



UPPER TROSNANT BAPTIST CHURCH

September 2018 Newsletter



**"As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."
(Genesis 8 verse 22)**

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 articles or features for the October 2018 edition to **uppertrosnantbc@gmail.com** by **Sunday 16th September 2018**

Letter from Pastor Richard

Changes

We are come towards the end of the Summer. For most of the season (and up until the time of writing), as I mentioned in the last newsletter, we have known warm, dry weather. And we trust that we will have a pleasant September.

But, over the next few months things will change. The evenings will continue to get darker, it will become cooler, and probably wetter. The leaves will start to change colour on some of the trees, and then fall off. The changing of the seasons is something that God himself promised would happen:



*"As long as the earth endures,
seedtime and harvest,
cold and heat,
summer and Winter,
day and night
will never cease."* (Genesis 8 v 22 (NIV))

And, of course we celebrate Harvest very soon as well. We thank God for his faithfulness, and even though the seasons change he does not. We can continue to trust him for our lives.

There are some changes that are good for us. When we come to know Jesus, then our lives change. We live for him rather than ourselves, and we need to keep praying that our lives will continue to change as we become more like him in what we think, do and say.

We also need to pray as we hear his Word each week, that too will change our lives. I have often said, we know that God is with us by his

Spirit as we meet, and often we can feel that as we are together. We need to pray that he will be active to change our lives as we get to know him better. You may also notice some small changes as we meet together. It is good that we do not do things in a certain way just because we always have done them that way!

And we trust that God will continue to change us until one day we go to be with him for ever:

*Changed from glory into glory,
till in Heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before Thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise.*

(Charles Wesley)

Love in Jesus,

Pastor Richard

Pastor's Preaching Schedule for September

September 2	am Love God and each other	1 John 2 v 3 - 11
	pm: Dedication service for baby Felicity Norman	Mark 10 v 13 – 16
September 16	am: Harvest Praise	Psalms 67
	pm: Harvest Celebration	All Age Service
September 30	am: Desire for growth	1 John 2 v 12 – 17
	pm: A little goes a long way	Matthew 13 v 31 - 35

Building Works Update

During September, Daniel Pearson and his team will be starting work on the new ramp and steps into the Hall. The work is expected to take approximately six weeks to complete. During this time all meetings that normally take place in the Hall will be held in the vestry, and so will S-Club and refreshments after services. The 'Grand Opening' of the Hall will be celebrated with the 2018 Harvest Supper – date to be announced soon!

Greetings from Doreen

The Bible offers this advice: 'It is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.'

Our world is so noisy – the media chatter, natter, clatter continually about death, destruction, deviation, devastation, dilemma, degradation (phew!) – that it requires great determination to just 'Be still, and know that I am God'! And yet, amongst all the social spite and splatter, the splendour of God's presense never changes, or fails. The Bible declares, 'Because of the Lord's great love, we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning. Great is YOUR faithfulness.'

The personal pronoun 'your', refers to the Lord, which is why I have put it in capital letters – but it can also be applied to those of us who are Christians – maybe followed by a question mark?

Consider this true story. We have a young friend who works in Ethiopia, in a missionary youth centre. Groups of young people from the city, street kids, a contact with a school for the deaf, make for a busy outreach. Then, in the spring, the local Science and Technology Bureau proposed to take over the youth centre site, and suddenly, the Christian work seemed to be surplus! What to do, now? They did not argue with authority, or organise a petition, or complain about the way in which their care and concern for young people was being ignored. They prayed – and organised other people to pray. I quote from a letter received in August: 'There has been great news. We have heard definitely that a different site has been chosen by the Bureau, and so our work can continue!'

If we, here in Upper Trosnant, take God at His word, and begin to pray and witness faithfully for His names sake – what might happen here?

Doreen, with love

Christmas is Coming!

Upper Trosnant has been supporting the work of Operation Christmas Child for many years now. The number of Shoeboxes that have set off from our small church, brightly wrapped and packed with gifts, must run into many hundreds! We may not know the names of the children who have received them, but we do know that each box has gone to a boy or girl who would otherwise have received nothing for Christmas – children in orphanages, hospitals, refugee camps, and poor communities where families struggle to find the basic necessities of life.

Many individuals have helped – but the great mainstay of Upper Trosnant's work for Operation Christmas Child has for many years been Audrey Jones, who has worked tirelessly distributing leaflets, wrapping boxes, knitting toys, hats and mittens, arranging spare gift items for swaps on the table in Hall, coordinating the collection and dispatch of the boxes to the local depot, and taking charge of the money needed to send them on their journey. Audrey will be a very hard act to follow since she and Eric moved to Oxfordshire - nonetheless, the ladies of Sisterhood are determined that Operation Christmas Child (Upper Trosnant) will continue to happen, so this year I will be taking over the role of organiser. Please see me if you would like a copy of the leaflet, or are able to help in any way.

Janet Pollard

Meanwhile, if you are planning on filling a box this year, here are some key things to remember:

How to pack a Shoebox

Samaritan's purse ask us to pack presents for children in three age groups – 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14 – and to choose items that are appropriate for either a boy or a girl of that age. The ideal size is the box of a woman's shoe 6 – a little larger is fine, but a boot box or a man's trainers box, for example, is too big. There are many special offers and bargains to be had as children go back to school this month.

Samaritan's purse suggest items from the following list:

- **Toys:** include items that children will immediately embrace such as dolls or stuffed toys (with CE label), toy cars and trucks, harmonica, yo-yo, skipping rope, ball, small puzzles...
- **School Supplies:** Pens, pencils & sharpeners, crayons or felt pens, chalks, stamps & ink pad sets, writing pads or notebooks & paper, solar-powered calculators, colouring & picture books...
- **Hygiene items:** Toothbrush and toothpaste, bars of wrapped soap, comb or hairbrush, flannel...
- **Other items:** Hat, cap, gloves or scarf, sunglasses, hair accessories, jewellery set, wind up torch, wrapped sweets (best-before-date must be at least March 2019).

Items that we cannot send as gifts

There are some items that we are not allowed to send. **Please do NOT include:** second-hand or damaged items; war related items such as toy guns, play soldiers or knives; chocolate [it melts!] or other food items besides sweets; liquids or lotions of any type including bubbles; medicines; hand-made or knitted stuffed toys [because the stuffing cannot be checked]; anything of a political, racial or religious nature; sharp objects; glass containers, mirrors or fragile items; playing cards of the 4-suit variety; clothing other than as listed above.

Don't Forget to swap and share!

Even though we will be short of space in the Vestry while the building work is going on outside the Hall, we will be coordinating the swapping and sharing of surplus or extra items. Perhaps you have bought an item and stationery and received another one free? Or do you have any empty shoeboxes that you could you bring them along for somebody else to fill up? Our wonderful team of knitters meanwhile, will be making hats, mittens, glove puppets and bags to suit all ages and sizes for us all to include in our boxes.

And finally, please share the news of Operation Christmas Child with your friends, colleagues or neighbours; they are very welcome to contribute a box too. The Service of Blessing will be held in November – date to be announced in the next newsletter!

GSUS LIVE – Your Questions Answered

What is GSUS Live?

GSUS Live is a mobile education unit which is a multi-media classroom in a lorry trailer. It tells the story of three teenagers facing real-life issues in their lives, and how they get inspiration from the Bible to deal with their problems. Using touch-screen computers, participants can interact with fictional characters through animations, instant chat, short educational films and music videos. GSUS Live explores what Jesus taught about the themes of fear, forgiveness and rejection, and explains the central belief of Christianity – why Jesus died and rose again.

Who is it for?

GSUS Live is designed for secondary school pupils in Key Stage 3 – that is, children aged 11-14, in Years 7, 8, and 9. It is a popular and trustworthy RE resource created by professionals. Famous public figures such as Martin Luther King and Malala Yousafzai feature in the short films. Visiting GSUS Live complements existing teaching in the RE and PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) syllabuses.

How do they get to see it?

GSUS Live is housed on a purpose-built trailer which arrives in the school car park and transforms into a large interactive learning space. The trailer weighs in at 14 tonnes and when fully deployed occupies an area approximately the length of 6 car parking spaces! Children with special educational needs are provided for, and there is a wheelchair lift to allow access for all.

Who Runs GSUS Live and how much does it cost?

GSUS Live is a core outreach activity provided by Counties Evangelism. It has already been used in over 800 UK secondary schools since 2000 and visited by around 500,000 pupils. There are two mobile units which in 2016 were given a £150,000 upgrade. It costs approximately £1,000 a week to run, but – amazingly – it is FREE for schools to use because the visit is sponsored by Counties, and other donor partners including a Christian grant-making trust. GSUS Live also relies on donations from churches and individuals, and on local volunteer staff.

Which schools are taking part?

GSUS Live will be in our area between 10 September and 26 October. It will be at the following schools:

Blackwood Comprehensive	10 – 14 September
West Monmouth School	17 – 21 September
Rougemont School	24 – 28 September
Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw	1 – 5 October
King Henry 8 th , Abergavenny	8 – 12 October
Cyfartha School, Merthyr	15 – 19 October
Pen y Dre High School, Merthyr	22 – 26 October

Why are volunteers needed and what do they have to do?

Counties staff do not stay with the unit, but they provide full training and support to local organisers who take charge of day-to-day operations. This is a great way for churches like Upper Trosnant to build lasting relationships with local comprehensive schools and young people. Volunteers are needed to undertake all sorts of roles, from welcoming each group of children and keeping the unit tidy, to helping with the equipment, introducing sessions, and answering questions that may arise. Nobody is expected to volunteer for the whole six weeks – but do you have a day or two to give while GSUS Live is in Torfaen? The training afternoon is at Blackwood on Saturday 8 September from 1–3 pm. Please speak to me if you would like to help.

I will pray for GSUS Live. What are the greatest needs?

Please pray for the thousands of pupils and teachers who will visit GSUS Live in our area. Pray that the presenters will communicate clearly what the Bible teaches, and pray for a lasting impact on the young people. Pray for the safety and security of each session, and that the hardware and software will run smoothly. Most of all, pray for the building of ongoing relationships between churches and schools.

Can I find out more?

Watch the introductory video at: <http://www.countiesuk.org/schools-work/gsus-live/introductory-video>, or please come and ask me.

Priscilla Pearson

Thank You from Vision of Hope

We were greatly blessed by a visit from the residents of the Vision of Hope Farm on Sunday 12th August. The testimonies of young people who, through the power of Jesus, have escaped from a life enslaved by drugs and addictions were wonderful and inspiring. Maurice writes:

Dear Friends at Upper Trosnant Church,

It was such a pleasure to share with you all that God is doing, and for you to see the lads who have now given their lives to Jesus and are growing in Him.

We are thrilled with your lovely gift, and for donations given for eggs and cards. You play such an important part in the ministry of Vision of Hope. Without the help of friends like you, I don't know how we could manage this work of winning the lost for Him. One day in Heaven you will truly see what God has done because you faithfully prayed for us and gave such lovely gifts and food.

From David and Dinah and all our staff and lads a huge Thank You, and to God be all the glory.

Maurice Jones

Torfaen and District Gospel Partnership

Prayer Breakfast

9.00 am

Saturday 1st September

at Penygarn Baptist Church

Happy New Year!

Did that heading surprise you – a Happy New Year in September?! But stop and think for a moment about how many 'New Years' we have in our lives. January 1st might be the day when we put the new calendar on the wall, but anyone who fills out a tax return will know that for Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, the financial year starts on April 6th. And those of us with children or grandchildren, or who remember for themselves that anxious feeling of the first Monday in September – What will my new school be like? Who will my teacher be? Will I still be with my friends? – will know that the New Year is NOW! The school year begins in September because, historically, children and young people had a long summer holiday so that they could help with bring in the harvest. September is also the time when many people take up new hobbies – evening classes and clubs start their new sessions, while some of us may come back from our holidays and resolve that we will start going to the gym....

What resolution will you make this 'New Year'? Perhaps the Lord has been speaking to you about spending more time in prayer, coming to services more regularly, or reading His word; or perhaps you feel called to take up a new activity in the Church. Upper Trosnant offers plenty of opportunities to get involved – just take a look at the next few pages in this newsletter!

The ladies of Sisterhood would love to welcome you to their friendly meeting on Tuesday afternoons, where you can enjoy singing some favourite hymns, listening to an inspiring speaker, and chatting over light refreshments. Or if the evening suits you better, why not come along to the Ladies Fellowship and make new friends as you get stuck into a discussion – suggestions for new topics are welcome. For gentlemen there is the monthly fellowship, with interesting speakers and outings; while men and women are all welcome at Open House on the second Monday of each month. Every Wednesday evening meanwhile, you are welcome to come along to the Prayer Meeting and Bible Study – the time usually flies by as we share needs and discuss the Bible together. And finally – to you feel ready to take up some new role in our Church? Please take a look at the rotas on p.13, or have a word with one of the leadership team.

Services/Meetings

Sunday 2nd 11.00 am Pastor Richard Miles.
 4.00 pm Pastor Richard Miles (Dedication service).
Sunday 9th 11.00 am Mr Alan Petersen.
 4.00 pm Mr Alan Petersen (Communion).

Harvest Sunday

Sunday 16th 11.00 am Pastor Richard Miles.
 4.00 pm Pastor Richard Miles (All-Age Service).
Sunday 23rd 11.00 am Mr Geoff Champion (Communion).
 4.00 am Mr Geoff Champion.
Sunday 30th 11.00 am Pastor Richard Miles (BMS Collection).
 4.00 pm Pastor Richard Miles (BMS Collection).

Outreach Services

Monday 3rd 3.00 pm Service for residents at Ty Bryn
Monday 17th 2.00 pm Service for residents at Ty Ceirios.

Sisterhood Speakers

Tuesdays 4th Pastor Richard
at 3 pm 11th Pastor Jayne Harris
 18th Annmarie Miles
 25th Pastor Jonathan Forman

Midweek Bible Study and Prayer Meetings

Wednesdays 5th Pastor Richard Miles
6.50 – 8.30 pm 12th Annmarie Miles
 19th Priscilla Pearson
 26th Phil Norman

(Please come for tea, coffee and biscuits at 6.50,
ready to start the meeting at 7.00.)

Ladies' Prayer Retreat

Please join us on Tuesday 4th September when our speaker will be Jacqui Maguire. 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 invited to an evening of conversation and fellowship over light refreshments in the Upper Trosnant Hall on Tuesday 18th September at 7.30 pm. See Annmarie for more details.

Eastern Valley Men's Christian Fellowship

Please join us on Tuesday 11th September at 7.00, when our speaker will be Dale Norman.

Open House

Ladies and Gentlemen are invited to join us from 2.30 – 4.30 pm on Monday 10th September, for a time of friendship and light refreshments.

Prayer in the Vestry: Monday mornings, 8.45 - 9.45 am.

Prayer Meeting for Christians Against Poverty:

Thursday 6th September, 10.30 am, at the Lighthouse Church.

Monday Night Prayer Meetings in Torfaen

3 rd September, 7 pm	Prayer for GSUS Live, at Upper Trosnant.
10 th September 7 pm	Prayer for GSUS Live, at Upper Trosnant.
17 th September, 7 pm	Prayer for GSUS Live, at Upper Trosnant.
24 th September, 7 pm	Prayer for Revival, at Penygarn.

Leadership Team Meeting: Tuesday 11th September, at 9.30 am.

Weekly Rotas

<u>Cleaning</u>	September 3 rd	Janet Jones
<u>Rota</u>	September 10 th	Phil Norman
	September 17 th	Janet Pollard & Jonathan Pollard
	September 24 th	Keith and Barbara Fordham

Sunday 2nd	Flowers	Helen Norman
	Door – am	Clare Hopkins
	Teas – am	Clare Hopkins
	Door – pm	Jill Morley

Sunday 9th	Flowers	Janet Pollard
	Door – am	Pam Charles
	Teas – am	Rhoswyn Williams
	Door – pm	Clare Hopkins

Sunday 16th	Flowers	HARVEST (Rhoswyn Williams)
	Door – am	Barbara Fordham
	Teas – am	Barbara Fordham
	Door – pm	Rita Jones and Phyllis Jones

Sunday 23rd	Flowers	Clare Hopkins
	Door – am	Anthea Scott
	Teas – am	Clare Hopkins
	Door – pm	Priscilla Pearson

Sunday 30th	Flowers	Doreen Harrison
	Door - am	Clare Hopkins
	Teas - am	Barbara Fordham
	Door - pm	Jill Morley

Birthdays in September

5th Richard Harrison
8th Caitlin Summers (15)
8th Rita Jones
12th Sue Lavender
18th Dale Norman (30)
19th Ron Saunders

Please Pray For...

- Pray for Pastor Richard and Annmarie as they work among us.
- Pray for our services, that God will be glorified in Pontypool.
- Pray for Daniel Pearson and his team as rebuild the entrance to the Hall.
- Praise God at the time of Harvest, that he provides for our needs.
- Pray for our Harvest Celebrations, that they will be a blessing for and a witness to many people.
- Pray that the Lord will raise up new leaders and workers in our Church; especially for new S Club leaders on Sunday afternoon.
- Pray for our organisations and meetings: Open House, the Ladies' Fellowship, Sisterhood, the Men's Meeting...
- Pray for all those we know who work for God, including Mike and Sue Martin in Exmouth; Margaret and Roy Collins-Reese in Toulouse; Sue and Dave Verwey in Japan; and 'our' missionaries Chris and Debbie Drew in Nepal.
- Pray for the work of the BMS around the world.
- Pray for Helen Norman and Doreen Harrison for their health to be fully restored.
- Pray for Naomi and Dale Norman as they dedicate baby Felicity on 2 September.
- Pray for David Wigley, Ron Saunders and all who are prevented by age or infirmity from worshipping with us on Sundays.
Pray for those who are unwell or who are recovering from illness or accidents, including: Doreen Dixon, Doreen Harrison, Alex Madden, Janet Pollard, Ann Price, Anthea Scott, Jo Shanahan, Ann Stephens, Greta and Derek Wagg, Marion Webb, Malcolm Williams...

COME AND CELEBRATE THE HARVEST!



Please join us at our Harvest Festival services, on

Sunday 16th September
at 11 am and 4 pm

- Both services will be followed by a time of fellowship with tea, coffee and biscuits.
- The Church will be open from 10 am to 12 noon on Saturday 15th for your gifts of fruit, flowers, vegetables and grocery items – & volunteers are needed to help decorate the Church!
- The Harvest produce will be shared between people in the local community and residents of the Vision of Hope farm. If you would like to take a gift of fruit or vegetables to somebody in need, please speak to one of the leadership team.

Contact Details

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