

Mawrth/Ebrill
March/April 2019
Cylchlythyr/Newsletter

Rhif/Issue 15

BABELL ZION NEWYDD

Prayer Fasting Works of Love

40
Days

Pedwar deg diwrnod Y Grawys

Yn arwain at Sul y Blodau

A'r Wythnos Fawr 1999

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 Babell Zion Newydd Chapel for permission to do this

Llangunnor Network
*Preserving and Promoting
Llangunnor*

A Message from the Minister

Putting pen to paper Wales has just triumphed in Cardiff over the old enemy. No doubt there will be much celebration and joyous antics in the capital city this weekend, with little thought given perhaps to the on coming season of Lent. For centuries, the Church has remembered the battle between Christ and the Devil in the wilderness, and has set apart a period of similar length – forty days - for the purpose of prayer, meditation and fasting. The Welsh word for Lent, ‘Grawys’ comes from the Latin *quadragesima*, which means forty. The English word comes from the words *length* and *lengthen* because it is during Spring, when the days lengthen that this season falls.

Keeping Lent is an old custom. Some suggest that the practice started as a time of discipline recommended for candidates for the ministry, in order to prepare them for Easter Sunday when they would be officially accepted into the life of the Church for the first time. As time passed, a need was seen to regulate this discipline and decide upon the length of this term of preparation and the number of days spent by Christ in the wilderness in his battle with the Devil determined the length of this season.

Comparatively few Christians give any acknowledgement to the season of Lent these days. Although very few people fast, there is evidence to suggest that some people still refrain from feasting and joyful merriment during this season. Certain members still give penance for their sins, and might perhaps devote some time to devotional reading, others might attend a Bible class, the type of which will be conducted by Corey over four weeks every Monday, at 5.30 from 11th March.

We all remember the name Gandhi, that devoted Hindu who took fasting very seriously. Similarly, the Muslim identifies Ramadan as a season where faithful followers fast from dawn to dusk. It is ironic that we have to depend on devout followers of other religions to remind us of a custom that at one time was observed far more readily in the Christian faith. A faithful Christian recently wrote, in Welsh,

‘Pan fo’r stumog yn wag, cawn olwg newydd ar ein hofnau a’n gobeithion, ein petruster a’n cyfyng-gyngor; mae ymprydio’n ein herio i dynnu oddi ar y gronfa ddofn o adnoddau ysbrydol sydd ynghudd ym mynwes pob un ohonom; mae’n ein hatgoffa, yng nghanol ein marsiandiaeth a’n masnachu gorffwyll, a’r magu bloneg a ddaw o ddibynnu’n ormodol ar foethau, fod modd inni fyw heb y moethau hynny; mae’r ddisgyblaeth yn ein hatgoffa hefyd am y miliynau sy’n gwybod am wayw’r bol gwag, nid am dymor, ond am oes, a hynny, nid o ddewis, ond o raid.’

At this time we remember in our prayers those members of the chapel who are currently ill, or frail through advanced age and ask that God might sustain them and their families in their hour of need.

Best wishes

Nicholas Bee 23rd February 2019

	Blodau/Flowers	Glanhau am y mis/Cleaning for the month
March	Mrs Maisie Johnson	Mrs Janet Davies
April	Mrs Megan Griffiths	
May	Mrs Rosemary Kerr	Mrs Joan Stephens

Condolences

The beginning of 2019 has been a time of loss and we mourn the passing of two of our members below.

It is with sadness that we record the passing of **Mr Ian Davies**, an elder at Zion, who settled quickly into Babell Zion Newydd. He had been brought up at Pwll trap St Clears and was known to many of the members at Babell who had been brought up in that area. Ian was a very active member of Zion while his health permitted but had been confined to his home due to illness for quite a time and had been cared for by Joan, his partner of 28 years. We extend our sincere sympathies to Joan, his four children and families.

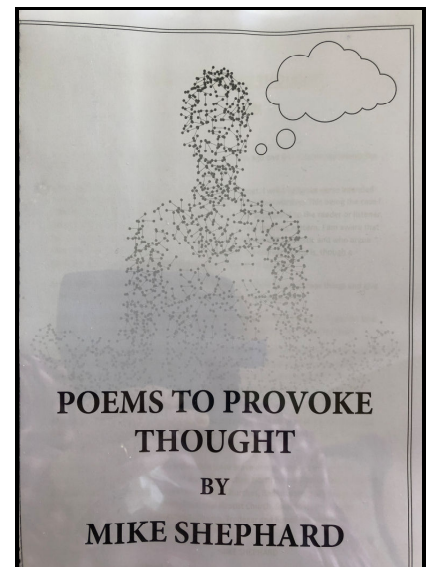
It is also with great sadness that we record the passing of **Mrs Lilian Edwards** in her hundredth year. We have sorely missed Lilian at the Friendship Centre and at the weekly services. Lilian, together with her husband John, had been very active elders at Zion, the chapel being the focal point of their lives, and it was with heavy heart that she had to witness the closing of a place of worship which was so dear to her and which contained so many memories. It was therefore such a joy to see that she soon settled into her new surroundings and even with her failing health was determined to be present for worship. She is now "Safe in the arms of Jesus". We extend our sincere sympathies to Carole and Meurig, Allan and Julia and their families.

Gwellhad

There are many friends who are not well at this time. We wish them all God's blessing.

The London MARATHON

Ellie Grace's mother Liz Amery will be running the London Marathon in April in memory of her brother Steve who died in February 2018 and who had been severely affected by mental health problems. Perhaps you will have read the article in the Carmarthen Journal. Liz is raising money for the mental health charity MIND and to help the funds along Rev Mike Shephard has produced a booklet of all his poems along the years at a cost of £30. Liz has to raise £2000 but we want her to double that. I'm sure we can help her to achieve her goal. She told the journal: "Mental health really does need positive recognition, particularly for men, and not be a hidden taboo topic. Suicide is the biggest cause of death for men under the age of 45 in the UK. I feel honoured to support and promote the MIND Charity through doing the London Marathon....."



We shall be rooting for you Liz

Announcing and Preparing the Communion Table

March	April	May
Sian/Vi	Helen/Ian/Pat	Carole/Meurig

This year's services were held at Llanllwch Church during which Mrs Molly Thomas and Mrs Rosemary Kerr took part in the Welsh and English services respectively. The service material had been prepared this year by the women of Slovenia and centered on the invitation to the Lord's Table which is open to everyone. The voices of mothers and grandmothers, the people of Roma, refugees and immigrant workers were heard reflecting the economic and political situation in Slovenia from its communist times to today. The parable of the Wedding Feast was used as a talking point and emphasis put on our need for forgiveness in our failure to speak up against the injustices of the world.

Cawl and Quiz

This annual event seems to flourish year on year judging by the 12 teams of four that were present this year. It was expertly prepared by our quizmaster Trevor Lloyd who I think enjoys the brain wracking and the squirming, the debating and the answer searching that goes on within the groups. However, his question on Sport was not of the anticipated kind unfortunately and had all teams in a quandry! Something which I at least was glad of. The vestry tables, decorated with yellow napkins and daffodils looked welcoming for the Cawl which had been prepared by Trevor and Linda and which surpassed all other years- perhaps because Sian and myself were not involved at all in its making this year! Linda as always was kept busy all evening between the score keeping and the washing up, a tireless worker behind the scenes. There were a total of 87 points available and Shuttle off to Buffalo took the prize with 74 points. They were Alan, Charlotte Sue and Ian.

Trevor would like to thank everyone for giving of their time and efforts but we sincerely thank Trevor and Linda for giving of **their** time and energies which ensured another enjoyable evening.

A Reflection for Lent

History and faith tells of Jesus, of a quiet retreat into the desert, which sounded more than just a little tempting. A travel guide, who offered more than sight seeing and souvenirs: an open buffet, free air miles and a rather large estate. "All this is yours- for a reasonable price." A gift of planetary proportions was handed back unopened. Dominion was on offer- freely refused by one man of grace.

Story and Legend tells of Adam; of a shopping trip where Eve got more than she bargained for. A fruit salesman, with the gift of the gab, who managed to sell what wasn't his to give: "Fresh, ripe knowledge- delight in good and evil." A bargain that proved to be a real eye opener. Sin was on offer- because of one, others found it tempting too.

Lord, give us the strength to turn down tempting offers. **Forgive us our trespasses.**
Lord, let us accept your free special offer as we follow your example.
Give us your gift of grace

Joseph Scriven

There are many hymns that are firm favourites in our weekly services but there is one which would perhaps come at the top of the list and that would be “What a Friend we have in Jesus”. This year marks the two hundredth anniversary of the hymnwriter’s birth on the 10th of September 1819 and so here are a few facts about him.



1. Joseph Medlicott Scriven was born in Banbridge Northern Ireland on 10th of September 1819, the second son of four boys and two girls.
2. He entered Trinity College Dublin in 1835 but left for an army career in India.
3. Poor health led him to abandon a career in the army and he continued studying which led to a BA in 1842.
4. He followed his parents into the Plymouth Brethren.
5. The night before he was to be married, his fiancée was accidentally drowned.
6. He emigrated to Canada at the age of 25 where he became a teacher in Ontario and joined the Church of England.
7. He was a humanitarian through and through and went frequently to read the Bible to labourers on the Railway.
8. Tragedy struck again when his second fiancée died of Pneumonia in August 1860.
9. Scriven now consecrated his whole life to the Lord Jesus, living by the Sermon on the Mount from Mathew Chapter 5-7 and thereby seeking to live a life of service to others.
10. He moved to Port Hope in 1870 where he gathered together a Plymouth Brethren congregation winning converts through his preaching and lifestyle and becoming a spiritual advisor to many families.
11. Here are some of the lovely stories told about him:

“For years he not only milked the cow for a poor widow woman from Ireland, he also carried the milk to her customers. He sold his precious watch from Ireland to replace another person’s lost cow. His family, on hearing of his generosity, stopped sending him his stipend and instead sent the necessities of life, hoping he would use them. Once they found that he only gave them away as well they stopped sending anything at all.

He was seen on afternoon walking down the street in Port Hope dressed in plain working man clothes carrying a saw. One of the residents saw him and wanted to hire him to cut his wood, saying he had a hard time finding someone sober to do it. His friend told him that Mr Scriven would not cut wood for people who could afford to pay him. It was only for the sick and poor widows that he would work.

Nothing was beneath his dignity if he could do it without compensation. He was known as the “Good Samaritan of Port Hope.”

Scriven wrote the hymn “What a Friend we have in Jesus” for his mother during a time of sorrow and no-one saw it until a friend came to visit him when he was sick. He had not intended anyone to see it. When asked if he had written it, Scriven’s answer was: “The Lord and I did it together.”

Sunday Club

Thank you to our young Sunday Club members, Ellie Grace and Ben Thomas for their contributions to the Newsletter. Please have a go and also note the spelling variation on the name Mathew.

WORDSEARCH FOR THE TWELVE DISCIPLES created by ELLIE GRACE

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

PETER
ANDREW
JAMES
JOHN
BARTHOLOMEW
JUDAS
MATHEW
PHILIP
SIMON
JAMES
THOMAS
THADDAEUS

Myfyrdod ar gyfer y Grawys

“Yn awr,” medd yr Arglwydd, dychwelwch ataf â’ch holl galon, ag ymryd, wylofain a galar. Rhwygwch eich calon, nid eich dillad a dychwelwch at yr Arglwydd eich Duw.”

Dyweddodd Iesu” A phan fyddwch yn ymrydio, peidiwch â bod yn wynepdrist fel y rhagrithwyr: y maent hwy’n anffurfio eu hwynebau er mwyn i ddynion gael gweld eu bod yn ymrydio. Yn wir rwyn dweud wrthyich, y mae eu gwobr ganddynt eisoes. Ond pan fyddi di’n ymrydio enenia dy ben a golch dy wyne fel nad dynion a gaiff weld dy fod yn ymrydio ond yn hytrach dy Dad sydd yn y dirgel’ a bydd dy Dad sydd yn y dirgel yn dy wobrwyo.”

WORDSEARCH FOR THE TWELVE DISCIPLES created by BEN THOMAS

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

PETER
 ANDREW
 JAMES
 JOHN
 BARTHOLOMEW
 JUDAS
 MATTHEW
 PHILIP
 SIMON
 JAMES
 THOMAS
 THADDAEUS

Lee writes

I've wanted to write something for the newsletter for some time but that's the danger of being so busy everything gets put on hold and you miss deadlines, so hands up how many people actually read this newsletter from cover to cover?

I'll trust that you all put your hands up and certainly know that people from other parts of the United Kingdom eagerly await the online version to catch up with the latest from Babel Zion Newydd. Anyone who has spent more than a few minutes speaking to me will know how much I care about the community and getting people together.

The quiz night is a good example of an event which brings people together in a fun way and I know it has been mentioned previously in these newsletters about other events that people would like to see taking place at the chapel but there has been very little response.

So please prove to me that you have read this article at least and let people know the sorts of events/talks that you may be interested in attending at the chapel.

If we get nothing I may be forced to suggest I put on a talk about a guide to family history -

YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED

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

	Pregethwr / Preacher
17/3/2019 2pm	Mr Corey Hampton
24/3/2019 10.30am	Mrs Mary Thorley
31/3/2019 2pm	Gofalaeth yn Llanddarog
7/4/2019 10.30am	Rev Brian Lewis
14/4/2019 10.30am	Minister Communion / Cymundeb
21/4/2019 2pm	Mr Corey Hampton Easter Sunday
28/4/2019 2pm	Ms Miriam Moules
5/5/2019 10.30am	Rev Adelaide Wheeler Cocks Communion / Cymundeb
12/5/2019 10.30am	Mr Corey Hampton
19/5/2019 10.30am	Family Service
26/5/2019 10.30am	Rev Mike Shephard

Dates for the Diary

Mawrth 12fed: Cyfarfod yr Henaduriaeth Caersalem Tŷ Croes 6.30pm
March 17th: Elders' meeting following the Service
Mawrth 22ain: Noson gydag Emyr Lewis yng Nghlwb yr Athletic 7pm
Mawrth 24ydd: Cyngerdd Croeshoeliad Stainer Côr Ty Tawe a Chôr Seingar 6pm
Priordy. Elw i Llyfrau Llafar
Ebrill 9fed: Cwrdd Dosbarth ym Mancyfelin 7pm
Lenten Studies with Mr Corey Hampton all at **5.30pm** March 11th March 18th March 25th
April 1st

A letter from Dianne Stephenson on behalf of the Lammas Street Centre English Baptist Church

Dear Friends

I am writing on behalf of the Lammas Street Centre to acknowledge receipt of your kind donation from Babel Zion Newydd in respect of the Christmas day Lunch.

This event has gone from strength to strength over the years and we believe it serves a real need in our local community. Christmas can be a difficult period for those bereaved, or have no family or do not have the means to celebrate the festival in a traditional way.

I would be grateful if you could emphasise to your members that their generosity has made a real difference and we are indeed grateful for their support.

Yours sincerely

Dianne Stephenson [Treasurer]

Editor this month: Mrs Helen Gibbon

Please forward any news/articles to Carole at carolerees4@gmail.com
[01267222573] by **April 18th** for the May/June issue