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BABELL ZION NEWYDD

Rhiw Babel Pensarn Caerfyrddin SA31 2DJ

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Thanks to Babel Zion Newydd Chapel for permission to do this

Llangunnor Network
*Preserving and Promoting
Llangunnor*

A Message from the Minister



As I put pen to paper, COVID 19 has brought the nation to a virtual standstill, the Prime Minister has been hospitalised together with thousands of other people, and the NHS is facing a challenge on a scale never previously experienced. Fortunately the latter has performed its work resolutely and the disease is being contained.

Quite how we emerge from this crisis is yet to be discovered but I can only imagine that lessons will be learned and the propagation of such a virulent disease can never again be allowed to happen.

The Queen in her uplifting broadcast to the nation spoke of the need for people to come together, to show patience in their incarceration and, reassuringly she declared that there will indeed come a time when we shall meet again, as before.

We remember in our prayers those people who have passed away, having spent their last few days isolated from their friends and families. It has certainly been a harrowing experience but our appreciation should be directed chiefly to the staff of the NHS for whom we have, justifiably as a nation displayed the depth of our gratitude, each Thursday evening in applauding them.

Many people might be asking why an omnipotent, loving God has not done more to prevent the spread of this hideous virus. Yet God has promised since time immemorial that He is with those people who turn to Him in prayer. He suffered on the Cross and thus is able to identify with our trials and tribulations. The message of Easter is one of hope. 'Daw eto haul ar fryn'. Christ rose from the dead to fill people with the victory of His love and the 'tangnefedd' or inner peace, 'na wŷyr y byd amdano'.

This devastating virus has challenged people's faith. Inner doubts can plague us and cause us consternation but our strength and comfort is that God in Christ understands our nature. He is able to sympathise with our doubts, our weaknesses, and make us, as Paul says, 'more than conquerors through Him who loves us'.

Isn't this the basis of our faith as we proceed to bear witness to the Gospel once more when the effects of COVID 19 have diminished?

My belief is that the experience of Covid 19 will encourage us to re evaluate our lives, to ascertain exactly what is important and ultimately to bring us closer together.

The Easter message is that Christ conquered death, and whatever woes we might have been or indeed are experiencing, that in itself provides occasion to sing praise to God once again, even this year,

'Gorfoleddwn, Iesu Mawr,
Am y dydd y torrodd gwawr;
Bywyd newydd ddaeth i ni
Wedi concwest Calfari.'

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS



Llongyfarchiadau Congratulations

Llongyfarchiadau mawr i Erin Walters, wyres Mrs Vi Williams a enillodd radd meistr eleni. Fe aeth ymlaen i wneud gradd pellach yng Nghaerdydd yn Seicoleg ac ennill Gradd Meistr M.Sc. Dymuniadau gorau i'r dyfodol, Erin. Warm congratulations on your outstanding achievement.

Our prayers are with all those who are not feeling well at this time. It is an anxious time for us all but more so for those who are undergoing treatments or who have hospital appointments to keep. In these worrying times let us remember the words of Scripture: "Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." John Chapter 16:33

It is an anxious time for many who have loved ones abroad and who cannot come back due to the Corona virus. It was such a time for Cath and Anthony in March when Nelda was on holiday in Peru. Worrying, though it was, she was kept going by many messages of support and she tells her story below.

Two Weeks in Peru written by Nelda Davies



Well my 'Saga' to Peru started on Wednesday 11th March. Two flights, a bus, and we finally started our 'sightseeing' on Saturday. We were staying in the Sacred Valley in a converted Monastery, very peaceful and really beautiful.

Sunday saw us catch a train to Machu Picchu on the Inca trail through some breath taking scenery. We were the last tourists to visit. Normally up to 6000 visitors a day and I would say no more than 400 to maybe 500 on that day, mesmerising. That was our tour over.

Later that night, we were told the President had announced a state of emergency and that borders were to be closed and no flights allowed in or out after midnight the next day. In the morning, a mad rush. Train, bus and a flight from Cusco saw us back to Lima. On arrival told no flights available to get us home, were greeted with the sight of armed police, the air force, navy and the army. Very eerie, lockdown had already started there!!

We were fortunate to have been put in a 5 star hotel and were very well looked after throughout our stay. We were not allowed out, only once a day, 5 at a time with the guide to get water. I ventured out twice and on the second occasion we were reported to the authorities for not wearing masks. I didn't go out after that.

We were allowed to use the public areas and the outside area on the 9th floor. A curfew was then in place from 8.00pm until 5.00am and the country was put under Marshall law. Then on the sixth day, we had the news that we were confined to our rooms.

Now I am not a huge fan of social media, but, I have to admit that without my phone, I would have been lost. I was writing a 'daily report' and the replies, up to 70 to 80 a day

were what kept me going. Most of my day was taken up on my phone, felt a real yuppy. Some of the messages were so moving and brought tears to my eyes. I shall always be grateful for all your kind messages and prayers. I tried to bring some humour into my reports to try and keep spirits up, not always easy. It was the uncertainty of not knowing how long we were to be there.

Finally on the Tuesday had a meeting and were told to be ready by 6.00am the following day, when we would be taken in a convey of 4 buses to a Military base, and be flown home to Heathrow direct by British Airways that afternoon. It was a military operation, with armed police, embassy staff and the press following us an route. Left Lima at 5.00pm

We were fortunate to be on the first plane allowed out but my thoughts are still with those who were 'left behind.'

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A REFLECTION ON THE PAST WEEKS

This is a special Newsletter in that it does not give notice of any forthcoming services and preachers nor special events. What extraordinary times we live in! You will remember what a busy time we had at the end of last year and at the beginning of 2020. Then everything came to a stop. The Coronavirus was in China, in a city which was unfamiliar to many I'm sure- Wuhan - and that was far enough away. That sadly was not the case and slowly from December 31st to the beginning of March it became a reality for each and everyone of us. Our chapels and churches closed their doors in the week beginning Monday 16th and when schools closed that very week, two weeks before the Easter holidays, it was clearly becoming a serious matter. Slowly shops and offices, restaurants and cafes, business after business all closed down which meant lockdown. Who would have thought the country, no, the whole world, could come to almost a complete standstill from the hustle and bustle of previous times. But wasn't it bound to happen? Could we expect Planet Earth to be able to continue to sustain this scale of activity? Could we expect God's creation to continue to sustain people flouting all the laws of nature and living as if there were no tomorrow? Had we not understood the signs over the past years? When we read the Old Testament prophets we can only realize that history repeats itself time and time again as we are reminded that this is God's World and not ours to do what we want with it. Let us hope that these past weeks have taught us to start respecting God's laws and to value the earth as a sacred and hallowed place.

We are also reminded that although the chapel doors are closed we are still the church. It is the people who form the church. Christ did not raise a building but a company of people and for the first years it was in each other's homes that the Christians met. We are grateful to Emyr Williams for the foresight to produce weekly services for us and to Rev Nicholas Bee, Corey and Catrin and Rev Ian Sims for what is to come. Please share these resources with anyone whom you might know who would like to receive these services either by email or by post.



**The Answer to the Last month's Newsletter question
Where in the area would you find this wooden statue of
St David?**

Answer: In the park next to the Community hall/Old School in Capel Dewi. It was made out of wood by Simon Hedger, a master craftsman in wooden sculptures.

A technological Experience.

There are all kinds of technological ways of coming together these days: Skype; facebook; facetime etc etc. One of these is Zoom where up to a 100 people can meet together. My friend in Swansea suggested that we hold a Gymanfa Ganu on Palm Sunday as is the tradition in many chapels. I was really keen of course. Only 6 signed up for it but it was a start. I dressed in my Sunday best while one of the group said she would go and find her hat and at 10.30 on Sunday morning we were already for the Zoom experience. Sadly we didn't progress much further than the first ten bars: we were all at different speeds, no synchronisation at all and we had to give up, - much to our disappointment. However, there is the telephone and we are just glad that we can keep in touch with each other in conversation over the simple landline.

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Recipe Corner

Gina's Welsh Cakes Recipe

- 2 oz currants
- A little milk
- Pinch of Baking Powder
- 8 oz Margarine (Gina uses Stork)
- 2 eggs
- 1 lb Self Raising Flour
- 8 oz Granulated Sugar

Method

1. Put flour and baking powder into a bowl and rub in the margarine
2. Add the sugar and currants
3. Whisk the eggs with a little milk and add to the ingredients.
4. Knead gently.
5. (A food processor can also be used at this stage)
6. Cut into rounds and bake on a griddle

Rosemary's Marshmallow Creams

- 6 ozs Digestive biscuits
- 6 ozs marshmallow sweets
- 2 ozs Cherries
- 2 ozs walnuts
- Small tin sweetened condensed milk
- Approx. 2 ozs dessicated coconut

Method

1. Crush biscuits and cut up marshmallows
2. Chop cherries and walnuts
3. Place all in a bowl and stir in the condensed milk
4. Sprinkle Swiss Roll Tin with a little coconut
5. Spread mixture over the tin and press into shape with a palette knife.

Sprinkle coconut over the top.
Leave overnight before cutting into squares

Carole's Favourite Hymn

A few of you may already know this, but my favourite hymn is "The Day Thou Gavest Lord is Ended." For some of you, your favourite hymn is a reminder of some event or person but for me that is not the case. Ever since I was little and going to evening services with mum and dad, this hymn always seems to instil in me a sense of peace and tranquility. Something we all need in this present climate of self-isolating.

It is not just the words that make a hymn stand out but the tune it is set to as well. For me, there can be no other tune for this hymn but St Clement. How many of you on a Sunday morning have looked at the hymns and thought "good choice" only to find the organist has decided to play a different tune to some of them.

(We organists are a funny old bunch and tend to do this sort of thing now and again just to keep you on your toes!!!) Somehow, that hymn, being sung to the alternative tune, doesn't have the same impact on our emotions anymore.

The words for this hymn were written in the 19th Century by a Church of England Minister, John Ellerton. The story goes that he was walking home after teaching classes at the Mechanics' Institute and noticed how beautiful the night was and wrote the words based on that inspiring moment. Christians from the earliest days gave thanks to God both in the morning and the evening and this hymn reflects that practice. The words give credit to God as the One who gave the sinner the gift of each day and night. Knowing that God hears the praises of His people, they give thanks to Him continuously for His provision and building of His Church. That she is unchanging, and "*unsleeping*" as the world worries its way through life. That men's empires pass away, but the Kingdom Christ has established, will never pass away for He is her King. The lyrics speak of the continuing growth of Christ's everlasting Kingdom. That His people are everywhere beneath the "*Western skies*" and such can never be destroyed.

This hymn has continued to be sung in Churches everywhere and today it remains the official hymn of the Royal Navy together with being adopted in 1944 as "World Day of Prayer" hymn and has been the last hymn in their annual services ever since.

The day you gave us, Lord, is ended,
the darkness falls at your behest;
to you our morning hymns ascended,
your praise shall sanctify our rest.

We thank you that your church,
unsleeping
while earth rolls onward into light,
through all the world her watch is
keeping,
and rests not now by day or night.

As o'er each continent and island
the dawn leads on another day,

the voice of pray'r is never silent,
nor dies the strain of praise away.

The sun, that bids us rest, is waking
our brethren 'neath the western sky,
and hour by hour fresh lips are making
your wondrous doings heard on high.

So be it, Lord; your throne shall never,
like earth's proud empires, pass away;
Your Kingdom stands and grows forever,
'til all your creatures own your sway.

Sunday School members have been kept busy during these times and have enthusiastically completed the tasks. Many thanks to Catrin for producing a video link and craft exercise for Palm Sunday and Easter Day. Well done Ellie Mae, Ben and Ellie Grace for your efforts.



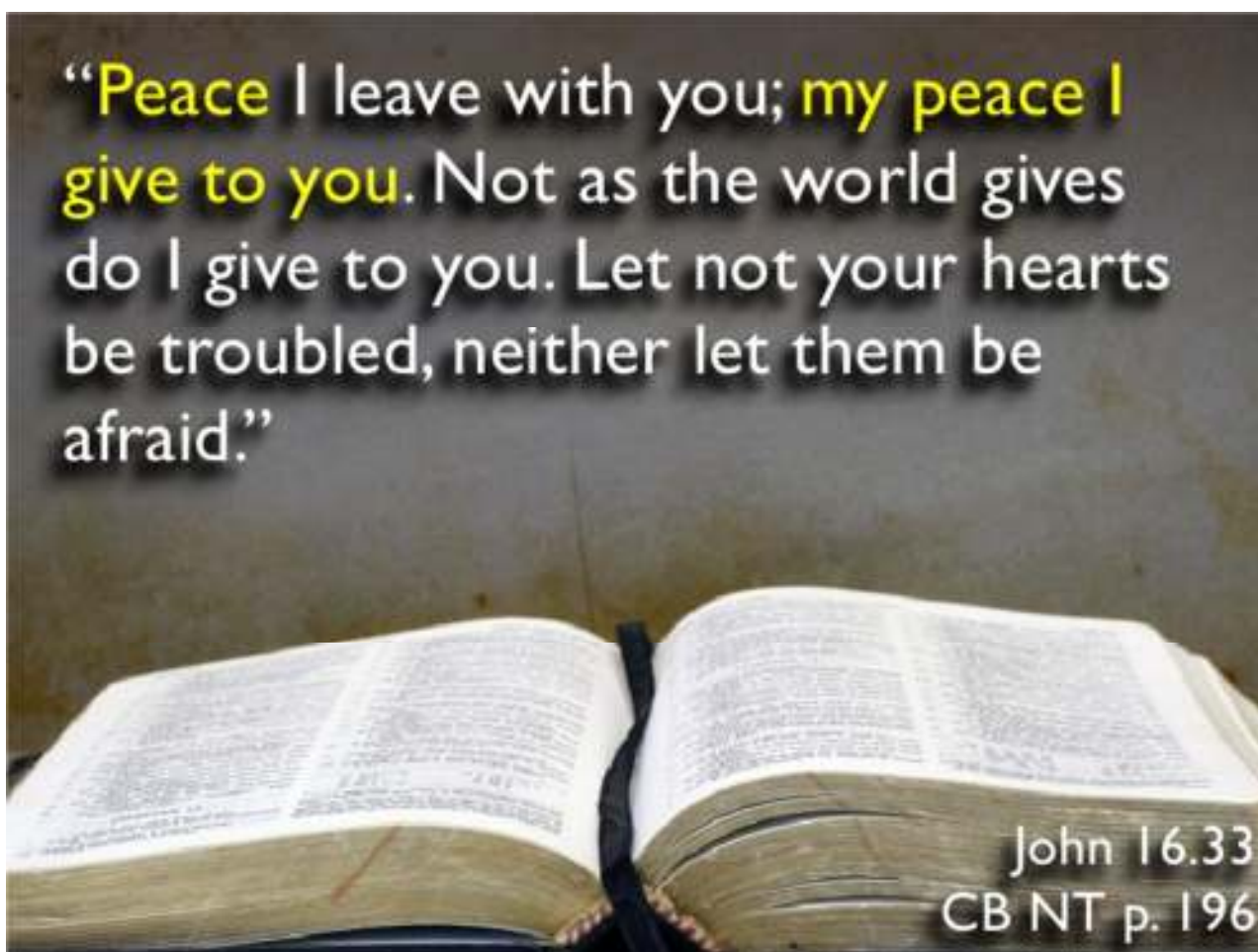
Ellie Grace and Ben have also been busy doing word searches for us. Have fun with these

CAIAPHAS; CROSS; BARABBAS; ANGEL; GARDEN; PRIESTS; SOLDIERS; TEMPLE; TOMB; SWORD

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

JESUS; HOLY; CROSS; EASTER; RISEN; EGGS; GOOD FRIDAY; CRUCIFY;
 GOD;
 CHOCOLATE; DONKEY

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



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