

March/Mawrth
April/Ebrill 2020

Cylchlythyr/Newsletter

Rhif/Issue 21

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 Corey



Throughout Church tradition, Easter has been the climax of the Christian year. It is a joyous occasion of feasting and celebration.

In the first centuries of Christianity, Easter was the day that new converts were baptised into the Church. Crowds would gather to see and experience the performative sacrament of Christ's death and resurrection in the lives of transformed individuals, as they were buried with Christ in the waters of baptism, and raised from the waters with Christ, to new life in the power of resurrection.

Before the Easter baptism, these new believers were to prepare themselves spiritually, for a season, in order to learn the ways of their new life in Christ, in the context of Church community. Then, on the day before Easter, they would renew their baptismal promises before the church, followed by the glorious celebration the next morning.

This practice developed over time, and became a practice for the entire Christian community, which, after eventually being connected to Christ's 40 day preparation for ministry in the wilderness, became known as Lent.

And I absolutely love Lent, because, each year, I'm reminded of the weightiness of Easter. I'm reminded that Easter is not something to be taken lightly; but it is something that I need to prepare my heart for, if I want to experience it fully.

Lent is a season to centre ourselves on what the New Testament calls 'metanoia,' a transformation of how we see and experience the world. During this season, we are reminded of our need for a new heart and of a new mind.

And we are reminded of the God who redeems us 'according to the riches of his grace, which he lavishes on us in Christ' (Ephesians 1:8).

When we participate in this season of preparation called Lent, Easter becomes even sweeter and more powerful for us, just as it was for the early church.

I invite you to join us on this journey. To experience the mystery of Easter anew, by drawing near to the God who loves us and offers us new life in Christ.

Yng nghariad Crist,
Corey

LENTEN STUDIES WITH COREY all at 5.45 pm
February 24th March 9th March 23rd April 6th

March 30th: Elders' Meeting 5.45

Knit and Natter / Clic a chlonc March/ Mawrth 24ain 2pm [Tuesday afternoon]
Babell Zion Newydd
Needles and wool provided. Learners welcome.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Yn Ionawr cawsom glywed am benderfyniad ein Gweinidog i ymddiswyddo ar ddiwedd Awst a hynny er mwyn bod yn brif ofalwr am ei Dad oedrannus. Fe ddwed ei fod wedi mwynhau yn fawr yn ein cwmni ond mai dyma'r cyfle i dreulio mwy o amser gyda'i dad a dychwelyd i Llandewi Brefi. Byddwn yn drist iawn i'w golli ar ôl ond dwy flynedd o weinidogaeth ond wrthgwrs rydym yn deall ei sefyllfa yn iawn.

Mae'r cyfarfodydd i alw gweinidog wedi dechrau yn barod. Cynhaliwyd cyfarfod gyda Mr Emyr Williams Meidrim nos Iau Chwefror 13eg yn Llanddarog pan gawsom gyfle i'w holi am ei gefndir, ei brofiad ysbrydol ac am ei awydd i ddod i'r Weinidogaeth. Cafodd Emyr ei ordeinio pan oedd ond yn 21 oed yn Ty Hen Meidrim ac wedi bod yn gweithio yn y byd cyfrifiadurol ac mewn amryw o swyddi mae ers dwy flynedd yn dilyn cwrs diwinyddol tra hefyd yn cynorthwyo Parch Ian Sims yn gofalu am Ofalaeth Llandeilo. Fe fydd yn pregethu yn y Babell Zion Newydd ar Fawrth 15fed am 10.30am. Yna cymerir pleidlais yr eglwysi cyn gynted ag y bo modd.

In January our Minister notified us of his decision to leave the Ministry at the end of August to share the care for his ailing father and to return to Llandewi Brefi. We shall be sorry to lose him after such a brief time of two years with us but of course we commend him for his reasons for doing so and perfectly understand his situation.

The meetings to call a new minister have already commenced. On February 13th a meeting was held with Mr Emyr Williams for the elders of the ten chapels together with two representatives of each congregation when there was an opportunity to get to know a little about his background, his spiritual experience and his desire for the ministry. Emyr was ordained an elder when only 21 years of age and following a career mainly in computer technology he has for the last two years been following a theological course whilst also assisting Rev Ian Sims in the ministry of the Llandeilo pastorate. **Mr Emyr Williams will be preaching at Babell Zion Newydd on March 15th at 10.30** and the voting will take place at a later date.

Mae rhai aelodau wedi bod yn yr ysbyty yn ddiweddar. Rydym yn meddwl am Mrs Edwina Jones a Mrs Esme Phillips ac yn dymuno y cânt adferiad iechyd buan.

It is with sadness that we report the passing of Mrs Sybil Hughes, a dear friend of Babell Zion Newydd. Members and friends attended the funeral held at Narberth on Friday February 21st with Rev Mike Shephard officiating.

Ymddiheuriad: yn ein cylchlythyr diwethaf roedd Mrs Nesta Davies hefyd yn aelod o'r Parti canu Plygain yng Ngwasanaeth Merched y Wawr.

On the first Sunday of February Rev Adelaide Wheeler Cocks officiated at the Communion Service during which new Bibles were presented in memory of Mrs Lilian Edwards by her family Allan and Julia, and Carole and Meurig. They are very much appreciated and were used in the first of our Lenten meetings almost to the day of her passing.



Pat writes

St David's Day Service Gwasanaeth GŴyl Ddewi Babel Zion Newydd

St David's Day was celebrated on March 1st at Babel Zion Newydd with fun, laughter and great Welshcakes. Thank you Gina. There was a warm family feeling in this family service. Many thanks to everyone who took part so willingly. Three cheers for the faithful members of the Sunday school, pupils and teachers and the children looked lovely in their Welsh costumes. They sang beautifully and acted so well in the little sketch about a drowning monk, set in the time of David himself. The idea was that a mother[Liz] was ill with a troublesome cough and cold. Normally super-efficient at running her little household and caring for her children, she'd been brought low by her illness. Little jobs like carrying water from the spring, collecting firewood from the forest floor and providing meals were just too much. The children loved their mother and tried to help but they were little and the jobs were demanding. To be honest they were running a little wild!



One day they burst into the house raising the alarm - there was a monk in the river and they thought he was drowning and calling for help. Mother knew it was David. He was doing penance, as he often did, standing in the freezing river water, reciting passages from the Bible, praying to God and asking for God's help and forgiveness.

The calm and reassuring presence of St David [Sian] soon arrived at the cottage and practical help was at hand. The children stopped playing their new game of "I'm a monk and I'm drowning in the river" and organised by David, water, firewood and hot meals from the monastery were sorted. Behind the light hearted fun there's a serious message: "Do the little things for one another because an act of kindness shows love and love comes from God".

Great fun was had too during the sketch of the grumpy monk. Rhys, [Meurig] a monk at St David's monastery at Glyn Rhosyn [which we call St David's], was fed up- he was suffering from a bad back and he took every opportunity to let everybody know! The idea of the sketch was to show how austere and hard life was. They were up at dawn or sometimes before, in the chapel- cold and bare - following devotions. As Brother Rhys explained it was up and down - say a prayer, up and down -chant a psalm, up and down- listen to a sermon. All the while suffering with his back. No wonder he was grumpy. The jobs they had to do were hard graft too. Pulling the rough hewn plough themselves, [no oxen allowed] to till the soil. Lots of heavy digging and back breaking weeding to grow vegetables in the garden and braving angry bees as honey was gathered.

If you thought life in Pembrokeshire at that time was easy and peaceful, think again. It was busy, hectic even, and there was unrest. The little port of Porthgain was a hub of activity. Travellers, traders, monks arriving from Ireland, people setting off on longer voyages, may be to Brittany, Rome, or even, Jerusalem as David did.

There was violence too, the Romans had left Britain about a hundred years before and new groups were making grabs for power. Jealous neighbouring Welsh tribes made attacks, stealing food, livestock or useful things like woollen clothes, or tools or weapons. Anglo Saxons attacked as did some Irish raiders. There was even a personal attack on David, an attempt to poison him with bread that had been tampered with.

Life in the monastery of Glyn Rhosyn progressed. Brother Iestyn [Sian] advised Brother Rhys to make newcomers to monastic life welcome. He should support and guide the youngsters, putting a fatherly arm around them and showing them the way. We all need that at one time or another. A quiet word, a bit of support to get us through. That's what we enjoy day to day whether we acknowledge it or not- God loves and supports us. Whatever are the worries and pressures of life God is there in the middle of it- suffering with us, listening to prayers and with everlasting love reaching down to heal, comfort and support and ready to kiss a guilty world with justice and peace. We only have to ask.

St David who lived to be about a hundred knew his life was drawing to a close and he gave a final sermon. There were three clear instructions: Rejoice, keep your faith and the creed and do the little things, as he had done. Let's enjoy God's love, let's be happy in our religion because keeping our faith can be hard at times. But Hebrews Chapter 11 verse 6 says "To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see". Let's read and think about the creed, the scaffolding of our beliefs and the solid certainty it offers in a world which can hold uncertainties.

Last but not least, as they say, " Let's do the little things for one another".

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Thank you Pat for preparing and arranging the whole service and delivering such an informative and inspiring message which got us thinking - not least the remark about the creed which tied in with your thoughts on the last words of St David: 'Rejoice'.



The last words of the short Confession of Faith state, " We believe that the chief end of man is to glorify God and to **enjoy** him forever." Indeed we should enjoy, be happy and rejoice in the Lord our Saviour.

The devotional parts at the beginning of the service were taken by Lynn, Molly and Ben, with the reading of the hymns by Rosemary, Nelda, and Kevin.

**Thank you one and all.
Where in the area would you find this wooden
statue of St David?**

A SIGN OF THINGS TO COME?



February has been a month of continuous rain with Storms Ciara, and Dennis taking its toll on many towns and villages in South Wales. Sunday February 15th saw the Towy burst its banks and this was the scene on the quay. There's nothing new in this, I hear you say, but it is now happening on a more regular basis and on a much greater scale. Global warming is causing huge concern at the moment and we all have a part to play in it. Unfortunately we know we ought to do

something but we go on living our lives in much the same way. God commands people to be stewards of the environment. Isaiah and Jeremiah prophesy about the dire consequences that occur when people disobey God and fail to take care of the earth. What if we all did one thing in the following months to help cut our carbon footprint and try to save God's planet from destruction. Rev Mike Shephard came back from a meeting where one person had suggested giving up the car for Lent. If I did that I wouldn't see you for 40 days. Not a bad suggestion I hear somebody say! But the truth is that that is the scale of the situation and shows how we are now so dependent on fossil fuels which are harmful to the environment. Here are some ideas:

1. Reuse bottles, plastic containers, yogurt cups, bread ties.
2. Recycle unwanted paper, bottles, aluminium foil, cans, newspapers.
3. Use less hot water.
4. Avoid products with lots of packaging.
5. Turn off the lights if you are not using that particular room.
6. Plant a tree
7. Use clean fuel. The Presbyterian Church is already on a mission to look for investing in companies which use clean fuel.
8. Conserve water.
9. Use a kitchen cloth instead of kitchen paper towels
10. Reduce the need to buy new products, therefore smaller amount of waste.

Has anyone any more ideas?

Christian Aid Coffee Morning /Bore Coffi Cymorth Cristnogol

Yn Eglwys y Bedyddwyr Saesneg/At the English Baptist Church.

10:00 – 12:00

Dydd Sadwrn 21/03/2020 Saturday

Cake stall, tombola, Fairtrade Goods and a raffle

Yng nghwmni / Attended by

Y Cyng Jeff Thomas, Maer Caerfyrddin

Cllr. Jeff Thomas, Mayor of Carmarthen

Mynediad/Admission: £1.50

THE NEW ORGAN

The Compton Organ purchased in the early 1970's and dedicated to the memory of Mr Elfed Jones gave up on us at the end of last year. We are indebted to Côr Crescendo for the use of their keyboard whilst in the process of buying a new organ. Aled Rees from Music Station Swansea who advised us on the purchase and the Viscount Organ engineer Tony Parker delivered the organ in January and took photographs of the chapel to place on the Viscount website. [Hence the new illustrative cover.] Here is one of the photos taken from the website.

Unfortunately Carole was unwell on the evening but Meurig substituted and in his own inimitable fashion took the opportunity to advertise for a new organist- wps organist!!



Carole was back in harness soon after and is delighted with the capacity of the new organ. As you can see the old organ has not been totally decommissioned. Gwyn was able to revamp it to tidy up the corner as an useful piece of furniture.

**Knit and Natter / Clic a chlonc March/ Mawrth 24ain 2pm Babel Zion Newydd
Needles and wool provided. Learners welcome**

The Walkers



The Cynnwr Walkers or Cerddwyr Cynnwr, led by Gareth and Dawn Jones took a train ride from Llandeilo to Llandrindod Wells this time and enjoyed a lovely walk on the outskirts of the town with a brief stop at the lovely Old Parish Church in the parish of Glanithon where Canon Joanna Penberthy had been a vicar until she became the Bishop of St.David's in 2017.

The next walk is from Llandovery to Myddfai on March 21st. All are welcome.

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Gwasanaeth Gwyl Ddewi Capeli'r Dref yng Nghapel y Babell Zion Newydd.

Cynhaliwyd gwasanaeth capeli Cymraeg y dref yn y Babell Zion Newydd yn yr hwyr gyda'r Gweinidog Parch Nicholas Bee yn llywyddu a'r Parch Dr Ainsleigh Griffiths yn traddodi'r bregeth. Cafwyd darlleniad o Salm 96 gan y Canon Patrick Thomas ynghyd â darlleniad o Efengyl Ioan a chymerwyd at y gweddiau gan Parch Beti Wyn. Cyn y Cymun rhoddodd Helen ddatganiad o'r emyn O Llefara Addfwyn Iesu ar dôn Robat Arwyn. Carole oedd wrth yr organ. Fe weinyddwyd y Cymun gan ein gweinidog a dosbarthwyd yr elfennau gan Parch Tom Defis, Nigel Davies, Joan Thomas ac Emyr James. Cafwyd oedfa fendithiol.

Yn y bore yng Nghapel Heol Awst neges Dr Hefin Jones Pencader/Caerdydd oedd bod yn llawen yn ein haddoli, peidio aros yn yr unfan, cadw'r ffydd trwy wneud y pethau bychain. Mae angen i ni warchod creadigaeth Duw i'r dyfodol er mor fach y mae pob ymdrech yn ymddangos. Dywedodd y Fam Teresa:

'We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop'. [Mother Teresa]

We all have apart to play however small we think our contribution to be.

This ties in with an item Pat heard on the radio: **A LITTLE ACT OF KINDNESS**

The nuns who were carrying on the work of Mother Teresa in India asked a man who had been brought in from the street, was there anything he'd like. [His life was close to its end]. He said he had always wanted to taste Coca cola but he'd never had enough money to buy a can. The Nuns went out and bought him one and he got his wish just before he died.

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Quiz and Cawl /Cawl a Chwis i ddathlu Dydd Gŵyl Dewi

Our St David's Day celebrations continued on Monday March 2nd with our annual Quiz and Cawl arranged by Trevor and Linda. It was an interesting evening once again with 12 teams vying for that first place and one team in particular seeking the coveted Smarties trophy! The cawl was beautiful and the vestry looked lovely adorned with daffodils and yellow napkins. There is great camaraderie on evenings like these and a true feeling of community come together. Thank you once again Trevor for putting such a challenging quiz together, and to Linda for the support and all the washing up at the end of the evening and managing to come back and forth from the vestry to take the scores at the end of each round. No mean feat with so many present. Thanks also to Sian who donated the lamb for the cawl.

Trevor would like to add that both he and Linda are ever hopeful that the preparation and cooking of the cawl for 2021 will be done in the long awaited new kitchen. This would save them a lot of work in handling and transportation. We agree and admire them immensely for coping with such efficiency. I'm sure that you will agree with him also that people enjoy events like these in the chapel and that we need to explore other areas of common interest which will bring people together. Thank you both. For myself, I'm off to swot up on my birds [amongst other things]!

Cytun: Churches Together in Carmarthen: Prayer for Christian Unity Week

Unusual Kindness

Carole and Helen represented BZN at the Service held at Wesley Chapel on Sunday January 19th. The Sermon was preached By Rev Dr Mathew Hill vicar of St Peter's and Abergwili. The theme for the week, "Unusual kindness," came from the Book of Acts based on one of Paul's Missionary journeys and the shipwreck on Malta. Dr Hill began his message by saying that the unusual kindness Paul and his fellow travellers received on the island of Malta said more about Paul than it did about the people of Malta. Paul's expectations must have been slim if he was not expecting a welcome and that says a lot about us as individuals. Our expectations of people sometimes do not fit the outcome.

There will be times when, standing in the storms of our own making, we are challenged to demonstrate unusual kindness in the face of worldly indifference.

To demonstrate unusual kindness is to see the sister and brother in the monster's shame and know that they too are children of God. To demonstrate unusual kindness is to give without counting the cost, and to allow ourselves to be given unto without questioning worth. As we reflect upon, and pray for, Christian unity, we acknowledge the injury that we have caused, the pain that we carry, the baggage that we must jettison. We pray for Christian unity as the place from which we can move onward in faith and in hope for the redemption of the world and the restoration of creation.

St Paul challenged his fellow travellers, sailors, soldiers and prisoners to keep up their courage. In the face of apparent desperation and hopelessness, we are challenged to put our trust in God and allow ourselves to be held and carried through the waters. There will be times when we are broken, as individuals and as churches, and looking back we shall see not just the one set of footprints in the sand, but hundreds, as we are surrounded and supported by those who love us. [Church Unity leaflet]

World Day of Prayer/ Dydd Gweddi Byd Eang

This year's Services were held at the English Congregationalist Church on March 6th. Rosemary and Carole took part in the English morning service and Molly in the Welsh service in the afternoon.

The service this year had been written by the women of Zimbabwe where Christianity is the main religion [80%] and they were given the Bible reading In the Gospel of John of the lame man who had been paralyzed for 38 years: "Take up your mat and walk." The mat was seen as a symbol of the obstacle to the man being healed. What are the obstacle or excuses that hinder our transformation?

Catrin Hampton writes



MESSY CHURCH/LLAN LLANAST



In March Babell Zion Newydd will be beginning a messy new adventure! "Messy Church" or "Llan Llanast" in Welsh will be a fun-filled morning for all ages to explore the Bible in interactive and different ways: through craft, cooking, singing and all kinds of creativity! This event is suitable for all ages, and our first session will look at the amazing story of the 'Prodigal Son'. Come along and enjoy - it's church...but different!

Sunday March 22nd 10:30-12 (food included!)

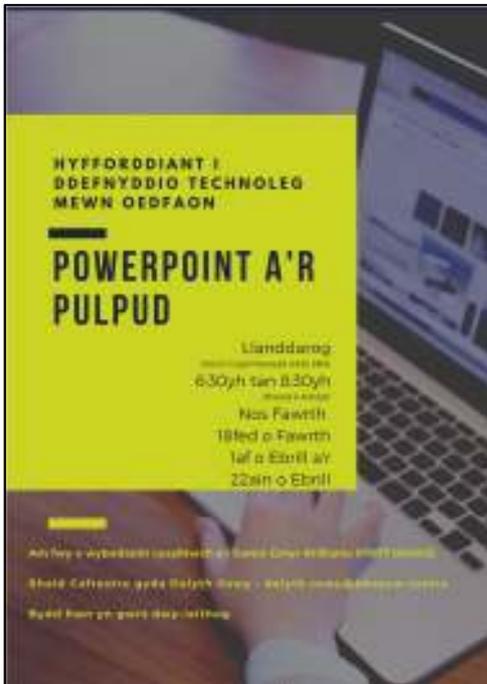
If you're part of the Babell family and would like to be involved in the team, let Catrin know!

CLEANING ROTA

March	Maisie and Pat
April	Corey and Catrin
May	Sian and Carole
June	Meurig and Lynn

Technology in our services

Mr Emyr Williams will be running three sessions on how to use technology in services with focus on powerpoint and the pulpit. They will be held in Llanddarog from 6.30- 8.30 on Tuesdays, March 18th, April 1st and 22nd of April. If you would like to join the class please register with Delyth Oswy delyth.oswy@ebcpcw.cymru
Or for more information contact Emyr on 07977054003



Onto Easter/ Ymlaen at y Pasg

SUL Y BLODAU/ PALM SUNDAY April 5th

Rev Nicholas Bee is arranging a walk of witness in Llanddarog for the Pastorate on Palm Sunday. All meet at Capel Newydd Llanddarog at 2pm.

GOOD FRIDAY MARCH OF WITNESS April 10th will start from the Wesleyan Church at 12.00 noon following the Welsh service at Tabernacle Chapel, and the English service at the English Baptist, both services at 10.30am. Beti-Wyn will be asked if Priordy's cross can be borrowed again.

IN THE AFTERNOON: PERERINDOD Y GROGLITH I GOPA BRYN MYRDDIN

Pilgrimage to the top of Bryn Myrddin at 2.30 with a cup of tea at 3.30 in the Bryn Myrddin centre[£3]. Manylion pellach oddi wrth beti.wyn@icloud.com

Flowers

March/Mawrth	April/Ebrill	May/Mai
Marian Evans	Esme Phillips	Pat Morgan

Easter Wordsearch

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

WORDS FOR THE WORD SEARCH

GOLGOTHA; RISEN; JOHN; MARY; EMPTY TOMB; SIMON PETER; ANGEL; CROSS;
CROWN OF THORNS; GOOD FRIDAY; RABBONI; THIRD DAY; SON OF GOD;
FORGIVENESS

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

	Pregethwr /Preacher
15/3/20 10:30am	Mr Emyr Williams
22/3/20 10:30am	Mr Corey Hampton [Messy Church]
29/3/20 10:30am 2pm	Rev Mike Sherwin Communion / Cymunedeb Sul yr Ofalaeth
5/4/20 10:30am	Rev Mike Sherwin
12/4/20 10:30am	
19/4/20 10:30am	Rev Mike Sherwin Cymunedeb
26/4/20 2pm	Mr Corey Hampton
3/5/20 10:30am	Rev Mike Sherwin Wheeler Cocks
10/5/20 10am	Rev Mike Sherwin Gifa Ganu yng Nghapel Newydd
17/5/20 10:30am	Rev Nicholas Bee Communion / Cymunedeb
24/5/20 2pm	Mr Corey Hampton
31/5/20 10:30am	Mr Martin Dalling

All services cancelled

Announcements and Preparing Communion Table

March/Mawrth	April/Ebrill	May/Mai	June/Mehefin
Sian, Vi, Lynn	Pat and Helen	Carole, Meurig, Ian	Molly, Nan, Helen

Editor this month: Mrs Helen Gibbon
 Please forward any news/articles to Carole at carolerees4@gmail.com
 [01267 222573] by May 18th

Dates for the diary:

April 5th: Good Friday March of Witness following service in English Baptist Church
 Gwener y Grogolith: Gwasanaeth yn y Tabernacle cyn yr orymdaith.

April 28th: Cwrdd Dosbarth yn Tŷ Hen Meidrim am 7pm

May 8th: VE Day Brief ceremony at the memorial cross in Llangunnon Road 2.55pm
 Croeso i bawb. Babell Zion Newydd to be represented