



UPPER TROSNANT BAPTIST CHURCH

April 2017 Newsletter



“At the name of Jesus every knee should bow... and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord.” (Philippians 2: 10-11)

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

A very warm welcome to you

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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 by **Sunday 12th March**

Letter from Pastor Richard

The Greatest Events of All

In all of our lives, there are significant events – birthdays, anniversaries, job opportunities, retirement even to name but a few. And, very often we celebrate those, maybe with a party or gathering of some sort to mark the occasion. They are times when we can share in the joy of others. I must admit personally, being a quiet sort of person, I don't like a big fuss made, but I do appreciate birthdays etc. being marked in some way.



We are coming into the season of Easter. This certainly is a time to celebrate and be glad. The most significant events in human history are being marked – the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

But why should we mark them? Why are they so significant? And what is to celebrate?

In His death, Jesus provided forgiveness of sins for us. We all need to be forgiven – if we are honest we must admit that we all do things that are wrong. Jesus was not like that – He was perfect, but willingly died instead of us. Because of that, if we ask Him, God will freely forgive us for the wrong things we do and have done.

In the resurrection, God declared that He was pleased with what Jesus had done, and that now we can know the hope of new life – for ever! Forgiveness and new life – that is surely worth celebrating! We have opportunities to be together to do that over the Easter period. It will be great to rejoice in what God has done for us in Jesus.

Love in Him, Pastor Richard

Pastor's Preaching Schedule for April

April 9 th Palm Sunday	am: The King is coming	John 12 v 12 – 18
	pm: The King will die	John 12 v 19 – 36
April 16 th Easter Sunday	am: The King has risen!	John 20 v 1 – 18
	pm: The King appears	James 3 v 1 – 12
April 30 th	am: A child is born	Genesis 21
	pm: Get wisdom	James 3 v 13 – 18

Our Sister Iris Cave

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the death of our sister Mrs Iris Cave, on Friday March 17th in Neville Hall hospital, following a fall at her home. Iris was a much loved member of the Church and Sisterhood, and a powerful prayer warrior. She will be greatly missed by us all, even as we rejoice that she is now home with the Lord. Iris will be remembered in full in the next edition of the Newsletter.

Got Any Questions...?

I hope you are experiencing the benefit and blessing of God's Word as we make our way through Genesis in the morning services and James in the afternoon services. Preparation for these sermons takes time and effort. My prayer is that God will help us all to understand what it is He wants to say to us from His word. And maybe you have questions...

Well if you have, I'd like to try to answer them. Not just questions about the sermons. Is there a line of a hymn that you've always wanted to know more about? Then please let me know.

Each month I'll be answering a question in the magazine, so keep them coming. You can submit your question by email, you can ask me directly, or drop it in the church letter box near the side gate. I won't add the name of the person who submitted the question. So feel free to ask away...

Pastor Richard

Greetings from Doreen

Why was it so quiet, that first Easter morning? We would have expected the heavenly host to be there, singing Allelujahs as Jesus Christ strode out of his death cave, alive for ever more. But there was just one angel, sitting nonchalantly on the stone he had rolled away – no trumpets, no obvious triumph, just the clearness of early dawn, the sweet song of the birds, and the faithful women, who came to mourn the dead.

Why so low key? Why? Because God always wins. He is infallible, ineffable, inexpressibly accurate in everything He does, and because He is so great and glorious we must always expect amazing acts of grace – and not be amazed when His miracles are presented to us. Of course Jesus came back from the dead. He is God, Saviour, Prince of Peace. We can depend on Him to be with us now and throughout all eternity. He is the mighty conqueror.

The quiet loveliness of the early morning in the garden underlines the fact that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but will have eternal life. This glorious truth needs no decoration to improve its wonderful impact on time and eternity. The scene in the garden is a declaration of Jesus promise: Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid (St John chapter 16 v. 27).

One day, at the name of Jesus, every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth, and under the earth, and every tongue will acknowledge Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the father. (Philippians Chapter 2 v. 10-11.) Then the heavenly host will sing – then the sky will thrill with rapture – but on the first Easter morning, bird song was sufficient acclaim for the undeniable fact that Christ IS risen, He is risen indeed.

Doreen, with love

My Favourite Hymn

During the last six months we have been inviting members of the congregation to choose their favourite hymns to be sung in Church. This new feature in services has been very much appreciated by everyone. Not only have we enjoyed praising the Lord in some wonderful songs both old and new; but we have also been greatly blessed by hearing the stories of how particular hymns came to be written, and what they mean to the people who chose them. Here are two recent favourites:

"Father I Place into Your Hands"

I have chosen this hymn because it is such a powerful prayer, and really shows us how to pray in all circumstances. There is so much in it. It tells of things like, things I can't do. There are so many things out of my control, but I can pray about them and place them in God's hands. I can't do anything about the weather... I can't stop wars, earthquakes, people saying things about me... I can't make people agree with me!

This hymn talks about things I've been through. I've been through depression; divorce; guilt; pain. Others will have been through these things too, and much more.

It talks about friends and family. Many things about friends and family go wrong. There is sickness, separation, children going the wrong way, divorce, tragedy. Then there are things that trouble me – maybe it's health, relationships, decisions, or doubt.

Then the hymn talks about things I would like to be. How would you like to be? Perhaps more patient; humorous; joyful; helpful; a person who trusts in God completely. These are just a few of the things mentioned in this lovely song.

There is no safer place to be than in God's hands, and by faith we ARE in God's hands. So let us enjoy the peace that this hymn gives us when we sing it.

Eric Jones

“Teach Me to Dance”

Our Lord Jesus Christ was undoubtedly the greatest teacher who walked on this earth. So who better to learn from, I ask myself. Jesus will teach me personally. I don't have a personal trainer, but I most certainly do have a personal Saviour!

I chose 'Teach me to Dance' as my favourite hymn. It's a catchy little tune – but one that will really get on your nerves after a while! However, the words are profound. It says it all for me; it is like a prayer, set to music.

I need to be in tune, and in touch, and to be aware of the beat of His heart. I need to be able to say, 'What can I do for you, Lord? My desire is to bring you praise, and joy, and pleasure. Heaven knows, I've caused you enough pain and sadness.'

Jesus, as we know was a Jew. They enjoy dancing – Hava Nagila, for example. I wonder if He danced at his bar mitzvah? Or along the shores of Lake Galilee with His disciples? They were young, and they were on a mission. Did they enjoy dancing that was not rehearsed, but spontaneous, charismatic dancing, like King David when the Ark of the Covenant was being returned to the tabernacle? David danced because he was so happy.

Yes, Jesus was an excellent teacher. Teach us to pray, they said, and so we have the Lord's Prayer, which we have learned and committed to memory. It is like a dance that has been choreographed and rehearsed, but, as we know, our God is also blessed by our spontaneous prayers and dances.

So are we spiritually fit and well, healthy Christians who have been taught to dance and move and walk, to love and trust and hope and act, by the Master Himself?

We are truly blessed to have such a wealth of hymns and songs of praise at our disposal. They are aids to worship because they help us to express our thoughts and feelings of thankfulness, love and gratitude to God.

Val Attwell

The Sisterhood Anniversary



The Upper Trosnant Sisterhood celebrated their anniversary in a special service on Sunday 12th March. Helen led the service, calling everyone to order with a loud ring on the Sisterhood bell. She also introduced 'It is Well with my Soul' as her favourite hymn, and led the Church in prayer.

The ladies took part in the service in various ways, and the congregation greatly enjoyed their contributions. Rhoswyn and Janet J. read poems (which can be read in this newsletter). Annmarie sang a beautiful solo, 'Tis finished, the Messiah dies', and the Sisterhood 'choir' led the Church in singing 'Great is thy Faithfulness'. The Bible reading was brought to us by Doreen, and the preacher was Richard Harrison, who spoke on the Parable of the Wedding Banquet.

At the end of the service the Sisterhood gathered for this lovely photograph in the Vestry. As the picture shows, they are a joyous group of ladies who love to meet together, and they are a great blessing to our Church. Please continue to pray for their members and meetings.

Happy 99th Birthday



Thursday 9th March was a very special day, when our oldest Church Member, Mrs Kath Jones, celebrated her 99th birthday. Doreen and Richard went to visit her where she lives in the Abbeyfield Home in Caerleon to share in a small party with her family and friends.

It is amazing to think that Kath was born in the last year of World War One, and has seen so many great changes in the World during her long life. She has strong and happy memories of her many years living at Pontymoile, and attending Upper Trosnant. Please pray for her that she continues in good health now she has entered her 100th year.

Important to Us!

We have a new noticeboard in the Hall! It will be put up next to the main noticeboard, and is intended for photographs and notices that are 'Important to us', such as the two pictures on this page. What would you like to share there with our church family?

'New Life'

All nature heeds the call of spring
As God awakens everything,
And all that seemed so dead and still
Experiences a sudden thrill.

As spring time lays a magic hand
Across God's vast and fertile land,
Oh how can anyone stand by
And watch a sapphire springtime sky?

And flowers sleep beneath the ground,
But when they hear spring's wakening sound
They push themselves through layers of clay
To reach the sunlight of God's day.

From 'Daily Steppingstones' by Helen Steiner Rice

Father God, when I think of the wonders of which you have created and the glory of your power I am overwhelmed with love and admiration. Jesus, help me to realise that I am a seed planted in my Master's garden – but I can grow and blossom and become a flower worthy to be picked and placed in His bouquet.

This beautiful poem was read by Rhoswyn in the Sisterhood Anniversary service. Does anyone else have a favourite poem for the Newsletter?

Update on the Ladies Evening Fellowship

The Ladies Evening Fellowship meeting started back in September of last year and though numbers are small, we've always enjoyed our times together. In December, 8 of us went out for dinner at the Harvester. Our April meeting will also be an evening out.

We meet in the church hall for a chat and some light refreshments. The subjects have been wide ranging and we always enjoy a time of fun and sharing; learning more about each other and the Lord.

All ladies are welcome to join us on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm. Remember we're going out together in April. You are welcome to join us, even if you can't regularly attend the meeting. Let me know if you're interested.

An Invitation for Flat Food!

By the time you read this, we'll have had 3 flat food events. We have so enjoyed them (and hopefully the guests have too). The flat has been our home for a year now, but it's only our home because you, the church, have loaned it to us. We'd love to welcome you for food, a tour of the flat and an afternoon or evening of fellowship. So take a look at the dates on the notice board and sign up for the next one. Then come and tell me what you'd like to eat....

Annmarie x

United Service

The next United Service in Pontypool will be hosted by the Salvation Army on Sunday 30th April. It is a great encouragement to all of God's people when we come together to share in worship together. But the service starts at 5 pm, so we are looking for volunteers to represent Upper Trosnant. You will need either to miss the afternoon service, or to leave very early. Please speak to Pastor Richard if you would like to go.

Services/Meetings

Sunday 2nd 11.00 am The Rev. Richard Harrison.
4.00 pm The Rev. Richard Harrison (Communion).

Palm Sunday

Sunday 9th 11.00 am Pastor Richard Miles.
4.00 pm Pastor Richard Miles.

Good Friday

Friday 14th 7.00
pm The Rev. Richard Harrison (Communion).

Easter Sunday

Sunday 16th 11.00 am Pastor Richard Miles (Communion)
4.00 pm Pastor Richard Miles.

Sunday 23rd 11.00 am Mr Sam Oldridge
4.00 pm Mr Sam Oldridge

Sunday 30th 11.00 am Pastor Richard Miles (BMS collection).
4.00 pm Pastor Richard Miles (BMS collection).

Outreach Service

Monday 3rd 3.00 pm Service for residents at Ty Bryn.
Monday 24th 2.00 pm Service for residents at Ty Ceirios.

Sisterhood

Speakers

Tuesdays	4 th	The Rev. John Funnell
at 3 pm	11 th	Easter Celebration led by the Rev. Richard Harrison
	18 th	No Meeting
	25 th	Val Attwell

Weekly Rotas

Cleaning Rota

April 3 rd	Janet and Jonathan Pollard
April 10 th	Janet Jones
April 17 th	Phil Norman
April 24 th	Keith and Barbara Fordham

Sunday 2nd

Flowers	Jo Shanahan
Door – am	Barbara Fordham
Door – pm	Ann Price

Sunday 9th

Flowers	Pam Charles
Door – am	Annmarie Miles
Door – pm	Barbara Fordham

Sunday 16th

Flowers	Caitlin Summers
Door – am	Clare Hopkins
Door – pm	Ann Price

Sunday 23rd

Flowers	Clare Hopkins
Doors – am	Doreen Harrison
Doors – pm	Clare Hopkins

Sunday 30th

Flowers	Helen Norman
Doors - am	Pam Charles
Doors – pm	Jill Morley

Birthdays in April

7 th	Grace Hopkins (18)
13 th	Doreen Harrison
23 rd	Carol Haines

Please Pray For...

- Pray for Pastor Richard and Annmarie as they work among us.
- Pray for our Easter services, that many will come to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord.
- Praise Him for the life of our sister Iris Cave; pray for her family that they will be comforted as they grieve.
- Pray for the Upper Trostnant AGM: that all that we do as a Church will bring glory and honour to the Lord.
- Pray for the work of the Gospel as it is preached in Pontypool town centre every Wednesday morning.
- Pray for our Sunday School, that the Lord will raise up more helpers and leaders.
- 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 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, Janet Pollard, Ann Price, Ron Saunders, Jo Shanahan, Ann Stephens, Greta and Derek Wagg, Malcolm Williams...

"So Little Time"

We cannot stop the years that roll – so little time to save the soul.
So little time for thoughts of doubt – for time is slowly running out.

So little time to plant and sow, so little time to watch seeds grow.
So little time for growing old, and wonder where the years have rolled.

So little time of life is true, it's just a moment passing through.
The precious days that still remain are yours to lose, or yours to gain.

So little time to find the way to seek salvation while you may.
So little time on finding how – The time has come to find it now.

Terry Jones

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