I have, in considering the future, begun packing as I embark on another period in my life. I might have more definite plans towards the end of June but caring for my father will be of paramount importance as I leave the pastorate after only two years.

As a Presbytery I have followed with interest how members of the various chapels have kept contact with each other on Sundays, as various on line services have reached those who would otherwise be deprived, possibly of meaningful worship. As I put pen to paper I note that Corey is preparing a service for Pentecost for the Babell/Zion Newydd members which may be seen on line. I thank him for this and wish him well in his ministry from September, the final arrangements of which are yet to be organised but I am sure will be in place prior to the autumn.

The message from the prophet Joel, in the Old Testament was, 'Fe dywalltaf fy ysbryd yn y dyddiau hynny' / 'I shall pour forth my spirit in those days'. In his enthusiasm, Joel urged his fellow Jews to grasp God's promises at the end of time. Is it not our tendency these days not so much to look forward to God's pouring of His Holy Spirit, but to look back continuously, thus giving the impression that God is not at work in our midst, especially in these troublesome times? To many of us, the Holy Spirit is similar to an old piece of furniture from the past which is connected respectfully with the revival of 1904. The Church thus becomes akin to a museum where we remember things of a bygone era. However, the poet W.J.Gruffydd looked forward with eagerness to God's strong intervention once again, through the Holy Spirit, and the Welsh poem, composed over sixty years ago is appropriate for us to pray these days:

*Y tân a roddaist ar ein hallor gynt,  
Sy'n marw yn nharth y nos annedwydd hir;  
O! tyred unwaith eto, nefol wynt,  
A chwyth y fflam yn eirias ac yn glir.  
Gwêl Gymru, ac aberth arall ger dy fron,  
Gobaith a chalon lân,  
A ffydd a newydd gân;  
Arglwydd, gwêl Gymru, ac na wrthod hon.*

It is difficult for us today to identify with the energy and excitement which characterised the revivals of the past, particularly with the festival of Pentecost celebrated in Jerusalem which was to precipitate the birth of the Church. Luke, in his gospel, refers to the strong driving wind which descended on the company of believers in the upper chamber. Cynan, the Christian poet has grasped these images and created convincing images of the pouring of the Holy Spirit which can happen again in Wales:

*Pan ddaw yr Ysbryd Sanctaidd, fe ddaw fel nerthol wynt  
Yn rhwygo drwy'r fforestydd ac yn rhuo ar ei hynt,  
Ac os byddi yn y Corwynt pan fo'r coed fel tonnau'r môr  
Cura d'enaid megis pennwn o flaen anadliadau'r Iôr.*

It is difficult for us to identify with such startling images of God's Holy Spirit at work, an experience which transformed the lives of the early Christians completely. During these challenging times in Wales, it would be easy for us to redress to being dispirited, to give up. Let us not, however resort to such mode of thinking, but instead depend more on God's love in Christ, and yearn, with the hymn writer, H.T. Jacob:

*O na ddoi'r nefol wynt  
i chwythu eto,  
Fel bu'n y dyddiau gynt  
Drwy'n gwlad yn rhuthro  
Nes siglo muriau'r ty  
A phlygu dynion cry';  
O deued oddi fry –  
Mae'n bryd i'w deimlo.*

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**The Congregation**

### **Condolences**

It is with sadness that we record the death of Mr Gareth Davies. Gareth had suffered with great courage over the past two years and we were so blessed to witness his baptism by Rev Christ Rees in Narberth Church last year. Our sympathies go out to his wife Gaynor and to Doreen, Eirian and Linda and their families.

This is what Rev Adelaide said on hearing of Gareth's death.

*To be called to Higher Glory on Pentecost morning was very special indeed, albeit a great loss on earth for a Christian to be called home. Elijah bequeathed Elisha with his mantle as he kept his eyes upon him as he was taken up with the chariots and horsemen. Please God that those who kept watch with Gareth experience a blessing in the midst of the loss.*

### **Congratulations**

Congratulations to Corey on achieving an MA in Hermeneutics, a branch of Theology. Ardderchog Corey. Ryn ni'n gwybod dy fod wedi bod yn gweithio'n galed y misoedd diwethaf hyn ac yn edrych ymlaen nawr at fod gyda dy bobl.

### **Fundraising for the NHS**

Congratulations to Nelda for raising £1370 to date for the NHS through Justgiving. She would like to thank Corey for setting it up for, Rev Huw George for writing her experiences in Peru in verse form and to all who have contributed to this worthy cause at this time.

### **Best Wishes**

We wish Rev Mike Shephard a speedy recovery after a brief time in hospital lately. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mike and Gwen and with all who are feeling unwell at this time.

## Reflection

One of Charmaine's favourite hymns is "The Old Rugged Cross" which was written by George Bennard. He was a native of Youngstown Ohio but was brought up in Iowa. He was converted to Christianity during a Salvation Army meeting and later he and his wife became members of the Methodist Church. He became an evangelical preacher and it is said that he wrote The Old Rugged Cross after receiving **ridicule** at a revival meeting in 1912 in Albion Michigan.

The hymn speaks of the sacrifice of Christ on Calvary.

Ridicule and hatred, prejudice and intolerance have once again reared their ugly heads and with the death of George Floyd last week in Minneapolis and the Black Lives Matter protests around the world we are reminded that we all have a place in God's creation and no-one, no, no one should be denied his right to justice, respect and righteousness.

The prophet Amos in the troubled times of the 8<sup>th</sup> Century BC said "***But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!***" [Amos 5:24]

And these words were reiterated by Martin Luther King in his famous Birmingham Jail letter. "Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream." **Jesus received his fair share of ridicule but he showed by example that the Kingdom of God is based on love, forgiveness and mercy which show no boundaries. We have much to learn from one another.**

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## The Zoom Experience

Our first service since the lockdown was held on Whit Sunday via technology and we are grateful to Corey for organising it. Carole Rees, Sian Cassell, Helen Gibbon, Nelda Davies, Corey and Catrin Hampton took part in this virtual service.

The following services are planned for the next weeks. Corey will send the link during the relevant weeks:

June 21<sup>st</sup> 11 am

July 5<sup>th</sup> 11 am

July 19<sup>th</sup> 11 am

Mr Emyr Williams will hold Presbytery Welsh services via Zoom on the following dates

Mehefin/June 14 <sup>th</sup>	10am	[Communion/Cymundeb]
Mehefin 21	10 am	Oedfa dan ofal Nantgaredig
Mehefin 28ain	10 am	
Gorffennaf 12	10 am	
Gorffennaf 26	10 am	

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Gweddi/Bendith allan o Mil a Mwy o Weddiau

Bydded i'r Tad gerdded gyda chi yn ffresni'r ardd,  
Bydded i'r Mab gerdded gyda chwi ar lwybr y mynydd,  
Bydded i'r Ysbryd gerdded gyda chwi ar ffordd y pererin,  
Bendith y Tad, y Mab a'r Ysbryd fo arnoch yn wastad. Amen



**Rev Adelaide Wheeler Cocks has kindly responded to a request to contribute to this newsletter although she has been unwell recently. We are glad to hear that she is gaining and we very much hope to see her soon. Thank you Adelaide for sharing these thoughts and recollections with us.**

I don't know who wrote this Irish blessing but I found it in 1995 at Trefeca in a little booklet of verses, just handmade as far as I can remember. It speaks to me and I think it will speak to any country sort of person perhaps. I think of Jesus, the "Light of the World," shining in these times.

*May the blessing of light be upon you, light without and light within.  
May the blessed sunlight shine upon you and warm your heart 'till it glows like a great peat fire so that the stranger may come and warm himself at it, as well as the friend.  
And may the light shine out of the eyes of you, like a candle set in the windows of a house, bidding the wanderers to come in and out of the storm.  
And may the blessing of the rain be on you, the soft sweet rain. May it fall upon your spirit so that all the little flowers may spring up, shedding their sweetness in the air.  
May the blessing of the great rains be upon you, may they beat upon your spirit and wash it fair and clear leaving there many a shining pool where the blue of heaven shines and sometimes a star.  
And may the blessing of the earth be on you, the great round earth;  
May you ever have a kindly greeting to people you pass as you're going along the roads;  
And now may the Lord Jesus Christ bless you and bless you kindly.*

I have been enjoying the services that arrive in the post from you. Thank you. I have been self isolating in the house and garden since March 16<sup>th</sup> apart from an occasional visit to the village shop where my son Brian will get out with the shopping list, then one of the shop ladies takes the list inside and finds what she can and brings them out in your bag with the bill. Growing up in the country in County Wicklow on the Wexford Border, it reminds me of being sent into the village with the list and the money and old fashioned shopping basket. When the shopping was put into the basket the shopkeeper would put the money into a little cylinder, then send it upstairs to the person in the accounts department. It made a little bell sound not unlike a mobile phone bell these days, then the change and receipt was sent down in the little

This is one of the orchid species named flower of the holy spirit. It starts blooming during pentecostal period once a year. Before bloom, it looks like praying saints, when the flower blooms, it looks like a flying dove. How amazing is God's Creation!



cylinder and I would thank them and carry the basket home. Meeting many people on the way home whether in donkey and carts or pony and traps or on horseback or bike or on foot like myself, everyone wished each other well with greetings like "God bless now" or "Well, God willing" or "By the Grace of God." I was brought up in the Church of Ireland but most of the people I would meet along the road were Roman Catholics. There was a mutual understanding and a very small divide. I would say, "The Grace of God" was very common to us all back then. We all depended upon "the will of God".

We shared various gifts from our gardens, from parsley to golden wonder potatoes or flowers for a grave perhaps. My father used to put little motors on elderly men's bicycles so that they could have the strength to get up the hill. Then one might find some fresh eggs and a bag of swedes in our porch as a thank you.

Now that people are walking or using their bicycles around here they are stopping to say hello and have a chat - people whom we never met before because the pace of life has been so very pressurized rushing about in the cars. The countryside is looking very beautiful, blossom and wild flowers everywhere.

The light at Ascension and Pentecost is quite brilliant I always find. The Light of Christ is shining still and beautiful. Let us pray that the gifts of Pentecost will be received once again.

At this time I cast my mind to some beautiful hymns. Firstly: 'Veni Creator Spiritus' or

"Come Holy Ghost our souls inspire  
And lighten with celestial fire;  
Thou the anointing spirit art  
Who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.

All the verses have wonderful meaning.

Secondly I think of the hymn, "Brothers, sisters, let me serve you:"

It speaks of us being there for each other as we are pilgrims on a journey.

This is a modern hymn written by Richard Gillard [b.1953] During this time of social anxiety and great dangers due to the Covid-19 virus, we all thank the nurses, doctors and all who are endeavouring to care for us in society at great risk to themselves personally.

Another hymn comes to mind rather often these days. It is an old North American spiritual arranged by John Rombaut

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded spirit whole;  
There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin sick soul;  
Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work's in vain  
But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.

If you cannot sing like angels,  
If you cannot preach like Paul,  
You can tell the love of Jesus  
And say He died for all.

**Diolch i Mrs Nan Thomas am osod yr her canlynol i ni.  
Thank you Nan for setting us this challenge  
and for the following poem**



**AMSER CYSTADLU / TIME TO COMPETE**

**Bach o her a bach o hwyl!**

Adran 1 (Section 1)

All answers are based on the Bible  
e.g. 39 B in the OT = 39 books in the  
Old Testament

- i. 27 B in the N T
- ii. 12 D of J
- iii. M and the 10 C
- iv. M L for 969 Y
- v. 4 G in the B
- vi. The F of the 5000
- vii. 40 D and 40 N of R
- viii. 7 D of C
- ix. 150 P in the O T
- x. 176 V in the L P

Adran 2 (Section 2)

Gwybodaeth gyffredinol ydy'r  
atebion nesaf

(The next

answers are general knowledge)

e.g. 4 Y between O G = 4 years  
between Olympic Games

- i. 366 D in a L Y
- ii. 7 C in a R
- iii. 22 B on a S T
- iv. 180 is the H S in a G of D
- v. 7 W of the W
- vi. 206 B in the H B
- vii. 16 O in a P
- viii. 64 S on a C B
- ix. 4 S on a V
- x. S W and the 7 D

**THOUSANDS OF REASONS**

**(by Doe Zantamata)**

If every morning,  
You can find a reason to say,  
“Yes, it’s going to be a beautiful day.”

And every day, you find a reason to say,  
“Yes, it is a beautiful day.”

And every night, you find a reason to say,  
“Yes, it was a beautiful day.”

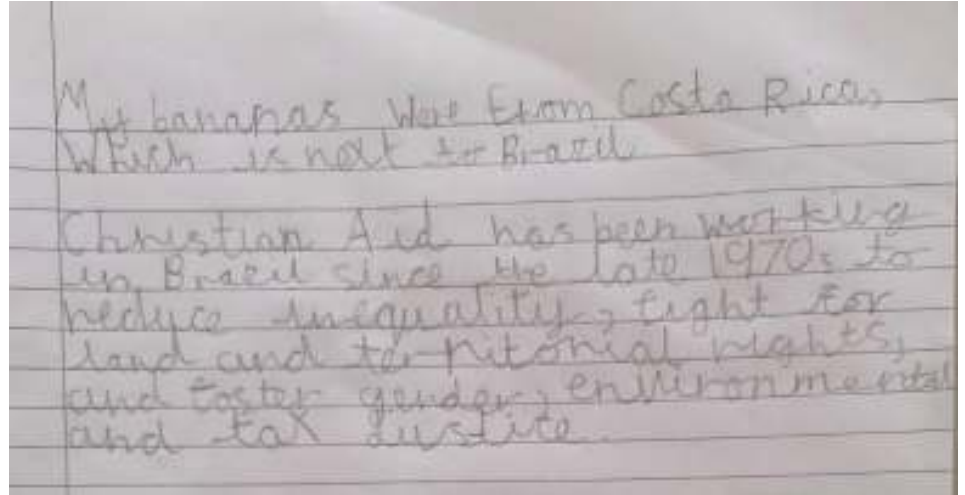
Then one day,  
You’ll look back and easily say,  
“Yes... it was a beautiful life”





## The Sunday School Corner:

Catrin set the Club the following task, to find a product or an object in the house which came from a country where Christian Aid was at work. Ellie Grace found some bananas which came from Costa Ricca. She promptly set to work to find out what Christian Aid was doing in that part of the world and especially Brazil.



Whitsun Wordsearch set by Ellie Grace. Words may go up or down vertically or diagonally.

**TONGUES OF FIRE; WIND; HOLY SPIRIT; BEWILDERED; WHITSUN; JESUS; PENTECOST; JERUSALEM; BAPTISE; PETER; LANGUAGES**

A	B	F	M	S	R	N	K	H	B	Q	I	F	X	G
Y	Y	Z	X	B	E	W	I	L	D	E	R	E	D	D
Q	C	U	L	O	B	C	G	L	L	M	D	J	O	D
Z	T	J	A	M	H	H	C	E	E	G	I	T	A	B
H	W	I	N	D	F	F	L	L	A	M	I	J	G	O
H	B	A	G	G	N	B	A	A	N	J	R	L	A	T
P	A	B	U	P	B	S	E	D	A	B	E	I	S	I
E	F	L	A	L	U	G	C	A	R	F	T	S	O	R
N	U	M	G	R	A	G	E	S	U	S	E	J	E	I
T	E	G	E	G	G	L	O	K	V	R	P	C	S	P
E	V	J	S	T	B	N	E	I	R	E	N	G	I	S
C	I	E	B	L	W	H	I	T	S	U	N	L	T	Y
O	I	B	L	M	C	A	N	L	J	U	I	I	P	L
S	A	C	E	E	O	P	R	P	I	T	D	T	A	O
T	O	N	G	U	E	S	O	F	F	I	R	E	B	H

Have you any news or items for the newsletter? Please forward to Carole at

[carolerees4@gmail.com](mailto:carolerees4@gmail.com)

or Helen at [helengibbon1@btinternet.com](mailto:helengibbon1@btinternet.com) by July 7th