



# UPPER TROSNANT BAPTIST CHURCH

**March 2017  
Newsletter**



**“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-  
present help in trouble.  
(Psalm 46:1)**

**Sunday Services at  
11.00 am and 4.00 pm**

**A very warm welcome to you**

## Contents

	<b>Page</b>
Letter from Pastor Richard: Telling the next Generation	2
Pastor's preaching schedule	3
'The Six Ethics of Life'	3
Greetings from Doreen	4
All About BMS	5
The BMS Stamp Bureau	7
News from the Drews	8
The Life Exhibition: Q and As	9
Everything I need to know about Life, I learnt from Noah's Ark....	10
Services/Meetings	11
Prayer meetings	12
Weekly Rotas	13
Birthdays in March	13
Please pray for...	14
Life Exhibition	Back page
Contact details	Back page

**Duty Deacon:** Clare Hopkins

### **Newsletter Items:**

We are always happy to receive items for the newsletter. Please email items for the April 2017 Newsletter to [upper.trosnant@btinternet.com](mailto:upper.trosnant@btinternet.com) by **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March**

## **Letter from Pastor Richard**

### **Telling the Next Generation**

For over 20 years, I was involved in the education of children. I taught in several Primary schools, as well as teaching some individual lessons. And so, I know very well how important it is to make sure that those you are teaching are learning something useful.



Music was my subject, and the children used to thoroughly enjoy hitting seven bells out of percussion instruments. I am sure that many of you remember the trolleys that had those instruments on them, and how it was always great to be one of the first to choose which one you wanted.

As a Primary School teacher, I did not just teach music, though. The curriculum was wide and varied. But throughout, I always tried to give the children something to learn that would be of benefit to them in the future.

The Bible has a lot to say about passing on what is good and useful to younger people. We read this in Psalm 78:

*"We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord."*

So, it is not just a case of passing on useful information, here we are encouraged to tell the next generation about God, and what He has done. We are so grateful for those who, week by week, teach in our Sunday School to do just that. And we are praying that God will give us more people to join them. I also have the privilege of visiting 3 local schools on a regular basis to take Assemblies.....

And coming up at the end of this month there is the LIFE Exhibition (See page 9 and the back page for details).

The Bible takes very seriously teaching the next generation about God. Do we take it seriously too? Let's commit to praying for the ongoing Sunday School work and the upcoming Life exhibition. And if you get the opportunity, ask those involved how things are going. That will be such a great encouragement.

It is sometimes said that children and young people are the church of the future. I disagree with that – I believe they are part of the church of the present. Let's take seriously the teaching of the next generation, so that they will know of "*the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord.*"

**Love in Him,  
Pastor Richard**

### **Pastor's Preaching Schedule for March**

March 5 <sup>th</sup>	am: Is anything too hard for the Lord?	Genesis 18
	pm: What about faith and works?	James 2 v 14 - 26
March 19 <sup>th</sup>	am: Destruction!	Genesis 19
	pm: Watch what you say	James 3 v 1 – 12
March 26 <sup>th</sup>	am: God is in charge	Genesis 20
	pm: Get wisdom	James 3 v 13 – 18

### **The Six Ethics of Life**

Before you pray – Believe  
Before you speak – Listen  
Before you spend – Earn  
Before you write – Think  
Before you quit – Try  
Before you die – Live

**(from Janet Pollard)**

## **Greetings from Doreen**

We are so fortunate to be able to turn on a tap and release water – hot, or cold, always clean and safe to drink. Friends of mine in Tanzania sent pictures of a village water tap, newly installed so that the 2000 inhabitants no longer needed to walk for 2 hours there and back, to collect a bucket of water. But this morning's post brought news of a different kind. I quote: The water stopped flowing completely! One of the team swam upstream alongside the new pipe, to find the problem. Half way along he found a set of teeth marks and it had been pierced in several places. The locals informed us that it must have been a hippo!!

The next day the pipe was replaced and secured along the bank – safe from any further hippo attack – and the water started flowing again. I suppose that in every investigation and preparation for the installation of the water pipes, western minds did not consider the possible presence of a hippopotamus with sharp teeth! The locals, however, knew all about them. Possibly the local people could have told the water engineers where the hippos were – but equally possibly – the question about hippos was never asked.

To understand people, you have to live where they live, and share their neighbourhood, life style, and surroundings. Then hippos' teeth marks on a water pipe – or any other unexpected occurrence – do not take you by surprise. The Christian faith carries this guarantee. God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son – Jesus – to live as a human being on planet earth, so that we could never challenge Him with the objection, You did not understand us.

Nothing on Planet earth ever takes God by surprise. He has lived here and He is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. Therefore, consider these words in the Bible: "trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways submit to Him and He will make your paths straight." Don't let hippo teeth catch you unawares!

**Doreen, with love**

## **All About the BMS**

Upper Trosnant Baptist Church is committed to support BMS World Mission – but how much do you know about it?

BMS stands for Baptist Missionary Society. It is one of the oldest Protestant missionary organisations that is still up and running today. It was set up nearly 225 years ago, in 1792, by twelve Baptist ministers, in the town of Kettering in Northamptonshire, in response to the remarkable vision and faith of a young pastor called William Carey. Carey loved to read, and was especially inspired by books on the life and work of the American missionary, David Brainerd and, closer to home, the ministry of John Wesley.

Carey felt compelled to obey the Lord's command to go into all the world and preach the Gospel. In 1793, he and his family, with another missionary couple, were the first missionaries to be sent by the BMS, to Bengal in East India, as it was then. The things that he and his fellow missionaries accomplished there were absolutely remarkable. They firstly had to learn the language and when they had done so, they began to preach the Gospel and translate the Scriptures into the Bengali language. They also set up schools and even a college, so that even the poorest children could receive a basic education and training, and they helped to bring about many social reforms that greatly improved the lives of the poor and sick. Historians write of this period in Bengali society to be one of renaissance, and the work of the BMS missionaries is considered to have played a hugely significant part in this transformation of their society.

As news of all that the missionaries were doing reached Britain, they became an example and inspiration to many others, who courageously followed in their footsteps and applied to become missionaries themselves. It was not long before BMS missionaries, both men and women, were working in other countries in Asia, in Africa, the Caribbean, South America and parts of Europe. It isn't surprising that William Carey came to be known as the Father of Modern Missions!

The BMS has continued the work that William Carey and his fellow missionaries began with such faith and conviction so long ago, with

the same motto as William had: "Expect great things FROM God; attempt great things FOR God." At the present time, the BMS is supporting over 350 missionaries in 40 different countries. Some are short-term workers, some medium-term and some long-term, but all work with the same belief that William had so long ago, that God can and will do great things, and that they, trusting in Him, will attempt to do great things for Him!

The BMS mission statement for 2016-2020, states that they are aiming to reach at least one million people in various countries around the world with the gospel, and to bring them into the abundant life that only the Lord can give us.

### **The Drew family in Nepal**

One family that is working to that end is the Drew family, who have been living and working in the beautiful mountainous country of Nepal, on the northern border of India, since 2014. Chris and Debbie, with their four children Rebekah, Sam, Tabea and Joshua, moved to Katmandu from Afghanistan in 2014, just 7 months before the terrible earthquakes in 2015, that killed over 7 thousand and left more than 22,000 homeless. Chris has partnered with the INF (International Nepal Fellowship) to help the earthquake victims to recover from the trauma they've experienced and to rebuild hope as well as homes. Their BUILD BACK BETTER project helps them to rebuild their flimsy homes with sturdy materials that will be earthquake resistant and will give them a sense of security for the future.

Life as a missionary is rarely smooth-running, and since the Drews moved to Nepal, they've not only experienced two massive earthquakes, but also a fuel blockade that lasted for weeks and meant a loss of electricity for hours each day, as well as having no fuel for their vehicles. Last year the challenge was completely different. A visit to the UK to see family and friends was a welcome break for them, but then the Nepalese government refused to grant their visas so that they could return. Much prayer was needed to see a breakthrough, and having to wait several months, not knowing what the outcome would be, was a very testing time for them all.

Last year the challenge was completely different. A visit to the UK to see family and friends was a welcome break for them, but then the Nepalese government refused to grant their visas so that they could return for many months. It's great to be able to read how they are getting on in our newsletter.

The Drews, like all BMS missionaries, are supported by the gifts of individuals and churches in Britain. At Upper Trosnant, we have chosen to direct our gifts to the Drew family, as well as praying for them, and for the BMS as a whole. Let us pray with renewed faith, believing both for all the BMS workers and for ourselves, that whatever our circumstances may be, our God is able to do far above all we could ask or think or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us.

**Jill Morley**

### **BMS World Mission Stamp Bureau**

Thank you to everyone who collects stamps for BMS. Since the late 1920s, the BMS Stamp Bureau has been raising money for BMS World Mission by selling used postage stamps and other collectibles. In 1928, this first appeared in the BMS accounts as a contribution of £60; now contributions are raising over £10,000 in a year.

I have now received a letter from the Stamp Bureau thanking us for the parcel that we recently delivered. Last year they passed £15,000 from sales of donated material. At present the best sales are from old albums so if you have any lying around please let me have them. Remember the Bureau welcomes all stamp collections, stock books and all stamp collecting equipment. Other collectables are British coins and notes (pre-decimal and foreign), medals and badges – especially military, police or fire service, postcards – especially older ones, cigarette and tea cards, pre-1950 greetings cards, and old Christmas or birthday cards. Please encourage your friends to keep their stamps and even those from the schools, offices or shops where they work.

**You don't have to trim the stamps, but it is useful...  
PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU DO NOT DAMAGE THE STAMPS  
AS THEY THEN BECOME WORTHLESS!**

**Audrey Jones**

## News from the Drews



Sorry about our silence since our return Nepal at the end of last year. It's been a busy couple of months, with moving house, Christmas, and settling back into work, school and the usual routines. We are thankful to be back and are enjoying our new house (although we didn't enjoy the moving so much). We have Debbie's parents staying with us for the month of February and, as you can see, the weather is warming up already.

Sam has joined Rebekah in secondary school and they are both working hard. Debbie is juggling study for her Masters in International Human Resources whilst supervising the BMS Action Team (four women on a gap year). Although we received our visas and could return, many friends and colleagues haven't, and Chris remains deeply involved in negotiations with the government about this and INF's plans. INF also has funding challenges to be worked through in some big meetings in March. Still, it has been encouraging to see Nepali colleagues progressing the work through this time of uncertainty.

We remain so thankful for your interest and support for us as we seek to contribute to what God is doing in Nepal.

**With love from Chris, Debbie,  
Rebekah, Sam, Tabea and Joshua**

## **The Life Exhibition – Q and As**

### **What is the Life Exhibition?**

An exhibition on the Life of Jesus, making use of computer technology.

### **Who is it for?**

It is particularly designed for children between the ages of 9 and 11, but younger, and (much!) older people will find it of interest and benefit.

### **When is it on?**

From Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Where will it be?**

Pontymoile Mission Church.

### **Who has arranged it?**

The Torfaen and District Gospel Partnership, which is a group of local churches, has made the arrangements.

### **Who is going to it?**

Every local Primary School in our area has been invited to send their Year 5 and 6 classes. A number of them have responded positively, and will be there in particular daytime "slots" during that week.

### **Can other people go to it?**

The exhibition will be open on some evenings during the two weeks, please see the poster on the back page for details. In addition, members of the public are invited to go on **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April** anytime between **2.00 pm and 4.00 pm.**

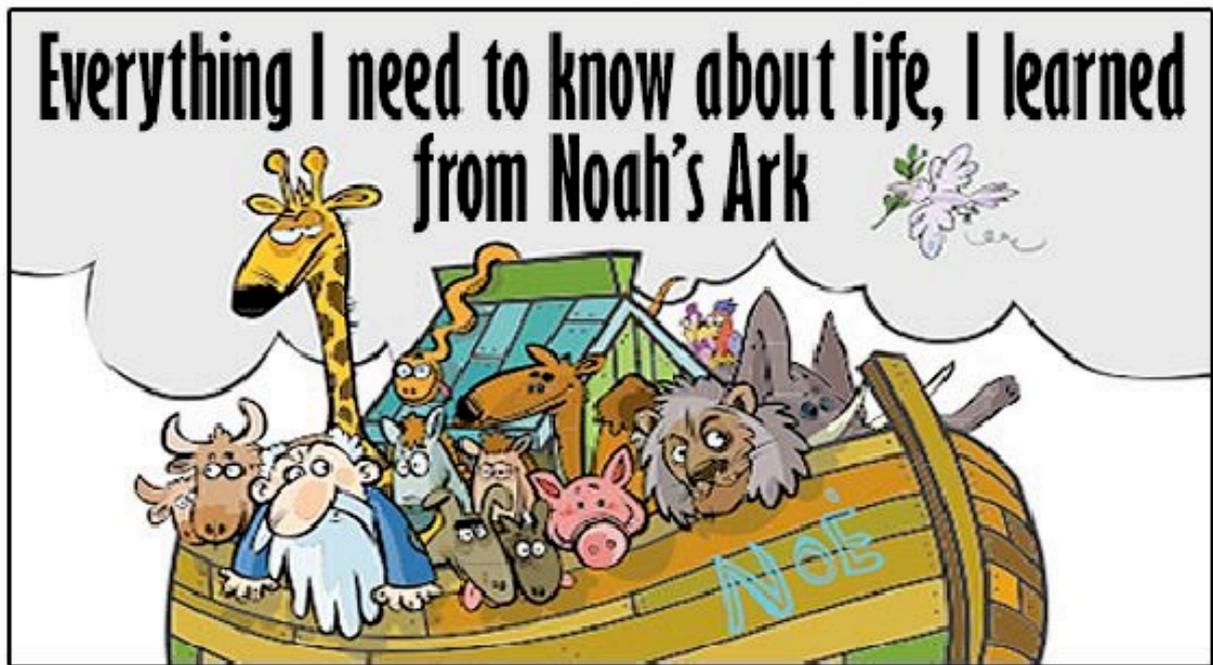
### **How can I be involved?**

First and foremost, please pray. There are prayer cards available, and there will be regular updates over the next few weeks with specific prayer points.

You might like to volunteer to help. You don't have to be a teacher, or good with technology. If you could be a steward or walk around with the children, that would be welcome.

### **Any other questions?**

Ask Pastor Richard!



1. Don't miss the boat.
2. Remember that we are all in the same boat.
3. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
4. Stay fit. When you are really old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
5. Don't listen to the critics. Just get on with the job that needs to be done.
6. Build your future on high ground.
7. For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
8. Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails came on board with the cheetahs.
9. When you're stressed, float a while.
10. Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.
11. No matter the storm, when you are with God there is always a rainbow waiting.

**(Thank you to Janet Pollard  
for sending this in to the Newsletter)**

## **Services/Meetings**

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>      11.00 am      Pastor Richard Miles.  
                         4.00 pm      Pastor Richard Miles (Communion).

### **Sisterhood Anniversary**

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>    11.00 am      The Rev. Richard Harrison.  
                         4.00 pm      The Rev. Richard Harrison.

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>    11.00 am      Pastor Richard Miles (Communion)  
                         4.00 pm      Pastor Richard Miles.

### **Mothering Sunday**

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>    11.00 am      Pastor Richard Miles (BMS collection).  
                         4.00 pm      Pastor Richard Miles (BMS collection).

### **Outreach Service**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup>      3.00 pm      Service for residents at Ty Bryn.  
Monday 20<sup>th</sup>    2.00 pm      Service for residents at Ty Ceirios.

## **Sisterhood**

### **Speakers**

Tuesdays	7th	Phil Norman
at 3 pm	14th	Ruth Quick
	21st	Jo Shanahan
	28th	Pastor John Funnell

## **Mid-week Bible Study and Prayer Meeting**

Wednesdays	1 <sup>st</sup>	Pastor Richard on Psalm 103
7.00 – 8.30 pm	8 <sup>th</sup>	Jill Morley on Proverbs
	15 <sup>th</sup>	Annmarie Miles
	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Phil Norman on Parables
	29 <sup>th</sup>	Prayer Meeting for the Life Exhibition

## **Ladies' Prayer Retreat**

Please join us on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March, when we will be led by Pastor Richard Miles. Coffee is served from 10 – 10.30 am, and everyone is warmly invited to stay and share in a light lunch together.

## **Ladies' Fellowship Meeting**

All ladies are warmly invited to an evening of conversation and fellowship over light refreshments in the Upper Trosnant Hall on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March, at 7.30 pm. See Annmarie for more details.

## **Eastern Valley Men's Christian Fellowship**

All men are invited to join us in the Hall on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March, for a fellowship meeting.

## **Prayer in the Vestry**

Every Monday 8.45 - 9.45 am

## **Monday Night United Prayer Meetings in Torfaen**

6 <sup>th</sup> March, 8 pm	Prayer for CAP, at the Lighthouse Church.
13 <sup>th</sup> March, 7 pm	Prayer for Youth, at High St, Abersychan.
20 <sup>th</sup> March, 7 pm	Prayer for Sunday Schools and LIFE Exhibition, in Upper Trosnant Vestry.
27 <sup>th</sup> March, 7pm	Prayer for Revival, at Penygarn.

## **Deacons' Meeting**

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 2.00 pm.

## Weekly Rotas

### Cleaning Rota

March 6 <sup>th</sup>	Janet and Jonathan Pollard
March 13 <sup>th</sup>	Janet Jones
March 20 <sup>th</sup>	Phil Norman
March 27 <sup>th</sup>	Keith and Barbara Fordham

### **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>**

Flowers	Rhoswyn Williams
Door – am	Barbara Fordham
Door - pm	Ann Price

### **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>**

Flowers	Audrey Jones
Door - am	<b>Could YOU welcome people today?</b>
Door – pm	Barbara Fordham

### **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>**

Flowers	Doreen Harrison
Door - am	<b>Could YOU welcome people today?</b>
Door – pm	Ann Price

### **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>**

Flowers	Annmarie Miles
Doors - am	Annmarie Miles
Doors – pm	Jill Morley

## **Birthdays in March**

9 <sup>th</sup>	Kath Jones (99)
20 <sup>th</sup>	Sue Martin
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Ann Price
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Keith Fordham; Steve Summers
24 <sup>th</sup>	Derek Wagg
26 <sup>th</sup>	Annmarie Miles

## **Please Pray For...**

- Pray for Pastor Richard and Annmarie as they work among us.
- Pray that our Church will grow: where is God calling you to share the Good News of Jesus?
- Pray for the leadership of Upper Trosnant: for Annmarie as she takes on the role of Deacon, and that others will join the diaconate.
- Pray for all the children who will see the Life Exhibition.
- Pray for the work of the Gospel as it is preached in Pontypool town centre every Wednesday morning.
- Pray for our Sunday School, its weekly activities and members.
- Pray for our organisations and meetings: The Sisterhood, the Ladies' Fellowship Meeting, the Men's Meeting, the Prayer Retreat, the mid-week Bible Study...
- Pray for Pastor Jesse Smith and the Travellers' Church.
- Pray for Naomi and Dale Norman in Australia.
- Pray for 'our' missionaries Chris and Debbie Drew in Nepal.
- Pray for all those we know who work for God, including Mike and Sue Martin, and Margaret and Roy Collins-Reese.
- Pray for our members and friends who are prevented by age or infirmity from worshipping with us on Sundays, including: Iris Cave, Kath Jones, David Wigley...
- Pray for those who are unwell or who are recovering from illness, including: Doreen Dixon, Jill Fryer, Audrey and Eric Jones, Alex Madden, Graham Morley, Helen Norman, David O'Shea, Janet Pollard, Ann Price, Ron Saunders, Jo Shanahan, Ann Stephens, Greta and Derek Wagg, Malcolm Williams...



**See it at PONTYMOILE MISSION  
7–9 pm on Wednesday 29 and Friday 31 March;  
7–9 pm on Monday 3, Weds 5, Thursday 6 April;  
and 2–4 pm on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April.**

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### **Contact Details**

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