



UPPER TROSNANT BAPTIST CHURCH

October 2018 Newsletter



**“You are the light of the world. A town built
on a hill cannot be hidden.”
(Matthew 8 verse 14)**

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 November 2018 edition to **uppertrosnantbc@gmail.com** by **Sunday 14th October 2018**

Letter from Pastor Richard

It's All Happening!

After the relative calm of the Summer period, things are becoming busier. The daytime and evening meetings of the week have started again, the work on the ramp and steps continues apace, and I'm sure for many of us in our day to day lives we have so much to do that we don't seem to have time to do it. Even those in retirement are affected. How many times have I heard retired people say, "I don't know how I found time to work!" Although for most of them, what they are doing now is more enjoyable.



It seems that this is part and parcel of modern-day life in 21st Century Britain. The introduction of new technologies has not brought less work but more, it would seem. In many jobs and professions, stress levels appear to be increasing.

So, what can be done about it? In work situations that is not an easy question to answer. Very much depends upon individual circumstances. But, the truth of the matter is that in church life too people can become too busy and stressed. And there is something that can be done about that.

I would encourage each of us to consider whether there is something that we can take some of the burden from those who are doing a great deal. Perhaps there is one thing. Very soon we will be preparing a list of activities where we would love for others to be involved. Be on the lookout for it and pray about what you could do. Just taking one thing off a very busy person can make a big difference. And, most importantly of all, see that you are doing it for God – and do it well!

The Apostle Paul writes:

"Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.
(Colossians 3 v 17 (NIV))

May the Lord bless you in all you do for him.

Love in Jesus,

Pastor Richard

Pastor's Preaching Schedule for October

October 7	am: The most important question of all	1 John 2 v 18 – 27
	pm: Worth holding on to	Matthew 13 v 44 – 52
Church Anniversary		
October 14	am: God's Building	1 Peter 2 v 4 – 10
	pm: From generation to Generation	Psalms 78 v 1 – 7
October 21	am: Living in the right way	1 John 2 v 28 – 3 v 10
	pm: Not welcome at home	Matthew 13 v 53 – 58

Building Works Update

It is good to report that the work on the new ramp to the hall got off to a good start in the second week of September. **Please remember that until the work is finished – approximately at the end of October – there will be no access to the Hall!** Please continue to pray for the safety of the workmen, that the weather will be kind, and that difficulties such as bringing lorries into the carpark will continue to be overcome.

Greetings from Doreen

Yitzhak Perlman is a violinist of worldwide repute. An Israeli-American, he was born in 1945, but at the age of 12, he contracted polio, and now uses crutches and wears leg braces. He plays the violin sitting down. At a concert in New York, he was scheduled to play an extraordinarily challenging violin solo. A few seconds into his performance, one of his strings broke! The orchestra stopped playing. Usually, the violinist would have left the stage and quickly replaced the string. Perlman's disabilities made this an impractical solution – so he motioned the Conductor to continue, and he played the piece, on three strings, with skill and beauty. When he finished, audience and orchestra rose to their feet, and there was tumultuous applause.

Perlman held up his hand for silence. He said 'All my life it has been my mission to make music from that which remains.'

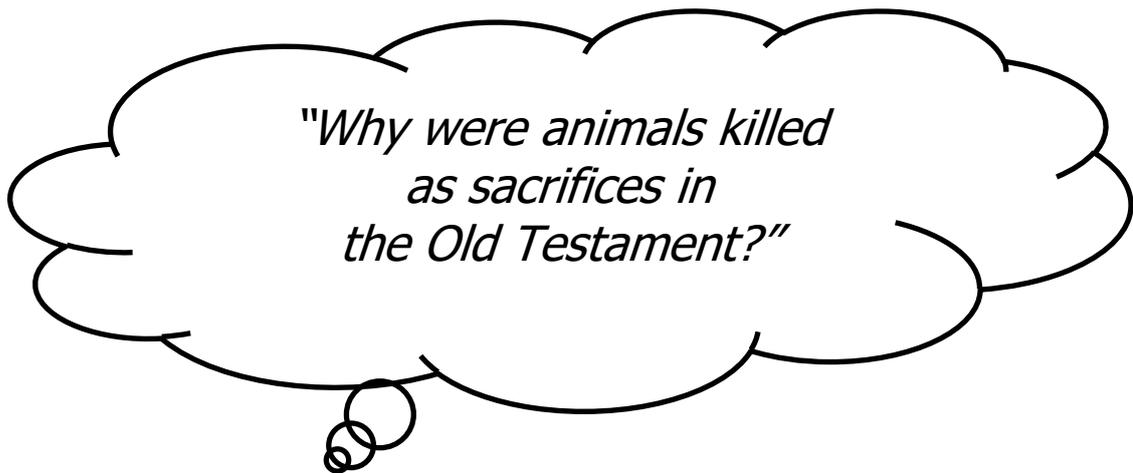
How do you view October? Summer is past, the days are shorter, winter is almost with us. Emotionally, spiritually – do you ever anticipate a winter of discontent? In a small, maybe elderly fellowship, does modern society overwhelm you with its defiant dismissal of God and His purposes for Planet Earth? Remember this fact. Winter is ALWAYS followed by Spring.

The Bible suggests, 'One thing I do. Forgetting what is behind, and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.' (Philippians 3.) The musical score from which 10,000 times 10,000 will celebrate Jesus in Heaven includes your music, requires your melody.

A Prayer: Father in Heaven, you present us with the opportunity to glorify your name by the music of our living. Help us to make music in the remaining quarter of 2018, by the way we represent your unfailing love and grace. Amen.

Doreen, with love

Ask the Pastor



In a recent sermon from Hebrews, we learned that Jesus' sacrifice, as he died on the cross, was far superior to the sacrifices that had been made in the Old Testament. This prompted the question: Why animal sacrifices in the first place?

We have to go right back to Genesis for the first time it happened. After Adam and Eve had sinned, God provided animal skins for clothing for them, as their sin had exposed their nakedness. Those animals had to be killed for that to happen. Otherwise, they would have been struck down in the presence of God. And so, the animals were killed instead of them.

And, it was God who commanded that animals be offered as sacrifice for the sins of his people. In the book of Leviticus, we read of all of the sacrifices that God wanted his people to offer. They continued to disobey God, and so deserved punishment. Hebrews 9 v 22 tells us that "*Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness.*" (NIV). And so, the blood of the animals was shed instead of human blood. That happened throughout the Old Testament time.

But, and here's the great thing, after Jesus came that was no longer necessary. Why? Because he willingly sacrificed himself as he died instead of human beings such as us, even though he had done nothing wrong. The good news of the Gospel is that we can put our trust in Jesus who has died instead of us, so that we will not be punished.

Also, even though the sacrifices in the Old Testament were set by God, they would never have been good enough to provide real forgiveness for the people. They were only there to point forward to the perfect sacrifice of Jesus. Old Testament sacrifices were to be offered time and time again. Jesus' sacrifice was once and for all:

Writing about Jesus, the author of Hebrews says:

"unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself."

Hebrews 7 v 27 (NIV)

Hallelujah! What a Saviour!

Pastor Richard

Dedication Service

Sunday 14th October
at 4.00pm

We Welcome
Naomi and Dale Norman
and their family and friends
for the dedication
of baby **Felicity Estelle**

A Poem for Autumn:

'Come Spring'

Autumn, like a multi-coloured cloak,
Engulfed the forest and chased the leaves away,
Enraptured the ocean as though some invisible giant
Were breathing in it, whipping up a mighty froth.
The meadows paled into faded yellow
When Autumn drained the grass of colour.

Growing things prepared for sleep
As cooler nights slowed impulses down.
Birds and butterflies migrated
While other creatures hibernated;
Slow-motion torpor seemed to set in...

Yet deep-down a pulsation of life carried on,
As a more subdued birds-song still welcomed the dawn.
Jesus proclaimed

Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies,
It remains alone (and fails to germinate);
But if it dies, it bears much fruit.

And in like manner, if we die-to-self for Jesus' sake,
His abundant new life will be ours forever.

by Meredith Vallis

What's your favourite Hymn?!

The Dentist's..... Crown Him with Many Crowns

The Weather presenter's...There Shall Be Showers of Blessings

The Builder's.....The Church's One Foundation

The Tailor's..... Holy, Holy, Holy

The Golfer's.....There is a Green Hill Far Away

The Politician's.....Standing on the Promises

The Optician's.....Open My Eyes That I Might See

The Taxman's.....I Surrender All

The Gossip's.....Pass It On

The Electrician's.....Send The Light

The Shopper's.....Sweet Bye and Bye

And for Drivers:

at 45mph.....God Will Take Care of You

at 65mph.....Nearer My God To Thee

at 85mph.....This World Is Not My Home

at 95mph.....Lord, I'm Coming Home

at 100mph.....Precious Memories

BMS World Mission

The Christian Future of the Middle East

Four future leaders of the Church in Muslim countries have finished another year of education and formation, thanks to all those who support BMS World Mission.

Yaccoub lost his faith when he saw a bomb fall on a school bus in Syria, his home country, killing children as young as four. Now, he's just finished a year of theological education at one of the best seminaries in the Muslim majority world – a BMS World Mission partner that is preparing Christians to lead the Church in the region.

Yaccoub came back to faith thanks to the witness of a family member and the profound questions the Syrian conflict raised in him. "When I was intellectually searching for God I also had the life example of my aunt with me and that was the main reason that I decided to follow Jesus," he says. And today he has a vision to take both the intellectual and the loving, life example to his generation back in Syria.

BMS has been able to provide four full scholarships to students studying at the seminary this year – covering their tuition, accommodation, food and books. "We need leaders in our churches and our ministries," Yaccoub says, "and people supporting us in this seminary are helping us to send out these leaders to areas where they are needed." Each scholarship of \$10,000 (about £7,500) has helped to prepare women and men from the Muslim majority world (some of them from countries too sensitive to publish) to serve God in their home countries or other places where the Church is small.

"I want to thank the people who give without knowing us," Yaccoub says. "I would like to thank them for the opportunity they are giving us to study here, to let them know that we are being transformed at many levels, theologically, spiritually and in our characters. They are sending prepared leaders."

Your support for BMS leadership ministries will transform far more than just Yaccoub's life. You can read more of his story at www.bmsworldmission.org/yaccoub

Bananas and Chillies – A Recipe for Success

Ugandan farmers can now fund medical bills and school fees thanks to agricultural training – and the supporters of BMS World Mission.

In Gulu, Uganda, BMS workers have trained 100 families to start farming chillies and bananas. Each household received in-depth training, including land preparation and how to plant the bananas and chillies. Once they were ready, the farmers used their new skills and knowledge to grow the crops. And they were hugely successful. All the bananas are being sold in local markets in Gulu, and the dried chillies are now being bought by a wholesaler in the capital city, Kampala, that exports them all over the world.

This is having an amazing impact in the lives of these families. One of the challenges for many farmers in the area was not being able to pay for big medical bills or having to pull their children out of school if fees were raised. But now, this is no longer the case.

Namazzi [name changed] has benefited from growing bananas. Because the banana harvest is continual, she can take her bananas and sell them at a local market throughout the year. The new income acts as weekly spending for the family, so they can make sure there is enough food in the house, as well as covering small medical bills.

And it's not just in Uganda that agricultural training is having an impact. In Mozambique, people are learning to better grow corn, and cattle have been donated so farmers can learn how to plough. And in Nepal, BMS-supported livestock training means that women like Goma can provide for their families by selling buffalo milk at the market.

You're helping farmers learn new skills, provide for their families, and live healthier lives. Thank you.

Discover more about the farming work you support, visit www.bmsworldmission.org/recipeforsuccess

Services/Meetings

Sunday 7th 11.00 am Pastor Richard Miles
4.00 pm Pastor Richard Miles (Communion)

Church Anniversary

Sunday 14th 11.00 am Pastor Richard Miles
4.00 pm Pastor Richard Miles (Dedication see p 6)

Sunday 21st 11.00 am Pastor Richard Miles (Communion)
4.00 pm Pastor Richard Miles

Sunday 28th 11.00 am Rev. Richard Harrison (BMS Collection)
4.00 pm Rev. Richard Harrison (BMS Collection)

Outreach Services

Monday 1st 3.00 pm Service for residents at Ty Bryn
Monday 15th 2.00 pm Service for residents at Ty Ceirios

Sisterhood Speakers

Tuesdays 2nd Richard Harrison
at 3 pm 9th Clare Hopkins
16th Jane Clay
23rd Pastor Richard
30th Pastor Jayne Harris

Midweek Bible Study and Prayer Meetings

Wednesdays 3rd Pastor Richard
6.50 – 8.30 pm 10th Phil Norman
17th Church Meeting
24th Jill Morley
31st Evening of Prayer

(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 2nd October when our speaker will be Annmarie 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 Troisant Vestry on Tuesday 16th October at 7.30 pm. See Annmarie for more details.

Eastern Valley Men's Christian Fellowship

Please join us on Tuesday 9th October at 7.00, when our speaker will be Simon Matheson of Christians Against Poverty.

Open House

Ladies and Gentlemen are invited to join us from 2.30 – 4.30 pm on Monday 8th October, 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 18th October, 10.30 am, at the Lighthouse Church.

Monday Night Prayer Meetings in Torfaen

1st October, 7 pm	Prayer for GSUS Live, at Upper Troisant.
8th October, 7 pm	Prayer for GSUS Live, at Upper Troisant.
15th October, 7 pm	Prayer for GSUS Live, at Upper Troisant.
29th October, 7 pm	Prayer for Revival, at Penygarn.

Leadership Team Meeting: Tuesday 9th October, at 9.30 am.

Weekly Rotas

<u>Cleaning</u>	October 1 st	Janet Jones
<u>Rota</u>	October 8 th	Phil Norman
	October 15 th	Janet Pollard & Jonathan Pollard
	October 23 rd	Keith and Barbara Fordham
	October 30 th	Janet Jones

Sunday 7th	Flowers	Sian Garwood
	Door – am	Pam Charles
	Teas – am	Rhoswyn Williams
	Door – pm	Jill Morley

Sunday 14th	Flowers	Priscilla Pearson
	Door – am	Barbara Fordham
	Teas – am	Barbara Fordham
	Door – pm	Rita Jones and Phyllis Jones

Sunday 21st	Flowers	Clare Hopkins
	Door – am	Clare Hopkins
	Teas – am	Yvonne Walker and Clare Hopkins
	Door – pm	Priscilla Pearson

Sunday 28th	Flowers	Doreen Harrison
	Door – am	Anthea Scott
	Teas – am	Clare Hopkins
	Door – pm	Clare Hopkins

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 October

1st Clare Hopkins

15th Jonathan Pollard

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 the safety of the team who are rebuilding the entrance to our Hall; and for the safety of all who come to Upper Trostant during the building works.
- Pray for our Church Anniversary Celebrations, that they will be a blessing on, and a witness to, many people.
- 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 'our' missionaries Chris and Debbie Drew in Nepal.
- 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 14 October.
- Pray for Barbara and Keith Fordham as they settle into their new home.
- Continue to pray for GSUS Live as it travels to local schools.
- 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, Janet Pollard, Ann Price, Anthea Scott, Jo Shanahan, Ann Stephens, Greta and Derek Wagg, Marion Webb, Malcolm Williams...

YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED
TO AN AFTERNOON OF



ANNIVERSARY PRAISE!

Did you know that Upper Trosnant is one of the oldest churches in Torfaen? We will be celebrating our Church's 242nd Anniversary by coming together for an afternoon of favourite hymns, testimonies and light refreshments on

Saturday 13th October
at 3.00 pm

Everyone is welcome – please join us if you can. See page 11 for details of the anniversary services on Sunday 14th.

Contact Details

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