



# UPPER TROSNANT BAPTIST CHURCH

## March 2018 Newsletter



**“They took Palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting ‘Hosanna, Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord’...”  
(John 12:13)**

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 April 2018 Newsletter to [upper.trosnant@btinternet.com](mailto:upper.trosnant@btinternet.com) by **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March.**

(Cover picture by Martijn Adegeest from Pexels)

## **Letter from Pastor Richard**

### **Easter is Coming!**

Many people, at this time of year observe the season of Lent. These are the weeks leading up to Good Friday and Easter Sunday. It is a time to reflect on the importance of these events for our lives.

And there is no doubt that the events of Easter ARE important for us who are Christians, even though there are many others who do not accept them. These are things we believe really happened.

Jesus really did come to earth as a human being and live a perfect life. He really did die on a cross at around 33 years of age. And He did come back to life from the dead three days later! These facts are central to our Christian faith.

Why is that? Why should Jesus' death and resurrection be so crucial? Surely the important thing about Jesus was His wonderful teaching, and the amazing things He did while he was alive?

I don't wish to minimise those things – yes, His teaching was wonderful, and His actions amazing. But His death and resurrection are even more wonderful and amazing! In His death He took upon Himself the punishment for sin. Everyone who sins deserves to die eternally – and that means every human being. But Jesus died so that humans do not need to.

And, as He rose from the dead, He guaranteed that we can have new life in Him – for ever. And all of this was promised in the Scriptures centuries before it happened. Here are some words of Paul to think about in these weeks:



*I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said.*

(1 Corinthians 15 v 3 – 5 (NLT))

Here's something to rejoice in this Easter time.

Love in Him,

**Pastor Richard**

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

March 4 <sup>th</sup>	am: <b>Sisterhood Anniversary:</b> Good to All	Galatians 6 v 9 – 10
March 18 <sup>th</sup>	pm: Judgement is a Reality	Matthew 11 v 20 – 24
	am: The Long road to Satisfaction	Genesis 29 v 1 – 30
March 25 <sup>th</sup>	pm: Jesus invites	Matthew 11 v 25 – 30
	<b>Palm Sunday:</b> am: The King is announced	Psalms 24 v 7 – 10
	pm: The King arrives	Mark 11 v 1 – 11

### **Vision and Prayer Day** **Saturday April 14<sup>th</sup>, 10 am – 3 pm**

This is open to all members and regular attenders of Upper Trosnant, and is an opportunity for us to think about where we are as a church, and how we should go forward. Very importantly, we need to be people of prayer, and so part of our time together will be spent praying. Please put the date in your diary.

A light lunch will be provided.

## **Greetings from Doreen**

The other morning, there was a heavy shower of snow – and yet by lunchtime, the sky was blue and the sun was shining. Life is like this!

Change can take place so rapidly; nothing is completely predictable, except God – Who is completely dependable, and Whose concern and care for us never fails, falters – or forgets.

My recent illness has underlined this, and one lesson I am learning is that the words in Romans 8 are absolutely true. “What can separate us from the love of God... in Christ Jesus, our Lord?” Absolutely nothing!

It can be easy to dismiss this declaration as “Preacher’s talk!”

However, having had a stroke, it should be undeniable that when I make such a statement – it is certainly true! I am proving it for myself.

I recollect, in Congo, we watched a pirogue [a long and narrow wooden canoe] slowly cross the wide river. When it reached the other side, by the hospital, two men carefully lifted someone out on a stretcher. My colleague said, “There you are. It’s the 999 ambulance!” We are so blessed in the UK to have the services of the NHS. Staff work with cheerfulness, never grumble and yet they are under great pressure. We are given up-to-date treatment, medicine, follow-up attention. When we count our blessings, the NHS should be high on the list. Pray for our local hospitals, our GP surgeries, every care worker, district nurse, and therapist. Make sure by your prayers, that body, mind and spirit are a complete package of care. One way of expressing gratitude for your health is to pray for people who are not as fortunate!

Enjoy the month of March, and anticipate Easter with real joy.

**Doreen, with love**

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

The Meeting of the Men's Fellowship takes place on the second Tuesday of each month in the Upper Trosnant hall. We are a group of men from a few different churches who meet together for fellowship and friendship, so that we can grow in our faith.

The format is very straightforward. We will often have a speaker who will give a talk on a particular subject of interest, and show how that relates to our Christian lives. We have had police officers, historians, someone with an interest in astronomy, people from Vision of Hope and many others.

A few of our meetings are times of informal fellowship and testimony, when some of our own men will share what God is doing in their lives. Last year, there was also a visit to the 7 Corners Centre in Abergavenny.

Each year, we open our July meeting to ladies too, and we can all enjoy fellowship together.

In fact, the Men's Fellowship is far better than it sounds from the way I have described it! Any man who is reading this would be more than welcome to join us. I can guarantee you will find us friendly!

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm in the hall. Our speaker is Howard Miles (yes, he IS a relation!) who will be speaking about his life as a businessman, and how his Christian faith has impacted upon that.

Please join us – for more information, come and see me.

**Pastor Richard**

## **Trosnant Tuesdays**

Though Upper Trosnant is not a huge church, there is huge amount of activity – which is wonderful!

Over the last two years, I've become more involved in practical things and have taken on extra tasks such as the work of acting secretary, a lot of the website updates, and sermon recordings. Couple that with being the only deacon and living on site, it can make the days very busy.

I should say at this point that I know I'm only one part of a whole team of people serving Trosnant. Pastor, cleaners, musicians, elders, treasurer, tea makers, cup washers, the newsletter editor, Bible study leaders, Sunday School team, welcomers, singers, prayers, meeting leaders, mission mentioners, sound and visioners, flower arrangers, and... I'm sure I've forgotten someone; but you get the picture I hope.

I wanted to be able to put more time in to the part that I play in it all. So I approached my managers in work and made the bold request to reduce my working hours to 4 half days per week. Miraculously they said yes, and since November last year I've had Tuesdays off from my 'day job' and have been working on church stuff. It means that I can attend Leadership meetings, Prayer Retreat, and Sisterhood, without changing my hours or having to choose one or the other meeting. It also means that I can allocate time to some of the admin etc.

Putting this in place has meant I now have an actual day off on Saturday, which I needed!

So my Tuesdays have become Trosnant Tuesdays and I'm enjoying it. Any questions, come and see me.

**Annmarie x**

## **Dates for your Diary** **Gymanfa Ganu**

The united Gymanfa Ganu planned for March 1<sup>st</sup> as a joint event with other Churches in Pontypool has, very sadly, been cancelled. This is because the Salvation Army Band, who were going to provide the music, are no longer able to be there.

Please watch the notices for future events where we can come together with other local Christians to praise God and encourage one another.

### **Torfaen and Disctict Prayer Breakfast** **Saturday March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9 – 11 am**

If your New Year's Resolution was to spend more time in prayer, or more time in fellowship with other believers, then this is a great opportunity to do both over a delicious continental breakfast and unlimited refills of tea and coffee. Everyone is very welcome to join us; please come along if you can, and please invite your friends from other churches too.

### **Upper Trosnant AGM** **Wednesday March 28<sup>th</sup>, 7-8.30 pm**

The Church Annual Meeting is the time when we review what has happened in the past year, and look ahead to what we will do in the future. It gives us an opportunity to hear more about what the leadership and organisations have been doing, and to affirm our support for them in the future. Those who have a particular role in our Church or who have responsibility for an organisation are asked to be ready to give a report about the past year. We will vote to accept the accounts for 2017, and to appoint leaders and officers.

The AGM is primarily a meeting for Church Members, but non-members are very welcome to attend and see how Upper Trosnant is run. More information from Annmarie.

## **EASTER SERVICES**

**Palm Sunday – Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March**, services at 11 am and 4 pm.

**Good Friday – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March**, at 7.00 pm.

We will be meeting in the Hall, and sharing an informal communion together. Everyone is welcome to join us, and to bring friends from other Churches.

**Easter Saturday – Easter Tea** at 3.00 pm. See the back page. There are invitations available to share with your family, friends and neighbours.

**Easter Sunday Celebration – Sunday April 1<sup>st</sup>**, services at 11 am and 4.00 pm. The afternoon service will be an All Age service for all the family.

## **Flat Food**

We really enjoyed hosting guests for food in the flat, or Flat Food as we call it. Hopefully the guests did too. The flat has been our home for two years now, but as we've said before, it's only our home because you, the church, have loaned it to us. We'd love to welcome you for food and an afternoon or evening of fellowship.

It's only a little flat, but we have room for up to 3 adult guests, or two adults and two children. So take a look at the dates below, decide when you'd like to come and whether it's for lunch or tea, and sign up on the notice board in the hall.

Any questions, come and see me. Don't be shy...

**Annmarie**

**Flat Food dates, March 18<sup>th</sup>, April 15<sup>th</sup>, May 20<sup>th</sup>, June 17<sup>th</sup>**

## **Thank you Letters from Vision of Hope**

I thank you so much for your Christmas gifts, but mostly for your prayers. I came here in a mess both physically and psychologically, no hope. But now I am a happy Christian young man, getting well. I look after all the chickens, geese, ducks and turkeys. Thank you.

**Steven**

My life was a shambles, but since I've been here at the farm everything has changed, and I'm really looking forward to great things in 2018. Now I love Jesus and I want to thank you for all your prayers for us, and the gifts you sent us were smashing. God bless you, x

**Wayne**

Thanks for your presents. It was my first Christmas here, and it was so happy and nice. Thank you so much. We all enjoyed it. I wish you had been here to share the joy with us.

**Terence**

Thank you for all the lovely gifts, and for being there for me in your prayers. I look after the donkeys and I am training on an agricultural course in Usk College. I love it here. A happy new year and God bless you. Thank you again.

**David**

I want to thank you for your kind presents that you have given me. My Christmases of late have not been the best, but this year was amazing. I am most appreciative. No more drugs or prison, I now have a great future ahead. Thank you most sincerely.

**Andrew**

Thank you very much for the gifts you sent me. It's my second Christmas here and I cooked the Christmas dinner. Everything we ate had been donated by you. I am in College now on an agricultural course. I am so grateful for your support. Thank you.

**Jamie**

Thank you for the lovely Christmas gifts. My past was very troubled. I have not had presents for years. When I was a child in care and fostered, I had presents then, but that was years ago. Now I am safe and happy and settled, and looking forward to a great future. From the bottom of my heart I say thank you, God bless you in this new year.

**Barry**

### **Something to Think About...**

"If I had to summarize New Testament ethics in one sentence, here's how I would put it: be who you are. That may sound strange, almost heretical, given our culture's emphasis on being true to yourself. But like so many of the worst errors in the world, this one represents a truth powerfully perverted. When people say, "Relax, you were born that way." or "Quit trying to be something you're not and just be the real you," they are stumbling upon something very biblical. God does want you to be the real you. He does want you to be true to yourself. But the "you" he's talking about is the "you" that you are by grace, not by nature. You may want to read through that last sentence again because the difference between living in sin and living in righteousness depends on getting that sentence right. God doesn't say, "Relax, you were born this way." But he does say, "Good news, you were reborn another way."

**Kevin DeYoung**, *The hole in our holiness*, p.100.

## Services/Meetings

Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	<b>Sisterhood Anniversary:</b> Pastor Richard Miles.
	4.00 pm	Pastor Richard Miles. (Communion).
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	The Rev. Gordon Cooke of New Inn Chapel.
	4.00 pm	The Rev. Gordon Cooke.
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Pastor Richard Miles (Communion).
	4.00 pm	Pastor Richard Miles.

### **Palm Sunday**

Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Pastor Richard Miles (BMS Collection).
	4.00 pm	Pastor Richard Miles (BMS Collection).

### **Good Friday**

Friday 30 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm	Informal Communion in the Hall
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### Outreach Services

Monday 5 <sup>th</sup>	3.00 pm	Service for residents at Ty Bryn.
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup>	2.00 pm	Service for residents at Ty Ceirios.

### Sisterhood Speakers

Tuesdays	6 <sup>th</sup>	Richard Harrison.
at 3 pm	13 <sup>th</sup>	Prayer Together.
	20 <sup>th</sup>	Ruth Quick and Jan Roberts.
	27 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Celebration led by Pastor Jayne Harris.

### Midweek Bible Study and Prayer Meetings

Wednesdays	7 <sup>th</sup>	Jill Morley.
7.00 – 8.30 pm	14 <sup>th</sup>	Pastor Richard.
	21 <sup>st</sup>	Phil Norman.
	28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Upper Trosnant A.G. M.</b>

## **Ladies' Prayer Retreat**

Please join us on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 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 20<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 pm. See Annmarie for more details.

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

Please join us on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00 pm, when our speaker will be Mr Howard Miles, who will be talking about his life as a Christian businessman.

## **Meet on Monday**

Ladies and Gentlemen are invited to join us at 2.30 on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March for an afternoon of fellowship 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**

5 <sup>th</sup> March, 8 pm	Prayer for Christians Against Poverty, at the Lighthouse Church.
12 <sup>th</sup> March, 7 pm	Prayer for Youth and Children's work in our valley, at Upper Trosnant.
19 <sup>th</sup> March, 7 pm	Prayer for Youth and Children's work in our valley, at Upper Trosnant.
26 <sup>th</sup> March, 7 pm	Prayer for Revival, at Penygarn.

**Leadership Team Meeting:** Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 9.30 am  
(TBC)

## Weekly Rotas

<b><u>Cleaning</u></b>	March 5 <sup>th</sup>	Janet Pollard and Jonathan Pollard
<b><u>Rota</u></b>	March 12 <sup>th</sup>	Keith and Barbara Fordham
	March 19 <sup>th</sup>	Janet Jones
	March 26 <sup>th</sup>	Phil Norman

Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Flowers	Barbara Fordham
	Door – am	Helen Norman
	Teas – am	Yvonne Walker
	Door – pm	Rita Jones and Phyllis Jones

Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Flowers	Helen Norman
	Door – am	Barbara Fordham
	Teas – am	Barbara Fordham
	Door – pm	Priscilla Pearson

Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Flowers	Clare Hopkins
	Door – am	Clare Hopkins
	Teas – am	Rhoswyn Williams
	Door – pm	Jill Morley

Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Flowers	Anmarie Miles
	Doors – am	Anthea Scott
	Teas – am	Clare Hopkins
	Door – pm	Clare Hopkins

If for whatever reason you find you cannot do your turn one week, please try to arrange a swap with somebody else on the Rota. If you can't find someone to swap with, please speak to Anmarie.

## **Birthdays in March**

- 9<sup>th</sup> Kath Jones (100!)
- 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 (85)
- 26<sup>th</sup> Annmarie Miles

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

- Pray for Pastor Richard and Annmarie as they work among us.
- 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 our Sunday services, that our worship will be pleasing to God, and will glorify His name in Pontypool.
- Pray for Upper Trostant's Vision and Prayer Day, that we will see clearly the Lord's Will for our Church.
- Pray for the work of the Gospel as it is preached in Pontypool town centre every Wednesday morning.
- 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 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 Keith Fordham as he undergoes eye surgery.
- Pray for those who are unwell or who are recovering from illness or accidents, including: Doreen Dixon, Jill Fryer, Alex Madden, Helen Norman, Janet Pollard, Ann Price, Ron Saunders, Jo Shanahan, Ann Stephens, Greta and Derek Wagg, Marion Webb, Malcolm Williams...

You are warmly invited to join us at an

# ***EASTER TEA***

on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March

at 3.00 pm



Please sign up in the Hall, drop a note into the letter box, or use the contact details below to reserve your place.

**FOR DETAILS OF ALL EASTER SERVICES – SEE Page 8**

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## **Contact Details**

Upper Trosnant Baptist Church  
Lower Bridge Street  
Pontypool  
Torfaen  
NP4 6JU

Contact: Pastor Richard Miles  
Email: richardjohn.miles@gmail.com  
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