

**UPPER TROSNANT
BAPTIST CHURCH**



MAY 2024 NEWSLETTER



“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.”

Galatians 5v22,23

**Services on Sundays at 11.00am in the church
and informal fellowship at 4.00pm in the hall**

Online ministry on YouTube & Facebook

Just search for “Upper Trosnant”

Find us on social media @uppertrosnantbc

www.trosnant.org

Contents

This special edition of the Upper Trosnant Newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Doreen Harrison, a much-loved member of our Church, and a good friend of so many in our local community and further afield. A gifted writer and an inspiring speaker, Doreen was powerful in prayer and full of the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Doreen was promoted to glory on 25 March, just a few weeks before her 90th birthday.

REMEMBERING DOREEN

- Letter from Pastor Richard: 'Always an Encouragement' 2
- A life of Love and Service 4
- Doreen the Writer: a tribute by Jill Morley 7
- 'Chorus line of Heavenly Sunbeams', by Doreen 9
- 'The Oak Tree', a poem by Doreen 10
- 'Anno Doreen' by Daniel Pearson 11
- Special Memories of Doreen, by members and friends of Upper Trosnant 12
- 'Gasps of Joy' – Doreen Remembered' by Tony Hopkins 16

UPPER TROSNANT NEWS

- Upper Trosnant Update 17
- Special Events and Meetings 18
- **CHURCH DIARY for May** 19
- ROTAS for May 20

- PRAYER PAGES:** Praying for Families 21
- Prayers for the fellowship 22
 - Birthdays in May 22

Contact Details

Back page

Newsletter Items:

We are always happy to receive items for the newsletter. Please email articles or features for the June 2024 edition to **uppertrosnantbc@gmail.com** by **Sunday 12th May.**

Letter from Pastor Richard

Always an Encouragement

I first met Doreen Harrison in 2015 when I came to preach at Trosnant. And there is always one word that I associate with her – encouragement. After a service or meeting she would regularly say, “That was good!” I knew that she was not saying that in order to flatter my ego. Doreen Harrison considered anything good that pointed to the Lord Jesus Christ.



She truly was a joy to speak to. I have to say, I always felt better after seeing her. Her words were always full of love and concern, and a desire to encourage me in ministry. Doreen has been a great support to Annmarie and me since we have been here at Trosnant. Her knowledge of Pontypool was great; she got to know the area well having moved here in 1996. And Doreen was well aware of the Christian scene – she knew all of the churches in the valley and regularly prayed for them. She was concerned that Christians from different churches should meet together and was instrumental in setting up a monthly Ladies Prayer Retreat.

Which brings me to another encouragement – her prayers. She regularly attended our midweek Bible Studies and Prayer Meetings, and when she prayed, we felt that she was taking us into the very throne room of Heaven. If Doreen said that she would pray for you, you knew that you were in safe hands.

Those prayers came from the deep relationship she had with the Lord. She came to faith at the age of 18 on a Palm Sunday and walked with the Lord for the next 72 years. Eternity alone will tell of the number of lives her words and prayers impacted.

Doreen was also very involved in church life at Upper Trosnant. She had a very active role in Sisterhood for many years, she attended many of the other meetings of the church and always made a positive contribution. She would often bring insights into Bible Studies that others

would not see. I remember when we looked at the Parable of the Pharisee and Tax Collector, only Doreen could say "The poor Pharisee..."

We always enjoyed her articles in this Newsletter too; until recently she produced a new piece each month, always topical and relevant. She has also written a number of books, again full of wisdom and encouragement. Doreen was a great encourager of people on a one-to-one basis. I know that many of you reading this have benefitted from her counsel, and her ability to look at a situation and see a positive way forward. As I have already said, Doreen encouraged me greatly in many ways; the knowledge that she was praying for me was such a strength in ministry.

There is so much that could be written, and indeed has been written even in this Newsletter. The contributions show the love and esteem so many had for her. We continue to remember Richard and the rest of the family, that they will know the loving arms of the Lord around them at this time. Even though we grieve, we know that she is with the Lord who she loves so much. I read this verse at Doreen's Thanksgiving Service:

"You will receive a rich welcome into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 1 v 1 – 12)

And I wanted to quote a favourite hymn of Doreen, which is not easy because she had so many. But I know she liked this one, and as we have just celebrated Easter this is appropriate:

Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son.
Endless is the Victory, Thou o'er death hast won!
Edmond Louis Budry, translated Richard Birch Hoyle

Be encouraged by those words, as you remember the encouragement that Doreen gave.

Love in Jesus,

Pastor Richard

A Long Life of Love and Service

The thanksgiving service for Doreen's life could not be held at Upper Trosnant: the church was too small to fit everyone in who wanted to come. The large congregation that gathered instead at Park Street Chapel in Blaenavon on the morning of 18 April was testament to how just many lives Doreen had touched in her 89 years, and how much she meant to so many people. She may have been small in stature but she was mighty in spirit, and in partnership with her husband Richard, she was a truly powerful woman of God.



Doreen was born in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, on 13 April 1934. She attended primary school in Crosshills and the Girls' Grammar School at Keighley, where her father worked in the textile industry. An only child, and very close to her father, she loved to go cycling with him in the Yorkshire Dales. Doreen developed a great love for the natural world which stayed with her all her life. Sadly, her father died when she was only 15, and it was a difficult time. She and her mother returned to Huddersfield, where Doreen determined to avoid the traditional life of working in the mills. She worked hard at school, and won a place at teacher training college, helping pay her way with jobs at a pharmacy and at Woolworth's, and later as an auxiliary nurse in the holidays.

You can read Doreen's own account of how she came to know the Lord on page 9 of this Newsletter. She was 18, and attended a service on Palm Sunday 1953. There was a notable preacher in the pulpit, but it was not his words that converted her; rather, a nameless person at the end of the service, who told her that if she became a Christian, she would never feel lonely again. Doreen threw herself into following Jesus with characteristically wholehearted enthusiasm. Soon she was preaching on the local Methodist circuit. She had a natural gift for story-telling and in

the summer months joined first with a local preacher and then with the Salvation Army to share stories of Jesus at a beach mission at Whitley Bay.

Richard remembers vividly the first time that he met Doreen. It was "in my sister's farmhouse in Folly Gill. Youth 'squashes' were held every Sunday evening. I was seated halfway up the stairs when in walked a lady in a navy-blue costume, wearing a hat with feathers the rich colour of a pheasant." Richard was working on his father's farm in the Yorkshire Dales, and Doreen had just been appointed as headteacher of Lofthouse Primary School and was travelling to work by bus from lodgings in Glasshouses. Aged 24, she was the youngest Head in England. When the interviewing panel asked how she would manage, she replied that she would, because she was relying on a power greater than herself. In later life she would tell the story of how she had opened a newspaper to a page of teaching posts, closed her eyes and asked the Lord to guide her finger to the right one. Doreen loved teaching, and, because she looked for, and brought out, the best in every child in every class, she was loved in return by her pupils and their parents.

Doreen and Richard were married on 20 September 1960 and set up home in a caravan. Together they felt called to God's service, and Doreen's strong faith helped give Richard the courage to leave the family farm and follow their vocation. One of the few training colleges that accepted married couples was run by the Salvation Army at Denmark Hill in South London, and here they arrived in August 1961, two of the first ever married cadets, and Doreen the very first to be pregnant. The training was demanding but they had many wonderful experiences in worship and on placement in West Croydon, walking there on thick ice in the bad winter of 1963. Doreen returned to Yorkshire for the birth of Rachel on 2 March, and was commissioned as a Salvation Army officer with Richard two months later. For two years they were stationed at Bromley in Kent. But Doreen was struggling with her health, having experienced toxæmia in pregnancy. Ruth was born in 1964, and the responsibilities of Salvation Army leadership were considerable. After much prayer, she and Richard knew it was right to leave, which they did on good terms. Richard became a probation officer and Doreen a doctor's receptionist and

cleaner. They were baptized at Allerford Chapel in Beckenham, before moving to Wainscott near Rochester where they lived with 'Little Granny' – Doreen's mother, who was even more petite than her daughter. Here they joined first a brethren chapel, and then, when rules around praying seemed too restrictive, the Baptist Church. Doreen returned to teaching, only retiring, reluctantly, in 1984, when her arthritis made the work too difficult.

Richard was now pastor of Bishop's Stortford Baptist Church, and Doreen was fully involved in church life and as a counsellor. Their final move together was to Pontypool in 1996, when Richard was called to be the Eastern Valley Missioner, working with five local Baptist Churches, including Upper Trosnant, where they came into membership on his 'retirement'. Doreen developed her counselling ministry, training under Selwyn Hughes, and also her writing. As the anonymous author of 'Icthus' in the Free Press, she never missed a week for over 20 years. Meanwhile, she started the Ladies Prayer Retreat, fostering lasting friendships between the women of many local congregations. Doreen was much in demand as a local preacher and speaker at meetings, and for her schools' ministry. It was a great joy to both Doreen and Richard to become grandparents, and they took great delight and pride in Ruth and her husband Jason's three children, Max, Rachel and Lottie, all of whom are today following the Lord and working in various roles in health care.

Doreen never complained about her health; rather, she prayed that she would always have sight to read the Bible, and a voice to speak about the Lord. In 2018 she suffered a stroke which had a lasting effect, and in the final year of her life she grew increasingly dependent on carers. God gave her the grace to accept the help that she needed, and God's love streamed from her to all whom she met. As Richard recalled, when out and about with Doreen in the wheelchair, 'Many times coming towards us was a complete stranger smiling broadly, obviously influenced by the smiles emanating from the one entrusted to my care.'

Doreen died very peacefully at home with her family on 25 March. Following the service at Blaenavon, she was laid to rest the next day in a beautiful country churchyard at Dacre, in the Yorkshire Dales. We can praise God that her soul now rejoices with her Lord in Heaven.

Doreen the Writer

For many years, Doreen has been a much-loved member of our church here at Upper Trosnant and will never be forgotten for the way in which she radiated faith and trust in the Lord. As well as being a wife, mother and grandmother, she found time to speak at meetings, lead services, run prayer retreats, paint pictures, and write at least 12 books which were sent, sold, read and loved by people all around the world! Our church library in the Hall has copies of several of her books, and they are worth borrowing and reading if you haven't already done so.



Doreen's first book went to print back in 2010, under the title "Just a Thought in Passing...." and is a collection of short stories based on her *Icthus* articles for the local *Free Press*. It was created to mark 50 years of her marriage to Richard, and opens with a lovely introduction and photograph of the two of them in their golden anniversary year. The 40 short stories that follow are drawn from an abundance of Doreen's memories, experiences and interests, all of which she relates to her faith in order to help us to look at our lives and experiences through the same lens of faith and trust and joy in God.

This first book was followed by at least three more, all written in a similar style. They are illustrated with beautiful watercolour paintings and line drawings by Jill Fryer, and have titles that make you smile such as "Coping with the Wobbles of Life" and "A Baker's Dozen from the Bread of Life".

Around the same time, Doreen wrote two books for children that have been enjoyed by children and adults alike. One of these is "The Donkey Boy" which tells the story of a donkey and his young master, Ben, and his life-changing encounters with Jesus. The second book is "Jubilant Jeremy Johnson" and is about a young boy who seems, at first, to have no talents - until he meets Jesus.

From 2019 - 2021, Doreen collaborated with Mathew Bartlett, the minister of Sharon Church in Pontypool, to create a series of at least six more books, all beautifully produced and full of colour photographs that accompany each story. The format is similar to her earlier books, and the stories are full of interest, variety, humour, warmth, colour, encouragement and faith. The titles are all based on one of the loves of her life - flowers - and include "A Bouquet of Blessings", "A Garland of Grace", "Fragrance of Faith", "Daffodils in Winter" and "A Benediction of Bluebells". With just over thirty stories in each book, the reader can enjoy daily encouragement and inspiration for a whole month, and more!



Doreen's final book - "Wildflowers of Joy" - is a little shorter than the others and was published during the difficult time of the Covid lockdowns. In this beautiful little book, Doreen especially encourages her readers to focus on all the glories of God's creation - the flowers with their beauty and scent and colour, the trees, the honeybees, seedtime and harvest, snow in winter, and the glory of the rainbow that reminds us of the faithfulness of our God in keeping all His good promises whatever we may be going through. What a fitting conclusion this book is to Doreen's writing ministry that has brought hope, smiles, reassurance and faith to so many people.

Jill Morley

Written by Doreen:
'Chorus Line of Heavenly Sunbeams'
from Coping with the Wobbles of Life

When I was growing up in the industrial North of England, little girls had two ambitions. The first was to be chosen for the chorus line of small sunbeams in the Christmas pantomime at the Alhambra Theatre, Bradford, and the second was to sing in the Huddersfield Choral Society. I never achieved either of these ambitions!

However, I have been in the chorus line of Heavenly Sunbeams for 50 years now, and one day I will be part of a choir which exceeds, in size and quality, any human choir ever assembled. This choir is described in the Bible with these words:

"I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea and all that is in them singing, To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb, be praise and honour and glory and power for ever and ever."

I became a Christian when I was at teacher training college. I went to hear a Welsh Preacher by the name of Maynard James. He had glory in his words, but it was not the power of rhetoric which gave me a longing to become part of the family of God. Someone said to me, at the close of the service, "If you become a Christian, you will never be lonely again," and this was the word I needed to hear. So, I joined the chorus line, and I have had a song in my soul ever since. Christians belong to the greatest fellowship on earth. We belong to the family of God. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Huddersfield Choral Society became famous because of the clarity of its diction. This happened because most of the choristers worked in woollen mills and had learned to speak clearly above the noise of the looms. To sing in the heavenly choir, it is necessary to be able to speak above the clamour of society today and identify the language of Heaven.

**And now, Hallelujah! The rest of my days
Shall gladly be spent in promoting his praise,
Who opened his bosom to pour out this sea
Of boundless salvation for you and for me.**

Written by Doreen:
The Oak Tree

Celebrating the tree near Richard and Doreen's house

A century ago the Park extended up the hill.
The roads and houses took its ground, but several trees show still
how once this valley was a place with Gentry in command,
before industry closed it in, and smoke clouds grimed the land.

Beside our house a triangle of park land still exists –
our house deeds prove this little plot is on the council lists.
An ancient oak tree dominates, its branches spreading wide,
and smaller trees are growing round its ivy-covered side.

The local squirrel population claim this super store,
and in the autumn they return for more, and more, and more
acorns, which they carry off. They hide some on the way...
Which is why our garden, in the merry month of May,
is strewn with tiny oak trees, wherever there is ground.
If we left them, would we have a forest growing round?

Imagination runs ahead... The valley's face will change,
its character and contours, new experience rearrange.
I wonder how the oak tree escaped life in the mines
as pit props? Why the line of road excluded in designs
this triangle it dominates? When changes come again
will this mighty, ivy-girdled tree still remain?

What of its future? We don't know what just one day will bring.
But this I know – without a doubt – you can't hold back the spring,
restrain the summer, hinder autumn, cancel winter's bite;
What God said at Creation – our oak tree proves is right.

"As long as earth remains," he said, "There'll be summer, winter too.
Seedtime and harvest, day and night. This I promise you."
Might pass another century – times ahead could be
worse or better, which – whatever – constant is this tree.



1934 Anno Doreen

Doreen was born on the 13th April and in the same year Richard Briers, of the *Good Life*, Roy Kinnear, TV comedian, Judi Dench and Maggie Smith, both actresses, put in an appearance. *Swallow and Amazons* by Arthur Ransom was reprinted three times.

Prime Minister was Ramsay MacDonald, Franklin D. Roosevelt was U.S. President, George V was King of England and Donald Duck was introduced in *The Wise Little Hen*.

Meccano produced Dinky Toys. Cat's eyes were patented as a road safety feature and Queen Mary was launched at Clydebank.

Evangeline Booth, 4th daughter of Salvation Army founders, William and Catherine Booth, became General from 1934-39. Previously, at 21, she had commanded Marylebone Corps and been Commander in Canada 1896-1904 and then Commander in USA from 1904-34.

In this year, William (Billy) Franklin Graham, was converted at a Christian rally in Charlotte, North Carolina under the preaching of Albert McMakin. Considered as one of the most influential of Christian leaders Billy Graham preached for six decades as a Baptist Minister to over 210 million people in 185 countries. It is estimated that 3.2 million people responded to the invitation, "to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior"

In Germany the Confessing Church divided, in this year, from the main German Evangelical Church which was pro-Nazi. Led by such men as Dietrich Bonhoeffer, an international German theologian and anti-Nazis, the Confessing Church was persecuted.

So, the delightfully smiling Doreen was born into a world of turmoil. The Germans covertly preparing for war and western economies recovering from the great depression.

Daniel Pearson

Special Memories of Doreen

One of the many wonderful things I learned from Doreen is that we can pray at any time, anywhere, for anything, with the assurance that our heavenly Father hears us and will answer. On many occasions, Doreen would draw my attention to a need she perceived in someone passing by, or a residential home, or school, or church, and she would pray simply and lovingly for that person or place. Her heart of care and loving concern stretched so far and wide that it gave me an understanding of the huge love of God for all people and their needs. **Jill**

One special memory of Doreen is the support she used to offer me with my work. I was employed by a local charity and faced with a number of challenges. She would invite me round for tea on a regular basis and encourage me as I talked about these things, knowing it would be in complete confidence. In this way, she acted as an informal supervisor for my role, something which I found very helpful. Doreen was a kind, wise and insightful woman, who will be greatly missed. **Judith**

I have a wonderful memory of Doreen teaching the Church to sing "While Shepherds watched their flocks by night" to the tune of "On Ilkley Moor baht 'at!" It is so joyful and I will think of Doreen whenever we sing it. **Yvonne**

"I am a small woman holding up a large book that is in fact a library of 66 books divided into two parts. The Old and the New Testaments both telling of the mighty acts of God." Such was Doreen's introduction as she grabbed the attention of the assembled children at local Primary schools. She would then use that introduction to tell of one of God's mighty acts from one of the Testaments. It was my joy to drive her to some of these assemblies up and down the valley and to see how she held a whole school's attention with the glorious revelation of God's Word. **Priscilla**

In a short moment of time I met Doreen, was welcomed into her home, and listened to her quiet soft voice as she spoke to me of the Lord. I lit a candle on the day of her funeral and thought of her. I thanked her for enhancing my faith and prayed as I believe she is receiving her reward. **Catherine (in Ireland)**

When I first met Doreen I was deeply touched by the love and interest she was giving to me. It was especially important to me as I had only recently moved to Wales and was settling into my new Church. I will never forget her love and kindness. **Ena**

I first met Doreen when she came to speak at our ladies meeting in Pontrhydyrun Baptist Church. When it was announced Doreen was coming, they called her 'Mrs Hats'. When I asked why I was told she had spoken about the different hats we wear in life and how these denote different roles we have in life and about the crown we will wear one day. Everyone remembered this talk and looked forward to hearing her speak again. When we came to Trosnant Doreen was so welcoming and caring towards us and showed us how to be grateful in all situations. **Sian G.**

A few memories of Doreen: Her welcoming smile whenever you saw her. Her loving, kind and gentle manner with everybody who knew her. She always put her friends and family first. A wonderful writer over the years, for young and for old. My grandson Josh and I will never forget her. **Rhoswyn**

I had already met Doreen before I moved to Pontypool, 7 years ago. Jill Morley (already a friend) used to give Doreen a lift to where she was speaking. When this was near our home they would often, on their return journey, call in and have lunch with my late husband Graham and myself. I think we talked far, far more than we ate! But what wonderful fellowship! I have such precious memories of those times and of getting to know such a lovely and amazing lady. When I came to Trosnant I started to buy the *Free Press*, just to read Doreen's weekly Icthus column, and to pray for others who would see it. If it didn't appear, I would ring up and ask where it was! **Anthea**

Doreen personified practical Christianity. She always showed PMA – a positive mental attitude. She had a wonderful sympathy with people who were suffering, and always spoke the right words at the right time. I saw Christ in her. **Alwyn**

I remember an occasion when Doreen suggested that the two of us should do a prayer walk – she wanted us to walk in the chapel premises in High St, Abersychan. One morning we climbed 2 flights of stairs, reading the top area over the Hall. We went into each of the 8 classrooms and deacons' room, praying for those who had occupied them, and the Word that had been taught there. From there to the organ and choir pews, and thanked God for being able to sing his praises. After praying as we walked the gallery, we made for the pulpit, where Doreen prayed that faithful preaching would go out and there would be a response of people seeking Jesus. Back to the Hall, kitchen, boiler room, we prayed that repairs would be carried out. Doreen the teacher took the lead, and I, as a pupil, learned much... **Barbara T**

I loved chatting to Doreen about writing. Once I shared with her that I was having 'writer's block'. I told her how I would sit in front of a blank piece of paper and nothing happened. I was worried that writing had left me. I was hoping Doreen would say it hadn't. But what she said was that if it had, then it was what God wanted. And if it hadn't then I should wait for God to bring it back. But either way, I was to stop sitting in front of empty pages, and pray. She said we should hold everything God gives us with an open hand. **Annmarie**

"You are not dead – Life has but set you free,
Your years of life were like a lovely song
The last sweet poignant notes of which held long
Passed into silence while we listened – we
Who loved you listened still expectantly
And we about you, whom you moved among,
And felt grief for you, we were surely wrong –
You have but passed beyond where we can see.
For us who knew your dread of age is past!
You took life, tiptoe, to the very last.
It never lost for you it's lovely look,
You kept your interest in its thrilling book.
To you death came no conqueror, in the end,
You merely smiled, to greet another friend."

Liz

The Church Meeting was busy considering a Planning Application to re-lamp the church... and we came to the illuminated cross for the front of the church. There was quiet and to be flippant, I said, 'I could even make it come on at certain times and change colour...' There was even more quiet and then Doreen's distinctive voice said, 'that would be wonderful!' Little did she know that this would become a landmark – "you know, by that church at the back of Tesco's with the light-up cross." Upper Trostnant featured on the game Pokemon GO and people would turn-up, at all times, with their Pogomaps... **Daniel**

Being a new member of the church, I remember sitting in all the prayer times and praying for a lady called Doreen. I got the sense that this lady was very well loved by all. As I learned more about her life, I felt myself longing to meet her but knowing how frail and ill she was I thought I never would. Then one day, there she was, sitting in Sisterhood! The Lord had answered our prayers and I learned then how much she loved her Lord in her few words and wonderful prayers - she was inspirational! **Lorraine**

After Richard came as Eastern Valley Missioner in 1996, I became friendly with Doreen, and we used to pray together. I remember sitting on the right-hand side of the church gallery praying when she suddenly said, 'I'd like to organise a prayer meeting for all the ladies in the valley.' I said, 'You could come here if you wanted.' And so the Ladies Prayer Retreat began. We would meet in the Hall at 10 – with the men to make tea – pray in Church from 10.30, then have sandwiches and soup in the Hall. It grew and grew with ladies from all over Torfaen. It was very powerful. **Audrey**

In over a decade of editing the Upper Trostnant Newsletter, Doreen was my best contributor bar none. She had a wonderful gift of seeing God in the everyday, and her words never failed to inspire, to encourage, to make me a better person for reading them. I never once reminded her of the deadline; rather, her email and 'Greetings' would tell me to get started. On at least one occasion Doreen dictated her words to Richard from a hospital bed. She never complained, always praised, always lifted the Newsletter – and you, its readers – up in prayer. **Clare**

Gasps of Joy – Doreen Remembered

I thought of her as spring.
Promise of flowers blossoming
God's love ablaze in everything.
But Doreen lived outspringing spring,
Her perennial smile, her gentle hug
Her gasps of joy, her shoulder shrug.
'Good to see you,' she would say
In that warm Doreenish way.
You felt your jaded spirits lift.
A natural kindness was her gift.
She sparkled in all company
Mingled laughter with integrity
Never shouted always heard
Every wise and witty word.
She had the stoutest heart in that small frame,
Every sinew bore her Saviour's name.
God's the lamp and she its holder
How many followed at her shoulder?
Like the little stream in song she lived
'Give oh give, give oh give.'
A life of service with a smiling face,
She made the world a better place.

Tony Hopkins

Upper Trosnant Update

- We had a number of events over the Easter period, both in Trosnant and in conjunction with other churches in Pontypool.
- We were delighted to be able to sing hymns in the Market as organised by the Chaplaincy there. There were about 30 of us there from different churches, we pray that God will use this for his Kingdom.
- We pray the same for the Open-Air Witness that took place in Pontypool town centre on Good Friday. Again, hymns were sung, testimony shared and a short message given. A few people did stop to listen, which was encouraging.
- In Trosnant, we had a well-attended Informal Communion Service on Good Friday Evening. It was really great to be able to take time to consider what Jesus did for us as he died, share in bread and wine and enjoy fellowship over hot cross buns afterwards.
- Our Easter Tea was very well received. It was a Ploughman's, and those there enjoyed the food, fellowship, a song from Annmarie and a short Easter message from Pastor Richard.
- On Easter Sunday we rejoiced together in the Risen Lord Jesus Christ. In the first of a 4-part series on 1 Corinthians 15, Pastor Richard reminded us that the resurrection is essential to our faith, not an optional extra. After the service, some stayed for a "Bring Your Own" Lunch in the hall.
- Our Warm Space and Open House have continued, it has been encouraging to see a few new people joining.
- Again, it has been a privilege to visit Ty Ceirios and Regency Residential Homes. It was lovely to see those there responding and joining in with the singing.
- As we said in the last Newsletter, our Annual General Meeting was in March – there will be a full report in the June Newsletter.
- We were thrilled to receive 3 people into Membership, Julie Blake, Tom Wildy and Liz Harris. We formally welcomed Julie and Liz at a recent Communion Service; sadly, Tom was not able to be there – we look forward to welcoming him as soon as possible.
- Please note that Pastor Richard's Day Off each week is Friday. Please do not contact him or Annmarie on that day except in an emergency.

Dates for your Diary

HOPE EXPLORED

Sundays 5th, 12th, 19th May

4.00 – 5.00 pm in the Hall

Hope Explored is a short course intended to help all of us grow in our faith. It will be particularly useful for you if you are new to the Christian life or coming back to church after some time away. Everyone is welcome – please contact Pastor Richard for more details.

SOUP LUNCH AND WELSH LANGUAGE CONVERSATION!

Tuesday 14th May at 1.00 pm in the Hall

For those interested in Welsh Language Conversation, we will be having a Soup Lunch followed by an opportunity to get to know the basics of the Language. Celia will be leading us, and it and you are very welcome, regardless of how much Welsh you know!

If you wish to make a monetary contribution, this is during Christian Aid Week, and we will be giving the proceeds to that cause.

TEATIME @ TROSNANT

Saturday 18th May at 3.00 pm

Please come and join us for a delicious tea and a time of fellowship. Book your seat by signing the list on the Hall noticeboard, or via the contact details on the back page.

PENTECOST PRAISE

Wednesday 15th May in Pontypool Market

This is a public witness organised by the Market Chaplaincy; please come and join in singing some of the great Pentecost hymns as Christians gather to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit.

CHURCH DIARY FOR MAY

SUNDAY SERVICES AND PREACHERS

11.00 am: In the Church building and later on YouTube;
followed by Tea and Coffee in the Hall.

5th	Pastor Richard (Communion)
12th	Richard Harrison
19th	Pastor Richard – PENTECOST (Communion)
26th	Pastor Richard

SUNDAY AFTERNOONS @ 4 O'CLOCK

Meeting together in the Hall, with tea and coffee.

5th	HOPE EXPLORED 1
12th	HOPE EXPLORED 2
19th	HOPE EXPLORED 3
26th	Fellowship and Facebook Live with Annmarie Miles

MONDAY

6th and 27th – Bank Holidays – no meeting

13th – OPEN HOUSE 2.00 – 4.00 pm in the Hall – We play games or share crafts, or just meet for a cup of tea and a chat.

20th – GARDEN FELLOWSHIP 2.00 – 4.00 pm in the flat garden. Everyone is warmly invited to drop in for a friendly chat over a nice cup of tea or coffee and biscuits. (And to come into the Hall if it rains!)

SERVICES IN RESIDENTIAL HOMES

13th – 11.00 am @ REGENCY

20th – 2.00 pm @ TY CEIRIOS

If you would like to join the team in visiting these homes and sharing the joy of Jesus with the residents, please speak to Pastor Richard. Our visits are always greatly appreciated; and so is our singing!

TUESDAY – SISTERHOOD 2.30 – 4.00 pm in the Hall

All ladies are welcome to join us every week for fellowship over tea, coffee and biscuits, and to hear God’s word and sing and pray together.

7th	Annmarie
14th	Jill
21st	T.B.C.
28th	Pastor Richard

14th – 9.30 am: **CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY PRAYER** meeting, in the Hall

14th– 7.00 pm: **MEN’S FELLOWSHIP MEETING** in the Hall. All men are welcome to join us for an informal discussion over a cuppa.

WEDNESDAY – PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY

1st	6.50 for 7.00 pm	Phil
8th	1.50 for 2.00 pm	Annmarie
15th	6.50 for 7.00 pm	Pastor Richard
22nd	1.50 for 2.00 pm	Jill
29th	1.50 for 2.00 pm	Church Prayer Time

THURSDAY – CUP PRAYER AND PRAISE EVENING

30th – 7.00 pm at Merchant’s Hill Baptist Church

ROTA for May

	Reading	Door	Teas AM	Flowers	Teas PM
5 th	Anthea	Jill	Jill	Pam	Annmarie
12 th	Richard H	Anthea	Sian	Janet P	Clare
19 th	Ena	Lorraine	Janet J	Yvonne	Lorraine
26 th	Lorraine	Anthea	Lorraine	Sandra	Jant J
Communion: 5 th (am): Annmarie 19 th (am): Clare					

Prayer Page

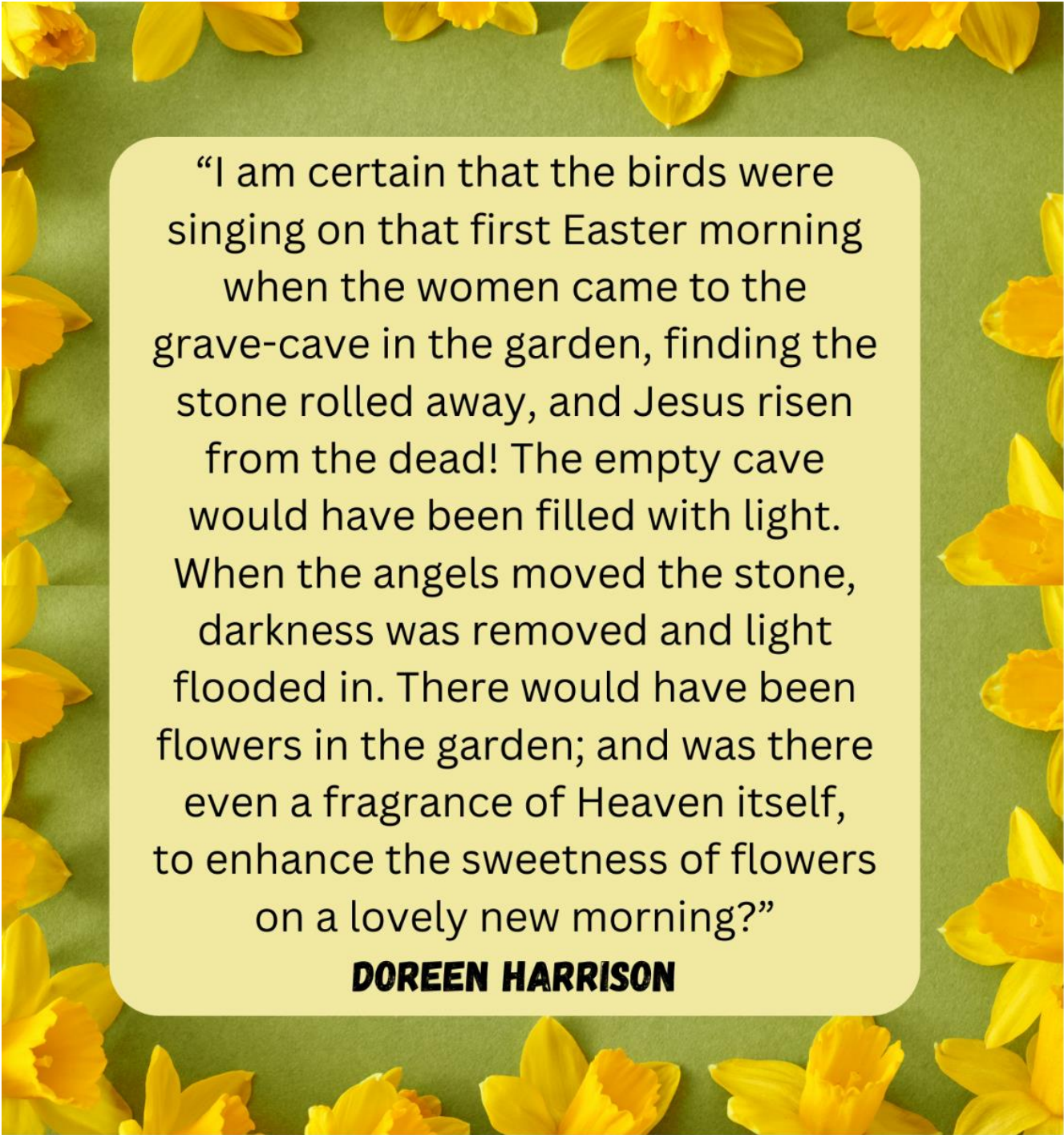
Praying for Families

God does not want any of us to be lonely. He created the family unit where we can love and cherish our partners, our children, our parents, our siblings, our grandparents. He established the Church, where he gives us brothers and sisters and a family in Christ. And we can call him father: Romans 8:15, says, "you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father.'" 'Abba' is the Aramaic word for 'Daddy'.

- Thank the Lord for the example we have been given by our sister Doreen, who lifted up her own family members in prayer so faithfully, and showed love like a mother or a sister to so many.
- Pray for Richard, for Rachel, Ruth and Jason, Max, Rachel and Lottie as they mourn the passing of their beloved wife, mother, and grandmother.
- Pray for all those who mourn; the Bible promises us that they will know the comfort of God.
- Thank God for the members of your own family by name, remembering those who have gone before, those you live with or near now, those who are far away.
- Lift up those who do not have an earthly family, or whose family members have let them down or harmed them. Pray for the Lord's healing, and for the building of new and loving relationships.
- Give thanks for your church family, for all those Christians who have guided you, and for all the friends you have in the Lord.
- Thank him for the good times and the blessings you have through your family relationships.
- Ask the Lord to show you how to cherish your family, and to give you all the love, the forgiveness, the patience, the peace, and the forgiveness that you need.
- Pray for God's protection of family relationships, which are tested in so many ways. Pray for strength and wisdom for all who need it in times of difficulty, and for unity between family members.
- Pray for the institution of the family around the world; for refugees and homeless families; for children orphaned by war; for parents who have lost their children.

Prayers for the Upper Trosnant Fellowship

- Pray for all the events and meetings at Upper Trosnant during May. Ask the Lord to be present in every service, and in every time of fellowship. May we as a church reach many with the good news of Jesus, and may we build up and strengthen the relationships within our church family.
- Pray for the Hope Explored course, that the meetings will help many people to come to faith or to deepen their knowledge of Jesus.
- Lift up the Churches United in Pontypool prayer and praise evening and the market chaplaincy witness for Pentecost, praying that many will be touched by the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for Pastor Richard and the Upper Trosnant leadership team. Ask the Lord to give them all the strength and wisdom they need as they work for him and care for our fellowship.
- Lift up Derek Wagg, as he remains seriously unwell in hospital following a fall. Pray for strength for Greta, Helen and Phil, and for all the family.
- Remember our missionary friends Margaret and Roy Collins-Reese in Toulouse, and Sue and David Verwey in Japan. Ask the Lord to protect them in dangerous situations, and to guide all the work that they do.
- Pray for Dale Norman, and for Naomi and Felicity, as Dale concludes his final term of study at Cardiff Baptist College and waits on the Lord as to his future ministry.
- Remember all those in care homes, including Ron Saunders and Ann Stephens. Ask the Lord to bless the monthly ministry to Ty Ceirios and to the Regency.
- Please pray for all those who are ill or frail, or recovering from illness or accidents, or in need of a special touch from the Lord: Val Attwell, Emma Attwell, Barbara's sister Brenda, Beryl from Blaenavon, Tom Wildy and Julie Blake, Dave Breese, Pam Charles, Doreen Dixon, Lindsey Firth, Keith Fordham, Liz Harris, Audrey and Eric Jones, Jean Miles, Jill Morley, Helen Norman, Jeff Parry, Judith Parry, Janet Pollard, Alwyn Stephens, Linda Swires-Hennessy, Marion Webb.

A decorative border of yellow daffodils is scattered around a central light green rounded rectangle containing text. The background of the entire page is a solid light green color.

“I am certain that the birds were singing on that first Easter morning when the women came to the grave-cave in the garden, finding the stone rolled away, and Jesus risen from the dead! The empty cave would have been filled with light. When the angels moved the stone, darkness was removed and light flooded in. There would have been flowers in the garden; and was there even a fragrance of Heaven itself, to enhance the sweetness of flowers on a lovely new morning?”

DOREEN HARRISON

**Upper Trosnant Baptist Church
Lower Bridge Street
Pontypool
Torfaen
NP4 6JU**

**Contact Pastor Richard Miles
e. uppertrosnantbc@gmail.com
t. 01495 751020**

www.trosnant.org