



UPPER TROSNANT BAPTIST CHURCH

November 2018

Newsletter



**“He will yet fill your mouth with laughter
and your lips with shouts of joy.”
(Job 8 verse 21)**

Sunday Services at
11.00 am and 4.00 pm

A very warm welcome to you

Contents

	Page
Letter from Pastor Richard: From Generation to Generation	2
Pastor's preaching schedule	3
Dates for your Diary	3
Greetings from Doreen	4
Remembering our brother David Wigley	5
Reflections on GSUS Live, by Priscilla Pearson	6
In Pictures: the Dedication of Baby Felicity Norman	7
Autumn Update from Vision of Hope	9
Services and Meetings	11
Weekly Rotas	13
Please pray for...	14
"Shoebox Sunday"	Back page
Contact details	Back page

Newsletter Items:

We are always happy to receive items for the newsletter.
Please email articles or features for the December 2018 edition to **uppertrosnantbc@gmail.com** by **Sunday 11th November 2018**

Cover Picture: Children unpacking their Christmas shoeboxes,
© Samaritan's Purse.

Letter from Pastor Richard

From Generation to Generation

As I write this, we have just had a very encouraging anniversary weekend. On Saturday afternoon we met to sing some of our favourite hymns and hear Anthea and Phil share testimony of what the Lord has done for them. Both of them showed clearly how faithful God had been in their lives. And, as we were thanking God for 242 years of witness for Upper Trosnant, it was good to remind ourselves that he has been faithful to us as a church for all of that time.



On the Sunday morning we saw some pictures reflecting the life of the church over the past few years, again a demonstration that God has been faithful to us. And then, in the afternoon, we had the joy of giving thanks for and dedicating Felicity Estelle Norman. It was great to see a church full of people who had come to give their support to Dale, Naomi and Felicity. And how appropriate for it to be on the anniversary weekend, God's faithfulness to the next generation too.

We have also received some sadder news in the death of our dear brother David Wigley, who was such a big part of the church for a number of years. There is a full tribute to him on pages 5 and 6 of this Newsletter. We give thanks to God for such a lovely man, now with the Lord, and continue to pray for his family and friends at this time.

And that, in many ways, sums up church life. God's faithfulness continues in all of these situations. As one generation is taken to be with him, the next generation knows the same faithfulness as the previous one. As I said at the dedication, Felicity is not the church of the future, she is the church of the present, as she is with us now. We

read this verse at the service:

We will tell the next generation
The praiseworthy deeds of the Lord.

(Psalm 78 v 4 (NIV))

Love in Jesus,

Pastor Richard

Pastor's Preaching Schedule for November

November 4 am: Follow Christ's example of love **1 John 3 v 11 - 24**

Shoebox Service

pm: Good News to the poor **Luke 4 v 18 – 19**

November 18 am: Jesus Christ – Fully God, fully man **1 John 4 v 1 – 6**

November 25 am: The Father sent his Son **1 John 4 v 7 – 21**

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 3rd November 9–11 am: Torfaen District Gospel Partnership prayer breakfast at Pontymoile Mission. Everyone is welcome!

Friday 16th November at 7.00 pm: Creation Meeting, at Upper Troisant. Could you invite a friend to come and watch an inspiring video on this important topic?

Saturday 24th November, from 10-12.30: Upper Troisant Cleaning Day. Not a spring clean, but getting the Church spick and span and ready to put up the Christmas decorations. There will be jobs and tasks for all levels of fitness and agility (!), so please get your old clothes on and come along. Not only will all polish and materials be provided – but also a delicious fellowship lunch at the end!

Greetings from Doreen

May I share this seasonal poem with you? (Poet unknown!)

In Spring, when maple buds are red,
We turn the clocks an hour ahead –
Which means, each April that arrives,
We lose an hour out of our lives.

Who cares! When autumn birds in flocks
Fly southward, we turn back the clocks,
And so regain a lovely thing –
That missing hour we lost in Spring!

Of all the months in the year, I always feel that November is the most nostalgic. Summer was special, with hot days and holidays, but Autumn glows with superb colour – how delightfully creative of God to celebrate the entrance of winter with a palette of leaves, now ochre, bronze, rust, saffron, crimson, copper! We review memories of commotions, concerts, capers, commiserations, companionship, congratulations, and with the celebration of Christmas clamouring for our attention, we wonder where the year has gone?!

Well, now, once the juvenile jollification of November 5th is over, there is a pause in activity and we can take time, then, to observe the advice in Psalm 46, 'Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted on the earth.' Time seems to be in such short supply in our super-efficient society. We need space to catch up – to regain a composure of soul and a contentment of spirit. Turn off the TV – tune out the family – turn over your timetable – and just sit quietly by yourself, and say, 'Jesus, it's me.' And you will discover that He is here, already, eager to meet you.

Consider this quotation. 'In November, when the trees are standing all sticks and bones without their leaves, how lovely they are, spreading their arms like dancers.' (Cynthia Rylant.) November can bring Spring into your soul when you recollect that the joy of the Lord is your strength. Jesus has been described as The Lord of the dance. Reach up to Him – and ENJOY being part of the family of God.

Doreen, with love

Remembering our Brother David Wigley

A large number of family and friends gathered at Upper Trosnant on 17th October, for the funeral of a much loved member of Upper Trosnant. Nobody who had once been welcomed at the door by David ever forgot the warmth of his smile, or the sincerity of his friendly conversation. It was in the autumn of 2014 that, aware that his health was deteriorating, he made the decision to move into a care home to be nearer to his son, Steve, in Cardiff. His stalwart presence was greatly missed on Sundays and at all meetings of our Church.



David Leslie Wigley was born on 27 February 1939 in Tranch, where he grew up with a strong circle of friends to whom remained close through every stage of life. One of these was Tony Bassett, who shared some wonderful memories of growing up with David, in the Boys' Brigade, and as apprentices training together. Both men qualified as engineers, and continued to enjoy holidays at Amroth with their families. David was a wonderful friend, who could

be relied upon to organise events and activities including regular and often exciting horse-riding trips. For many years he was Captain and Secretary of Croesyceiliog soccer team, and he was also a staunch Rugby fan – who stood up for the National Anthem on TV!

Pastor Richard read an extremely moving tribute from David's son Steve, who painted a vivid picture of his father's character, warm, loving, and full of humour and energy. He also shared memories from older members of the Church, including Eric Jones who served with David as a Deacon. David put the same whole-hearted effort into his service of the Lord, and to the fellowship at Upper Trosnant. Eric remembered how meticulously he 'did his homework' after baptismal classes, and the care and attention he gave to every detail of the re-furbishing of the Hall.

A Tribute to David from Richard Harrison

David was no stranger to Upper Trosnant Baptist Church. As a boy, he and his friends came from the local school to have meals on the premises. Nor was David, as an active member of the Boys' Brigade, a stranger to all that the church stood for. However, it was on New Year's Day, 2000, when, in his mid-fifties, he came into the back seat of the Chapel at a time when the doors were open for any member of the public to enter to listen to the Bible being read by different church members. By this time his wife, Eileen was seriously ill. After her death, David continued to attend. His mother-in-law spent the final days of her life in Plas-y-Garn. David gave the same attention to her as he had done to his wife.

After his conversion to Christ, there followed preparation classes for baptism, the baptism itself, and shortly after that he enlisted on a course called Evangelism Explosion and this entailed learning scriptures and being trained to use them when homes were visited with a view to introducing people to Jesus Christ, his Saviour. When teams of Americans led services in the church, David did his share of driving around members of the team to different venues. He organised trips to view the Autumn tints in the Wye Valley and other outings. He was appointed a deacon and after that became treasurer of the church. In this task, he enlisted the services of Pam Charles to help him.

A friendlier man you never could meet. He loved long walks with his friends and knew the best eating establishments over a wide area. When his feet began to trouble him, it was not long before he began to suspect that the Parkinson's disease which had afflicted his father, was knocking on his door. When it became too severe, he asked his son to find him a place near to where his son lived, in order not to be a drag on him during Winter. He went to live in Shire Hall, Cardiff, without a murmur of complaint. His faith gave him the ability to make visiting him a pleasure, with the result that he has had regular visits from Howard Jackson and the self-styled Crazy Gang who put on concerts for the residents. These men were friends from the days David was captain of the football and Howard was a rock-solid member of the rugby team.

This world is the poorer for having lost a true man of God and a loyal friend. We would all do well to emulate his shining example.

Reflections on GSUS Live

GSUS live is a digital interactive resource for Years 7, 8 and 9 [ages 11-14] to learn about what Christians believe. The participants are invited to explore what Christians believe by choosing one of three themes: to follow Jack, who has been rejected by his class-mates because he is fat; or Sophie, whose best friend is seriously ill and Sophie is afraid she will die; or Ben, who is struggling to forgive his brother.

One teacher commented at the end of a question and answer session that she could think of many pupils at her school who were struggling with the issues of rejection, fear or forgiveness. A Head of RE

thought GSIS Live was so relevant to the day-to-day lives of the young people. Because it is digital pupils are eager to engage with it.

At another school a teacher was amazed that we all came from different churches, and that we did not get paid but were volunteers. At another school the Head of RE directed her classes to follow one particular theme as she had produced worksheets for them the following week. Privately a teacher asked us how such a resource was funded. So we were able to share that a national Christian charity had funded it and continued to pay for its running costs and further development.

Pupils asked a range of questions from, "What is the origin of evil?" to, "How did this unit get here?" The most common expression was "Wow... wow... wow!" as the computer screens were raised from the desks. "This is the best ever RE lesson I've ever had!" – "I wish I could come again and follow one of the other characters!" In a smaller school this did happen, with classes coming back for a second time. We even had a small A-level group come on board.

We discovered there were those of the Christian faith – a Christian Union group visited one lunch time. Some of the pupils were familiar with New Testament passages that were included in the themes. Another was not ashamed to confess her Christian faith by stating: "The Lord Jesus promises those who follow Him that He will be with us always."

We are grateful to all those volunteers who manned the unit, and for those who prayed. GSUS Live moved from Torfaen to Merthyr Tydfil for the last two weeks of October. Please continue to pray that the good seed of God's Word that has been sown in the lives of pupils in Years 7,8 and 9 at Blackwood Comprehensive, West Monmouth, Rougemont, Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw and King Henry 8th Schools will find good soil in which to take root and grow and in time bring forth a mighty harvest. Pray that local churches will build on links made with their local school through GSUS live.

We praise God for all the opportunities He gave us through GSUS Live and give Him all the glory.

Priscilla Pearson

In Pictures!



Upper Trostnant's Anniversary services on 14 October were additionally blessed when many family and friends came together support Naomi and Dale Norman at the dedication of baby Felicity Estelle.

Please continue to uphold Dale and Naomi in your prayers, as they travel long distances with the Covenant Players. Please pray for too for their wider family, including Alison, Phil and Helen, and Naomi's family in the USA.



Autumn Update from Vision of Hope

Dear Friends,

This autumn, we reflect upon God's goodness and how He has supplied our every need. Our year began with some unusual concerns but how we praise God for bringing us through. Dinah wishes to thank all of you for your prayers during her heart procedure, which proved successful. She intended to limit the number of residents, but soon realised that she could not say 'No'. Referrals came from the Gwent Drug Advisory Service, prison officers, chaplains, and police officers. Our numbers rose and as they arrived, each seemed so special and hand-picked. Now we have a house full of the most wonderful young men, very sincere and eager to learn.

Two have recently completed their detox – one returned to his family, clean of all drugs, and the other is progressing positively, hoping to return to university and complete his studies. Several young men are following and will complete their detoxes shortly. Then we have the most recent residents who are still sick, but determined to face the challenge and break the bondage of alcohol, drugs and crime.

Now, with thirteen residents, it is exciting to see lives changing. So many saw that they had nowhere to go when leaving prison, but now they are discovering the answer to Life. It is for us such a privilege.

Disappointments come too. We all miss Steve Day, one of our former residents who was killed in a car accident, but he testified how he found Jesus as his Saviour, so we will meet again in Heaven.

God is so good. The polytunnel is reaching completion. Our residents are rising to the challenge; it is amazing how they all take an interest and work together. They are all preparing for next year. We are so grateful to Alex and Elizabeth Archard for making this possible. This year Andrew planted peas and tomatoes outside and what a crop of tomatoes he produced. Just imagine what he could produce inside the polytunnel!

Jamie is enjoying his training as a Support Worker. Barry has made a lovely new pond and the ducks are really enjoying it. We have added

to our poultry family, hatching more chickens here on the farm, together with the geese and turkeys – but none are for Christmas! We also have a new litter of piglets, with their squeals and snorts.

Our old tractor has long seen better days and we found a new one was required, but David, Tommo and Andy set to work with our young men and the old one has been refurbished and repainted bright blue and white. It now works really well and looks very smart.

We wish to thank Howard Gibbard for his voluntary work with us during his mother's illness. Joyce enjoyed watching the videos of the farm, especially seeing all the animals. She was special to us and she always encouraged Howard to help out here. Sadly, Joyce has passed away and our Love and Prayers are with the family now during their sad loss. I recently said 'goodbye' to my rescued cat, Chelsea. She passed away peacefully in August after keeping me in order for well over 30 years.

Dinah continues to work on her book and film, charting her prison visits as a young woman and her later work in establishing rehabilitation homes and then the Farm. She hopes to complete both in the New Year.

Many thanks for your faithful support and prayers which enable us to keep rescuing lost souls. One of our most recent arrivals, Ryan, has just thanked Dinah for rescuing him and literally saving his life. He is recovering from pneumonia after sleeping rough. Please keep praying for us and our residents and we will keep praying for you. Please keep in touch. We have almost finished our 2019 Calendar. It contains lots of photos of our residents and the animals, and will be available for sale to all our friends. And a big thank you for all the Harvest Festival produce and gifts you have been donating. We really do appreciate this help in feeding our hungry residents and they want to thank you too. This year our 'Vision of Hope' Carol Service will be held at St Mary's, Abergavenny, on December 15th at 6.00pm. You are all most welcome.

**From David, Dinah, all the staff and residents,
and me, Maurice.**

May God richly bless you and we give Him all the glory.

Services/Meetings

Sunday 4th 11.00 am Pastor Richard Miles

Shoebox Service

4.00 pm Pastor Richard Miles

Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 11th **10.55 am** Mr Dafydd Williams of Malpas Road

4.00 pm Mr Dafydd Williams (Communion)

Sunday 18th 11.00 am Pastor Richard Miles (Communion)

4.00 pm Rev. Bert Weenink

Sunday 28th 11.00 am Pastor Richard Miles (BMS Collection)

4.00 pm Pastor Jon Forman (BMS Collection)

Outreach Services

Monday 5th 3.00 pm Service for residents at Ty Bryn

Monday 19th 2.00 pm Service for residents at Ty Ceirios

Sisterhood Speakers

Tuesdays 6th Sharing Together

at 3 pm 13th Priscilla Pearson

20th Annmarie Miles

27th John Funnell

Midweek Bible Study and Prayer Meetings

Wednesdays 7th Pastor Richard

6.50 – 8.30 pm 14th Pastor Richard

21st Priscilla Pearson

28th 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 6th November when our speaker will be Pastor Jon Forman. Coffee is served from 10 – 10.30 am, and everyone is warmly invited to stay and share in some special cakes.

Ladies' Fellowship Meeting

All ladies are invited to an evening of conversation and fellowship over light refreshments in the Upper Trosnant Vestry on Tuesday 20th November at 7.30 pm. See Annmarie for more details.

Eastern Valley Men's Christian Fellowship

Please join us on Tuesday 13th November at 7.00, when our speaker will be Jill and Jeff LeLave, who are working as Street Pastors.

Open House

Ladies and Gentlemen are invited to join us from 2.30 – 4.30 pm on Monday 12th November, 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 8th November - 10.30 am, at the Lighthouse Church.

Monday Night Prayer Meetings in Torfaen

12th November, 7 pm Prayer for S Club and children's and youth work in our valley, at Upper Trosnant.

19th November, 7 pm Prayer for S Club and children's and youth work in our valley, at Upper Trosnant.

26th November, 7 pm Prayer for Revival, at Penygarn.

Leadership Team Meeting: Tuesday 27th November, at 9.30 am.

Weekly Rotas

<u>Cleaning Rota</u>	November 5 th	Phil Norman
	November 12 th	Janet Pollard & Jonathan Pollard
	November 19 th	Keith and Barbara Fordham
	November 26 th	Janet Jones
Sunday 4th	Flowers	Helen Norman
	Door – am	Clare Hopkins
	Teas – am	Yvonne Walker and Clare Hopkins
	Door/Offering – pm	Jill Morley
Sunday 11th	Flowers	Pam Charles
	Door – am	Barbara Fordham
	Teas – am	Barbara Fordham
	Door/Offering – pm	Priscilla Pearson
Sunday 18th	Flowers	Annmarie Miles
	Door – am	Anthea Scott
	Teas – am	Rhoswyn Williams
	Door/Offering – pm	Clare Hopkins
Sunday 25th	Flowers	Clare Hopkins
	Door – am	Pam Charles
	Teas – am	Clare Hopkins
	Door/Offering – pm	Jill Morley

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....

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 "Shoebox Sunday" (November 4), for the safe delivery of our boxes and for God's blessing on the children who will receive them.
- Pray for the services on Remembrance Sunday (November 11) which marks 100 years since the end of the First World War. Pray for servicemen and women and their families, and for all affected by warfare today.
- Pray for a safe conclusion to the building work on the new ramp to the Hall, and for the safety of all who come to Upper Trosnant during the building works.
- Pray that the Lord will raise up new leaders and workers in our Church; especially 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 Chris and Debbie Drew in Nepal. Pray for the Lord's guidance as their time there draws to an end. Pray for Dale and Naomi with Covenant Players.
- Pray for Doreen Harrison as she recovers from eye surgery.
- Pray for Jo Shanahan who has been struggling with infections and great pain, that her health will be fully restored.
- Pray for Barbara and Keith Fordham that the Lord will give them all the strength they need as they work on their new home.
- Pray for the families of David Wigley and of Albert Jones and for all those who mourn.
- Pray for our brother Ron Saunders and for 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, Keith Fordham, Doreen Harrison, Helen Norman, Janet Pollard, Ann Price, Anthea Scott, Ann Stephens, Greta and Derek Wagg, Marion Webb, Malcolm Williams...

Please join us on

“SHOEBOX SUNDAY”

4th November at 4.00 pm

when we will be asking the Lord’s Blessing on the shoebox gifts for Operation Christmas Child, and on all the children who will be receiving them.



Please bring your shoeboxes with you to the service, or leave them in Church in advance if you cannot be there. Please remember that we have been asked to donate £5 to cover the cost of transporting each box overseas.

More information from Janet Pollard.

Contact Details

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

Contact: Pastor Richard Miles
Email: uppertrosnantbc@gmail.com
Tel: 01495 751020

www.trosnant.co.uk