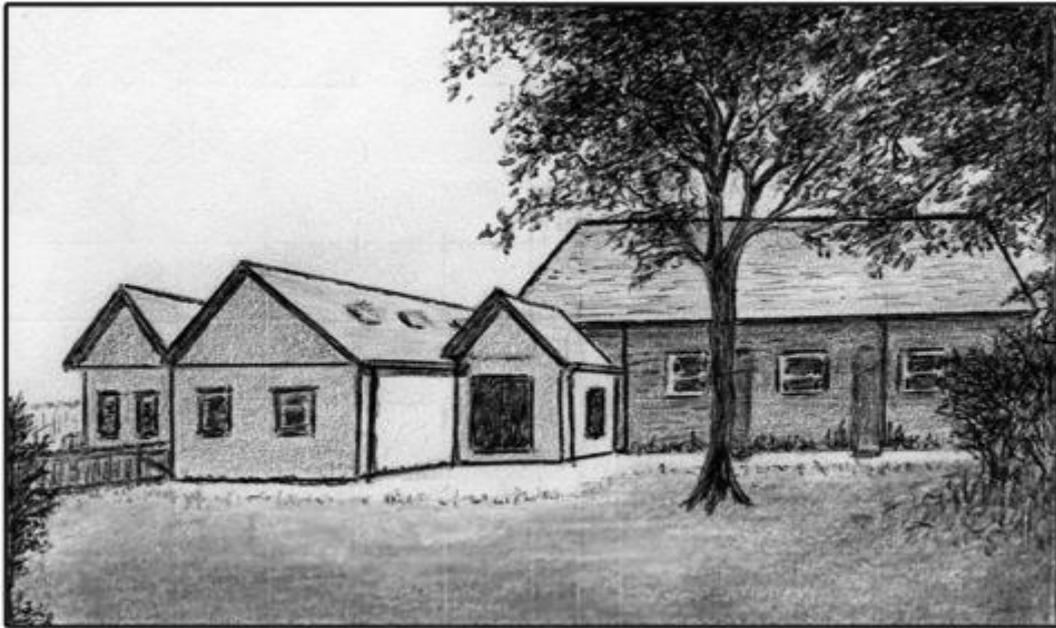


Grapevine

Newsletter of
Ebenezer Evangelical Church



“Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread
of life. He who comes to me will never go
hungry, and he who believes in me will
never be thirsty.”

John 6:35 (NIV)

August/September
2017

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,

If you are visiting the area and the church, then we do give you a warm welcome. We do appreciate the time you have taken and the effort you have made to meet with us here in Ebenezer. One of the privileges we enjoy as a small local church throughout the year is the opportunity to have fellowship with other Christians from various parts of the United Kingdom and much further afield as well.

It's a privilege which causes us to look back and trace God's faithfulness in keeping his promises. It was as far back as Genesis Ch 12 that God told Abraham that: "all peoples on earth will be blessed through you" (12: 3), and our fellowship throughout the year with believers from all over the world is a testimony to the fact that God has indeed kept his word. Through Jesus Christ, *the* descendant of Abraham, God is redeeming and reconciling to himself people from all over the world and our fellowship with visitors throughout the year is a small but very tangible reminder of that faithfulness on God's part.

But then our fellowship with visitors throughout the year is also a privilege which helps us to look forward and remember the great hope that is ours through faith in Jesus Christ. The book of Revelation reminds us that surrounding the throne of God one day there will be people from every nation, tribe, people and language and their testimony will be: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb" (7:10). That will be the ultimate fulfilment of the promise made to Abraham, but our fellowship with Christians from far and near in the meantime is a little foretaste of what that future occasion will be like.

As a church, we trust and pray that your time with us in Ebenezer will prove to be a blessing to you. But let me take this opportunity to tell you that it is also a great blessing to us.

Thanking you again for your fellowship,

David.

Amongst Ourselves

Unlike Coverack in Cornwall we may have escaped the worst of the weather in terms of recent thunderstorms but we were reminded of them again when Andrew Young preached from Psalm 29 one Sunday morning. He made the point that a thunderstorm should not be viewed simply as something to be afraid of but is to be seen as a basis for meditating on the greatness and goodness of God. As a consequence of this we should ascribe glory to God which is what rightfully belongs to him.

Our minister, David Finnie and his family have been away on holiday so we have welcomed Peter Wilson, John Gough, Philip Eveson, Andrew Young and Irvon Parry to preach in his place. Our Fellowship Groups have concluded for the summer as have the Ladies meeting, the young people's work and the English Language classes. We recently enjoyed an entertaining Board Game evening in Benllech Community Centre considerably enlivened by a game of Snakes and Ladders!

Gareth Thomas and his team (Siop y Gair) have visited the following fairs; Bethesda, Criccieth, Llanllyfni and Llanberis (annual Snowdon Race). We had an encouraging Open Air meeting in Bangor town centre with JP Earnest and Gareth Thomas speaking and others giving out tracts. JP has also been taking assemblies in Hiracl, Glanadda and Coed Mawr schools.

Saturday July 1st was the day of the church work party in which we sought to tidy up the premises, garden and drive. This was helped by the supply of cakes baked specially for the occasion by Huw Davies! On the same day the wedding took place of one of our former students, Caitlin Walsh to Tom Wederell in Above Bar Church, Southampton. Our minister, David spoke at the service and some from Ebenezer were able to attend.

Malcolm Cheeseman has had a power tool accident which has seriously damaged his left hand so please pray that he makes a good recovery. JP (team leader) and Fiona Earnest together with some of the students have gone to Tenby for two weeks to hold the Beach Mission there. Richard Owens, Peter and Edi Wilson are involved in the WEC Warriors Camp near Criccieth here in North Wales.

John Gough

Prayer Points

“Seek first His kingdom and righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well.” Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

Sunday: The children & young people – Let us lift them before the Lord as they go off to camps and Christian events over the summer. May the Lord grow them and keep them close to Himself over this time. Also, that those as yet outside His family, may be drawn home through these events.

Monday: The Beach missions – For those coming to Benllech, and going to Tenby, that they will have fruitful time and have the opportunity not only to challenge people about where they stand before the Lord, but also that those going will be blessed in this service. Serving in Tenby and known to the church are JP & Fiona Earnest, Jacob Lusk, Marilla Dobson Sam Mainwaring Dan Williams and Paul Kennedy.

Tuesday: Pray for those that have gone out from us on holiday, that they enjoy a time of relaxation in God’s Creation. So also may we give thanks to the Lord for His provision of rest over this period.

Wednesday: Pray for those who will be vacationing in North Wales and who will attend Ebenezer. That sweet fellowship will be had by all and that we will be able to provide a temporary church home whilst they are with us. That guests and members alike will be blessed through these friendships.

Thursday: Pray for us as a Church, that we would continue to be united in truth and love for the Scriptures. More than ever we need to stand firm, rooted in God’s Word. Pray that we would support one another in this, and be fully leaning on the Lord in all we seek to do.

Friday: Do lift the market stall before the Lord as it would go out today. This has proven to be a good point of contact with those in the city over the past couple of years, with some families finding the church through it. Pray that manpower would be sufficient to run the stall each week and that those serving in this way would have opportunity to speak into the lives of the men and women they would meet.

Saturday: Let’s not fail to remember our brothers and sisters in the Lord who are unwell at this time, and who we miss dearly from among us. Pray that they would know God’s healing and peace in this time, and for acceptance of His will in all things.

Paul Kennedy

Missionary Prayer Points

"Jesus said: 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations'" (Matthew 28: 18 & 19).

Sunday: Richard & Barbara Davies, Marseille. Give thanks for recent opportunities to share God's Word with various families and pray that the Spirit would open minds and hearts to understand it and receive it.

Monday: UCCF. Remember the Perry family as they move to Ammanford this summer. Pray for Elin Bryn Williams as she becomes the new staff worker here in Bangor and for Catrin Conwy as she begins her work as a relay worker in Cardiff.

Tuesday: Albania. Pray that the seed sown in the various camps throughout the summer will bear much fruit - in the lives of both believers and unbelievers. Remember those young people leaving Memiliaj for university in Tirana and elsewhere - pray that they will settle in a church.

Wednesday: WEST. Remember the college as it continues to look for validation for its degree course and pray that all who are involved in the process will be given the wisdom that they need. Pray that there will be a good intake of new students in September in spite of the uncertainties concerning validation.

Thursday: Johnny & Ann McLean, Bangkok. Remember the evangelistic course being launched in the church this month and pray that church members will be able to invite their friends.

Friday: Give thanks for many opportunities to spread the gospel during this summer in camps, Eisteddfod, shows and beach missions. Pray that God would work for his glory and the eternal good of those who heard.

Saturday: Emmanuel & Esther Durant, France. Remember the family's ongoing witness amongst friends and neighbours in Chambéry. Pray that Emmanuel's ministry in various local churches will be a blessing to both local Christians and unbelievers. Pray that Christians in France may be encouraged to live for Christ and tell others about him.

David Finnie



Ebenezer Bookstall on the Bangor High Street Market.

We aim to set up the bookstall every time there is a Friday Market around eight in the morning and it can't be removed until four in the afternoon when the High Street ceases to be a pedestrian thoroughfare. We carry a selection of new English and Welsh Bibles for sale. The remainder of the stock is made up of second-hand Christian books – biographies, testimonies and apologetics. Then there are leaflets introducing Ebenezer Evangelical Church, tracts and literature in several foreign languages.

Our aim is to make the presence of Ebenezer Church more visible to the public. Many people rush by to reach their next destination, while so many are completely immersed in communication via their ipod, smart phone, or cell-phone. However, there are some who amble along. They are willing to look in, and ask, 'What's the purpose of all this?' We meet Christians on holiday in the locality, and they are happy to encourage and bless us. There are then those who have unresolved problems needing a listening ear, and others may be looking for a church to worship at.

Some pass up and down the High Street several times during the day. We wonder if they notice us. Each face has a story, but we can hardly guess what heartaches are entrapped in their souls. Jesus would know, and has so much to share with a listening heart. We need to be His channels.

*What a Friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear! Richard Owens*

Remembering the Reformation



By now there can be very few Christians who are not aware that 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the act that for many marks the beginning of the protestant reformation; Martin Luther nailing his ninety-five theses to the door of All Saints' Church in Wittenberg.

To mark this the Christian Institute have released on their website a very informative series of brief lectures entitled "The English Reformation and the Puritans". These are given by Dr Michael Reeves, the President of the Union School of Theology which has its base at the Bryntirion campus. (This is one of the causes which Ebenezer supports in its giving.)

In this series Dr Reeves looks at the progress of the reformation in England and Wales by examining certain key players. He starts with William Tyndale and the early reformers and ends up by looking at certain Puritans such as John Owen and John Bunyan.



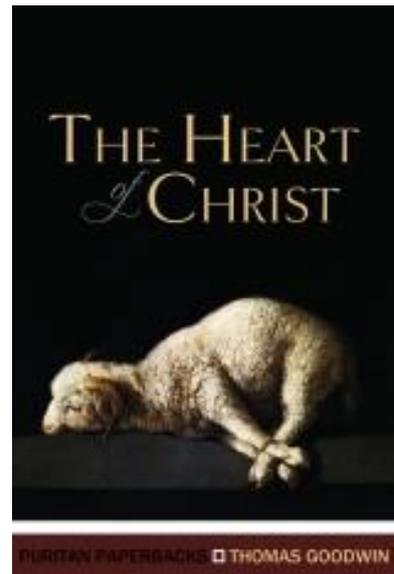
This series of twelve talk sis very easy to listen to and I highly recommend them to anyone who wants to know about the development of the Christian faith during this period.

In number eight of the series Dr Reeves introduces us to the puritan minister Thomas Goodwin (1600-1680). In particular he introduces us to Goodwin's most popular work "*The Heart of Christ in Heaven Towards Sinners on Earth*".

This book is published by The Banner of Truth and has a forward written by Dr Reeves in which he says, "*It is a fine example of Goodwin's Christ-*

centeredness and his mix of theological rigour and pastoral concern. In it he aims to show from Scripture that, in all his majesty, Christ is not aloof from believers and unconcerned, but has the strongest affections for them.”

My own favourite quotation would be, “*When he (Christ) was on earth, he forgot none of the business for which he came into the world. Surely therefore he will not forget any of that business which he is to do in heaven, being the much more pleasant work by far.*”



I must also mention that Dr Reeves has written two books on the Reformation itself, *Why the Reformation Still Matters* (with Tim Chester pub. IVP) and *The Reformation: What You Need to Know and Why* (pub. Monarch Books)

Michael Walters

Food for Thought

“A visitor to the contemporary church materialising from an earlier century would probably be struck by how enormously privileged we are. Many of us receive education until we are in our early twenties, while most of them left school by the time they were young teenagers. We each own a Bible (some with helpful study notes built in); if they owned a Bible it was in small print Elizabethan English. We carry entire theological libraries on our eReaders, have vast resources via the worldwide web; they perhaps owned one or two Christian books. And yet, if the truth be told, what might surprise them most is the fact that their familiarity with God’s word, their knowledge of the key passages in the New Testament, the degree to which they had thought long and hard about what scripture means and how it applies, would leave us feeling ashamed. They would be surprised how hard we find meditation on the word of God, how little we actually knew of it and how poorly we have nourished ourselves from it.”

Sinclair Ferguson from his introduction to “Devoted to God”



Sisters in Christ

Two friends of long standing, Miss Jane Owen being visited by Mrs Marian Owen, at the Llanfair PG. nursing home where she is resident. Jane was originally from Rhosgoch, Anglesey and Marion from Bethesda but they met when Jane attended a course at St Paul's eye hospital, Liverpool where Marion worked as a nurse. They became firm friends and when Marion married in 1968 Jane came over from America where she was nursing to attend the wedding.

When Jane returned to live in Bangor the friendship continued and Jane began to attend Ebenezer with Marion where, praise the Lord, she was converted under the ministry of Dr Eryl Davies. So they became more than just friends, they became sisters in Christ.

Blest be the tie that binds

Our hearts in Christian love;

The fellowship of kindred minds

Is like to that above.

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REGULAR MEETINGS

SUNDAY	10.10am 10.30am 5.40pm 6.00pm	Prayer Meeting in annex. Morning Service. Junior Church (ages 4-10) during sermon. Prayer Meeting in Library. 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 always held in the church – please ask for details.

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