



UPPER TROSNANT BAPTIST CHURCH

April 2018 Newsletter



**“Do not look for Him here. He has risen!”
(Luke 24: 6)**

Sunday Services at
11.00 am and 4.00 pm

A very warm welcome to you

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Newsletter Items:

We are always happy to receive items for the newsletter. Please email items for the May 2018 Newsletter to upper.trosnant@btinternet.com by **Sunday 15th April.**

Letter from Pastor Richard

I Serve a Risen Saviour

This is, in so many ways, the most important time of the year for us as Christians. We celebrate and thank God for the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Yes, He truly did rise from the dead. As the angel said to Mary on that first Easter morning:

“He is not here; He has risen just as He said. Come and see the place where He lay.”

(Matthew 28 v 6 (NIV))



Because He has risen, we can be confident of life for ever with Him. And that life starts now. We don't need to wait until after we have died – life with the risen Jesus goes on from day to day in all of the things we do and say. And we can know the risen Lord being with us. By His Holy Spirit, He will lead, guide and help us in all that we do.

And, we can know Him being with us as a church too. We are having a vision day on Saturday 14th April (details on page 5). As we thank God for what he has done in the past, and look to him for the future, we can know as a church that He will be with us. He will show us where He wants us to go and what He wants us to do. A dead person would not be able to do that!

Over the next few months, there will be some work done to make the steps outside of the hall safe to walk on (details on page 10). This is not a small thing, and it will mean building work with all the cost that entails. The Risen Lord will be with us in that, too.

And so, as individuals and as a church we can know the truth of these words that we so much enjoy singing:

*He lives! He lives!
Christ Jesus lives today.
He walks with me and talks with me
Along life's narrow way.
He lives! He lives!
Salvation to impart.
You ask me how I know he lives;
He lives within my heart.*

(Alfred Henry Ackley, © 1933, 1961 The Rodeheaver Co.)

Love in Him,

Pastor Richard

Pastor's Preaching Schedule for April

Easter Sunday

April 1	am: Living for the Risen Christ	Colossians 3 v 1 – 17
	pm: All age service: He is risen	Mark 16 v 1 – 8
April 15	am: Sisterhood Anniversary	Galatians 6 v 9 - 10
	pm: Baptismal Service	Acts 16 v 16 - 34
April 22	am: The Long road to satisfaction	Genesis 29 v 1 - 30
	pm: Judgment is a reality	Matthew 11 v 16 – 24

Everyone is invited to join us for the next

Creation Meeting, on Friday 20th April

when we will be watching the DVD "The Design Argument"
presented by Professor Stuart Burgess.

Greetings from Doreen

I would like to share some encouraging quotations with you: 'In the depths of winter, I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer.' (Albert Camus); 'If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant.' (Ann Broadstreet); 'If there were no tribulation, there would be no rest. If there were no winter, there would be no summer.' (St. John Chrysostom); And, giving the final word to William Shakespeare: 'April hath put a spirit of youth into everything!'

These winsome thoughts are particularly meaningful to me after suffering two strokes, from which, thanks to much prayer and good medical care, I am making a slow and steady recovery. First: No experience is ever wasted. Second: Every prayer is answered. Third: There is ALWAYS light after darkness. And, yes, a winter experience makes a spring encouragement all the more pleasant by contrast.

No experience is ever wasted. When I was in the stroke unit, my grandson, a third-year medical student in Brighton, was on placement in a stroke unit there. He said, 'Grandma, my approach to my work has changed. I realise now that every patient is someone's Grandparent.' I guess Medical School could not have given him such an awareness as did my illness! Every prayer is always answered. One night, in hospital, I needed the loo, and my bell wouldn't ring. What to do? Wisely – I prayed. Another elderly patient who was prone to wander, got up, wandered out of the ward, and the nurse who brought her back, saw my predicament and prayer was answered (!), albeit in a most unusual way.

And there is always light after darkness. I am realising yet again that nothing – absolutely nothing – can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. He was with me, He will be with me, and one day, I will be with Him. What a FRIEND we have, in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear, What a privilege, to carry everything, to God, in prayer. There are lots of opportunities to meet, here at Upper Trosnant Baptist Church, and find out more about His friendship. Enjoy April.

With my Love,

Doreen

Our Vision and Prayer Day – Saturday 14th April

We have a vision day about every two years. It is very important for us to consider what God has been doing amongst us and look to the future regarding what will happen.

There are many things to encourage us as a Church, and we will certainly be thinking about, and thanking God for them. There are also challenges that we are facing, and we will be considering them too.

We will meet from 10.00 am until 3.00 pm. The format of the day will be as follows:

1. Worship and Prayer
2. Looking back – what has God been doing amongst us?
3. Coffee
4. Looking forward – what does God want us to do?
5. Lunch
6. Prayer and Praise

Please consider carefully the questions in points 2 and 4. Ask the Lord to show you both what He has been doing and what He wants us as a church to do. We will be looking at all of the activities of the church, and thinking about where we can go with them, and also if there are any other things that we can be doing. We need to remember that our aims as a church are to build each other up in our faith and reach out to others with the Gospel of Jesus. Please be thinking of how we can do that.

Then, please make every effort to be there. It is good to hear what different people's perspective is on things. And, if you are not able to be there, then please write down your thoughts, and give them to one of the Leadership Team.

Prayer is a vital part of the day. If we do not pray, then there is no point in having plans and ideas. And so, please pray for the day both before and afterwards. We really want to hear from God and do what HE wants for us as a church.

Pastor Richard

News from B M S World Mission

Gym-ing with Joy!

BMS World Mission is showing people what Christianity looks like in Thailand – in a really original way!

Helen and Wit Boondeekhun moved to Wang Daeng village in the Thai province of Uttaradit with the long-term goal of planting a church. With no Christians in the village of five hundred families, the locals didn't know what Christianity looked like. So, to show God's love, Helen and Wit tried something new.

They carried out a survey of the village, asking what the people wanted most. One of the biggest issues identified was the state of the community gym. Wang Daeng's small open-air gym used to be the centre where people gathered. It was a place for the youth to go. But it fell into disrepair.

Helen and Wit believed that restoring the exercise equipment would bring back a sense of community to the village. After applying for a BMS grant, they employed a local worker to restore the gym. He fixed the old exercise bikes and other machines and built a roof to protect the equipment from the weather. He also added lights, meaning the villagers could exercise any time of the day.

Once the gym was restored, a grand re-opening ceremony took place. A local government representative came to unveil a plaque and give a speech. Leaders from all over the area arrived, ready to celebrate. Since then, the gym has consistently been used by the people of Wang Daeng, helping to restore community once more.

Helen and Wit are just getting started with BMS in Wang Daeng. And, by listening to the needs of the local people, they've demonstrated the love of a God who hears, and who wants to bring people into community. Our support of B.M.S. is helping them demonstrate their faith in a village with little Christian presence.

A Letter from Wallingford

News from Eric and Audrey

Hello Folks,

Well, it's now four months since we left Trosnant and South Wales and we do miss you and the hills and valleys. However, we are pleased to be living much closer to Audrey's daughters Emma and Linda. We are currently housed in a two-bedroom flat which is warm and comfortable but has meant we have had to downsize. We find it much easier to get about with the wheelchair and walkers as the area is flat. The shops are not far away so it is easy to get to the supermarket, chemists, banks and post office etc, also the Christian Bookshop. After a long time, it appears we have sold our house, so please pray that the sale will go through smoothly and that we will find a suitable place to purchase.

We are fortunate to have found a good Baptist Church here in Wallingford. It has a congregation of about 100 – 150 of all ages and so lots of children too. There are two Sunday Services at 10.30 am and 5.00 pm. The Sunday School and crèche go out in the morning service. In the week there are a number of activities. Life groups and prayer triplets meet in various homes. Eric has joined one group which consists of about six men who have a time of prayer and Bible study. On Thursday afternoons there is a meeting called Oasis open to men as well as women when there are various speakers and on occasions a time for sharing or a communion service. We are making new friends each week in Church and have been to lunch with one couple and another friend came here for coffee one morning and we also had a visit from the Pastor.

We have met quite a few people who originated from Wales, one lady lived in Griffithstown many years ago. Actually, a gentleman who passed away at 100 in a Llantarnam home this week was her brother-in-law. The Welsh people organise a Noson Lawen (a merry evening) once

a year. There was one arranged this year for Saturday, 3rd March, in a local Hall and we were invited to attend by some friends at Church. There were about 70 people present and the programme consisted of a lady playing her harp, some poems by Dylan Thomas and then everyone joined in singing Welsh songs and a couple of hymns. A buffet was served which included welsh cakes and bara brith.

So far, we have been very fortunate with the winter weather and it has not proved a hindrance here in Wallingford. Yes, we have seen some snow but no more than an inch or so and it all disappeared very quickly. We did drive down the road to Emma's – only 15 minutes in the car – a few days later and could see the white fields and evidence of the snow, and our granddaughter could not get to work one day, but we certainly escaped the worst of it.

We have had numerous dark days and the winds have been very cold, but it is reassuring to see the daffodils and hyacinths appearing in flower and to hear the birds in the morning indicating spring may be on the way.

There are a number of churches in the town: St Mary's (the Anglican church) which opens for a coffee morning, a Methodist church which serves lunch one day a week, plus various other activities such as a group which meets and knits for various charities. The Baptist church and the local Community church held a joint service and also took part in a week of prayer, so there is plenty to keep one occupied.

We would like to thank those of you who have contacted us from time to time and have given us any news. We do appreciate hearing the news and to be able to remember you all in our prayers. Praying that God will richly bless you all.

Love Eric and Audrey

Acrostic Poems by Harry Hunter

Easter

Even though the cross had staunched His breath,
And the tomb had set its seal on brutal death,
Sins of men yet stung in wounds still fresh,
The word no longer dwelt with us as flesh –
Even these could not prolong that darkest night.
Resurrected life kindled the world alight.

Fruits of the Spirit

Followers of Jesus
Respond with *love*, spread *joy*.
United
In the Spirit
They foster *peace*,
Show *patience*, and don't annoy.
Others' burdens bearing
Freely, gladly sharing
They act with *kindness*
Hold fast to all *goodness*
Eagerly affirm *faithfulness*.
Saints act with *gentleness* and
Practise *self-control*; they endure
Insults and injuries with
Rejoicing. To be sure,
If you abide in the Spirit,
Then you are free from the law.

Blessing

Before you rise from this place

Let a blessing rest on you and yours,

Everywhere you go may you encounter grace,

Safe in the promise that always endures;

So may the ground rise to meet your feet

Insecurities and worries cease

New friends be amongst the people you meet

Go in joy, go in love, go in peace.

The Steps Outside the Hall

The wooden steps outside the church hall were put in place at the time of building, and the intention was that the construction would be temporary. Therefore, something permanent would have to be put in place at some point. Well, that time has come, and so the wooden steps will be replaced by a stone and concrete structure.

There will be an extra Church Meeting to view the plans and have them explained to us by our engineer, Daniel Pearson. This will take place on Wednesday 18th April at 7.00 pm. Please try to be there if you can.

The work will mean some disruption for us as a church, for example the hall will be out of use while the work goes on. There is also a financial consideration which we will be bringing to the church in due course.

This is extremely important because the health and safety of everyone who comes to the hall matters greatly. We look forward to having solid, safe, non-slippery steps to walk on.

Pastor Richard on behalf of the Leadership Team

Services/Meetings

Sunday 1 st	11.00 am	Pastor Richard Miles.
	4.00 pm	Pastor Richard Miles: All Age Service.
Sunday 8 th	11.00 am	TBC
	4.00 pm	Mr Andy Toovey (Communion).
Sunday 15 th	11.00 am	Pastor Richard Miles (Communion).
	4.00 pm	Pastor Richard Miles: Believers' Baptism
Sunday 22 nd	11.00 am	Pastor Richard Miles
	4.00 pm	Pastor Richard Miles
Sunday 29 th	11.00 am	Pastor John Funnell, of Noddfa Baptist Church (BMS Collection).
	4.00 am	Simon Matheson of Christians Against Poverty (BMS Collection).

Outreach Services

Monday 2 nd	Bank Holiday: No Meeting at Ty Bryn.	
Monday 16 th	2.00 pm	Service for residents at Ty Ceirios.

Sisterhood Speakers

Tuesdays	3 rd	Anne Orphan
at 3 pm	10 th	Richard Harrison
	17 th	Richard Miles
	24 th	Sisterhood Lunch.

Midweek Bible Study and Prayer Meetings

Wednesdays	4 th	Evening of Prayer.
7.00 – 8.30 pm	11 th	Jill Morley.
	18 th	Special Church Meeting.
	25 th	Pastor Richard.

Ladies' Prayer Retreat

Please join us on Tuesday 3rd April when we will be led by Priscilla Pearson. 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 17th April at 7.30 pm. See Annmarie for more details.

Eastern Valley Men's Christian Fellowship

Please join us on Tuesday 10th April at 7.00 pm, for an evening of testimony, fellowship, and refreshments.

Meet on Monday

Ladies and Gentlemen are invited to join us at 2.30 on Monday 9th April for an afternoon of friendship and light refreshments. See Anthea for more details.

Prayer in the Vestry: Every Monday 8.45 - 9.45 am

Monday Night United Prayer Meetings in Torfaen

2 nd April	No Meeting – Bank Holiday
9th April, 8 pm	Prayer for Christians Against Poverty, at the Lighthouse Church.
16h April, 7 pm	Prayer for Youth and Children's work in our valley, at Upper Trosnant.
23rd April, 7 pm	Prayer for Youth and Children's work in our valley, at Upper Trosnant.
30th April, 7 pm	Prayer for Revival, at Penygarn.

Leadership Team Meeting: Tuesday 17th April at 9.30 am

Weekly Rotas

<u>Cleaning</u>	April 2 nd	Janet Pollard and Jonathan Pollard
<u>Rota</u>	April 9 th	Keith and Barbara Fordham
	April 16 th	Janet Jones
	April 23 rd	Phil Norman
	April 30 th	Janet Pollard and Jonathan Pollard

Sunday 1st	Flowers	Margaret Barlow
	Door – am	Barbara Fordham
	Teas – am	Barbara Fordham
	Door – pm	Rita Jones and Phyllis Jones

Sunday 8th	Flowers	Pam Charles
	Door – am	Anthea Scott
	Teas – am	Yvonne Walker
	Door – pm	Priscilla Pearson

Sunday 15th	Flowers	Doreen Harrison
	Door – am	Clare Hopkins
	Teas – am	Rhoswyn Williams
	Door – pm	Jill Morley

Sunday 22nd	Flowers	Priscilla Pearson
	Doors – am	Pam Charles
	Teas – am	Clare Hopkins
	Door – pm	Clare Hopkins

Sunday 29th	Flowers	Clare Hopkins
	Doors – am	Can YOU welcome people today?
	Teas – am	Can YOU help with teas today?
	Door – pm	Can YOU welcome people today?

Birthday in April

15th Doreen Harrison

Please Pray For...

- Pray for Pastor Richard and Annmarie as they work among us.
- Pray for our services, especially Easter Sunday, that God will be glorified in Pontypool.
- Pray for Rita and Shannon as they prepare for Baptism on April 15th and pray that the Lord will use this service to call others to follow and serve Him.
- Pray that the Lord will raise up new leaders and workers in our Church; pray especially for new leaders in our Sunday School.
- Pray for Upper Trosnant's Vision and Prayer Day on April 14th, that we will see clearly the Lord's Will for our Church.
- 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 all those we know who work for God, including Mike and Sue Martin in Exmouth; Margaret and Roy Collins-Reese in Toulouse; and 'our' missionaries Chris and Debbie Drew.
- Pray for Keith Fordham as he undergoes eye surgery, and for Helen Norman as she struggles with pain.
- Praise the Lord for Doreen Harrison's continued recovery.
- Pray for Dale and Naomi Norman as they seek to settle in the UK.
- Pray for our members and friends who are prevented by age or infirmity from worshipping with us on Sundays, including Kath Jones and David Wigley.

Pray for those who are unwell or who are recovering from illness or accidents, including: Doreen Dixon, Alex Madden, Janet Pollard, Ann Price, Ron Saunders, Jo Shanahan, Ann Stephens, Greta and Derek Wagg, Marion Webb, Malcolm Williams...

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