

BRECON BEACONS PASTORATE THE LINK / Y DOLEN OCT - NOV 2026



MINISTER - REVEREND JULIE KIRBY

TELEPHONE 01874 623170 EMAIL julie63kirby@btinternet.com



ABERGAVENNY

CWM CALAIS

EBENEZER UPPER CHAPEL

GILWERN

MAESYRONNEN

PENNORTH

THE PLOUGH

SARDIS TOP CHAPEL LLANGYNIDR

Dear Friends



There is something about autumn that encourages us to stop and notice.

Living here in rural Wales, harvest isn't simply something we celebrate in church. We see it happening around us — fields changing, crops gathered in, leaves turning, evenings becoming darker and the countryside gradually settling towards winter.

And perhaps harvest asks us a question: **are we still listening for God?**

It is very easy, particularly in our churches, to become caught up in everything that needs doing. There are rotas to fill, buildings to maintain, bills to pay and responsibilities that seem to fall on fewer shoulders. Before long our conversations can become dominated by one question: How are we going to keep all this going?

It is an understandable question. But perhaps it isn't always the first question God asks us.

Maybe God simply says, **"Look. Listen. Notice where I am already at work."**

Harvest reminds us that we are not responsible for everything. Farmers prepare the soil, sow, tend and eventually gather — but they cannot make the seed grow. Much of what happens takes place quietly and unseen.

I wonder whether the same might be true of the Church.

God may already be growing something among us that we haven't quite noticed because we have been so busy worrying about what seems to be disappearing.

Perhaps God speaks through the person who unexpectedly comes through the chapel door; through a conversation over a cup of tea; through someone in our community who needs kindness; through an idea that seems a little unusual; or even through the difficult realisation that something we have always done may need to change.

So this autumn, perhaps our prayer need not begin with, "God, show us how to keep everything going."

Perhaps it could simply be:

"God, help us to see where you are at work — and give us the courage to join you there."

As we give thanks for the harvest, may we also make room to listen: to one another, to our communities, and above all to God.

And perhaps, amongst all the uncertainty, we might discover that God has been quietly sowing seeds of hope all along.

With love and every blessing for the autumn months. *Julie*

Cwm Camlais

At Cwm Camlais, there is something quietly encouraging in the faithfulness of those who continue to gather regularly for worship. They may not be a large congregation, and they work hard to support the life of the chapel as best they can, but perhaps numbers are not always the best measure of a church's life.

They continue to meet. They pray together. They sing the hymns of faith together. They care for one another and remain part of the life of the valley around them.

There is something important in simply being there — a praying, worshipping Christian presence within the community.

In a time when we can become anxious about the future of our churches, Cwm Camlais reminds us that faithfulness does not always look dramatic. Sometimes it looks like a small group of people opening the chapel doors, gathering together, singing familiar words, praying for their neighbours and continuing to bear witness to the love of God in the place they call home.

Perhaps that too is part of the harvest: not necessarily seeing something new and spectacular growing, but recognising the faithful fruit that has been quietly growing among us all along.



Gilwern

Our Harvest Service will be held on 4th October, the Church will be decorated and all non perishable items will be donated to Abergavenny Foodbank

Our next Wonderful Wednesday club will take place on 7th November at 2.30pm when Janet Karn from the Blaenau Gwent Heritage Project is coming to speak.
There will be tea and cake afterwards.

Our free trade Coffee Morning will take place on the 2nd and 4th Friday every month from 10.30am all are welcome to join us



Ebenezer Upper Chapel

Looking back over the past 2 months, which seem to have flown by, we have had quite a busy time. Services here in Ebenezer are always a happy event, lots of catching up to do, therefore, lots of chatter and, usually, plenty of laughter. On the 5th Sunday of August we were given a warm welcome to the Pastorate Service in Pennorth. The service, led by Julie, was, as usual very interesting and required some audience participation, which we all enjoyed. We would like to thank the members of the chapel for their hospitality and for organising a picnic which, due to the unsettled weather, was held in Llangasty Village Hall. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

Looking forward to next month, we shall be holding our Harvest Service on Sunday 11th October at 3pm, followed by light refreshments in the chapel.

We send our love to those members who are unable to join us in chapel for worship, we keep them close in our thoughts and remember them in our prayers. We would also like to wish Howard Travis a speedy recovery after his hip surgery, we look forward to having you back with us soon.



Castle Street Abergavenny

Thank you to Pennorth for organising the pastorate picnic in the village hall because of the uncertain weather. We enjoyed the pastorate service with you, with Julie's interesting input on Creation. And after the picnic, we managed to visit the lake and Llangasty Church before it rained again. We have continued the Creation-tide theme in our services since then.

We had a bumper crop of apples from most of our trees this year, though they have fallen earlier than usual, with only a few left on trees for picking during the Food Festival. There were so many fallen that we gathered 18 kilos to be juiced at Talybont. Though they give just over half a litre per kilo, we look forward to drinking the pasteurised apple juice after it is processed.

By the time you read this, we will have celebrated with other local churches our Fair Trade service, at the Salvation Army this year and be looking forward to Greener Abergavenny Day in the Market Hall on 18th October.

Margot



Sardis Top Chapel Llangynidr

I hope you are all feeling well and cooler now that we have moved into Autumn!

It has been good to see Julie back with us, but sometimes there seems to be a lot going on for one day. Please be careful Julie - you know what the medics have said to you!

The 'Knitters and Natterers' are now back after their summer break, and meet on Monday afternoons, 2.00pm to 4.00pm.

We had a lovely Ladies Guild Anniversary service on 7th September which was taken by Mrs Nell Cawley. She is a Volunteer for the St Catwg Ministry Area Anna Chaplaincy, working in the Crickhowell and Llangynidr area. This project is working alongside the Church in Wales. Nell gave us an insight into her work. She visits people in their homes who would like a pastoral chat, and who are unable to attend services. Nell also visits the Care Homes within our District. She told us of her background in Geriatric Nursing in Portugal before moving back to Britain.

The usual 'Tea and Chuckles' are back on the first Thursday of the month, starting on the 1st October, from 10.00 to 12.00pm. All are welcome to join us.

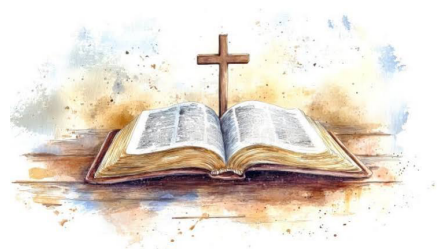
We were very pleased that at the opening of the service on 13th September we were joined by Rev Julie, who welcomed and invited Rev Dr Jason Askew (Training and Development Officer) to become a Member with us. We know that Jason is not able to attend services on a regular basis, but he has assured us that he will be joining us when he is able. Welcome Jason from all of us in 'Top Chapel' Llangynidr. We will be very pleased to have you join us when you can. We know that like all Ministers you lead a very busy life.

On behalf of us all at Sardis Llangynidr, may I wish you all a good Autumn and be refreshed for all the activities. Watch out for 'El Nino'!

With many Blessings,
Margery



WORSHIP - OCTOBER



4th

09:30	Llangynidr	Mr Julian Steadman
10:30	Maesyrnnon	Rev'd Julie Kirby
11:00	The Plough	Rev'd Peter Nobel
11:00	Abergavenny	Judith and Margot
11:00	Gilwern	Mrs S Powell
14:30	Cwm Camlais	Rev'd Julie Kirby

11th

09:30	Llangynidr	Mrs Liz Tadd
10:30	Pennorth	Rev'd Julie Kirby
10:30	Maesyrnnon	Mr Russel Davies
11:00	Abergavenny	Judith and Margot
11:00	Gilwern	Worship Group
15:00	Ebenezer Upper Chapel	Rev'd Julie Kirby
15:00	The Plough	Oedfa Cymraig

18th

09:30	Llangynidr	Rev'd Julie Kirby
10:30	Maesyrnnon	Rev'd Canon Janet Russell
11:00	Abergavenny	Judith and Margot
11:00	Gilwern	Rev'd P Bains
11:15	The Plough	Rev'd Julie Kirby
15:00	Abergavenny	Margot and Judith

25th

09:30	Llangynidr	Rev'd Peter Noble
10:30	Maesyrnnon	Moderator – Rev David Salisbury
10:30	Pennorth	TBC
11:00	The Plough	Mrs Liz Tadd
11:00	Abergavenny	Rev'd Julie Kirby with Gilwern
15:00	Ebenezer Upper Chapel	TBC

WORSHIP - NOVEMBER

1st

09:30	Llangynidr	Rev'd Jeff Williams
10:30	Maesyronnen	Rev'd Julie Kirby
10:30	Gilwern	Mrs Liz Tadd
11:00	The Ploogh	TBC
11:00	Abergavenny	Judith and Margot
14:30	Cwm Camlais	Rev'd Julie Kirby

8th Remembrance Sunday

10:50	Llangynidr	Remembrance Service, Parish Church
10:30	Pennorth	Rev'd Julie Kirby
10:30	Maesyronnen	Mrs Liz Tadd
10:50	Gilwern	Rev'd P Bains
11:00	Abergavenny	Judith and Margot
15:00	Ebenezer Upper Chapel	Rev'd Julie Kirby
15:00	The Plough	Oedfa Cymraig



15th

09:30	Llangynidr	Rev'd Julie Kirby
10:30	Maesyronnen	Dr Grahame Davies, CVO, DL
11:00	Abergavenny	Judith and Margot
11:00	Gilwern	Worship Group
11:15	The Plough	Mrs Liz Tadd
15:00	Abergavenny	Judith and Margot

22nd

09:30	Llangynidr	Mrs J Penhelog
10:30	Maesyronnen	Rev'd P Noble
10:30	Pennorth	Rev'd Jason Askew
11:00	Gilwern	Rev'd Julie Kirby with Abergavenny
15:00	Cwm Camlais	TBC

29th

11:00	The Plough	Pastorate Service
-------	------------	-------------------

Maesyronnen

Flowers: Oct 4th/11th - Kath: Oct 18th/25th - Jane: Nov 1st/8th - Ceri: Nov 15th/22nd - Vika: Nov 29th/Dec 6th - Ann

In early September our annual barbecue was held on Ffynnon Gynydd Common. Around seventy people came. Many of the children brought their bikes and enjoyed racing up and down the road. Delicious beefburgers and sausage rolls, along with hot new potatoes and various salads, were served. This was followed by fresh fruit salad, and the Icecream Van turned up at just the right time. Tea, coffee and cake was available from the Coffee Box, and drinks from The Thirsty Shepherdess. All the meat was sourced from a mile or two just up the road! We were blessed with fine weather that evening, too. Many thanks to Darren and Ceri. What with erecting a marquee and organizing everything, a lot of work goes into this event.

Glasbury Arts: The Harp Summer School took place again in August and, as always, was a great success. There were 29 pupils this year, and at the end of the week they gave a remarkable concert. The

well-known harpist Catrin Finch also gave a wonderful concert during the week. The harp is taught in Gwernyfed School and Glasbury Arts is really blessed to have Catrin very involved with this.

Rev Julie conducted a wedding ceremony at Maesyronnen recently, and I couldn't resist putting this in:-

It was an emotional wedding. Even the cake was in tiers.

We look forward to welcoming our Moderator Rev David Salisbury to Maesyronnen on Sunday, 25th October, when he will be conducting a service of worship. It will also be good to meet fellow members of our pastorate at the service at the Plough Chapel at the end of November [It's getting too close to Christmas now!!].

BINGO will be held on Friday, 2nd October and Friday, 6th November at Glasbury Village Hall. Doors open 7.00pm for Eyes-Down at 7.30pm.

THE FILLING STATION meets on Friday, 30th October and Friday, 27th November at Glasbury Village Hall: 7.00pm - 9.00pm. This is a good way of meeting fellow Christians from other churches and areas. You would be made very welcome.

Maesyronnen Chapel is hosting another Coffee Morning on Saturday, 3rd October in Glasbury Village Hall, 10.00 - 12.00. What with board games, good conversation, lovely cakes with coffee or tea, it's a very pleasant way to spend a Saturday morning. So come and join us.

PRAYERS: I'm sure we all know someone who is ill (some are very close to us), so our prayers are for them. May the Lord bless them with healing, and may they feel peace in his loving, comforting presence.

FINALLY:

Too many jobs to do? So little time?

Remember - only Robinson Crusoe had everything done by Friday.

(A Bundle of Laughs by J. John and Mark Stibbe - Monarch Books)

Kath



Tabernacle Pennorth

Flowers :- 11/10 Margaret, 25/10 Fay, 8/11 Margaret, 22/11 Jenny

We are very grateful to Teresa for gathering and formatting our news for the Link. This edition the members and friends got together following worship to share ideas of what they would like to share, and thanks also go to Roger for formulating the ideas.

It was a pleasure to see and meet everyone at our Pastorate Service, and pleased that Revd. Julie was fit and able to lead worship. It was good that many of you were able to enjoy the "Big Pick-nic" at Llangasty Village Hall, and enjoyed the view over Llangors Lake, and The Black Mountains. After such an amazing hot summer we were lucky that the weather held for us.

We are being warned about more extreme weather to follow, I must confess to believing that "Mother Nature" will catch up, and the reservoirs will soon fill back up, hopefully without the devastating winds.

The weather played it's part for the amazing Flower Festival held again in The Plough Chapel Brecon, the theme of "Film Titles" was expertly depicted around The Chapel. The Festival closed on Sunday evening with an arousing "Gymanfa Ganu", supported by Cor Brycheiniog, with The Chapel filled to capacity, and enjoyed by everyone.

We hope that Abergavenny Castle Street, had an equally good weekend for The Food Festival, which is renown throughout Wales.

We are looking forward to our joint Harvest Thanks Giving Service with Llangasty Church, to be held in Pennorth Chapel this year at 10.30am. on Sunday 11th October. Again the produce will be donated to the Brecon Food Bank, with specific requests for Cuppa Soups, tinned Spaghetti, and tinned Potatoes, plus anything else.

Our Remembrance Service will be held on Sunday 8th November at 10.30am. This is always a very moving Service, and will serve as a perilous warning of the dangerous state of God's

world.

It came as a shock to find that The Defibrillator stationed on The Chapel was not working, we will replace the batteries and hope it will soldier on until it can be replaced, hard to believe it is ten years old. We have also dispensed with our Wi-fi when our provided doubled the cost.

Sadly we offer our sincere condolences to Teresa, on the death of her Husband, Terry, who was taken terminally ill whilst on his beloved Narrow Boat, near Gloucester.

On a more upbeat note we wish the Community of Libanus every best wishes, and hope they make good use of their new Community Hall.



The Plough

Tea and Chat.

Tea and chat will be held in October and November as usual. We will still be in Llanddew. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Flower Festival.

This was a great success this year. We welcomed many visitors every day. A BIG thanks to everyone who helped in many and various ways. At this time I do not have the total raised. This will be made known later.

Christmas Orders.

This year I am getting in early. Eric and I will be doing it again. Large puddings will be £3.20, small puddings will be £1.30 and marmalade will be £1.40. We have had to raise the prices because of the rises for all ingredients. Please can we have the orders by November 15th. The money will go to the food banks in Brecon and Abergavenny. Thanks for all you support. E-mail: eric.llaisafon@btinternet.com, or phone: 01874 636261.

Liz and Eric

News of the fellowship.

It is with great sadness that we must report the death of Mr Ieuan Bowen, a long time Elder of the Plough. We send our love and condolences to Ann and assure her of our thoughts and prayers in the days ahead.

We remember our friends who are no longer able to be with us at our services namely, Ann Jenkins, Helen Brooker, Mary Withers, Maggie Maisson, Jill Willison, Anne Jenkins and Eileen Leonard. We also remember those who are mourning loved ones.

Saturday to Monday October 17th-19th the Brecon Baroque Society will be holding a festival in The Plough.

Then on Saturday November 28th there will be a concert in The Plough arranged by SSAFA.

21st Century Proverbs.

I have been browsing through some old reunion magazines from my Grammar School Days and found these. I am sure the less technical of us will appreciate them.

Home is where you hang your @.

A journey of a thousand sites begins with a single click.

The e-mail of the species is deadlier than the mail.

You can't teach an old mouse new clicks.

Great groups from tiny icons grow.

Oh what a tangled website we weave when first we practise.

The modem is the message.

Too many clicks spoil the browse.

The geek shall inherit the earth.



Liz Tadd.

Street Collection Brecon - Friday, 2nd December 2022

Advance notice - After a long break, due mainly to Covid, there will be a street collection in Brecon in aid of Christian Aid on 2nd December. This is very advanced notice for the Oct/Nov issue of the Link due to the early Dec date. If you think you can spare an hour (or even half an hour) on the above date, to hold a collection bucket on behalf of Christian Aid, please put the date in your diary now. The Plough Chapel provides a rota of collectors for the area nearby to the Guildhall, with other churches in Brecon covering other strategic locations in the town. The collection will be held from 9.30 am - 3.30 pm. Please contact Alison, Jeff or Barbara in Chapel or alison.eagle@btinternet.com 01874658614 (answer machine). Your help would be really appreciated.

