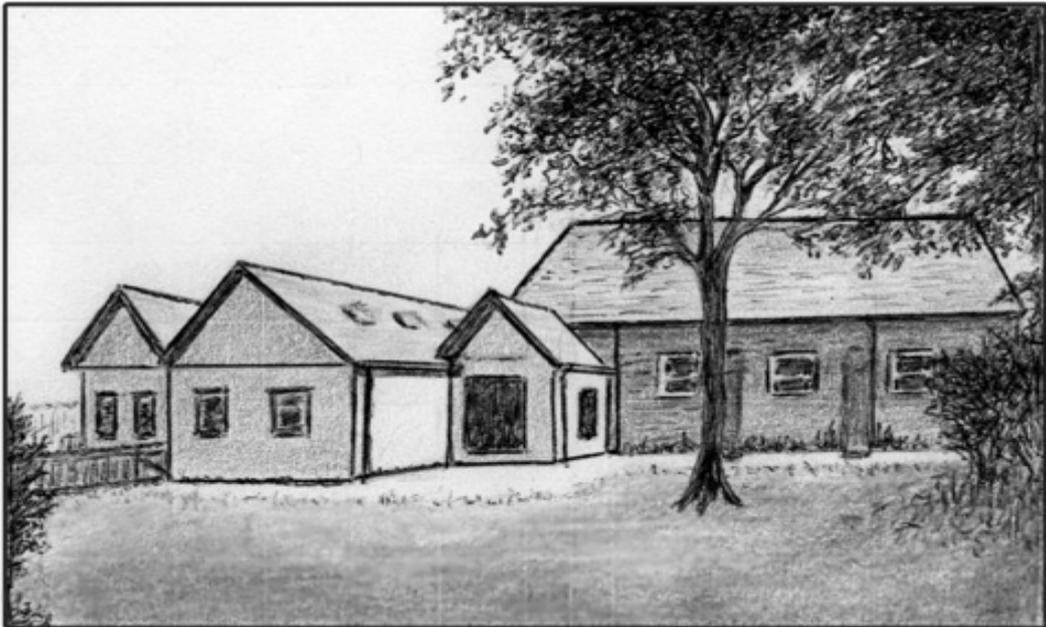


Grapevine

Newsletter of
Ebenezer Evangelical Church



“Open my eyes that I may see
wonderful things in your law,”
Psalm 119:18 (NIV)

February/March
2018

EBENEZER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Doctrinal Statement.

The church believes the fundamental truths of Christianity, as revealed in Holy Scripture, including the following:

- 1 The unity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in the Godhead.
- 2 The sovereignty of God in creation, providence, revelation, redemption and final judgment.
- 3 The divine inspiration, infallibility and inerrancy of Holy Scripture as originally given, and its supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.
- 4 The universal sinfulness and guilt of human nature since the fall, rendering man subject to God's wrath and condemnation.
- 5 The full deity of the Lord Jesus Christ the incarnate Son of God, His virgin birth and His real and sinless humanity; His death on the cross; His bodily resurrection; His ascension; His present reign in heaven and on earth; and His intercession on behalf of the church.
- 6 Redemption from the guilt, penalty and power of sin only through the sacrificial and atoning death, once and for all time, of our representative and substitute, Jesus Christ, the only mediator between God and man.
- 7 Justification as God's act of undeserved mercy, in which the sinner is pardoned all his sins and accepted as righteous in God's sight, only because of the righteousness of Christ imputed to him, this justification being received by faith alone.
- 8 The need for the Holy Spirit to make the work of Christ effective to the individual sinner, granting him repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ.
- 9 The church as the body of Christ, both locally and worldwide, its members consisting of those only to have been born again through the work of the Holy Spirit.
- 10 The indwelling of the Holy Spirit in all those thus regenerated, producing in them an increasing likeness to Christ in character and behaviour, and empowering them for their witness in the world.
- 11 The future personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge all men, executing God's final just condemnation on the impenitent and receiving the redeemed to eternal glory.

(A further explanation of the things we believe is set out in the 1646 Westminster Confession of Faith)

A LETTER FROM THE MINISTER

Dear friends,

I am writing this on Burn's Night (25th January), the day on which the life and writings of Robert Burns is celebrated in Scotland. Of all his poems, one of his most famous is 'To a Mouse', which takes the form of an apology which Burns made to a mouse whose nest he destroyed while ploughing a field. Amongst its best known lines are, "But, Mousie, thou art no thy lane [*you aren't alone*], In proving foresight may be vain: The best laid schemes o' mice an' men, Gang aft a-gley, [*often go awry*], An' lea'e us nought but grief an' pain, For promised joy".

It's a reminder that the poor mouse is not the only creature who makes great plans and invests lots of resources into grand projects, only for them to come to nothing. It's an experience which many of us may be familiar with. The best of plans can come to nothing. As James says in his letter, "Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow." (4:14). And the tragedy about Burns is that such a thought only filled him with fear as the last line of the poem demonstrates: "*An' forward, tho' I cannot see, I guess an' fear!*"

The difference between Burns and the Bible is that the Bible also tells us how we can face an uncertain future, but with confidence instead of fear. Rather than being left to fate, the Bible teaches that the future is in the hands of God. That is why James goes on to tell us that we ought to say: "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that". And through trusting in Jesus Christ, we can come to know this Sovereign God as our Heavenly Father, and as such be confident that he will order everything for our ultimate and eternal good (Rom 8: 28).

Rather than say: "I guess and fear", how much better to be able to sing, "My times are in Thy hand: why should I doubt or fear? A Father's hand will never cause His child a needless tear. My times are in Thy hand, Jesus the Crucified; Those hands my cruel sins had pierced are now my guard and guide. My times are in Thy hand: I'll always trust in Thee; And after death, at Thy right hand I shall for ever be." (W. F. Lloyd).

Yours sincerely,

David.

Amongst Ourselves

The Christmas decorations have all been taken down and packed away and Christmas seems as far away as ever, nevertheless, the true message of Christmas, 'Immanuel, God with us' lasts throughout the year and every year. The Christmas period for Ebenezer was a busy one commencing with carol singing in town. Our Carol Service featured a children's talk, carols in Welsh and English plus a Welsh group singing 'Mawl I Dduw' (Praise to God) and concluding with a brief message. A good number came from the village in Benllech to our Carol Service held there. Services took place on Sunday (Christmas Eve) led by our minister David Finnie and the Christmas Day service was led by John Gough. We enjoyed a visit from Andrew Graham from Wrexham on the last day of the year. Our midweek meetings became joint prayer meetings over the Christmas period and it was good to welcome Baska who updated us on her work for the Lord in Slovakia.

On New Year's Day we had a church walk at Newborough beach. Although the weather was wet here in Bangor a number of us braved the elements to discover that it was dry and sunny for the most part, though very windy in Newborough! The ladies started their new session with a lunch on the 11th January and our fellowship groups have recommenced. English classes and the youth work have also resumed. After the Christmas break David preached on Psalms 46 & 47 on Sunday evenings and has now recommenced his series on Ephesians in the mornings.

Sadly, our sister Jane Owen, who had been poorly in hospital, passed away on the 5th January. Her funeral took place on Friday 12th January followed by a private interment in Amlwch, Anglesey (Jane's home area). We shall miss her.

A group of us from Ebenezer including several students attended the EMW Training Day in Colwyn Bay, this proved to be a stimulating and enjoyable time.

John P Gough

Daily Prayer Points

“The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.” James 5:16

Sunday: Praise God for his gift to us of today the Lord’s Day and pray that we would delight in this joyful privilege. Pray that, as we meet together, all we do will honour and glorify God’s holy name. Pray that believers will be built up in the faith and that unbelievers will be saved.

Monday: Give thanks to God for the nourishment of his word. Pray that it would sustain us throughout the week. Pray for those in the fellowship who were unable to meet with the Lord’s people yesterday that God would uphold them. Pray for local school assemblies, that the gospel would be freely and boldly proclaimed.

Tuesday: Thank God for the opportunity we have to meet together for prayer and Bible study. Pray that this evening’s meeting(s) would be profitable for our growth in the love and knowledge of Christ. Pray that our hearts would be willing to be obedient to the revealed will of God.

Wednesday: Praise God that we have the freedom and joy of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with lost souls. Pray for the English Classes today that the gospel will be clearly explained and that God would be pleased to save souls.

Thursday: Praise God for our church family and the church officers. Pray for our church officers that God would protect them and help them in their responsibilities. Pray that as a church our relationships, both with God and others, would be maintained through the experience of forgiveness. Pray for the Ladies’ Bible study this morning.

Friday: Thank God that we are saved by grace and not by works and praise our Lord and Saviour for his all sufficient work of salvation. Pray for the market stall today and GOAL this evening that God would be honoured and his word faithfully proclaimed. Pray for the preparations of those who will preach this coming Sunday.

Saturday: Give thanks to God that we can boldly approach the throne of grace where we can obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Pray for those who will be preaching tomorrow, and those teaching in Junior Church, that God would uphold them as they proclaim his word.

Fiona Earnest

Missionary Prayer Points

Sunday-UCCF: The CU will be holding their week's mission starting on February 18th. Pray that many students will attend the various events planned and that the speakers will give good Biblical evangelistic messages.

Monday – UFM Bangkok, Johnny & Ann McClean: Give thanks for the answered prayers and the way the Lord has sustained them over the past challenging month. There have been many changes in the leadership of the school where Ann teaches. Pray for stability in the school in the coming months and for Ann as she copes with these changes. Matthew is recovering from a second operation when he received a donor tendon for his damaged knee.

Tuesday – EMF France, Richard and Barbara Davies: They value prayer as they continue to share God's Word with many families who welcome them into their homes. Libby and James are studying in England.

Wednesday – Chambery, France, Emmanuel and Esther Durand: They are involved in their local church where Emmanuel is an elder. He will be teaching at the Belgium Bible college again this winter. Pray for their proposed visit to Bangor in April.

Thursday – Albania: Geni and Niki Dogani continue their regular ministry in their church and also have an outreach to students. They still await permission to put a roof on the building they hope to use for the church.

Friday – IFES: Pray for Lydia Adams as she has an extended stay of 2-3 months in Wales, mainly in Cardiff, where she hopes to do a theological course which will be of help to her when she returns to Slovenia.

Saturday – Pray that we in Ebenezer will have an increasing prayerful interest in the workers we support.

Idwen Morgan



Jane Owen

Having grown up in the Rhosgoch area of Anglesey, Jane went to the Royal Liverpool Hospital to train as a nurse. When she completed her training in General Nursing, she then moved to London to do further training in midwifery, and having completed that aspect of her training she then returned to Liverpool, this time to the Liverpool Maternity Hospital. Following that she worked as a nurse at Pilkingtons Glass in St Helen's. Pilkingtons sent her on a six-week training course to the St Paul's eye hospital in Liverpool and it was there that she met Marian Owen, the two becoming life-long friends and eventually fellow members of this church. After this period in Industrial Nursing with Pilkingtons, Jane returned to this area to work as a midwife at Ysbyty Dewi Saint in Bangor.

But although Jane had frequently crossed the border between Wales and England over the years, she now decided to cross the Atlantic. She moved to the United States of America and worked as a nurse in both New York and Boston, before returning for a further period of midwifery here in Bangor. It was then that Jane settled in her little house in Upper Garth Road.

Throughout her nursing career, Jane had dealings with thousands of patients and had helped to bring thousands of babies into the world. It was a profession which demanded a lot of love and care and kindness on Jane's part. And even after her retirement from nursing, she continued to be an exceptionally kind person.

In spite of poor health, Jane continued to show an active and loving interest in children - her nieces children in particular - Mari, Elizabeth and Sophie - but also the children of families from this church. That was one way in which Jane continued to express her love and her concern for others.

Jane's funeral service, which she meticulously arranged herself, was a great blessing to all who attended.



Food for Thought

For some reason or other we seem to be giving the impression to the world outside that one of the main effects of becoming a Christian is to make one miserable and to create problems and difficulties. Let me put it to you in a very simple picture. Look at the people who want to attend some game or other on a Saturday afternoon. Watch them as they prepare to go to that event. They keep their eye on the clock. They are anxious to be there on time, in fact before anything starts. And watch them as they go there. They are all rushing. They want to see everything from beginning to end. So they hurry along with great enthusiasm. Then watch them and listen to them while the game is played. You hear them shouting and see them smiling. You see them almost in a state of ecstasy. They are almost beyond themselves, they are enjoying it and are so thrilled by it all. And when the game finishes, watch them as they go home. They are all talking with animation, one commenting on this and the other on that. They are smiling. They seem to have had a marvelous time, and it has occupied them for hours. That is the picture, is it not, of the world indulging in its pleasures and in the things in which it believes.

Now take a look at Christian people, church members. Sunday morning arrives. What is the picture? Well, they are rather doubtful whether or not they really will get up to go to church. After all, they lead busy lives, and a man must have some rest sometime! They did not say that on Saturday, but this is how they feel on Sunday morning. Going to church is really a bit of a burden, and their hearts are not in it. But in the end they decide they will go. After all, it is a matter of duty. So they get up. Are they anxious to be at church before

anything starts, do they want to make sure they get the best seats so they won't miss anything? You know the answer! The people on Saturday afternoon had only one complaint, and that was that the game came to an end too quickly. Is it like that with Christian people when they come to church on Sunday? Do they complain that the service ends too quickly? And what is the congregation like during the service? Are they moved with enthusiasm? Are they alive and alert and watching and waiting and listening? And how do they sing and join in? Is it similar to what happens on a Saturday afternoon? Then watch them as they go home. Do they give the impression that they have been doing something wonderful and amazing? That they have had the richest and highest experience that it is ever possible to have in this world? Are they talking with enthusiasm to one another about some aspect of the glory of the gospel or something that was made clear in the preaching of the Word?

(from "Setting our Affections upon Glory" by Martyn Lloyd-Jones, Crossway)



Farewell Paul

January saw us bidding farewell to our youngest member, Paul Kennedy. Paul, originally from Northern Ireland, came to Bangor five years ago to study English at the University where he was an active member of the CU. After graduating he spent a year as a Relay Worker with the UCCF.

After this he was hoping to do a master's degree but the course fell through. Wanting to stay in Bangor, Paul was then able to get a job doing administrative work in a local coffee shop which unfortunately went bankrupt just before Christmas. This experience, however, fitted him well for his latest move to Ammanford where he will do admin work for Ammanford Evangelical Church as well as helping to run their food bank.

We wish him every blessing in this new field of service.



Some of the Sunday School children at the Carol Service



The hardy folk of the church braving the wind-swept beach at Llanddwyn on New Year's Day

**Visiting Preachers in Ebenezer
11th February – John Richards
18th February – Stuart Olyott
8th April – Tim Gill**

Diary Date

Friday March 9th – International Evening

EBENEZER EVANGELICAL CHURCH
ST. PAUL'S TERRACE, BANGOR LL57 1NS

www.ebenezerbangor.org.uk

Charity Commission Number: 1160857

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OFFICERS

Elders

David Finnie (Minister)

Dkjfinnie@aol.com

(01248) 362334

John Gough

jnlzgough99@btinternet.com

352433

Deacons

Wyn Thomas

w.thomas@bangor.ac.uk

351347

Michael Walters

mikewalters@hotmail.com

470681

REGULAR MEETINGS

SUNDAY	10.10am	Prayer Meeting in annex.
	10.30am	Morning Service. Junior Church (ages 4-10) during sermon.
	5.40pm	Prayer Meeting in Library.
	6.00pm	Evening Service
		The Lord's Supper 1 st Sun. evening & 3 rd Sun. morning.
TUESDAY	7.30pm	Prayer Meeting/ Fellowship Groups*
THURSDAY	10am	Ladies Bible Study
FRIDAY	7.30pm	G.O.A.L Youth Club for ages 11-18.

*Meetings not held in the church – please ask for details.

Treasurer: Michael Walters

mikewalters@hotmail.com

470681

Youth Club Leader: Fiona Earnest

fionaearnest@yahoo.co.uk

362334

Grapevine Editor: Michael Walters

mikewalters@hotmail.com

470681

Notice Sheet Editor: Fiona Earnest

fionaearnest@yahoo.co.uk

362334