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Cylchlythyr/Newsletter

Rhif/Issue 13



# 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**

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

**Llangunnor Network**  
*Preserving and Promoting  
Llangunnor*



Rev Nicholas Bee writes:

It is with much anticipation that I look forward to the next few years as minister of the Gwendraeth pastorate. Since moving down on 10 August, thus allowing three weeks to familiarize myself with the area prior to my work beginning on 1 September, I have felt very much at home. The ten chapels which comprise the pastorate have extended a particularly warm welcome to me, for which I am very grateful.

I was ironically brought up as an Anglican and attended Canterbury Cathedral while at school. Upon returning to Tregaron, where my mother had been raised, in 1995, I attended an intensive eight week 'Wlpan' Welsh learners' course. This encouraged me to worship in Bwlchgwynt Chapel, while undertaking work as a supply teacher. I had graduated in History years before and spent many years teaching but, from 1996 I studied for a BD in Divinity at the United Theological College in Aberystwyth. I was duly accepted as a candidate for the ministry the following year. Upon completion in 1999 I taught Welsh as a second language for four years before accepting a call, in 2003, to serve as a minister in the Llanilar area. Apart from two years working as a minister in the Llanelli pastorate from 2011 -2012, this is where I remained until receiving a call to serve in the Gwendraeth Valley. These last two years I have undertaken study for an MA in Medieval History on a part time basis. The dissertation is virtually complete but one aspect of the course which really interested me was reacquainting myself with Latin, and it is this I would like to further in the next two years, time permitting.

I have been impressed by the work and testimony of the members in Babel Zion Newydd. The chapel is modern and inviting, the friendship club, warm and accommodating, and there is a sense of a desire to serve the community which is heartwarming. The recent efforts to raise money for the McMillan nurses, and the wonderful work they undertake, manifests this. Sian Cassell and Carole Rees' wish to have their heads shaved in acknowledgement of that which many cancer patients have to endure showed genuine compassion. They are to be greatly commended for this. It will be my privilege to work with a newly appointed 'ministerial assistant'. Mr Corey Hampton, an American who has also learned Welsh, will be responsible for developing youth and children's work within the pastorate, being assisted at times by his wife, Mrs Catrin Hampton, the elder daughter of our General Secretary, the Rev Meirion Morris.

May God's blessing be on our work and  
testimony to the future.



# The Congregation at Babel Zion Newydd

**Best wishes** to all who have been unwell over the past few weeks or are undergoing treatment at this time especially Miss Doreen Davies who is recovering following her recent hip replacement surgery, Mrs Sybil Hughes who is recovering after damaging ligaments in her leg although it was lovely to see her back in Babel for our Harvest Service, Nesta who is recovering from pleurisy and Trevor who has been poorly with a chest infection/flu.



Talking of our Harvest Service, congratulations must go to our Sunday Club for their portrayal of the story of Joseph where a lot of hard work had gone into the rehearsals in the weeks and days leading up to the service. The donations of dried food were delivered to Carmarthen Food Bank following the service.



The MacMillan Coffee Morning held at the end of September was a huge success and over £400 was raised. Thank you to Mrs Nan Thomas for organizing and arranging raffle prizes. Also thank you to Trevor for his role as auctioneer!



During that Coffee Morning, Carole and Sian were brave and “braved the shave” as was witnessed by many of you. Thank you everyone who supported and sponsored us. A total of £1,800 was raised in sponsorship.

*Dates for the diary:*

## **Christmas Fayre:**

Saturday November 24<sup>th</sup> in the English Baptist from 10 am

## **Christmas The Story:**

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December

## **Christmas Dinner:**

Sunday December 16<sup>th</sup> in The Ivy Bush at 12:30pm. Names and deposit to Sian as soon as possible.

## **Christmas Eve Service:**

Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:15 pm. This service will be led by Rev Nicholas Bee. Anyone wishing to come but would like to be picked up, please let either Helen or myself know and we can arrange transport.



### I Do Not Know Your Name

I do not know your name, but I know you died.  
I do not know from where you came, but I know you died.

Your uniform, branch of service, it matters not to me  
Whether Volunteer or Conscript, or how it came to be  
That politicians' failures, or some power-mad ambition  
Brought you too soon to your death, in the name of any nation

You saw, you felt, you knew full well, as friend and foe were taken  
By bloody death, that your life too, was forfeit and forsaken  
Yet on you went and fought and died, in your close and private hell  
For Mate or Pal or Regiment and memories never to tell.

It was for each other, through shot and shell, the madness you endured  
Side by side, through wound and pain, and comradeship assured  
No family ties, or bloodline link, could match that bond of friend  
Who shared the horror and kept on going, at last until the end.

We cannot know, we were not there, it's beyond our comprehension  
To know the toll that battle brings, of resolute intention  
To carry on, day by day, for all you loved and hoped for  
To live in peace a happy life, away from bloody war.

For far too many, no long life ahead, free of struggle and pain and the gun  
And we must remember the price that was paid, by each and every one  
Regardless of views, opinions aside, no matter how each of us sees it  
They were there and I cannot forget, even though I did not live it.

I do not know your name, but I know you died.  
I do not know from where you came, but I know you died.

***“They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them.”***



*Cradled in a manger, meanly  
Laid the Son of Man hid head;  
Sleeping his first earthly slumber  
Where the oxen had been fed.  
Happy were those shepherds listening  
To the holy angel's word,  
Happy they within that stable,  
Worshipping their infant Lord.*

Do you ever feel that we miss what Christmas is all about?

There are so many things going on during this time of year, it is easy to lose focus and perspective and to miss out on what this is all about. There are many good things that go on from a human perspective. Families get together, people give gifts to one another, friends and co-workers gather together. These things are not bad at all but when so much time is taken with pondering what to get, preparing what to make, purchasing the things you will give etc, we tend to lose our sense of Wonder and Awe of why it is we celebrate Christmas.

Christmas is a celebration about Jesus. It is a celebration of the Good News of Salvation through Jesus Christ and we should be awed at how much God loves us. It is the type of love for us that caused the Creator of every star in heaven, every drop of water in the oceans, every bird in the sky, every fish in the ocean, every animal on the planet, to send His One and Only Son into this world to be born as a baby – to grow up and to suffer as He withstood all temptation to sin, and then to die a brutal death so that He might give us the gift of salvation.

We should be awed by that kind of love.

If we read the account of the shepherds, the first thing we see is that the Good News is for everyone – the poor, the rich, the weak, the strong, the healthy, the sick, for women and men, the old and the young. Luke 2:10 says, *“But the angel said to them, Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people.”*

The gospel message matters for eternity and it matters right now in our lives. But we must also realise that our response to the Good News matters.

It is through our response that we are going to experience that Awe and Wonder of Christmas, just as the shepherds did. Luke 2: 17-18 *“when they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.”*

After the shepherds had heard what the angels had to say they believed it by faith and responded with true belief. They didn't say “oh, you two go and check it out and see if it is true and then come back and let us know.” No. they said “let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened. How are we responding to the Good News?”

The shepherds were also witnesses for the New Born King. Being a witness is telling what you have seen and know and believe. Just like they went to see the New Born King was believing with their actions, their being witnesses was believing with their words. We need to believe with our words as well. If we are going to continue to experience the Awe and Wonder of Christ in our lives, we have to tell others what we believe and know to be true, just like the shepherds did.

Finally, the shepherds worshipped the New Born King. They gave God glory. They gave God praise. They worshipped Him and valued Him. As they recounted their story, as they told others about the Christ Child, as they recounted what the Angels told them. They would experience a new sense of Awe and Wonder. We, as Christians, can have that too.

God has prepared a gift for us and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger.

Receive the gift, receive Jesus and experience the newness of life in Christ.

At Christmas time we light candles as a symbol that He came into this world as the one true light and when we trust in Jesus, His light enters us. As we see the light get brighter as more candles are lit, this is how it should be in our world as we share Jesus Christ and what He accomplished through His birth, His life, His death and His resurrection so that His light might shine brightly in our hearts.

Let your light shine before men this Christmas.



*And to those who never listened  
To the message of thy birth,  
Who have winter but no Christmas  
Bringing them thy peace on earth.  
Send to these the joyful tidings,  
By all people, in each home,  
Let them hear the Christmas anthem,  
Praise to God, the Christ has come.*



## QUIZ TIME!!

There are 30 books of the Bible in this paragraph – can you find them?

This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot, that's a fact. Some people however will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalised. Truthfully, from answers we get we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Philemonade booth set a new sales record. The local newspaper, the Chronicle, survived over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, the books are all right there in plain view hidden from sight. Those able to find all of them will hear lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur with numbers. Also, keep in mind that punctuation and spacers in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember there is no need for a mad exodus, there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found.

Happy hunting



There will be a small prize for the one who manages to find the most

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

	<b>Pregethwr /Preacher</b>
11/11/2018 10.00am	Rev Nicholas Bee <b>Communion/ Cymundeb</b>
18/11/2018 10.30am	Mr Cory Hampton
25/11/2018 2pm	Rev Chris Rees
02/12/2018 10.30am	Rev Adelaide Wheeler Cocks <b>Communion/ Cymundeb</b>
09/12/2018 6.30pm	Rev Nicholas Bee Welsh service with Côr Ty Tawe
16/12/2018 10.30am	Mr Cory Hampton
23/12/2018 TBC	Service of 9 Lessons - with Sunday Club
24/12/2018 11.15pm	Rev Nicholas Bee <b>Communion/ Cymundeb</b>
30/12/2018 TBC	Family Service
06/01/2019 2pm	Rev Davies
13/01/2019 10.30am	Rev Nicholas Bee <b>Communion/ Cymundeb</b>
20/01/2019 2pm	Mr Cory Hampton
27/01/2019 2pm	Rev Geraint Lloyd

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.

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### Announcements and Preparing Communion Table

November	December	January
Molly Thomas	Sian Cassell	Helen Gibbon
Carole Rees	Ian Wilkins	Pat Morgan

Editor this month: Mrs Carole Rees  
Please forward any news/articles to Carole at [carolerees4@gmail.com](mailto:carolerees4@gmail.com)  
[01267 222573] by 20<sup>th</sup> December