



Eluned Brown

It was announced during the church service on Sunday 27th February, that Eluned had died that morning. She would have been 105 next April. Our sympathy and prayers go to all her family.

Her family attended a private cremation on Friday 11th March, followed by a Memorial service at St Johns, taken by Rev Nanette Lewis-Head assisted by Rev Stella Hayton. This was attended by many people from all walks of her life, and was followed by lunch in the hall. There was also an article about Eluned in the local paper as she was such a highly regarded person.

Memories

Liz remembers her wearing her Welsh costume, and surrounded by 1,000 daffodils. Ann M says Eluned never liked our glass front door, and only came through it when she was pushed in a wheel chair!

Graham said he can only remember her when she was old. She must have been a real go-getter when she was younger.

Shirley said... she liked reading like me and for a long while we swapped books. We would



leave a bag of books by the choir seat Eluned always sat in!

Val said her memories are – on her way home from church taking Eluned to her son's house in Lamphey for Sunday Dinner.

Christine and the Brown family say a very big thank you to all the members who have supported them, especially those on the Friday including Carol B-T, and Sue and Ian Bonser.

Editorial

The close off date for the May Newsletter is Friday 15th April. Please send any news, photos, etc. to shirleybdraper@gmail.com.

The Church mouse says:

You have to take the next step or you'll be doing the same things for the rest of your life.

Our American Visitor

Judith Keller arrives from Chicago on 4th April until the end of the month, and is staying in Harding Street again. She hasn't been able to visit us since before Covid came into our lives! Also, we wish her Penblwydd Hapus for her birthday on 18th March.

News of members

Liz and Gill both are recovering from their cataract operations.

Judy B's husband Mike was in hospital but has recovered well. He came to the St David's Day lunch as proof!

Bethan Lusher was 13 on March 17th, Penblwydd Hapus.

Sharman has had her operation on her knee, and is now home recovering.

Be Happy

May every sunrise bring you hope.

May every sunset bring you peace.

St David's Day and Shrove Tuesday

First an apology. Ian Bonser reminded the Editor that Welsh Leek Soup was written in the last Newsletter. It should have been Cawl! Thank you, Ian, mistakes should be corrected.

About 40 people gathered for 12.30 midday on 1st March, and Stella Hayton said the Grace, then we were served by cute waitresses and one cute waiter (John Hayton) all wearing Welsh Aprons (and all members!). First, we had a large bowl of Welsh Cawl,



(Vegetables and Lamb plus) with slices of bread and a hunk of cheese. This was followed by 2 rolled up pancakes with a piece of lemon and a scattering of sugar. Coffee, Tea, was served together with a plate of Welsh Cakes to each table, with boxes of chocolates also doing the rounds of the tables. Everyone sat back then for the entertainment to start. First up was Ieuan who sang in Welsh with no accompaniment. Mollie played the piano for her husband Peter and Mike to sing a duet. Then Liz Storey told us a Dylan Thomas story. This was followed by a solo song by Dilys, Mike's wife with Mollie playing. Ieuan came on again and his first Welsh song, her favourite, was dedicated to Eileen who is 101. The 2nd was Myfanwy. Mollie then told us the story about how rugby started...way, way back. Each village having all the men running and throwing a "wooden ball" and the day finished with broken bones, bruises and torn clothes! Word sheets in both English and Welsh were handed out and the whole room was soon singing, some folk in Welsh, some in English, but together- Sosban Fach, Counting the Goats, and All through the night, etc. with the choir of Peter, Mike, Dilys



and Ieuan leading and Mollie on the piano. There were tears in

people's eyes, it was so terrific.

Sunday Worship on the 27th February

Was taken by the Worship group with Peter, Rhys, Sue P, Judy doing readings, Liz Mc'd and did the prayers. Ann M with the help of Jessica and Megan did a visual sermon

"Climbing the mountain" based on the readings.

"Faith Matters"

This group meet at the Manse every Thursday, and would welcome anybody who would like to join in their discussions about the Bible.

Apache Blessing

May the sun bring you new energy by day
May the moon softly restore you by night
May the rain wash away your worries
May the breeze blow new strength into your being.

May you walk gently through the world and
know its beauty all the days of your life

Ron Hurlow sent in the following:

Translation of a notice outside a French Church.

When you enter this Church, it may be possible for you to hear the "Call of God". However, it is unlikely that He will call you on your mobile. Thank you for turning off your mobiles. If you want to talk to God, enter, choose a quiet place and talk to Him. If you want to see Him, send Him a text while driving.

Ukraine Fund Raiser

Two Coffee Mornings were devoted to raising funds for Ukraine and £1,250 was collected. Prayers were said at the various Church services for the people of Ukraine.

Welsh Cakes and Coffee morning.

The Welsh Cakes are still selling well on Wednesdays. Over the colder part of the year now they are being "cooked" inside, but John takes a table around to the front gate and sells them to passers-by or people who come every week, but don't want to come inside to have coffee. There are lots of regulars who come every Wednesday for coffee.



Sometimes the walking group pops in too. It is a great time for socializing!

The Craft Group

Thanks are due to some great crocheters who have finished joining the squares into rugs, and these have now been donated to a good cause.

The members made some great pottery one week and painted it a fortnight later.

Anyone who wants to pop in for a chat and a cuppa and maybe do a craft or two are welcome.



Synod Spring Meeting

At least 5 of us "attended" Synod on Sat. 12th March by engaging in the Zoom meeting: Stella, John, Suzanne, Peter and I.

Simon, our Moderator opened the meeting by greeting everyone, then handed over to Megan Price, his new PA and Office Manager. She led us in prayer by words and music, then Helen Stenson (previously Simon's PA) who is now Synod Clerk, led the commemorations of Elders who have died since the last Synod. Eluned Brown was included.

Various reports and ideas were given: from Megan, reminding churches of the need to send in Annual Church Returns; from Claire Boot, the new property officer, who talked about the 360° carbon-off setting scheme, which teaches us how to calculate our carbon footprint at church. She offered to send the 360° information to anyone who requests it. Eileen, a lay person, said every church in the Synod has been sent a "green box" to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the United Reformed Church and this gives many ideas on how to become more eco-friendly (see the back page). The new

Safeguarding officer is Diane Taylor and she talked about our responsibility to keep each other safe – adults and children at risk.

Judy Harris, our Youth and Children's officer, talked about the Youth Assembly held in January, the 2 new Youth Moderators, and the main topics of discussion at their Assembly: Conversion Therapy and Mental Health. Judy has resource books available for any church wanting to hold a holiday club.

After a coffee break, we came together in small groups to discuss the "whole people of God" booklet. I couldn't remember seeing it, but in my small group several people talked of the hiatus that prevented people from discussing the topic because of covid closures. The booklet was asking churches to discuss proposals for the provision of Ministry in the Wales Synod. NOT the deployment of Ministers, but the way in which we could ALL contribute to ministering to others. I was able to tell my group about the way in which we, at St Johns, principally led by Sue and Ian, had "done ministry differently" during the pandemic lock downs by their ideas for virtual celebrations, etc. The others were very interested in this.

In plenary again, we went on to discuss several Resolutions from General Assembly; one was about Ministerial Discipline and Incapacity, which was passed; another was about including safeguarding procedures in the structure of the church, which was passed. The next was regarding the "whole people of God" document being used as a basis for development strategy. This was passed. The Budget, presented by Chris Atherton which, for the first time ever showed a tiny surplus, was passed. A resolution that Synod appoints its Pastoral Committee to conduct business of Synod between meetings, was also passed, but a proposal to change the name of the Synod Officers and staff to Wales Synod Team was objected to, and this goes back to the Synod staff to re-think.

Reminders were given of the Big Day Out on 25th June at Builth Wells and of General Assembly in Derbyshire from 8th to 11th July. There are 2 lay vacancies if anyone is interested. We ended with a short service led by Simon. Next Synod is in October at Llandrindod Wells. *Mollie.*



To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the United Reformed Church the Synod of Wales has produced 12 monthly sheets with thoughts and prayers to help us cultivate a heart for God's creation. We will share an exact each month. John and Stella. The material was written, compiled and published by Eileen Newington (Synod Green Advocate), Judy Harris (Children and Youth Development Officer), Jason Askew (Training and Development Officer)



New Life

April 2022



Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit

(John 12:24)

Ponder

Thomas Merton wrote in 'Seeds of Contemplation': *"A tree gives glory to God by being a tree. For in being what God means it to be it is obeying [God]. It 'consents,' so to speak, to [God's] creative love. It is expressing an idea which is in God and which is not distinct from the essence of God, and therefore a tree imitates God by being a tree"*



Ponder some more . . .

Think of the fruit tree, any fruit tree. The fruit tree freely GIVES of itself – it stands firmly rooted and its branches reach out into the world offering goodness, freely, to anyone who will take it. What if this was an image of the church? Giving, giving and giving again, year after year, time after time, because through the giving of itself, of its fruit, the tree plants the seeds of new life, new fruit trees grow, new branches develop, and new fruit comes forth. So it is with the kingdom of God. The Church that gives of itself, that reaches out into the world with life-giving goodness will fulfil its purpose in Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit, giving glory to God.



Let us pray:

Read 2 Cor 5:14-21

God of new life, help us to die to self. God of new life, in Christ you reconciled the whole of creation to you. God of new life, help us to live for Christ. God of new life, may we fulfil your ministry of reconciliation by living carefully in this beautiful world. For Christ's sake, Amen

Get Active:

- Prune some of your 'non-eco' habits and replace them with new life-giving habits.
- Give new life to old stuff—recycle and reuse.
- Plant a fruit tree and give thanks for its gifts.
- Check out Countryfile's website, in particular its section on

"How to live a greener life"

