

**UPPER TROSNANT  
BAPTIST CHURCH**



# JUNE 2024 NEWSLETTER

“The Lord is my strength and my defence;  
he has become my salvation.”

Psalm 118v14



**Services on Sundays at 11.00am in the church  
and informal fellowship at 4.00pm in the hall**

**Online ministry on YouTube & Facebook**

**Just search for “Upper Trosnant”**

**Find us on social media @uppertrosnantbc**

[www.trosnant.org](http://www.trosnant.org)

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## **Newsletter Items:**

We are always happy to receive items for the newsletter. Please email articles or features for the July 2024 edition to **uppertrosnantbc@gmail.com** by **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June.**

## **Letter from Pastor Richard** **Speaking Naturally of Jesus**

I have spent time recently considering some verses from Colossians:

*“Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone.”*

Colossians 4 v 5 – 6 (NLT)



These verses speak of the way that we are to live our lives as believers when we are with those who do not acknowledge Jesus. And as we read them, they challenge us, don't they? How wisely do we live? Do we make the most of every opportunity? What is our conversation like? These are good questions that we can be asking ourselves.

And yet, we should not use these verses to beat ourselves up. This is what we strive towards, we cannot expect that we will always live up to what is said here. And so, we need to say to God, by his Holy Spirit; “please enable me to live wisely, take my opportunities and speak well.”

But we still may feel that we fail. So let me encourage you. If you are serious about wanting to live this way, then just be as natural as you can in whatever situation you are in, then see what opportunities come from that. What do I mean? Sometimes people think that unless you have given somebody the whole gospel when you speak to them, you have missed your opportunity. But that is not what Paul means here.

If you are living wisely, you will know when to speak, and you will also know when to be quiet! And it may well be that more often than not, it is wise to be quiet. Just occasionally say a well-chosen word and leave it at that. And it is amazing the way that opportunities can come. If you look at the update page, you will see mention there of speaking naturally about Jesus in Warm Space. Now that meeting does not have any explicit gospel content in the sense of Bible Reading, Prayer or a Message. But it is amazing how often the conversation turns to spiritual

things – it occurs naturally, no one has primed anyone else to raise the subject. And recently, the conversation has been about what it means to be saved, and the implications that follow. That is taking an opportunity given by the Lord. And so, make sure the way you speak is, as the verse reminds us, gracious and attractive, not necessarily explicitly spiritual, and see where the Lord takes you. Of course, when the conversation does lend itself, then speak of Jesus, the opportunity has already been provided.

Let's not be afraid to speak naturally of Jesus.

Frances Ridley Havergal wrote of this in a hymn that we love to sing. In it, she takes every part of life and prays that the Lord will take it and use it. And as that is true of us, the opportunities will come to speak of Jesus – naturally. There are 6 verses, here is just the first – go and look up the rest of the hymn!

*Take my life and let it be consecrated Lord to Thee;*

*Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.*

**Love in Jesus,**

**Pastor Richard**

### **Gone to Glory – our brother Derek Wagg**

Two long-standing members of the Upper Trosnant congregation have passed away since the last newsletter was published. Derek Wagg who for many years a familiar face at afternoon services, attending faithfully with Phil and Helen and sitting with Greta in the pew at the back, went to be with the Lord on 7<sup>th</sup> May. We extend our sympathies to Greta, Helen and all the family at this sad time.

### **And our Sister Marion Webb**

Marion Webb was a member of Saron Church in Goytre, who have a single Sunday afternoon service. For a number of years, she, with her husband Edwin and close friend Marion Williams, would join us on Sunday mornings and for special events. Marion had been living in residential care for some time. She died on 8<sup>th</sup> May; our sympathies to her children and other members of the family.

We will be remembering both Derek and Marion in a future Newsletter.

## Greetings from...

When I became the editor of the Newsletter, Doreen Harrison was established as a regular contributor. The earliest edition I can find on my computer is from March 2015, in which she had written a lovely piece about 'the water of life.' In a national newspaper Doreen would have been called a columnist. It makes me smile to think that many of the 'our' readers would turn first to page 4 – but for very different reasons than those of a certain publication might turn to page 3!

How faithful Doreen was in her writing, both the weekly *Ichthus* column in the *Free Press* and for the Newsletter. The Lord blessed her with such a wonderful gift of words. How vividly she could bring a scene or a memory to life! Moreover, she always knew just the right Bible verse to turn our thoughts from everyday activities to the ways of God.

We mourn Doreen's passing and miss her wise and cheerful presence in our fellowship, and yet we also rejoice to know she is in the presence of the Lord, experiencing the glories of heaven, and eternally free from pain and suffering. You may however be wondering, what will page 4 look like now? Who can possibly replace our beloved sister Doreen?

Well, the answer to that question is – **YOU!** Yes – all of you! When I first attended Upper Trosnant the afternoon service began, after the opening songs, with a "5-minute slot". Members of the congregation would take turns to share a short testimony, or a thought about a Bible verse. Those five minutes could be very powerful indeed.

Therefore, I have an invitation for all members and friends of our church. Has the Lord spoken to you through a past or recent experience, or is there a Bible passage that helps and inspires you? Please put pen to paper, or fingers to keyboard, and share it with the readers of the Newsletter. You may be thinking, 'I couldn't possibly... I don't have a way with words....' Probably what the disciples said, then, when Jesus sent them out to preach! In Matthew 10 we read, 'Jesus replied, "Do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you."' As a rough guide, one page contains about 400 words. Is the Lord already giving you an idea?

**Clare**

## **The Story of the BMS – Beginnings and Early Years**

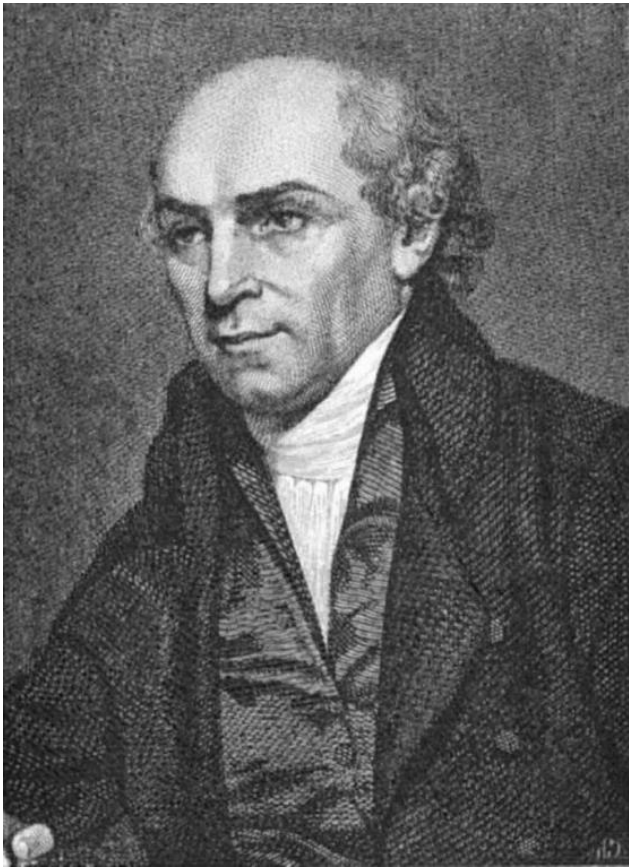
*As part of the UK's Baptist family, Upper Trosnant has been supporting the missionary organisation BMS World Mission since – before anyone can remember! In May we began a 're-launch' of our monthly collection for BMS, which gave our church an opportunity to remind ourselves what the charity is all about, and how it came into being.*

In the 1700s, Protestant missionary societies were few in number, and in some Baptist circles, the idea of sending workers abroad as missionaries was not even thought to be theologically sound! But one young man by the name of William Carey believed that Jesus's command to "go and make disciples of all nations" applied just as much to him as to first century Christians.

William Carey was born in 1761, in the county of Northamptonshire, and was the eldest of five children whose father was the local schoolmaster. William was a very bright boy who loved learning and reading and had an amazing aptitude for languages. He longed to be a missionary after reading the story of David Brainerd, who was a missionary to the American Indians in the early 1700s. At the age of 14, William became an apprentice shoemaker, and by the age of 20, he was running his own shoemaking business. While he made shoes, he taught himself Greek, Hebrew, French, Italian and Dutch. This was no ordinary young man, and God was preparing him for no ordinary task in the future!

In 1789, at the age of 28, William became the full-time pastor of Harvey Lane Baptist Church in Leicester, and the sense of God's call to become a missionary was growing ever stronger in his heart. Three years later, in 1792, he published a pamphlet calling on Christians to engage in mission. His ideas did not find agreement amongst some of his fellow Baptist ministers, one of them retorting, "Young man, sit down! When God pleases to convert the heathen, He will do it without your aid or mine!" However, William Carey could no longer sit down. The time had come for him not only to get up, but also to GO!

William managed to gather round him a group of twelve like-minded ministers and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1792, at a meeting in Kettering, the 'Particular Baptist Society for the Propagation of the Gospel Amongst the



*Portrait of William Carey in about 1887*

Heathen' was formed. The Baptist Missionary Society (BMS) as it soon became known, was born! The following year, in 1793, William, along with fellow worker and doctor, John Thomas, sailed for India with their wives and children. Their departure marked a turning point in the history of Christian mission as these men, and others who joined them, pioneered a pattern of missionary activity that quickly spread far and wide.

The growth and development of the work in India was phenomenal, wonderfully supported from home by the tireless efforts of Andrew Fuller, the first secretary of the BMS, who travelled the length and breadth of the UK promoting the Mission's cause, and appointing representatives in every part of the country who could spread the word and raise financial and prayer support.

William Carey and John Thomas were soon joined by two more workers, William Ward, a printer, and Joshua Marshman, a teacher and educationalist by profession. Carey, Ward and Marshman settled in the colony of Serampore, in West Bengal, and became known as the Serampore Trio. There they not only spent their time and energy preaching the gospel, but also worked tirelessly to translate the Bible into the language of the people. By 1801, the first Bengali New Testament was ready, and nine years later, the whole Bible was printed, as well as large portions of scripture in six other languages!

In addition to this, Joshua Marshman, with the help of his wife, Hannah, went on to establish a network of schools for Bengali children around Serampore. By 1818, 92 schools had been started, with a total of ten thousand pupils learning to read and write, and gaining a basic



knowledge of history, geography, science, maths and scripture. The Serampore Trio also set up a college in 1818, with the vision of training Indian Christians as missionaries to their own people. Serampore College expanded rapidly, and by 1827, it became the first university in India and in all Asia to award degrees. In order to supply the needs of the schools and College, Carey and his team set up the Serampore Mission Press which produced textbooks, dictionaries, classical literature and other publications, including the first systematic Sanskrit grammar.

The missionaries and their wives saw tremendous suffering and injustice around them, and spent much time helping the sick, the poor and the distressed. They also used their influence to bring about a number of social reforms, including a campaign to bring an end to the Hindu practice of Sati (or Suttee), where a widow was burnt alive on the funeral fire with her late husband's body. By 1829, Sati was declared illegal and punishable in the criminal courts. Although there were protests, the new law was enforced, and the practice died out altogether.

Before William Carey went to India, he preached a challenging sermon in which he repeatedly stirred his congregation with the words, "Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God." These words became the motto of the BMS. William Carey took as his text Matthew 28: 18-20:

*"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age'."* This great Christian man is considered to be the "father of modern missions," and his example and words have inspired many who have known a call from God to no longer sit and think about it, but, like Carey as a young man, to GO!

In future editions of the Newsletter, I will be looking at the more recent activities of the BMS, and at the scope of their work in the present day.

**Jill Morley**



## Wordsearch: Living Well

Paul was in prison in Rome when he wrote his letter to the church at Colossae. His advice to the Christians there about how they should live and behave in their local community remains excellent advice for us today. Find the words printed in bold, and the letters you have left will give you the name of one of Jesus's apostles.

T	S	T	H	G	I	R	E	S	P	O	N	S	E
R	S	U	O	I	C	A	R	G	L	G	E	C	C
A	R	C	S	P	E	A	K	U	O	I	O	O	L
E	E	H	M	U	I	M	F	D	T	N	N	S	E
H	V	R	O	O	O	K	N	I	V	C	E	P	A
E	E	I	S	N	N	I	N	E	E	V	R	R	R
T	I	S	T	A	M	U	R	R	L	A	L	O	L
O	L	T	H	C	T	S	N	E	Y	E	C	C	Y
V	E	T	P	R	A	I	S	E	T	H	P	L	R
E	B	L	O	T	N	R	R	M	A	S	L	A	E
D	A	P	I	G	U	E	T	I	A	I	Y	I	V
N	P	O	I	O	T	E	N	T	W	K	R	M	E
O	N	V	Y	L	E	S	I	W	A	L	E	R	T
M	E	S	S	A	G	E	N	O	Y	R	E	V	E

**Devote yourselves to prayer** with an **alert mind** and a **thankful heart**. Pray for us, too, that **God** will **give** us many **opportunities** to **speak** about his **mysterious plan concerning Christ**. That is why I am here in **chains**. Pray that I will **proclaim** this **message** as **clearly** as I should. Live **wisely** among those who are not **believers**, and **make** the **most** of **every** opportunity. **Let** your **conversation** be **gracious** and **attractive** so that you **will** have the **right response** for **everyone**.  
(Colossians 4: 3-6, NLT)

## Bible Notes **38** Part 4 Fertile Crescent Daniel Pearson

Abram and Sarai would have passed around El-Ballah Lake on their way (*Genesis 12 :10*) to the Nile delta and would see the largest building on earth - Khufu's great pyramid in Giza. As they approached they would have seen the largest stone monument in the world - the Great Sphinx - constructed by Djedefre, Khufu's son. The pyramid is the resting place of Khufu and the tallest, at 1460 metres, of those at Giza, being constructed of 2.3 million limestone blocks around 2570 BC. The finish at that time, would have been in white lime, and quite dazzling in the bright sunlight.

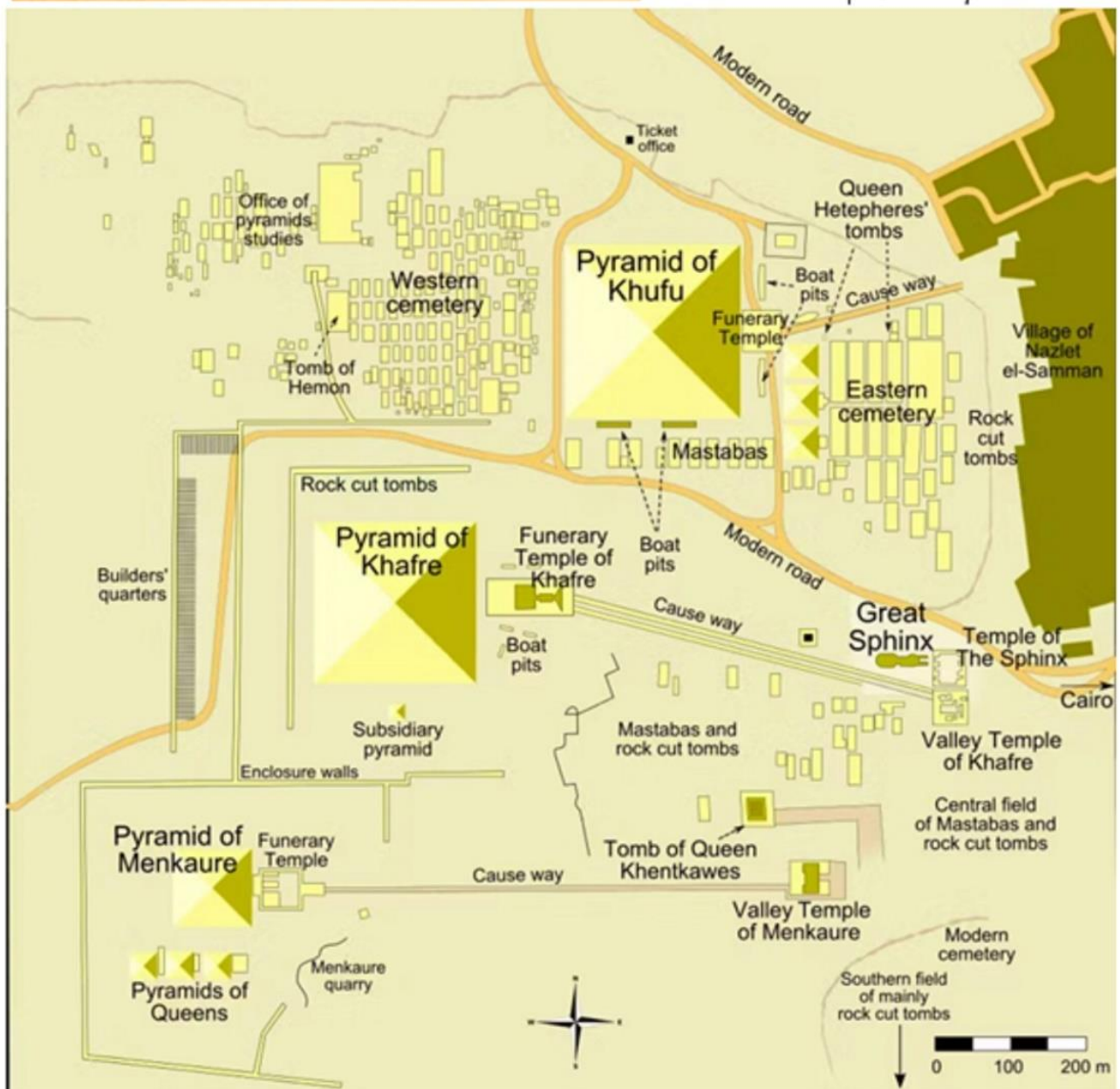
It has long been a mystery as to how the Egyptian got massive stone blocks, from over 500 miles away, to this site. Recent archeological digs have revealed that constructional canals were dug, so that barges could float these heavy stones close to the building work. The soil from these digs have been laboratory analysed and confirmed, from seed and pollen, that this was a most productive part of the Fertile Crescent.

When Abram came to Egypt (*Genesis 12:15-16*) he said that Sarai was his sister, because she was beautiful, and Abram feared for his life. He was treated well on account of her and she was taken into Pharaoh's palace. What Abram said was true (*Genesis 20:12*) as Sarai was his sister by another marriage. The Pharaoh was Khafre, who reigned for 26 years around 2570 BC, son of Djedefre who reigned for about 14 years and who was the son of Khufu who reigned for 29 years. The Pyramid of Djedefre is five miles north of Giza and today it is a ruin.

But the Pharaoh and his household suffered diseases (*Gen 12:17*) and Abram was summoned, given his wife, and was told to go with everything he had. So Abram set-out again for the Negev (*Genesis 13:1*).



Left: Pyramids of Khufu, Khafre and Menkaure. Above: Pyramid of Khafre  
 Below: modern map of Giza Pyramid site



## **Happy Birthday Isaac Watts – part three**

This year the Newsletter has been celebrating the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Isaac Watts in 1674. You can read the first two parts of the series in the February and April editions. Today Isaac Watts is famous as one of the greatest hymn-writers of all time, but in his lifetime, he saw himself primarily as a pastor and theologian. He also had a particular interest in education, writing books of songs for children, and also catechisms for teaching the truths of the Christian faith to infants and older children, and textbooks for undergraduates at university – even though he himself had been unable to attend Oxford or Cambridge on account of his non-conformity with the Anglican church.

In 1715, Isaac published his *Divine Songs attempted in Easy Language, for the sake of Children*. It was an immediate best-seller – and he was to remain the most popular children’s author for more than 100 years! The book begins with a preface in the form of a letter to all those involved in education, expressing sentiments and theories which would not be out of place in educational practice today.

“My Friends, it is an awful and important charge that is committed to you. The wisdom and welfare of the succeeding generation are intrusted with you beforehand, and depend much on your conduct. The seeds of misery or happiness in this world, and that to come, are oftentimes sown very early...”

Isaac explained the theory behind his work. He said, “Verse was at first designed for the service of God, though it hath been wretchedly abused since... The children of Israel were commanded to learn the words of the song of Moses, [Deuteronomy 31]. And we are directed in the New Testament, not only to sing with grace in the heart, but to teach and admonish one another by hymns and songs.”

Isaac listed four ‘advantages’ in teaching through songs. First, it offered ‘a greater delight’ – or as we would say, more fun. Truths learned as verses were easier for children to remember and recall. They would be given something worthwhile to think about, giving their thoughts ‘a divine turn.’ And the hymns would be useful to families and congregations to use in regular worship. Ever practical, Isaac fitted his words to popular psalm tunes, and took pains to make his hymns useful as widely as possible. “The

children of high and low degree, of the Church of England or Dissenters, baptized in infancy or not, may all join together in these songs. And as I have endeavoured to sink the language to the level of a child's understanding... so I have designed to profit all (if possible) and offend none."

Some of the *Divine Songs* are very familiar to us today, and have crossed over to be used in all-age worship, for example, "I sing the almighty power of God/that made the mountains rise/That spread the flowing seas abroad/And built the lofty skies' is a poetical description of the wonders of creation written in beautifully simple language.

The world has changed much in 350 years however, and many of Isaac's songs now seem old-fashioned in their emphasis on behaviour and morals, although 'Against Quarrelling and Fighting' certainly has an air of realism:

Let dogs delight to bark and bite, for God has made them so;  
Let bears and lions growl and fight, for `tis their nature too.  
But, children, you should never let such angry passions rise;  
Your little hands were never made to tear each other's eyes.

It is shocking to consider that in early 18<sup>th</sup>-century London, more than half of all children died before the age of five. Isaac and his readers were all too aware of this fact, and several of the hymns reflect on death and loss, heaven and hell. 'The Danger of Delay,' for example:

Why should I say, "`Tis yet too soon  
To seek for heaven or think of death?"  
A flower may fade before `tis noon,  
And I this day may lose my breath.

Ever concerned for the moral welfare of children, Isaac also wrote poems intended to promote good behaviour. More than a century after his death, these were still widely taught and read – and borrowed by other children's writers. In *Alice in Wonderland*, for example, the poem 'How doth the little crocodile improve each shining hour' is a parody of Isaac Watt's poem 'Against idleness and mischief' which begins, 'How does the busy little bee improve each shining hour.' Lewis Carol's readers must have laughed their socks off at that!

**More about Isaac Watts coming soon....**

**Clare Hopkins**

## Upper Trosnant Update

- God is continuing to be good to us as we meet together. We are very much aware of his presence, and it is encouraging to see the way he is at work in people's lives
- We have had opportunities to give thanks for the life of our dear sister, Doreen Harrison. The funeral was in Blaenavon on 19<sup>th</sup> April, and the service was a real expression of her faith and trust in Jesus. We also held our own thanksgiving service at Trosnant where we were able to share more memories and continue to give thanks for Doreen's life and testimony. We go on remembering Richard and the rest of the family in our prayers. There are still a few copies of last month's special Newsletter left, please feel free to take them.
- It has been a busy time for us as a church, both in terms of what we do here at Trosnant, and also what we are able to do with others.
- Churches United in Pontypool has been active in our town. There have been a few events, a Prayer and Praise Evening, a Lunch and Welsh Conversation Class, and Pentecost Praise (organized by the Market Chaplaincy) to name but three. We are also planning to be part of Pontypool Party in the Park which will take place in July – details in our next Newsletter.
- The meetings of the church have been a great encouragement. It has been really good that spontaneous conversations about matters of faith have been taking place in our Warm Space, we pray God will use them.
- Sisterhood has been a weekly joy, as has the monthly Men's Fellowship. Again, here it has been great to talk about the things of God in a very natural way.
- Once again, Teatime @ Trosnant was enjoyed by all those who were there. The delicious tea, more conversation and a short message were all appreciated.
- Our next **Teatime @ Trosnant will be on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June at 3.00 pm**. You are all very welcome to join us
- On Sunday afternoons during May, we have been going through "Hope Explored," reminding ourselves of the certain hope that we can have in Jesus and all he has done. Pray that God will reinforce that in the hearts of those who have been there.

- Please continue to pray for our visits to Ty Ceirios and Regency Residential Homes. It is so good to be able to share with those who are there and see the way in which they respond.
- It was wonderful to welcome Tom Wildy into membership at a recent Communion Service. We pray God's blessing upon him and Julie.
- Please note that Pastor Richard's Day Off each week is Friday. Please do not contact him or Annmarie on that day except in an emergency.

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Our church Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March. It was good to discuss various items regarding the life of the church. One very important thing that we did was to allocate our tithe for the work of various missions both locally and abroad. We also confirmed the roles and responsibilities that different people in church have. Please speak to a member of the Leadership Team for more details.

At that meeting, Keith Fordham expressed his intention to step down as Treasurer. We thank him most sincerely for all that he has done for a number of years in looking after the finances of the church so well and pray God's blessing upon him and Barbara for the future. We will be bringing proposals for his successor to the next Church Meeting which will be on **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June at 7.00 pm.**

## **Special Notice – Visit of SOMA Choir**

In conjunction with Churches United in Pontypool, we are delighted to welcome the Soma Choir to Trosnant on **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June at 7.00 pm.** SOMA is a local choir which started in the late 1970s and has put on a number of musicals and other events since then. They will be bringing to us a programme entitled "Faith, Hope and Love," which will include some well-known hymns for everyone to join in as well as pieces they will sing as a choir. They are very keen that this be seen as a worship event. There will be no charge for admission, but a retiring offering will be taken.



# **CHURCH DIARY for JUNE**

## **SUNDAY SERVICES AND PREACHERS**

11.00 am: In the Church building and later on YouTube;  
followed by Tea and Coffee in the Hall.

<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	Pastor Richard (Communion)
<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	Ron Spillards
<b>16<sup>th</sup></b>	Pastor Richard
<b>23<sup>rd</sup></b>	Dave Breese
<b>30<sup>th</sup></b>	Dave Breese

## **SUNDAY AFTERNOONS @ 4 O'CLOCK**

Meeting together in the Hall, with tea and coffee.

<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	Fellowship and Facebook Live with Pastor Richard
<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	Christians Against Poverty update, with Simon Matheson
<b>16<sup>th</sup></b>	Informal Communion, led by Pastor Richard
<b>23<sup>rd</sup></b>	Fellowship and Facebook Live with Pastor Richard
<b>30<sup>th</sup></b>	Fellowship and Facebook Live with Lorraine Breese

## **MONDAY**

**3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> – GARDEN FELLOWSHIP 2.00–4.00 pm in the flat garden.** Everyone is warmly invited to drop in for a friendly chat over tea/coffee and biscuits – and to come into the Hall if it rains!

**10<sup>th</sup> – OPEN HOUSE 2.00 – 4.00 pm in the Hall** – We play games or share crafts, or just meet for a cup of tea and a chat.

## **SERVICES IN RESIDENTIAL HOMES:**

**3<sup>rd</sup> – 11.00 am @ REGENCY**

**17<sup>th</sup> – 2.00 pm @ TY CEIRIOS**

If you would like to join the team in visiting these homes and sharing the joy of Jesus with the residents, please speak to Pastor Richard. Our visits are always greatly appreciated; and so is our singing!

## **TUESDAY – SISTERHOOD 2.30 – 4.00 pm in the Hall**

All ladies are welcome to join us every week for fellowship over tea, coffee, cake and biscuits, and to hear God's word and sing and pray together.

<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	Celia
<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	Clare
<b>18<sup>th</sup></b>	Lorraine
<b>25<sup>th</sup></b>	Sharing together

**11<sup>th</sup>** – 9.30 am: Christians Against Poverty prayer meeting in the Hall

7.00 pm: **MEN'S FELLOWSHIP MEETING** in the Hall

## **WEDNESDAY – PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY**

<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	6.50 for 7.00 pm	Phil
<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	1.50 for 2.00 pm	Pastor Richard
<b>19<sup>th</sup></b>	6.50 for 7.00 pm	Quarterly Church Meeting
<b>26<sup>th</sup></b>	1.50 for 2.00 pm	Jill

## **THURSDAY – CUP PRAYER AND PRAISE MEETING**

**27<sup>th</sup>** – 7.00 pm at Sharon Church

## **SATURDAY – TEATIME @ TROSNANT**

**22<sup>nd</sup>** – 3.00 pm in the Hall

### **HELPING IN CHURCH – ROTA for June**

	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Door</b>	<b>Teas AM</b>	<b>Flowers</b>	<b>Teas PM</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Lorraine	Lorraine	Lorraine	Barbara	Lorraine
9 <sup>th</sup>	Clare	Anthea	Clare	Liz	Could you help today?
16 <sup>th</sup>	Anthea	Ena	Jill	Anthea	Clare
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Tony	Clare	Jane and Janet J	Yvonne	Could you help today?
28 <sup>th</sup>	Ena	Barbara	Janet J	Sandra	Janet J
Communion: 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Barbara      16 <sup>th</sup> (pm): Clare					

## **Prayer Page: Praying for Refugees**

On 20 June, nations around the world will be marking World Refugee Day. In 2021 the United Nations designated this date to honour refugees around the globe, celebrating the strength and courage of people who have fled their homes to escape conflict, persecution or famine.

We may never have met a refugee in person, but every day's news brings harrowing stories of refugees fleeing from wars in Ukraine, Gaza, and Sudan, and migrants risking their lives to cross the English Channel in small boats. We may feel powerless to help or be frustrated that so many of the refugees coming to Britain are being exploited by other people. But the Bible teaches us that God cares greatly for refugees. Deuteronomy 10:18 says, 'He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing.' And Jesus taught that we should do the same: 'For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me...' (Matthew 25:35-36)

There is something powerful that we can do – we can pray.

- Pray that refugees fleeing from persecution will find safe routes and havens, and that all those who long to return to their home will be able to do so in safety.
- Remember the practical needs of clean water for drinking and washing, sufficient food, and dry shelter in refugee camps.
- Lift up vulnerable people – people with disabilities, the elderly, women, children – that they will be protected from abuse and ill-treatment.
- Pray that refugees will receive a welcome rather than a hostile reception and will have access to education and medical care.
- Ask that that refugees will have opportunities to work and so to gain their independence and dignity.
- Lift up the churches in Gaza and the Middle East, and in the countries bordering Ukraine, that they will have the resources they need to help refugees. Remember medical charities and their workers in refugee camps around the world.
- Pray for the United Nations, and for leaders of nations, and for all those who work for peace in the World. May God's justice prevail.

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

- Pray for all the services, events and meetings at Upper Trosnant during the month ahead. Ask the Lord that many will hear and believe the Good News of Jesus, and that all will grow in faith and love.
- Pray that the sun will shine on garden fellowship afternoons, and that more new friends will accept an invitation to come along.
- Pray for Pastor Richard and the leadership team. Ask the Lord that they will have all the strength and wisdom they need as they work for him and care for our fellowship.
- Pray for Greta, for Helen and Phil and for all their family as they mourn the loss of Derek. Pray too for the family of friends of Marion Webb, and for all who have suffered bereavements.
- Pray for Annmarie as she undergoes eye surgery, and that her recovery will go well.
- Pray for Dale Norman, and for Naomi and Felicity, as Dale concludes his final term of study at Cardiff Baptist College and waits on the Lord.
- Remember our missionary friends Margaret and Roy Collins-Reese in Toulouse, and Sue and David Verwey in Japan.
- Remember all those in care homes, including Ron Saunders and Ann Stephens. Ask the Lord to bless the monthly ministry to Ty Ceirios and to the Regency.
- Please pray for all those who are ill or frail, or recovering from illness or accidents, or in need of a special touch from the Lord: Val Attwell, Emma Attwell, Barbara's sister Brenda, Beryl from Blaenavon, Tom Wildy and Julie Blake, Dave Breese, Pam Charles, Doreen Dixon, Lindsey Firth, Keith Fordham, Mike Garwood, Liz Harris, Audrey and Eric Jones, Jean Miles, Helen Norman, Jeff Parry, Judith Parry, Janet Pollard, Alwyn Stephens, Linda Swires-Hennessy, Greta Wagg.



# Soma Choir presents



## 15th June, 7pm



## Teatime@Trosnant 22nd June, 3pm

Please let us know  
if you are coming  
Contact details below.

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

Contact Pastor Richard Miles  
e. [uppertrosnantbc@gmail.com](mailto:uppertrosnantbc@gmail.com)  
t. 01495 751020

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