

A PENTECOST REFLECTION



When Jesus met with Nicodemus, under the cover of darkness, he spoke with him about the Spirit of God: 'The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' Later, on the day of Pentecost, as the disciples sat together, we are told that there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind and it filled the house where they were.

Here's the thing with wind...when things get too hot, its presence is welcome and refreshing. But to the family trying to keep things in place on a blanket, when having a picnic, it can be disruptive and leave a mess that has to be managed.

Likewise, the spectacle of a tornado is something that inspires awe and wonder in those who see it from a safe distance but, when you are caught up in its power, there can be fear and significant changes made to your surroundings.

Wind has the power to both refresh and disturb.

Wind is unpredictable.

Wind is invisible, but its effects are seen wherever it is present.

This Pentecost, we remember that the Spirit of God is at work in this world, transforming and renewing, longing, calling and enabling new life to come forth. And we remember that we, too, have a part to play in this work of beauty and wonder, a work that brings healing and wholeness, as we are refreshed by the Spirit's presence.

But let us also remember that this is a work that requires courage. We cannot predict the direction of the wind, nor what its strength will be. When it blows, it may upset the picnic blanket and cause a minor inconvenience. But, it may also come through with a mighty power, causing all that we know and think are safe around us, to be shaken.

When this happens, we have a choice.

We can choose to close the doors and windows on the presence of the wind, so that we are untouched by its presence.

We can stand at a distance and watch, in awe, as it disturbs and disrupts, transforms and renews, and then hear the stories from others of what took place.

Or we can step outside and be exposed, letting the wind do its work, abandoning control and embracing its power and activity.

Prayer:
Holy Spirit,
disturb us,
equip us,
lead us,
renew us,
transform us,
refresh us
and bring us life, AMEN

*Revd Kath Miller
 Hengoed Newydd*

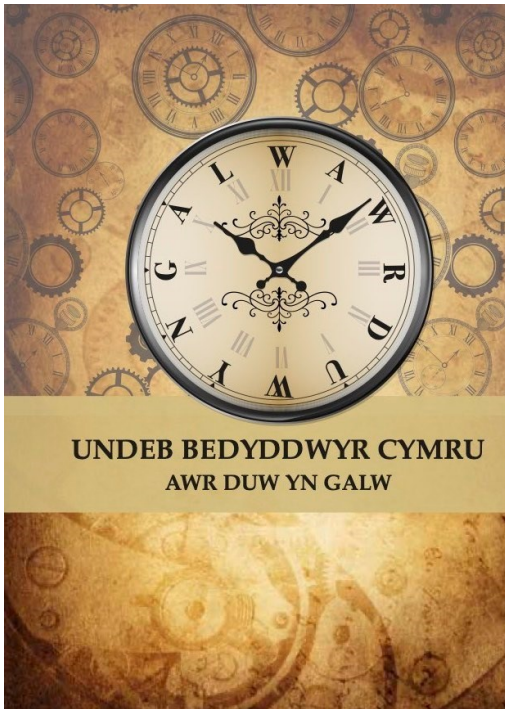


We have received to date:
£31,747.00

BUW Welsh Language Conference 2021

under the auspices of West Glamorgan Association

Theme:
‘God’s Hour Calling’



Unfortunately, the Annual Meetings of the Union were postponed last year due to Covid-19 and although the situation has gradually improved, we do not anticipate that it will be possible for us to hold the meetings this year in the usual way.

We are very sorry to have missed this opportunity to welcome our brothers and sisters in Christ to the Morryston and Pontlliw areas. However, the last few months have made us more aware of online possibilities and therefore as an Association we have agreed that two of the services will be brought to you via Zoom.

Therefore further to consultation with Union Officers, the Presidential Service will be held at Seion Newydd, Morryston and the Ministerial Service will be held at Carmel, Pontlliw. Both will be held in the company of a limited gathering

and will be recorded. The meetings will take place as follows via Zoom:

Monday, 21 June:

Business Meeting at 10.30 am.

Monday, 21 June:

Presidential Service at 7.00 pm.

Tuesday, 22 June:

Ministerial Service at 7.00 pm.

Further details on the Zoom arrangements will be available in due course.

*With every Blessing,
Aldyth Williams
(on behalf of the West Glamorgan
Baptist Association.)*

Momentum Conference 2021—Change the Atmosphere

This year we are not asking you to come to Momentum – instead, we are asking you to *be* Momentum, but with a difference! We are inviting every Baptist church and chapel in Wales to join in a national wave of prayer.

When is this happening? It will start on Pentecost, Sunday 23rd May, and finish on **Sunday 27th June** at 6.30 pm with a national event which will be broadcast live on the web.

Why Pentecost? Just as the Holy Spirit emboldened the disciples and sent them out to Jerusalem, Samaria and the ends of the earth, so we envisage our prayer wave sweeping out across Wales.

Where is this prayer wave going? It will start at Ilston, on the Gower, and move around Wales through West and North Wales and return to Ilston via Mid Wales and South East Wales.

Why Ilston? Ilston on the Gower was the birthplace of Baptist life in Wales in 1649, starting a journey which continues today – with you!

Have a look to see when the wave breaks over your area:

Swansea - Pantygwydr - 25th May

Haverfordwest - Bethesda - 28th May

Newbridge on Wye - Pentref - 3rd June

Brecon - Kensington - 6th June

Bangor - Penrallt - 9th June

Risca - Moriah - 10th June

Griffithstown - Ebenezer - 16th June

Newport - Lliswerry - 19th June

Pontypridd - Temple - 22nd June

Whitchurch - Bethel - 24th June

Bryncethin - Nazareth - 26th June

Full information on how you can participate has been sent to the church contact person:

Or go to <http://www.buw.org.uk/the-wave-of-prayer-is-coming>

Follow the Wave on Facebook by liking: <https://www.facebook.com/baptistmomentum>



CHURCHES ON THE FRONT LINE!

Churches and chapels in Wales are right on the frontline in these days of the Coronavirus pandemic and never before in the last 100 years have their leaders faced such a huge challenge, the Revd Dr Kang-San Tan, General Director of BMS World Mission, told an online meeting of the Gwent Baptist Association.

Many churches were helping to support their local communities by establishing or being involved in foodbanks, volunteering and generally befriending those in need but a bigger task still lay ahead, he said.

“We need to share our resources with the deprived and the poor at home and overseas. We are called by God to be salt and light in this troubled world and we will be accountable to God for our actions.

“We must go back to Scripture and renew our sense of God-centred mission in terms of providing

practical, emotional and spiritual support to all we encounter who stand in need. But God has created new opportunities for us during these difficult days and we must seize upon them while relying, as always, upon His strength” he added.

Dr Tan and his wife, Loun Ling Lee, were the guest speakers at the Association’s Spring Event and they took as their theme “Mission Impossible?” Loun, the editor of the Lausanne Movement’s bi-monthly global mission publication, *Lausanne Global Analysis*, said:

“There is a dangerous tendency to turn inwards when we are in trouble. God wants us to help people outside the walls of our buildings whether in the local, national or international context. The gospel is not just to be preached but to be demonstrated in the life of individual believers and churches. The question must be:

‘How can we help to bring healing to a broken world?’”.

A new prayer booklet, *Pray without Ceasing*, was launched during the event. It has been written and produced by the Revd. Jonathan Forman of Blaenau Gwent Baptist Church, Abertillery and it will be one of the resources used by churches in the Association during a planned two-year prayer programme beginning in May.

Others who took part were Association chairman the Revd. D Marc Owen of Moriah Baptist Church, Risca; Tim Moody, Assistant Pastor at Moriah and President of the Association; Mrs Eryl Dykes (Ebenezer Baptist Church, Abertillery) and the Revd. Dr Suzanne Roberts, a retired Baptist minister and former missionary who attends Tabernacle Baptist Church, Newbridge.

Geoff Champion, Secretary of the Gwent Baptist Association.

THE NEW BUW WEBSITE



Supporting
Churches, associations,
leaders and mission across
Wales

WHO WE ARE

ILSTON SERVICE 2021

Details for the Ilston Service 2021 will be announced after the Annual Meetings. It is highly likely that the Service will be held over Zoom.

TIMOTHY RICHARD/ BMS APPEAL

Total donations received up until the end of April 2021 £31,747.00

We very much hope that we will be able to reach the target of £40,000 by the date of our Annual Meetings when the Appeal will close. If you have not yet contributed, please consider making a donation to enable the refugee children in Lebanon to receive an education. Your contribution could make an enormous difference to the lives of young children estranged from their homeland.

Please send your contributions to the BUW Office at Y Llwyfan with cheques made payable to the ‘Baptist Union of Wales’, noting that it is for the appeal.

Thank you!

NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER & E-MAIL FOR THE OFFICE:

Telephone number: 0345 222 1514

E-mail: post@ubc.cymru