

**UPPER TROSNANT  
BAPTIST CHURCH**



# JUNE 2023 NEWSLETTER

Praise be to the God and  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Father of compassion  
and the God of all comfort,  
**2 Corinthians 1v3**



**Services on Sundays at 11.00am**

**Online ministry Sunday@4**

**Go to Facebook or YouTube**

**and 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 2023 edition  
to **uppertrosnantbc@gmail.com** by  
**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June.**

## Letter from Pastor Richard

### The Servant King

There is a bit of a Coronation theme in this Newsletter. That is because very recently King Charles III was crowned at Westminster Abbey. It was an occasion full of pomp and ceremony, and the service was full of prayers for the new King and Queen. I really loved the music that was played and sung, and it was all done so well.



There are many things that could be said about the service and the day in general, but I would like to mention just one at this point. Early on, the King made a promise that he as king would serve not be served. That, in many ways, seems to stand in contrast to much of the pomp and ceremony that there was. And yet, it was a very important part of all that happened. In making that promise, the King was following in the footsteps of his mother the late Queen Elizabeth II. There was a monarch who served the country faithfully for the 70 years of her reign. And we trust that King Charles will continue as he fulfils the promise he has made. Elsewhere in the Newsletter I have written about how to pray for the King – see page 7.

But the promise to serve and not to be served is not new by any means. In fact, it goes right back to the time when the Lord Jesus Christ himself was on earth. While he was here, he said these words:

*For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Mark 10 v 45 (NIV)*

The Lord Jesus Christ, the One who is God himself, the One who really could make everyone serve him, instead came to serve others. As we look at his life as recorded in the gospel accounts we see throughout how he put that into action, by spending time with those who others would ignore or shun. Most importantly of all, he came to serve by, as the verse tells us, giving his life. As perfect God, he never did anything wrong and

yet, he gave his life. Willingly he did that "as a ransom for many". A price needed to be paid for the wrong things that everyone on earth has done (everyone EXCEPT Jesus). But he was prepared to pay that price by giving up his life to death on a cross – there is no greater way that he could have served. And by that act of service, he made it possible for many – those who will put their trust in him – to know forgiveness for the wrong things that they have done. And that includes everyone who is reading this today. You can come to him, the King who came not to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom.

*From heaven you came, helpless babe,  
entered our world, your glory veiled;  
not to be served but to serve,  
and give your life that we might live.*

*This is our God, the Servant King  
He calls us now to follow Him,  
to bring our lives as a daily offering,  
of worship to the Servant King.*

Graham Kendrick © 1983 Thankyou Music

**Love in Jesus**

**Pastor Richard**

## **Sunshine**

Let God's promises shine on your problems. (Corrie Ten Boom)

**Instead of walking in the shadows of yesterday, walk in the light of today and the hope of tomorrow. (Anonymous)**

The future is as bright as the promises of God. (William Carey)

**Don't shine so that others can see you.  
Shine so that through you others can see Jesus. (CS Lewis)**

## **Doreen's Page: Enjoy the Sunshine!**

*The Summer has finally started with some lovely warm days – the perfect time to enjoy again this article from Doreen's book Fragrance of Faith:*

I read an account which identified that in the British Isles we need to take Vitamin D supplements to ensure a healthy old age! This is due to a lack of sunshine, and a widespread use of strong sun barrier creams. Advice was given to spend a short time each sunny day, in the sun, without sun creams. Children in particular need Vitamin D to protect them from developing rickets. I appreciate this reminder of the blessing and benefit of sunshine, with the balance of good advice so that we are not injured by an excess of sun.

There is a balance to maintain in most situations. One of the major benefits in our society is that we are taught to read – and there are plenty of things to read! We visited Hay-on-Wye and toured around the store which carries the title, 'The biggest second-hand book shop in the World!' It was an amazing experience, a real journey down memory lane on account of the generations of books on display and also a challenge to any reader thus confronted with all the books that are still there to be read. However, are books becoming outdated because we can now carry a complete library on our own mobile phone? Is this going to turn a town like Hay-on-Wye into a large literature museum?

There needs to be a balance here, between the facility provided by IT and the printed, published presentation of thought, word and deed available in a book. Surely discovering the expression of thought, word and deed in a book cannot be compared to releasing the same experience by the click of a button? It is rather like completely replacing summer sunshine with a tablet of Vitamin D; there needs to be a balance between the two options. Consider these words from the Bible:

*The Preacher sought to find words of delight, and uprightly he wrote words of truth.... The end of the matter, all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.'* (from Ecclesiastes 12: 10-12.)

There is an old adage which advises: The best book to read is the Bible!

## Celebrating the Coronation



There was a lovely atmosphere of celebration when members and friends of Upper Trosnant came together on Saturday 6 May to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III.



After everyone had had time to watch the events at Westminster Abbey and the procession back to Buckingham Palace on TV, the doors of the Hall were opened for a Coronation Tea, starting at 4 pm. Special thanks are due to the catering team of Annmarie, Anthea and Jill, not forgetting Ann from Malpas Road who has so often given her time to come and lead operations in the Upper Trosnant kitchen. They were assisted by Ena and Clare, and by the time people arrived the Hall was looking beautiful, with bunting up the steps and ramp outside, and union jacks and flags all around the walls. The best dressed guests were definitely



There were many guests present and the delicious tea of sandwiches, crisps, sausage rolls and cakes was greatly enjoyed by all present. A real highlight of the afternoon was a lovely duet by Annmarie and Rhoswyn who sang 'King of Kings', reminding us that we worship an even greater King in Heaven.

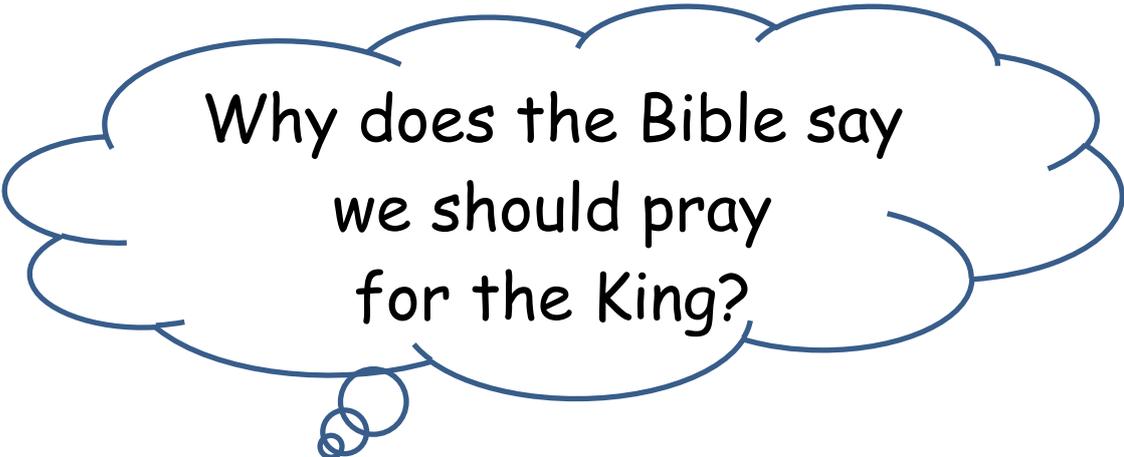
The Coronation theme continued the following day, with Pastor Richard's sermon. See the 'Ask the Pastor' feature over the page for more information about why we should pray for King Charles.

And finally on the Bank Holiday Monday, a Bank Holiday Warm Space meeting was held. The King had asked everyone to volunteer or do something for their local community, and Warm Space is Upper Trosnant's way of helping anyone who is feeling lonely, struggling at home, or who would just enjoy dropping in for a cup of tea and a biscuit.



Now the Summer is here, Warm Space will be turning into Garden Fellowship. Please come and join us on Mondays between 2 and 4 pm.

## Ask the Pastor



Why does the Bible say  
we should pray  
for the King?

A number of people have been asking this question in the light of the coronation of King Charles III. To answer that question, I am going to share some extracts from a sermon I preached on Sunday 7 May, with a few additional thoughts. I took as my text 1 Timothy 2 v 1 – 6:

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time.

Now I realize that not everyone is in favour of the Royal Family – some people think that we should live in a republic without a hereditary head of state. However, I am not getting into that discussion here. What I would say is pray for King Charles even if you don't particularly like him or don't agree with some of the things that he has done and said. Paul was writing at the height of the Roman Empire - not a very godly regime at all! And so, if he can say pray for the Roman emperor, we should pray for our king.

Here are some reasons to pray for the King:

- Very simply, that is what pleases God (v3). In one sense we could stop there. That is the very best reason for anything we do.
- We want to *"live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."* (v2). We should pray for him to govern in such a way that this happens.
- From that we can have freedom to be the church and proclaim the gospel of Jesus
- God wants *"people to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth."* (v4) In fact, Paul goes into more detail about what that means in the next few verses:

*"For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people."*

And the "all people" there includes King Charles III.

- The King made a number of promises in the coronation ceremony. He will not be able to keep them in his own strength. He needs God to enable him to do so.
- In particular, the King needs wisdom as he has promised to uphold the Christian faith and yet to do so in the context of a society which is made up of many faiths and none. The late Queen Elizabeth II did that extremely well. She was very upfront about her own Christian faith but carried out her responsibilities with sensitivity to others as well. Let's pray that our King follows her example.
- Finally, we can pray that as the King is enabled to do what he needs to, that will in turn point others to God as they see him at work in the life of Charles III.

**Pastor Richard**

## Bible Notes (27)

### Wells, Springs and Cisterns

Daniel Pearson

### Part one

Wells feature strongly in the Bible as an essential part of daily life. They provided water for washing, drinking, watering the flock and a meeting place; and to possess a well was to be independent.



To dig a new well was to show faith that God would bless you with a source of water. Isaac's servants (*Genesis 26:32*) came to him and told him about the well they had dug. "We've found water!" Isaac called the place Shibah and to this day, the Bible tells us, it is called Beersheba.

Abraham, Isaac's father, sent his servant back to his own country to find a

wife for his son and in *Genesis 24:3-67* there is a delightful account of how the faithful servant travelled back to Abraham's clan and stopped by the well and prayed, before he had finished Rebekah came out with a jar on her shoulder. She was very beautiful and went down to the spring. The servant hurried to meet her and said "Please give me a little water from your jar." The whole chapter is worth reading to see how God provided a wife for Isaac; for Abraham's faith; Rebekah's family and the God fearing servant entrusted with a vital mission for his master. The name Abraham means "Father of many".

Abraham was blessed that the Lord guided him to a *promised land* and to make it fertile, providing him with water. It was after his death that the Philistines stopped-up the wells by filling them with earth. Isaac reopened the wells (Genesis 26: 18) and named them as his father had done. Making a well is not easy; digging down to the water table may not yield results. Even today specialist are sought to find wells and the result could increase the value of a property

**Right: A well with an out-spill for water to supply troughing for animal watering**

Nehemiah 9:25 and Deuteronomy 11 tell how Israel was give

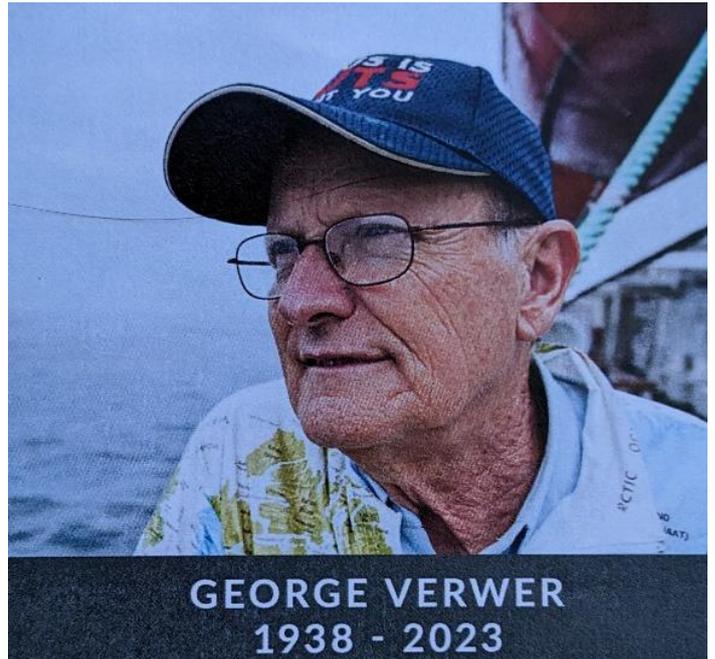


flourishing cities they did not build and houses filled with all kinds of good things and wells they did not dig!

Jacob followed his father in going east to Haran to find a wife from his family. He enquired from shepherds at a well, "Do you know Laban, Lahor's grandson?" They confirmed that they knew him and he was well and he asked why they were not watering their sheep and taking them back to pasture. "We can't," they replied, "until all the flocks are gathered and the stone has been rolled away from the mouth of the well." As they talked, Rachel came with her fathers, Laban's, sheep, for she was a shepherdess. When Jacob saw Rachel, daughter of Laban, he went and rolled away the stone from the mouth of the well and watered his uncle's sheep. Then Jacob kissed Rachael and began to weep aloud.

## The Life of George Verwer

On April 14, George Verwer, a dear friend of mine and brother in Christ, was promoted to glory. George was the founder of Operation Mobilisation, a powerful Christian organisation which helps followers of Jesus live out God's love all around the world, and I want to share with you this tribute to his life.



George was rarely seen without his 'world map' jacket and inflatable world globe. He had an extraordinary passion and vision for reaching the lost with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

From his early days as a teenager, leading college mission trips to Mexico and with a vision for a ship to reach the World's nations – they are now on their 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> ship! – he inspired others to be involved in mission also. There are hundreds of mission organisations formed or led by those who have served on Operation Mobilisation.

George was a man of prayer, big-hearted and faithful at keeping in touch with the many who had been on OM, myself included. I will miss his letters, and packages of books and articles which he would send to encourage and challenge me.

I thank the Lord for the great blessing George has been to others worldwide and to myself, my late husband Graham, and my daughter Philippa.

He will be greatly missed. I am praying for his dear wife Drena and family, and for those who have worked closely with him for so many years. I would ask you to do the same.

**Anthea Scott**

## The Prayer Meeting

**'Jesus said, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am with them.'" (Matthew 18 verse 20)**

Only two at the prayer meeting!

How could such a thing be?

Old Mrs. Dunn with her stiff knees was one.

The other one was me.

We gave each other a nod and then

The clock ticked on, and we

Sat and waited half an hour,

Old Mrs. Dunn and me.

Far apart and silent, as though

We were both of us stricken dumb.

I looked at my watch and began to wish

That neither of us had come.

There sat I, with a yawn and a sigh,

And old Mrs. Dunn sat there,

Till she said, 'Do you think we should go

Without a word of prayer?'

'Then will you kindly begin, Mrs. Dunn,

If you please, Mrs. Dunn,' I said.

Her stiff old knees wouldn't let her kneel

So she held up her hands instead.

I thought no more of the empty chairs,

No dim, bare room did I see;

For surely a crowd of witnesses

Encompassed her and me!

We were only two, but I'm telling you true,

As we sought the Lord in prayer,

It seemed to her, and it seemed to me,

That somebody else was there!

Only two at the prayer meeting!

Thank God it happened to be.

Thank God, that one was old Mrs. Dunn

And the other one was me.

*With thanks to Rhoswyn for sharing this poem at the Sisterhood meeting.*

## **FOCUS ON MISSION: Update from the Douglas Family**

*Helen and Angus Douglas, whose work with BMS World Mission we have followed and supported here at Upper Trosnant, are preparing to return permanently from Nepal to the UK. This is their latest letter:*

Dear friends and supporters,

Sending our love and greetings from warm and sunny Kathmandu, where spring has definitely arrived! Although rather brief here in Nepal, as summer heat (and mosquitos) quickly approach, spring is my favourite season. After the cold, dry, seeming deadness of winter, it is refreshing to see signs of new life appearing, with buds and flowers bursting forth. A time of hope and optimism for the future. We too have so many reasons to be thankful and hopeful for the future.

Earlier this month INF opened a new, long-awaited leprosy unit, the Eileen and Betty Unit at Green Pastures Hospital in Pokhara. This purpose-built, 30 bed ward is named in honour of INF pioneers Eileen Lodge and Betty Bailey. The facility is a space for multi-disciplinary treatment and care of people affected by leprosy across western Nepal, providing inpatient nursing care for approximately 300 patients each year. Patients diagnosed with leprosy in Nepal face stigma and discrimination which creates barriers to social inclusion and financial security. We pray that as patients are treated with compassion and dignity, they too will experience hope for the future.

Helen has been teaching medical and nursing staff at another leprosy hospital here in Kathmandu, Anandaban Hospital. This is a tertiary referral centre for complex patients, often with severe deformities or drug reactions. It also provides general medical, obstetric, paediatric, orthopaedic and trauma/emergency care for the surrounding area. It is really interesting how God has brought things full circle, as this was the first place Helen practiced as a GP in Nepal in 2013-15! Now at the end of 11 years here, it is really encouraging to see exciting developments and progress achieved, and to meet the fantastic staff, new and old, who have a real vision for serving the deprived community. It has been a privilege to help them develop and hone new skills.

In February we really enjoyed having Caleb to stay for 10 days and managed to get away together over the school break. Caleb is doing really well at Lee Abbey, gaining new skills, making new friends and growing in his faith. Since returning to the UK, he has visited Plymouth University and is now excited about what the next step of his journey will be. In our last newsletter we asked for you to pray for the logistics of packing up our life here and our move to the UK move. We have been so aware of God's faithfulness, kindness and provision to us in this season. He really has gone ahead and prepared the way with attention to even the smallest details. Through the generosity of friends, we have secured a house to rent in Selly Oak, Birmingham, near the former BMS mission college – an area that is familiar to the girls. Charis has been accepted to study in the sixth form she wanted. Next month we will have an official address to enable school applications for Esther and Qiniso. Here in Nepal, a new family has agreed to rent our house and buy almost all of the contents, which is such an answer to prayer as it means we can stay in our home here until the day we fly. So, whilst there is still much remaining to be organised, we are confident that God has every detail in hand, and we can trust His timing and perfect provision.

We are now, very much in the final stretch of our time here. Helen recently enjoyed a final short trek into the mountains. Watching the sunrise over the snowy Himalayan peaks and walking in the cold, fresh mountain air, surrounded by beautiful rhododendron blooms, was really special. It has been lovely to spend time with friends and colleagues, and we feel really blessed by the depth and richness of our relationships here. This does inevitably mean that it is more painful to say goodbye; tears have been shed over the last months and surely more will fall before we finally go. However, we are confident that this is the right time for us to leave as a family and we know God's peace and comfort even through those tears.

Thank you for your faithful prayer support over the last 11 years. Following on from our last requests, we are thrilled to say that all of the INF visas outstanding have now been granted. Please pray for peace during this transition, for patience and grace.

**God bless you, Angus, Helen, Caleb, Charis, Esther and Qiniso**

## **Upper Trosnant Update**

- We are continuing to know God's blessing upon us as a church. Above all, we know that he is with us as we meet together on Sundays and during the week. As always, we make no apology for keeping on with that sentiment, because it is as God is with us that he will be at work in our hearts and lives
- The activities of the Coronation weekend went well – there is a full report on page 5. Many thanks to all who worked so hard to make that happen, and thanks to all who came.
- Simon Matheson came to our monthly Sunday @ 4 meeting to give us an update on the work of Christians Against Poverty in our area. This is a much-needed ministry at this time when many people are struggling financially. It was encouraging to hear of those who had been helped to become free of debt and others who had benefitted from Life Skills courses. In addition to this, Simon is always praying for opportunities to share the Lord with those he meets.
- We at Trosnant hosted the first Churches United in Pontypool Prayer and Praise evening at the end of April. Again, here the presence of God was clearly evident amongst us. We sung his praise and spent time praying in groups that he will be at work in Pontypool in a mighty way. These meetings are monthly – please see the diary page for details of the June one.
- When you read this, we will have had a Members' Meeting with Christian Williams from the Baptist Union of Wales discussing our new church constitution. There will be a report in the July Newsletter. Please remember our "regular" church meeting on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June. We will be giving members and regular attenders more information about in the next couple of weeks.
- The designation of Monday afternoons as "Warm Space" has come to an end for now as temperatures are rising. However, there will still be weekly fellowship meetings at 2.00 pm (except Bank Holidays). We are hoping that very soon we will be able to meet in the garden.
- We are delighted to welcome three people into membership – Tony Lewis and David & Lorraine Breese. We pray God's blessing upon them as they fellowship and serve the Lord with us.

## 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.

**4<sup>th</sup>** – Pastor Richard (Communion)

**11<sup>th</sup>** – Dale Norman

**18<sup>th</sup>** – Pastor Richard (Communion)

**25<sup>th</sup>** – Pastor Richard

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

**4<sup>th</sup>** – Facebook Live with Pastor Richard

**11<sup>th</sup>** – **Sunday @ 4 Special: Fellowship and Facebook Live**

**18<sup>th</sup>** – Facebook Live with Annmarie

**25<sup>th</sup>** – Facebook Live with Pastor Richard

### **MONDAY**

**5<sup>th</sup>** – **Monday Fellowship** from 2.00 – 4.00 pm in the Hall.

**12<sup>th</sup>** – **OPEN HOUSE**– from 2.00–4.00 pm in the Hall.

**19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>** – **GARDEN FELLOWSHIP** - from 2.00-4.00 pm  
in the flat garden.

**19<sup>th</sup>** – **TY CEIRIOS** 2.00 pm service for the residents.

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

**6<sup>th</sup>** – Clare

**13<sup>th</sup>** – Pastor Richard

**20<sup>th</sup>** – Lorraine

**27<sup>th</sup>** – Francine Loose

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

**7<sup>th</sup>** – 6.50 pm for a 7.00 pm start

**14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>** – 1.50 pm for a 2.00 pm start

**21<sup>st</sup>** – **6.50pm for 7pm Church Business Meeting:**

Everyone welcome, Church Members are especially encouraged to attend as we meet to plan and support all the work and activities of our Church.

### **THURSDAY 29<sup>th</sup>** – Pontypool Churches **PRAYER AND PRAISE** at the Salvation Army at 7.00 pm

## **PRAYER PAGE**

Did you notice the Bible verse on the cover of the Newsletter? It is from the first chapter of a letter written by Paul to the members of the church at Corinth. The full sentence (1 Corinthians 1: 3-4) says:

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

Paul knew a lot about troubles! Just have a look at 2 Corinthians 11: 23-8. He was beaten up, flogged, stoned, mocked, shipwrecked (3 times) and often felt weak from hunger and exhaustion. But he knew just as much about the comfort of God – and his letters are full of praise. As we consider the troubles of our own world, which are many, let us too rejoice in the comfort that God gives us – by his love and forgiveness, through the Holy Spirit, from his Word in the Bible, and through our knowledge of his love and forgiveness, and the hope of eternal life in heaven.

There are so many people and situations in need of God's comfort today. Let us thank God for all that he has done and is doing for us as we pray for or share his comfort directly with others.

- Pray for peace in Ukraine and in Sudan: ask God to comfort the homeless, the bereaved, the soldiers, their families, the children, and the churches.
- Pray for countries devastated by droughts, famines, and floods, including Sudan and Italy; lift up the starving, the destitute, the despairing and the homeless.
- Pray for our nation, for those struggling with loneliness, or against the cost of living, or who are waiting to get the medical treatment they need. Pray for all Christians and churches, that God will use them to comfort and their local communities.
- Pray for Christians Against Poverty as they seek to bring comfort through debt relief. Lift up those working in the head office, and for Simon Matheson here in Torfaen. Pray too for the Food Bank. Remember our missionary friends: Margaret and Roy Collins-Reece in Toulouse; David and Sue Verwey in Japan; and Angus and Helen Douglas in Nepal.

## Prayers for our Fellowship

- Pray for our fellowship at Upper Trosnant, and for Pastor Richard, Annmarie and our leadership team as they plan and prepare events and service for our church fellowship. Pray that the Lord will raise up new leaders in our Church.
- Thank the Lord for the blessings of love, compassion and unity in our fellowship, and ask him to show us all how we can bring comfort to one another in times of need.
- Lift up Helen Norman as she undergoes hospital treatment and pray for Phil as he cares for her.
- Pray for Doreen, and for Richard, thanking God for their prayers for us.
- Remember Dale, Naomi and Felicity Norman as they seek a new home.
- Remember all those in our fellowship who are ill or recovering from illness or accidents, or in need of a special touch from the Lord: Val Attwell, Emma Attwell, Beryl our 'Blaenavon friend', Barbara's sister Brenda, Pam Charles, Doreen Dixon, Lindsey Firth, Liz Harris, Doreen Harrison, Audrey and Eric Jones, Jean Miles, Helen Norman, Jeff and Judith Parry, Janet Pollard, Ann Price, Ron Saunders, Ann Stephens, Alan Stephens, Linda Swires-Hennessy, Greta and Derek Wagg, Marion Webb.

### ROTA for June

	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Door</b>	<b>Teas</b>	<b>Flowers</b>
4 <sup>th</sup>	Anthea	Priscilla	Clare	Barbara
11 <sup>th</sup>	Dale	Anthea	am: Anthea pm: Annmarie	Lorraine
18 <sup>th</sup>	Jill	Clare	Clare	Sian
25 <sup>th</sup>	Tony	Jill	Jill	Janet P
Communion: 4 <sup>th</sup> Annmarie				18 <sup>th</sup> Barbara

# JUNE

Join us for

**UPPER TROSNANT  
BAPTIST CHURCH**

## Teatime@Trosnant

**Saturday  
3rd June  
at 3pm**



**Please let us know if you are coming  
via the 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

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