



UPPER TROSNANT BAPTIST CHURCH

June 2018 Newsletter



**“For He has satisfied the thirsty soul, And the hungry soul He has filled with what is good.”
(Psalm 107 verse 9)**

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 July 2018 Newsletter to uppertrosnantbc@gmail.com by **Sunday 10th June.**

Letter from Pastor Richard

What a Privilege

I have written on the subject of prayer on a few occasions. I make no apology for doing so again. It is such a vital part of the Christian life, and of us as a church.

We can plan all sorts of things. We can have great intentions, but if we try to do them in our own strength, they will come to nothing. Which is why prayer is so vital. When we pray, we are saying to God, "we cannot do this without you, Lord."

As you read through this Newsletter, you will find a number of Prayer Meetings mentioned. There are those that we have as a church, and those in conjunction with other churches. In each case, the aim is that we meet to call upon God and ask for his blessing.

And it is a privilege for us to do that. We love to sing these words:

*What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear.
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer.* (Joseph Medlicott Scriven)

We are able to come to God with our prayers because of what Jesus has done for us – what a privilege that is! We now have a relationship with him. And we know, from human relationships that we want to speak to those we love. If we say that we love God, we want to speak to him. In other words, bring our prayers to him.

It has been very encouraging in recent weeks to see the numbers that have been at our midweek meetings. It has also been encouraging to hear the earnest prayers of those meetings. And, we have rejoiced



in some answers to prayer as well. God not only listens, he answers!

God wants us to come to Him. He wants us to bring our prayers to Him. That is true in every situation and circumstance. As the Apostle Paul reminds us:

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

(Philippians 4 v 6 (NIV))

Love in Jesus,

Pastor Richard

Pastor's Preaching Schedule for June

June 3	am: Meetings with God	Genesis 32
	pm: Who is Jesus?	Matthew 12 v 22 – 37
June 17	am: Surprising peace	Genesis 33
	pm: A Warning	Matthew 12 v 38 - 45
June 24	am: Witness to all nations	Acts 1 v 8
	pm: BMS Focus	All Age Service

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 2nd June: Prayer Breakfast

You are invited to join with Christians from around Torfaen for a prayer breakfast at Pontrhydyrun Church from 9 – 11 am.

Wednesday 6th June: Prayer for Revival

Everyone is invited to a special meeting at Noddfa Chapel to join in praying for revival. The meeting starts at 9.30 am.

Saturday 16th June: Upper Troisant Spring Clean

Can you give some time to help clean our Church and Hall? We will be meeting from 10 am – 1 pm. Dusters and polish, tea, coffee and a free lunch will all be provided – but please bring your own elbow grease!

Greetings from Doreen

The headline declared, 'Stock up the freezer, vanilla ice cream is in short supply!'

Vanilla! The only fruit-bearing member of the orchid family, with flowers that only last for one day. Then the bean is picked, cured, and dried in a process that lasts 6 months. Vanilla! 85 percent of the entire global supply comes from Madagascar. Recent weather conditions have devastated the crop, and now, vanilla is the world's most expensive spice. Vanilla! More valuable than silver!

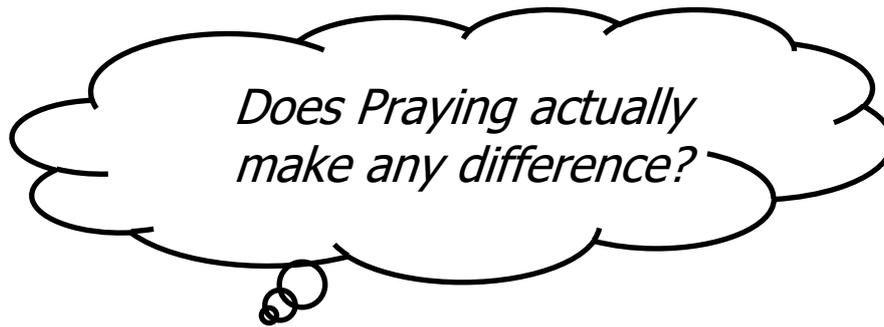
A news item showed anxious ice cream manufacturers discussing how they could produce ice cream, using vanilla, at a price the licking public would be willing to pay. Of course there are ways of producing artificial vanilla flavouring, using various unappetising ingredients – including wood and petrol! Just after the war, ice cream was produced using potatoes. But it did not hit the headlines... On reflection, it was quite reassuring to hear and read a headline about Vanilla. Amongst other media reports of riots, shootings, murders, betrayal, trumpeting concerning nuclear weapons, LED lighting as a possible cause of cancer(!), discussion concerning the flavour – or not – of vanilla ice cream in the future was quite a relief.

A modern approach to the relief of stress is 'Mindfulness'. This guides us to focus attention on the present, on what is happening here and now, in order to stay in the moment. I pick up a phrase from my description of vanilla: 'The flower only lasts one day.' The Bible declares, 'This is the day the Lord has made, we WILL rejoice in it and be glad.' Jesus advises, 'Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself.' And St. Paul's declaration, 'I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances,' is undoubtedly the right ambition for a fragrant, fruitful and faith-filled life.

Vanilla! More expensive than silver! Consider this verse: 'It was not with perishable things such as gold or silver that you were redeemed, but with the precious blood of Christ.' Faith cannot be valued in human terms. Be mindful of this!

With my love, Doreen

Ask the Pastor



As I have written about prayer in the Pastor Letter for this month, I thought I would answer a question that is often asked.

Sometimes people wonder if there is any point in praying. After all, they may say, God does what He wants to so why do we bother to ask Him for anything? And that is a good and understandable question.

Firstly, as I said in my Letter, prayer is all about having a relationship with God. As such, we as Christians will want to pray to Him. In the same way as with a human parent we will talk about our hopes and desires. And, in the same way as with a human parent some are granted, some are not. But it is always worth talking as part of the ongoing relationship.

Also, as we continue in our ongoing relationship, we will find out what it is that He wants, so that we can ask for the things that please Him. For example, God wants people to come to faith in Him, that is His desire. And so, we can pray that people will put their trust in Him. How many of us, after coming to Jesus, learn of those who prayed for us? Maybe one of our first prayers should be, "Lord, show me what you want me to pray."

Another very important aspect is that praying changes us too. As we spend time with God, we will find out more about Him, and He will be at work in us to make us more like Jesus. Then we will be better equipped to live as He wants us to in the places where He has put us.

And so, I would encourage you – it is well worth praying. Pour out your heart's desires to the Lord. He will show you what He wants and change you too. And yes, as many of you reading this will testify, God DOES hear and answer.

"The eyes of the Lord watch over those who do right, and his ears are open to their prayers." (1 Peter 3 v 12 (NLT).)

Pastor Richard

An important notice about the new General Data Protection Regulation

Did you know that on 25 May 2018, the new General Data Protection Regulation came into force? This EU-wide regulation was adopted two years ago, and its purpose is to give citizens and residents of Europe more control over how their personal data (such as names, addresses, or bank details) is stored, protected, and used. The GDPR will remain in force, with some small tweaks, after Brexit. You may for example have had letters or emails recently from your bank, or from shops, businesses and clubs, explaining how they use your data, and asking if you are happy to keep sending you advertising or special offers.

So what does the GDPR mean for us at Upper Trosnant? The Church has to comply with the regulation, and to do this we need to have a 'privacy notice' which will be published on the Church Webpage, explaining how the Church keeps personal data secure, and what we will and won't do with it. For example, we will not give out the addresses of church members to anyone else, unless we have their specific permission to do so. It is also the church's responsibility to keep data secure. This is why all financial and personal records are safely locked away. The church also has to keep data up to date, and any leader of a church organisation who has material relating to group members will be checking that they do not have any old records which should be destroyed.

Don't hesitate to come and ask me if you want to know more about what Trosnant is doing, or if you would like to read a paper copy of the privacy notice.

Annmarie x

Remembering Kath Jones

It was with both sadness and rejoicing that, on Monday 30th April, a large congregation gathered for the funeral of Upper Trosnant's oldest member, Kathleen Jones. Kath was born on 9 March 1918, and died on 9 April 2018, just a few weeks after her 100th birthday. She saw many changes in her life, but she never wavered in her love for her family, in her devotion to the Lord, or in her enthusiasm for cleaning. As all who knew Kath could attest, for her, cleanliness **was** Godliness.

Kath lived almost her entire life in Pontypool. She was born in Penyrheol, the middle of three sisters, who were aged 7, 4, and 2 when their father died suddenly. This was a great loss to Kath, who always described it as a great tragedy in her life. The family were poor and life was a struggle in their small cottage, the girls walking a mile down the hill to Pontymoile School every morning, and back home up the steep hill every afternoon.

At the age of 18 – three years before the start of World War Two – Kath married Hilton. The couple were blessed with two daughters, Kay and Lynne, and Kath was a devoted and house-proud wife and mother. The home was always spick and span, and she took the same loving care of her garden. Not a weed was ever allowed to grow there, and every annual had to be planted in exactly the right spot. Kath and Hilton shared a great love of nature, and the family enjoyed long walks in the countryside, with picnics or lunches in pubs that they passed.

Kath was in service for a short while before she married, but her life work was on the domestic staff of her old school, Pontymoile Primary. She started in the kitchen as a cleaner, and rose to become the school cook. Her apple pies were to become legendary. Kath worked for many happy years at Pontymoile, and when, finally, she retired, she was invited back as a greatly valued and very wise school governor, in which important role she continued to serve the local community for a great number of years.

In due course, her daughters married, and first the grandchildren, then great-grandchildren, were welcomed into the family. Kath loved

Christmas in particular, and it gave her the greatest pleasure to see all her family come together for the annual celebration. Sadly, Hilton died in 1986, and it was after this loss that Kath returned to Upper Trosnant, where she had worshipped as a child, and where she found great solace in her widowhood. She threw herself into the life of the church, becoming a key member of the Sisterhood and giving her time and energy to keeping the Church spotless. With her dear friend Mary she formed an indomitable team. The only way to clean the floor, she firmly believed, was on her hands and knees with a dustpan and brush, because an electric cleaner just didn't get into the corners properly. On one famous occasion, she came up to clean despite the fact that she was nursing a broken wrist!



A photograph with Doreen Harrison, taken on Kath's 99th birthday

It was only in her later years that Kath was forced by increasing age and frailty to lay aside her dustpan. She moved to the Eleanor Hobson Nursing Home in Caerleon, where she settled very happily, and was extremely well looked after. At her funeral, Pastor Richard spoke of how much he enjoyed visiting her, and how her face would light up at any mention of Upper Trosnant. Her 100th birthday was a very happy occasion, surrounded by her family and friends, and she was proud to receive a special card from Her Majesty the Queen.

Kath's last, whispered, word was 'beautiful', when Kay showed her a daffodil. We are sad that her life on Earth has drawn to its end, but we can praise the Lord for her friendship, faith and love, and rejoice that she is now with Him.

Wisdom in Creation: Part One

Once a month at the Wednesday night Bible Study, we have been looking at the book of Proverbs. For a number of meetings we have been exploring Chapter 3, in which King Solomon teaches us the tremendous value and great benefits of Godly wisdom.

Solomon received his wisdom from the Lord, and from Him, we too can learn to live well and to cope wisely, whether it be in matters of our health, our finances, our future, our needs, or the needs of family or those around us. However, sometimes in life, we are confronted or challenged or inspired by a situation, or a piece of news, that moves our focus right away from ourselves and our needs and interests, and helps to widen our view of life. For example, if we hear of people suffering through war, poverty, or lack of health care, or of Christians being persecuted for their faith, it brings us up short and helps us to keep our own troubles in perspective. Or when we hear good news of the Lord's work in other churches or other parts of the world, it helps us to see the bigger picture of what the Lord is doing and lifts our spirits, even if we're going through difficult times ourselves.

Maybe this is what Solomon had in mind when he included v.19-20 in Chapter 3 of Proverbs:

"By wisdom the Lord laid the earth's foundations,
by understanding he set the heavens in place;
by his knowledge the watery depths were divided,
and the clouds let drop the dew."

After writing so much about wisdom and how to live wisely, he suddenly brings to our attention 'the bigger picture'. Wisdom is not just about how to live our lives, it undergirds the whole of Creation, and can be clearly seen in all that the Lord has made. It's easy to skim over verses like these and not fully appreciate their message, but if we take a closer look, we can see how faith-building these verses are!

Let us consider first the line, 'By wisdom, the Lord laid the Earth's foundations.' The Bible contains some wonderful descriptions of how God created the Earth. Job 38, verses 4-7, tells us how, to the joy and

wonder of all the angels in heaven, God created the earth, just as a master-builder would build a magnificent building – carefully laying foundations including footings (a layer of bricks wider than the base of the wall) and cornerstones (vital foundation stones that ensure the walls above will be straight and upright and at the correct angle), and accurately marking off dimensions, stretching measuring lines and getting everything straight and true. Then in Matthew 7 verses 24–27, we can read what Jesus taught about the importance of wisdom when laying foundations. They must be strong and firm to ensure that the building can withstand extreme or adverse conditions.

This is how the Lord designed and laid the foundations of the Earth. He made it solid like a cricket ball, rather than hollow like a tennis ball, and with a structure similar to an apple. Planet Earth has a core at the centre (like the core of an apple). This is solid in the very centre, but has a liquid outer layer around the inner core, which is thought to be made up of iron and nickel (a hard metallic element). The inner core of the Earth it is searingly hot – 5,500 °C!

The next layer of the earth is the mantle, which surrounds the core like the flesh of an apple. This is about 1,800 miles thick and made of rock that is rich in iron and magnesium. Like the core, the temperature of the mantle is extremely hot, as can be experienced when molten lava breaks through the crust as erupting volcanoes.

The crust is the surface of the Earth. It is the thinnest layer, just as the skin is the thinnest layer of an apple. The crust's thickness varies from about 3 miles under the deepest oceans, to about 45 under the mountainous areas of the continents. The crust is made up of a great variety of types of rock, and contains 78 different chemical elements. Despite being hit by meteors and shaken by earthquakes, the earth is so well built that it remains stable in its position and rotation. Its foundations were laid by the Lord and stand firm to this day.

I will be sharing more about God's wisdom in creation in future editions of the newsletter.

Jill Morley

Services/Meetings

Sunday 3 rd	11.00 am	Pastor Richard Miles.
	4.00 pm	Pastor Richard Miles (Communion).
Sunday 10 th	11.00 am	The Rev. Richard Harrison.
	4.00 pm	The Rev. Richard Harrison.
Sunday 17 th	11.00 am	Pastor Richard Miles (Communion).
	4.00 pm	Pastor Richard Miles

BMS Sunday

Sunday 24 th	11.00 am	Pastor Richard Miles (BMS Collection).
	4.00 am	Pastor Richard Miles – All Age Service (BMS Collection).

Outreach Services

Monday 4 th	3.00 pm	Services for residents at Ty Bryn.
Monday 18 th	2.00 pm	Service for residents at Ty Ceirios.

Sisterhood Speakers

Tuesdays	5 th	Priscilla Pearson
at 3 pm	12 th	Ruth Quick and Jan Roberts
	19 th	Pastor John Funnell
	26 th	Pastor Richard

Midweek Bible Study and Prayer Meetings

Wednesdays	6 th	Jill Morley
6.50 – 8.30 pm	13 th	Pastor Richard
	20 th	Visit of David and Sue Verwey from Japan
	27 th	Phil Norman

Please note the earlier start time on Wednesdays!

The idea is that we can get our tea or coffee at 6.50,
and be ready to start the meeting at 7.00...

Ladies' Prayer Retreat

Please join us on Tuesday 5th June 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 invited to an evening of conversation and fellowship over light refreshments in the Upper Trosnant Hall on Tuesday 19th June at 7.30 pm. See Annmarie for more details.

Eastern Valley Men's Christian Fellowship

On Tuesday 12th June we will be visiting the Vision of Hope farm, where we will meet at 6.30 pm. If you need a lift, please contact Colin Clark on 07419 113894.

Open House

Ladies and Gentlemen are invited to join us from 2.30 – 4.30 pm on Monday 11th June, 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 7th June, 10.30 am, at the Lighthouse Church.

Monday Night Prayer Meetings in Torfaen

- 11th June, 7 pm Prayer for Youth and Children's work in our valley, at Upper Trosnant.
- 18th June, 7 pm Prayer for Youth and Children's work, focusing on GSus Live, at Upper Trosnant.
- 25th June, 7 pm Prayer for Revival, at Penygarn.

Leadership Team Meeting: Tuesday 26th June, at 9.30 am.

Weekly Rotas

Cleaning Rota

	June 4 th	Keith and Barbara Fordham
	June 11 th	Janet Jones
	June 18 th	Phil Norman
	June 25 th	Janet Pollard & Jonathan Pollard
Sunday 3 rd	Flowers	Clare Hopkins
	Door – am	Clare Hopkins
	Teas – am	Clare Hopkins
	Door – pm	Jill Morley
Sunday 10 th	Flowers	Doreen Harrison
	Door – am	Barbara Fordham
	Teas – am	Barbara Fordham
	Door – pm	Clare Hopkins
Sunday 17 th	Flowers	Annmarie Miles
	Door – am	Pam Charles
	Teas – am	Yvonne Walker
	Door – pm	Priscilla Pearson
Sunday 24 th	Flowers	Priscilla Pearson
	Door – am	Anthea Scott
	Teas – am	Rhoswyn Williams
	Door – pm	Rita Jones and Phyllis Jones

If for any reason you find you cannot do your turn on a rota, please try to swap with somebody else. If you cannot arrange to swap, please speak to Annmarie...

Birthdays in June

3 rd	Sue D'Aloia
8 th	Nettie Shorthouse
11 th	Louise Francis
24 th	Sue O'Shea
27 th	Jill Morley

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 they prepare to rebuild the entrance to the Hall.
- Pray for our outreach this month, especially all those who will be invited to tea at Trosnant.
- Pray that many will turn to the Lord and be saved.
- 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 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 in Nepal.
- Pray for the work of the BMS around the world.
- Pray for Helen Norman for her health to be restored.
- Pray for Dale and Naomi Norman settle in Pontypool and prepare for the birth of their baby. Praise the Lord for Naomi's visa!
- Pray for David Wigley, Ron Saunders and all who are prevented by age or infirmity from worshipping in Church on Sundays.
- Pray for those who are unwell or who are recovering from illness or accidents, including: Doreen Dixon, Alex Madden, Janet Pollard, Ann Price, Jo Shanahan, Ann Stephens, Greta and Derek Wagg, Marion Webb, Malcolm Williams...

You are warmly invited to join us for

Teatime @ Trosnant

on Saturday June 30th at 3.00 pm



Please sign the list in the Hall, or ring or email the Church to reserve your place.

Contact Details

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