



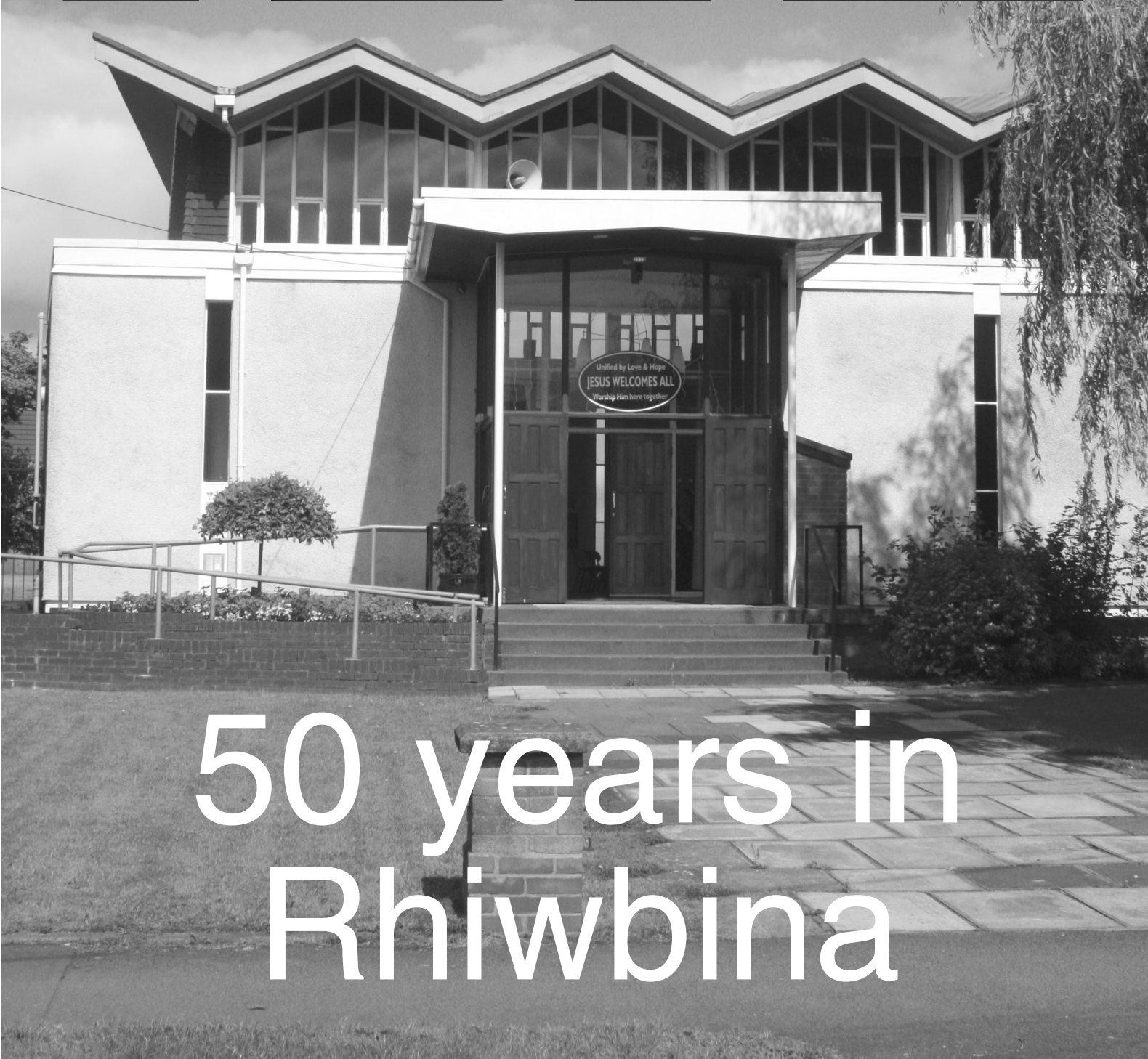
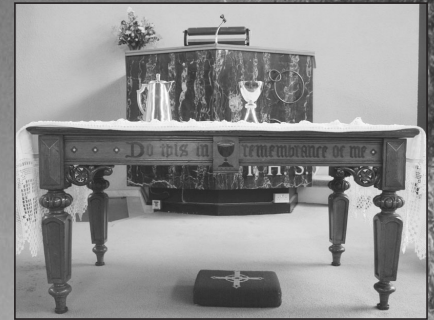
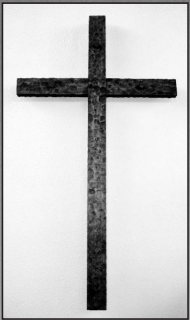
THE 50th Anniversary Special Edition

MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER 2014

worshipping, sharing, serving, caring ::

Bethany Baptist Church



50 years in Rhiwbina

Bethany Baptist Church
Heol Llanishen Fach
Rhiwbina, Cardiff

www.bethanybaptist.org.uk

Minister : Rev Philip Dunning

Tel : 029 2069 2175

e-mail: Dunning@xlnmail.com

Church Secretary : John Townsend

The Messenger Editor : Gareth Jenkins

Tel : 029 2088 5389

e-mail : gareth-jenkins@supanet.com

Messenger Distribution : Pat Evans

Tel : 029 2062 7457



50 YEARS IN RHIWBINA

BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH — 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Tuesday, September 2

The Road to Rhiwbina Anniversary Walk — a symbolic journey

Starts at 10am (meet at 9.45am) from 'Old Bethany' in St Mary Street, Cardiff on the site of Howells department store. We will take the Taff Trail via Whitchurch to Bethany and 'guard of honour' refreshments. Led by John Richards and escorted by Rhiwbina Walk for Health group — more than 80 people have already volunteered to step out. Come and walk with us.

Thursday, September 4

An Evening of Hymns & Anthems

using hymns composed by Rev W E Winks, a former minister of Bethany, and Ann Laetitia Waring — *In heavenly love abiding* — who regularly worshipped in Bethany with her parents. Special guests: St Denys' Church Choir, Lisvane, conducted by Martyn Ridge

Saturday, September 6

Anniversary Open Day and Exhibition in Bethany.

Golden Jubilee Exhibition in the Church — a special collection of unique displays linking the Old and New Bethany's. With Golden flower displays by local churches, Plus the Bethany Cinema, offering reminders of 'walking the plank' for the Opening and Dedication of Bethany in 1964. It's a unique movie record. From 10am, Coffee morning and refreshments throughout the day.

Sunday September 7, 10.30am

Golden Anniversary in Rhiwbina and 208th Church Anniversary Service

Featuring a symbolic 're-opening' of Bethany and our Thank Offering. The guest preacher will be Rev Brian Evans, a noted minister in Cardiff for many years.

Monday, September 8 Special anniversary Dinner

7pm at the New House Hotel — smart dress, £25 a person — booking required.

Saturday September 13

An Evening with Peter Karrie

Concert in the Church, 7.30pm with an invited children's choir in support. Peter Karrie brings the West End to Bethany. A former resident of the village he is the longest running star of *The Phantom of the Opera*, and other classic West End Musicals. Prepare to be hypnotised by the *Music of the Night*. Tickets £10.

Saturday, September 27 Under Milk Wood

Performance by the RATS, 7.30pm. Using the main Hall Stage for amateur theatre again. Free advanced ticket required, with retiring collection

The Road to Rhiwbina

A new era in the long history of Bethany Baptist Church began 50 years ago this month with the Opening and Dedication of the new Baptist Church in Heol Llanishen Fach, Rhiwbina. And to celebrate this milestone we have organised a series of celebration events, beginning with a symbolic walk, from St Mary Street, where it all began in 1806.

Yes, 50 years ago, Bethany moved from the City Centre and opened its doors to a new congregation in developing Rhiwbina.

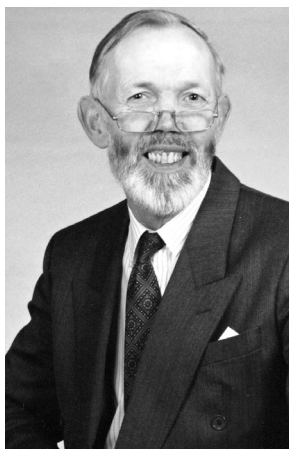
We will be telling some of the story of the Road to Rhiwbina at an Anniversary Open Day and Golden Jubilee Exhibition and there will be a symbolic "re-opening" of the Church at the Anniversary Service on Sunday, September 7.

Bethany was formed on September 7, 1806 when three adults, Edmund Ward, Thomas Hopkins and Keziah Viner were baptised in the River Taff near the old Cardiff Bridge. In the evening, they joined three others for worship, George Brown, Thomas and Sarah Lewis in a room at the King's Head Hotel in St Mary Street. It was the birth of Bethany.

Why not join our celebrations listed alongside and detailed in this special issue of *The Messenger*? Our Minister, Rev Phil Dunning, will conduct our services at 10.30am and 6pm on September 7, 14 (Lighthouse, 4pm), 21, and 28. The doors are still open to you . . .

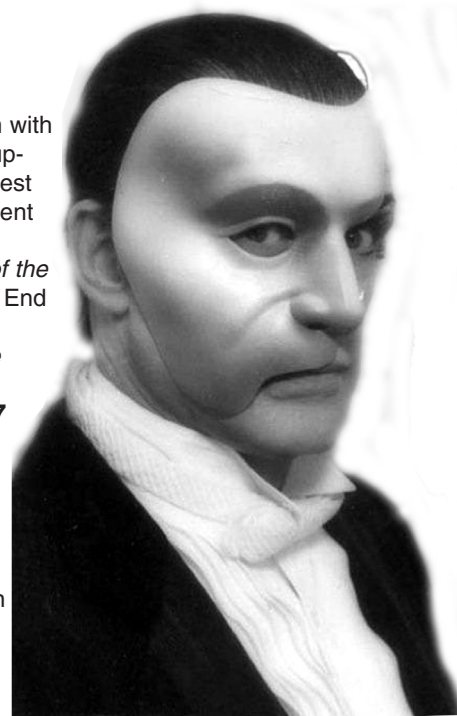
IN LOVING MEMORY . . .

 A leading figure in the South Wales Baptist Union, and a dedicated member at Bethany since his retirement as Area Superintendant, Rev Peter Saunders, died physically during the summer. As a dedicated



member of the Church he contributed greatly to the leadership of the Church, not only supporting the Minister, Rev Phil Dunning, but leading one of the four housegroups that have sprung up in recent years.

He leaves a widow, Morfydd, and four children and a host of friends and former colleagues who will miss his valuable work and dedication to the Baptist movement.



They played the NAP hand and it brought success

So Bethany has been in Rhiwbina for 50 years. I can scarcely believe it — until I look in the mirror.

How did we come to be here and why?

After 152 years of worship and witness in the heart of the city, our membership had fallen to just 30. Our minister, Rev W E Winks had moved to London and a building with a capacity of 1,000 was no longer possible or sensible for us to maintain.

So it was that after much prayer, soul searching and more than a little sadness, the decision was taken to invite a new minister with the purpose of moving us somewhere.

A young dynamic minister by the name of Gwynfryn Thomas came one Sunday morning to preach, making it clear that he had no intention of moving to Cardiff. But he had made such an impression on the membership, that my father decided that our family holiday that year would be in

Plymouth so that we could listen to this young man again in his home church. It was to be the start of a long, working friendship that was to last the rest of their lives.

God's hand truly did guide that small flock back in the late 'Fifties and early 'Sixties.

With Gwynfryn now our minister, a small steering committee was formed which came to be known as The **NAP HAND** — Norman Plummer, Arthur Andrews and Percy Nash (my father) or put it another way, Nash, Andrews and Plummer.

Family life took a back seat during those days. Sites had to

Church Elder Judith Veysey, recalls the time when Bethany moved to Rhiwbina



be considered; the sale of the old church building had to be organised, architects, solicitors, estate agents, planners etc.

If my sister Linda or I had been asked, *When did you last see your father?* the probable answer would have been "at Bethany". *When will you next see your father?* "At Bethany". Oh, poor Mum.

But this was no hobby or past-time. This was the work of the Lord and that small band of people set to it with a will and determination which, in retrospect, seems almost super-human. But they had a superhuman force in the form

of the Holy Spirit to lead, guide and give them strength to see the task to completion.

The Llanishen Fach area of Rhiwbina was still being developed — and so were the church and halls. Every new family arriving in the area was introduced to Bethany Baptist Church, the oldest English Baptist Church in the city.

Friendships were forged at that time which have lasted to this day.

Our membership grew way beyond anything we had imagined with attendance at morning worship in the hundreds. A high point indeed.

Times change and other activities beckon. Our form of worship is comforting to us, maybe a little staid to others.

We still pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance and are willing to respond to his call.

Can you help? He can change your life beyond imagining and for the better.

God bless you.

JUDITH VEYSEY

Celebration in song



St Denys' Church Choir from Llisvane, has had a reputation for a good standard of choral singing for more than 40 years, and has sung in many cathedrals around the country, including Coventry, Worcester, Gloucester, Hereford, Exeter, St Davids, Brecon and, of course, our own Llandaff Cathedral. Several return visits have been made regularly to these venues.

The choir, conducted by Martyn A Ridge, will be singing in Bethany and consists of around 20 regular choristers made up of basses, tenors, contraltos and sopranos, the latter being young ladies and some children. The ladies are mostly young mums who passed through the choir as child choristers. Several are good musicians and teach music themselves.

Some past choristers who have moved from Cardiff join us when we sing away.

The Choir leads the singing at the 9.30am and 6.30pm Sunday services at St Denys' and on the 4th Sunday each month, a full Choral Evensong is sung with different settings of the canticles and responses.

A different anthem is sung at every service and the Choirs' repertoire now exceeds 500 different anthems and service settings.

The Choir is affiliated to the Royal School of Church Music.

I first became aware of Bethany while at College in Bristol. In among all the other Churches which the College based students regularly preached at; coming over the bridge to Bethany in Cardiff was considered quite a privilege — as an 'extra fund' existed that enabled our regular, and useful, preaching fee to be healthily supplement by the Gwynfryn Thomas Memorial Fund.

My first opportunity to visit Bethany occurred in late October 2003, when the preaching rota became my responsibility. I have to say I found the Church rather intimidating, compared with the smaller City and Valley's Churches that were my mainstay.

By that stage I was beginning the settlement process, and my details were being sent to many different churches nationwide. Nothing had yet fitted until my name went out to Bethany's pastoral committee early in 2004. Bethany's name came up too at that time in conversation with our then Principal, Rev Dr Chris Ellis,

currently President of the Baptist Union. Chris had been brought up in Llanishen, and knew the Church, and with a reflective smile said simply to me, *"you'd be good there"*.

With a comment like that I took the next call seriously, when I was invited to the Church again in the February. That Sunday I enjoyed lovely hospitality from David and Shirley Salter, with John Evans in attendance — and enjoyed a wonderful afternoon stroll round Roath Park lake — *was all of Cardiff like that?*

I distinctly remember references in conversation to Bethany's 'open membership', and 'Ecumenical outlook' — both of which were important to me.

Veronica and I took the opportunity to

look round the area and the Manse and it all seemed to fit together. We were, therefore, excited when I was subsequently interviewed by the pastoral committee and specifically approached to preach-with-a-view to the Ministry, on Sunday, March 21, 2004.

The subsequent vote in the specially called Church Members Meeting thoroughly confirmed our thoughts and feelings: Bethany was the Church God had in mind for us.

Following the completion of my College studies, and my Ordination to the Ministry in my home Church in Godalming, Surrey in the July — a number of Bethany friends attended — I will always remember the full and vibrant Church that greeted Veronica and myself during my Induction service on Saturday, September 4, 2004.

The following weekend, I also remember a small exhibition and celebration for the 40th Anniversary of Bethany's arrival in Rhiwbina. So this celebration also marks my own 10th anniversary in the Ministry here.

Marathon

Initially, during these last 10 years, I spent some time getting to know the Church; its people and, for want of a better word, its 'politics'.

Chairing my first Deacons meeting really was a rude awakening, with one particular accusation of 'slander' by one Diaconate member to another. Fortunately, by God's grace, I was able to deal sensitively with that issue, and have kept the Diaconate together since that early incident. I feel that one of the giftings that God has given to me is the ability to unite people, and keep them working together. Obviously, Bethany needed that gift in its new Minister.

As time has gone on, I have tried to continue with this policy of unity and of journeying together in all that we do. Some people may have preferred a more radical "new beginning" for the Church — involving, perhaps, new buildings and new agendas in worship and ministry. But this has not been my sense of where God has led us or where Church members wanted to be.

To a large extent we have retained our traditional patterns of ministry, which I recognise are valued by the majority of those who come.

Many have also joined us during my tenure, who have felt disenfranchised from other churches engaging in more radical change.

Highlights in these last 10 years for me have included four baptisms in the Church, using what I consider to be one of the most



beautiful baptismal pools I have ever seen — it is a shame that the Health & Safety gurus require us to cover it up when not in use.

Following an enthusiastic attempt at engaging with the Alpha Course, house groups have been formed in modern Bethany for the first time. They have now become a mainstay of our fellowship and discipleship together.

We shared a wonderful time of celebration, and much activity, in 2006, when Bethany celebrated its Bicentenary as the first English speaking Baptist Church in the City. Much of the impetus — particularly for charitable work and fund raising — that was ignited during that year has remained in the Church up to now. Equally, the annual Church Coach holiday has become a valuable part of my own yearly pastoral care ministry.

Our ministries to the **Elderly** overall have continued to be our main focus,

Ministry

particularly with the success of the Evergreens' group on Tuesday afternoon — led wonderfully up to now by Margaret Stephens and Shirley Salter. We all wish them a happy retirement from that responsibility.

This, of course, is supplemented by our separate ministry to **Youth** and **Children**, which has seen its fair share of ups and downs over this last 10 years. Particular reference for me needs to be made to the Gather@Bethany youth group initiative which I embarked upon with Cerian Townsend in 2007, with a group of willing volunteers from the Church. In the end, this radical approach proved unsustainable, but it taught us a great deal about what should, and indeed, should not be attempted here.

Along with our continued support for our Junior Church, we have now begun a separate, and hopefully more sustainable, monthly Sunday service initiative called Lighthouse which our small group of children and youths really engage with.

As we complete this time together, I recognise there are many challenges for the Church — not least an ageing congregation and issues in our substantive buildings.

But for me Ministry is not a sprint but a marathon and at present I remain committed to walking with the Church, as our Ministry continues together under God's guidance.

For some years now my wife Anne and I have stopped sending each other Christmas cards:

instead we buy each other a Calendar. The reason for this change is first it reminds us each day how much we love each other, then to record all those special, red letter day's to celebrate weddings, birthdays, anniversary dates, family occasions — and my preaching engagements.

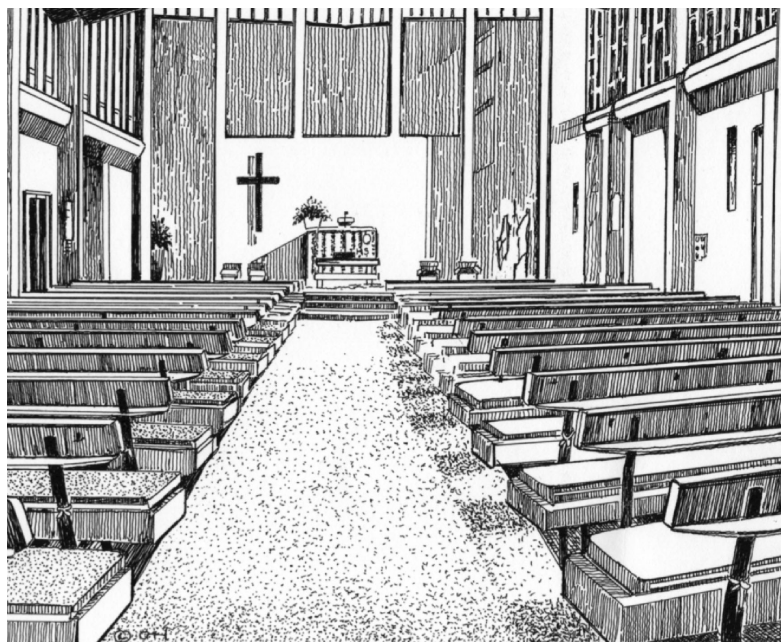
Bethany's anniversary move to Rhiwbina is on the calendar. It was a move of Faith. It was a move based upon Missionary Zeal. It was a move of great courage by the whole of the fellowship.

My first encounter with Bethany was in 1966 when I visited the Church on what was then called College Sunday. I remember it as if it were yesterday with its warm welcome.

There was a well-prepared order of worship with a mixture of liturgy and great Welsh hymns and, above all, **The Architecture**. As I entered the Church that day I was nervous and apprehensive with the words of fellow students whispering in my ear, *To preach in Bethany means You have MADE IT*.

I also remember that on my arrival I was handed a letter from the then minister, Rev Gwynfryn Thomas, expressing a sincere welcome and

Take a look around you



SEAT AT THE SERVICE
with Rev Sam Highway



assuring me of his thoughts and prayers ending with the word *Enjoy*.

It was some years later, in 2006, when I made my second visit to Bethany, this time with a view to possible membership together with my wife Anne. We both felt much at home within the congregations. But it was **The Architecture** that fascinated

me, and does to this day.

The **open doors** a sign and symbol of a God waiting to welcome you.

The **Pulpit and Lectern** standing so majestic in the centre of the rostrum, as a sign and symbol of God speaking words of wisdom—challenge—forgiveness and Divine Love.

The **Communion Table**

with its silver cup and Wine Jug signs of sacrifice and forgiveness.

The **White Wall** as the open Bible telling of God's action and involvement in every-day life.

The **Ceiling** and its wave design reminding us of the world's tempestuous sea.

The **Old Rugged Cross** the emblem of suffering and pain.

The **organ** to remind us of those *Songs of Praise* as it fills this beautiful building with Hymns Ancient and Modern, and Christian voices.

So here we are 50 years on in Bethany's Sanctuary with its signs and symbols of Faith, that still speak to our present generation of worshippers.

I hope in my life-time the Sanctuary will always remain a Sanctuary to remind people who enter to 'Look Around' and so discover or rediscover a God they are in danger of forgetting.

Happy Anniversary Bethany.

Rev SAM HIGHWAY

NEW BETHANY

Greetings from Mrs Eira Palmer and her son Simon, now living in Porthcawl. Fifty years ago on Good Friday they attended the service here at Bethany for the first time. Simon was three and sat quietly with the much-loved and missed Harry Ferris. There were only five children in the service that morning.

It was their first contact with the Church that was to become their spiritual home for a number of years.

Eira is now 90 years old and remembers the occasion well: A dignified Rev Gwynfryn Thomas conducting the Communion service; making friends with Pat and John Evans; being welcomed by Miss Elunid Jones. "They were the happiest days of my life," Mrs Palmer recalls. Although she is not able to travel far her thoughts and prayers are with Bethany this Anniversary time. "It was

here that I found God or rather he found me," she says.

Simon is number six in the Nursery photograph on the front of the last Easter *Messenger*. She is still in regular contact with Elder Mrs Eileen Thomas, one of the four remaining members who made the move from the City Centre.

More Golden Memories will be featured in the Anniversary Exhibition on September 6.

Recently, *The Messenger* unearthed photographs of the dedication of Diane Hockridge Caroline Hockridge. On Easter Sunday, April 18, 1965 — a few months after Bethany was opened — "Mr and Mrs Duncan Hockridge presented themselves and dedicated themselves to God in their new role of parents," *The Messenger* reported. "A blessing was asked upon their little daughter."

Golden memories





The 2014 Bethany Family

It really was a tiny bit exciting. When morning service ended this morning we all were commanded to remain in our places to have our photograph taken, *en masse*.

The result should be rather impressive. We don't do this sort of thing often, only every 50 years or so. And by now you will be aware that 2014 is the 50th anniversary of Bethany's move from the city centre to Llanishen Fach. It has been an exciting half-century for the folk at Bethany; even for those who moved from the old site.

It would interest some to assess the influence Bethany has had at both locations; at the small-town site which became a down-town church and subsequently moved out to the suburbs. How would you set upon it? Would you play the numbers game? No prizes though.

How many new churches have been

planted by Bethany? How many people have come to faith? How many ministers or lay-preachers raised? How many young lives influenced for good? How many found companionship; couples married, children dedicated? How many baptised? How many buried? Beyond recall I imagine.

Back on the plot of Old Bethany, in what is now a significant section of a large department store, ministers preached God's Word, baptised believers and administered the Lord's Supper for up to 200 years. In the same area Sunday School classes were first taught in Cardiff and the East

Glamorgan English Baptist Association had its offices. Many happy memories.

Today, only a few of the Old Bethany folk remain; most have met their Lord and received his blessing in glory, but the Old Bethany Spirit remains. The work proceeds.

I am sorry. What was your question?

What will Bethany be like in 50 years?

I trust there will be a Bethany; that there will be another 250 years of praise, worship, evangelism and service.

Places of worship — unless of historical or national interest or importance — are not, on whole, the popular venues they

Tomorrow r

REFLECTION BY REV RANDALL MORGAN :



Bethany's Family currently numbers more than 150, including 55 regular and loyal worshippers who are not members. Some are pictured here by Bryn Williams, together with the Minister for the last 10 years, Rev Phil Dunning, treasurer, Dr Tom Jones and secretary John Townshend. There are four Elders, Rev Randall Morgan, Rev Sam Highway, Mrs Eileen Thomas and Mrs Judith Veysey who was brought into Old Bethany as a 'babe in arms'.

Elected Deacons — pictured in front of the choir stalls — and who can serve for six years before taking a break, are: Mrs Viv Francis, Miss Janice Evans, Cliff Vincent, Linda Williams, Anne Highway and Lyn Owen.

The membership secretary is Paul Hunt.

Church Organist: John Howells assisted by John Richards

never comes

were. Today's mindset precludes or excludes the clergy and the organised church but I perceive that although God is to many people but a distant echo of an ancient authority, if one places Jesus at the heart of a serious discussion that is accepted as his rightful place. He still speaks. I ask you to face the question in all seriousness; is any one more needed today? Is any one more relevant?

It makes one wonder. Jesus was more than a teacher, though teacher he is. We have to face up to him, not spurn him as frequently do. When we consider Jesus we cannot evade the cruel incident of the

Crucifixion, the dazzling wonder of the Resurrection and the earth shattering event of the first Christian Pentecost. Whitsun. In a way most wonderful these three happenings place Jesus with us still. Here in our hearts. In our midst. **Go on. Read them up. The last couple of chapters or so of the Gospels and the first couple in Acts.** Those chapter describe for us events that changed and are still changing the world. Read them again. They are telling us of the new life that is our through the wonderful work of Jesus. Praise his Holy Name.

This tells me that however difficult the ways of life, there is always hope with

Jesus: for those who put their trust in him.

Bethany is not without hope for the future. But let us remember this: in God's family we are the brothers and sisters of Jesus. That means; we are the voice of Jesus; what is he saying and to whom? It means; we are the feet and hands of Jesus; where is he going, what is he doing and why? Are we with him? He is with us. How well do you know Jesus? Don't you wish to know him better?

In part those extra 50 years ahead of us depend on us: On us being renewed in our faith, reconsecrated in our devotion, revigorated in our action. The way lies open before us.

May God be with you all: God the Father; God the Son; God the Holy Spirit. After our span on earth may we worship God in Heaven. Amen.

J RANDALL MORGAN (Rev)

We gather here today conscious of our religious liberties and thank God for it. There is no fear of any of us being cast into prison for our faith in Jesus Christ. Nevertheless, we gather here today believing that it is God's will for us to be doing this turf cutting which is the start of the church buildings to be erected in this place.

It was not easy for the six founder members of Bethany to worship God and live as his people. On Sunday, September 7, 1806, Edmund Ward, Thomas Hopkins and Keziah Viner were baptised by immersion in the River Taff near the old Cardiff Bridge. That evening these three plus three others formed the first English Baptist Church in Cardiff.

Their number was small but their faith was great, their courage high, their hope bright and strong. If they were deeply conscious as their records show, of the poverty of their worldly resources and intellectual gifts, they were still more sensible of the power of God, the father who had called them to bare witness to His truth. They relied solely on Him. He was their shepherd; he was their only consolation when trials came and troubles befell them.

The history of the 157 years since the founding of the church makes glorious and inspiring reading. This day we are starting a new chapter. We know that the future will not be easy; we realise there will be times of difficulty as well as of happiness. We shall need all the faith and patience, courage and forbearance of which the six founders of Bethany were possessed. We go forward confident that Christ, the head of the Church, will guide, strengthen, and help us if we remain faithful to Him.

So, To God be the glory now and always . . .

Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, who hast built Thy Church upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the chief corner-stone, vouchsafe Thy presence and grant Thy blessing, as we cut the turf for the start of the building of Thy church here, in Thy name and for

The first steps towards a new Baptist Church in Rhiwbina. This edited Order of Service is from the records of Rev Gwynfryn Thomas, the minister who led the congregation to Rhiwbina



Thy glory.

Grant us we beseech thee, that the work now starting, may, by Thy continued help, be carried on and completed to the praise and glory of Thy Holy name: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Reading: Genesis 28 v10-22

Turf cutting by Mrs Arthur Andrews, wife of the chairman of Trustees and Life Deacon

Cutting the turf saying,
Here may the spiritual sacrifices of praise and prayer be offered continually, and the sound of thy gospel be heard: Here may true believers be built up in faith and love, and those who have not known Thee find salvation. To thee be the glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Response: *Amen, so let it be.*

Address by Rev Gwynfryn Thomas

Matthew 28 v 16-20
These verses from Matthew's gospel are a fitting conclusion to a Gospel which emphasises the missionary vocation of the church. For we have in them a great claim, a great commission and a great promise. Through his death and Resurrection, Jesus had been stripped of his humanity and was now all

powerful. And the all-powerful Jesus Christ now called for the world-wide proclamation of his kingship by His disciples. And he promised them His presence always. He told them that everything may change, but He remains with them *even unto the end.*

These verses became the charter of the new Israel, the church. Starting with the Acts of Apostles we see how the followers of Jesus have realised he preached in word and action.

In the church's long history, we have to admit with sorrow the black spots, but there are many more white spots.

There have been times of great expansion and times of consolidation.

The story is exciting and stimulating. Men and women have left all and gone far and wide because God called them and they responded. No one can deny that the church has been the world's greatest benefactor — HAS BEEN? Yes, we can be still.

In this country the church's history has been as glorious as anywhere else. We tend to forget this because of her ineffectiveness in this century so far. Today, however, there are many signs that she is coming alive.

There's a new sense of urgency.

There is a new sense of mission among Christians, new methods of evangelism are being sought and used to express the fundamental truth and doctrine. Modern language is being used.

There is a new sense of unity among the various branches of the church — at least this is so in England, not so much in Wales as a whole yet, but it is coming.

Wherever men and women have responded fully to the call of God, they have known the reality of the promise Christ made to those first disciples of being with them always. When men have obeyed the call of God and gone forth for Him into the unknown, they experience for themselves that Christ's promise is no empty boast. He has been and is with them. Everything changes, but He remains with them, *even unto the end.* Even unto the end. We are always tempted to think that long ago the world was more full of God than it is today: we are tempted to think that God was more powerful in the days gone by than he is today: and perhaps we are tempted to think that in the future God will be squeezed out of his world altogether. This is not true. His promise still holds good and will do to the end of time — *He is all powerful and is with us always.*

How applicable is this charter for us today. We have just made the ceremonial start for a new church building. The turf was cut in the place where, e're long the communion table, pulpit and baptistry will be in the new church.

We don't know what the future holds. We don't know what the future history of Bethany will be. It was exactly the same for the founders of the church in 1806. Yet, they believed in the all-powerful Christ, they proclaimed his Gospel, and they knew Him to be with them always.

As I see it, we must submit our lives, our wills to that of the Lord of life and death: we must be faithful in the proclamation of the Good News we learn from Him: and we must go forward in the knowledge that He is with us.

*Unless the Lord builds the house,
those who build it labour in vain.
For no other foundation can any
one lay than that which is laid,
which is Jesus Christ*

‘**T**his is the day many of us have been longing for. For today we have a new base for future operations.

Ever since the call of God was obeyed, this fellowship has been waiting; since 1961 we have had our sights aimed on a day such as this: and particularly since October 1962, we've been going forward with one foot here and one foot in the city centre. No longer is the term *here and there* applicable or necessary, for we are all *here* as one fellowship.

This Church Hall is ready for use due to the co-operation of a number of people. We thank Mr Nash for all his endeavours: we thank our architects Mr Morgan Harries and his assistant for their planning and aid; We thank Mr Stradling and contractors Knox & Wells.

But I want us, in particular, to thank Mr Stanley Beare, the foreman on the site, and his merry men, for the way in which they have made this opening possible for us. Despite headaches and heartaches, despite setbacks and frustrations, Mr Beer has carried on, and his gang have gone along with him, and we are grateful to them.

I noticed that on some of your faces, was the look of surprise as you came in, this afternoon, surprised, no doubt, because the hall is unfinished. There's no paint on the ceiling, walls and timberwork. There aren't any curtains, globes on lights and the floor has not yet had any Vinyl tiles laid. No doubt some of you are a little disappointed that everything here isn't all glistening and posh, but rough and rude.

We shall all be glad when everything is completed in here: we shall all be glad when we can use the under-floor heating. But I would suggest to you that, apart from the technical aspect which is important, it is as well that it is as it is today.



Where are these children now? We are anxious to trace them to invite them to our Golden Anniversary Exhibition at Bethany on Saturday, September 6. We also hope you, as Rhiwbina residents, present or past, will call in and share a memory or two over some refreshments

I, for one, am glad that the hall isn't really completed now.

Why? You may ask. I will answer you in this way. The whole fellowship will be encouraged to look forward

- 1, To the time when it will be possible to complete this Church Hall.
- 2, To the time when it will be possible for us to use the other rooms.
- 3, To the time, when the church itself will completed and ready for the service of Dedication and Consecration, on September 5, 1964.

From this day we are being encouraged to have a forward look, to things that we get to be in this exciting contemporary building scheme.

Far more important than this we are being urged to look forward in another way. This incomplete building helps us to look forward now to our real task, our real work in this area to which God has called us.

This unadorned Hall helps us to look forward to the spreading of the practical, unadorned Gospel of Jesus Christ. There is nothing luxurious or posh about the Gospel.

All too often you make it sound so. We tend to give the impression that Jesus Christ is a luxury, an extra in life, someone who just makes life a little more comfortable — someone who will do for us spiritually what the Vinyl tiles and paint-

ed woodwork will do for this Church Hall.

In my judgment the Gospel is for life and essential to it.

Sometime ago, an important imposium was published in America, summing up the major areas of the nation's life: its arts and sciences, its industry, education, politics and recreation. There was no chapter on religion and when the editor's attention was drawn to the fact, he said, *Well, no one of us thought he knew enough about religion to write about it.*

That editor's picture of the modern world is clear — a secular civilisation spreading around the globe, with religion in general and Christianity in particular, not only playing no dominant part in it, but off in a pigeon hole where people, like himself, needn't even bother to think about it.

We look forward today to the challenge with which God has confronted us. In nine or ten days time the Christian world will celebrate Christmas, the official birthday of Jesus Christ. We have been, we are, and we shall be surrounded by the commercialism and sentimentality of this event. But as Christians we know that Jesus Christ was born, not in the lap of luxury, not with posh trappings around him but in an unadorned outhouse so that men everywhere could discover for themselves the real

purpose of life; that men everywhere may, indeed, be human beings; that men everywhere may be freed from themselves. He came to take possession of mankind's day-by-day ordinary life, life in business and politics, national life and international relationships, activities and relationships within and without the home and family.

Jesus Christ was not born in Bethlehem, crucified on a hill outside Jerusalem and resurrected from a tomb in the Garden of Gethsemane just to be a luxury or an extra in life, or to be placed in a compartment of our lives.

During the last war we Christians pitied Jews who were compelled to live in ghettos but there is, as it were, our ecclesiastical ghetto to which Christians have put Jesus Christ and when one enters it, one hears such questions as, *Are we Baptists? or Methodists? or Anglicans? or Presbyterians? or Congregationalists? Or what have you.*

Again, *How much water was used when we were baptised? Or, Do we think this or that theory of apostolic succession was necessary to constitute the true church?*

As we look to the future, we must get Christ out of the ecclesiastical ghetto into which we have tried to put him in the past, and invite Him to take possession of our lives, individually or corporately. Christ's critical need today is men and women who believe in him.

Christ's critical need today is men and women who are determined that the convictions and principles he stands for shall in the end be worked out in all departments of life.

Some time ago a church building burned down and two neighbours found themselves standing side by side watching the blaze. Said one, *This is the first time I ever saw you at church.* Said the other, *This is the first time I ever saw the church on fire.*

As we now look forward with anticipation to the work before us, let us pray for His spirit that this worshipping community will be *on fire* for Him as in the spread of His truth.

And to him be the glory forever.

THE ROTARY CLUB OF CARDIFF

Tools for Self Reliance



The Club are collecting old or broken garden / carpentry / sewing / builders tools which will be refurbished at workshops in Crickhowell and sent to artisans in Tanzania and other African countries.

If you can help us with this very worthy cause please
e-mail dafyddthomas1@googlemail.com or
phone Cardiff 2061 4242

Members will be pleased to collect tools or they can be delivered to premises in Rhiwbina. We are also now collecting spectacles

MARTIN (Ex-Post Office Shop)

WINDOW CLEANING & GUTTERING SERVICE

35 Heol Lewis, Rhiwbina, Cardiff
Tel: 02920623531
Mobile: 07864914465



Serenade 029 2052 2424
Cards & Gifts



- Quality Greetings Cards
- Demdaco Willow Tree
- me-to-you Tatty Teddy
- Terramundi Money Pots
- Balloons for all occasions



Open 9am-5.30pm Mon-Sat

13 Heol-y-Deri, Rhiwbina, Cardiff
02920 522424



registered charity number: 248767

Volunteer with Cancer Research Wales

Would you like to support our Van drivers with their collections and deliveries or volunteer at one of our charity shops?

By volunteering a few hours a week, you will be supporting our pioneering cancer research at welsh hospitals and universities, including projects at Velindre Cancer Centre.

For more information please contact us:
Tel: 029 2031 6976

Cancer Research Wales Ymchwil Cancer Cymru
all money raised is spent in Wales



Computer Problems?

- ☐ Computer Crashed?
- ☐ Computer Slow?
- ☐ Internet or Email Problems?
- ☐ Virus & Spyware Removal
- ☐ Networking or Wireless Problems?
- ☐ Upgrade?

We can help with all your Computer Problems

CALL-OUT SERVICE AVAILABLE

If we can't fix it we won't charge you



Call Stuart on
029 2061 2112

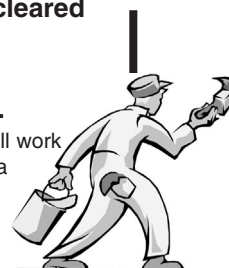
NIGEL'S DECORATING AND HOUSE MAINTENANCE SERVICES

Full outside house painting specialist. Only Sandtex or Dulux paint used, from £590 inclusive. All indoor decorating undertaken. Very competitive prices.

- ☐ GUTTERINGS installed, cleared and cleaned
- ☐ DRIVEWAYS cleaned.
- ☐ PATIOS laid and cleaned.

Free quotes. References available. All work guaranteed. Living locally in Rhiwbina

Tel: 02920691046
07910201212



SPECIAL OFFER:
Gutterings cleaned and unblocked from £35

ALL WINDOW SILLS PAINTED FROM £89,
inclusive of all paint and materials

KTM PLASTERING SERVICES

PLASTERING
RENDERING
DRY LINING



FREE ESTIMATES

CALL - 07930800483
- 029 20619866

Get-A-Tech

Professional PC Repair Call-out Service

On-site Computer and Laptop Repairs
Wired & Wireless Networking
Virus, Spyware & Trojan Removal
Data Recovery — All Work Guaranteed
Emergency & Weekend Call-outs
Microsoft Certified — Over 10 years' Experience

07767 345834

www.getatech.co.uk

The Honey Pot Newsagent

93a Heol Llanishen Fach,
Rhiwbina, Cardiff
CF14 6LB

Deliveries to all areas of Rhiwbina
and Pantmawr and selected areas
of Llanishen and Whitchurch

ring 029 2061 4572

THREADS

*Ladies' Clothing & Shoes
Haberdashery
Knitting Yarn and accessories*

STOCKIST FOR SIRDAR
AND STYLECRAFT

**1 Beulah Road, Rhiwbina
Tel: 029 2061 5718**

LAMPERT

Heating &
Plumbing

Central heating installation
and repairs, including power
flushing, domestic plumbing,
showers & bathrooms. Rhiwbina.

**Tel: 02920 617059
mobile: 07889 148611**

Davies
Electrical and
Building Services

Call Steve on 029 2075 4585
or 07805 269 020
e-mail sdebs@talktalk.net

*All aspects of building work undertaken by a small, local
contractor with over 20 years experience in the building industry*

- Electrical ● Plumbing ● Kitchens ● Bathrooms ● Tiling
- Handyman Service ● Decking ● Patios ● Fencing
- Carpentry ● Project Management ● Surveying

We offer a 24-hour callout service and free estimates
for jobs of any size

Note the numbers **029 2075 4585 or 07805 269 020**



**QualitySolicitors
J A Hughes**

J.A. Hughes Solicitors
invite you to attend a
Free Legal Clinic, held
weekly every **Saturday**
from **10am to 1.00pm**,
to discuss any legal

FREE LEGAL CLINIC

**89 Beulah Road,
Rhiwbina, Cardiff
Tel 029 2061 9700
www.jahughes.com**

problems or issues
you may have.
You will initially receive
Free Advice from
our experts on all
ranges of legal topics

Guest preacher at our 50th Anniversary Service on
Sunday, September 7 :
Rev Brian Evans

□ I cannot remember a time when the church and its organisations did not play a pivotal role in my life. Looking in retrospect I realise that it was the prayerful encouragement of many older church members who were partly responsible for my arrival at Cardiff Baptist College in 1953.

College course completed I was ordained and began my ministry at Zion Baptist Church, Merthyr Vale. I think every minister should begin in the Valleys: the six years I spent in their fellowship taught me so much, it was a happy ministry.

In 1963 I accepted the invitation to Woodville Road, here in the city. Imagine my first Deacon's meeting, there were 22 of them. I trembled all evening, eventually they all became special friends and I owe them much for their patience and understanding.

Twenty years in the West Midlands followed, so many different experiences and opportunities, the responsibility of overseeing the building of a new church, the joy of ministering to increasing congregations, my cup was indeed *full and running over*.

Sadly, dark clouds soon gathered and death took from me my wife, my inspiration, the joy of my life.

In 1990 I was invited to Albany Road, and there followed 12 happy and fulfilled years of ministry, I owe that congregation so much for their love and care, their patient understanding, and for all they did to make up for what had been taken away from me.

Ministers never retire. I agreed to look after the fellowship at Sploft Road for two years, somehow that became 12. Looking in retrospect it has been an immense privilege to be a pastor to so many wonderful people, to whom I owe more than I can ever repay. I am pleased to be part of Bethany's jubilee.



The Anniversary preacher

When I began my ministry at Zion Merthyr Vale in 1957, there were two special occasions in the church calendar. One was the Sunday School Anniversary and the other the Church Anniversary. Needless to say, the children always drew the largest congregation.

The Church Anniversary could never compete with the children. In those bygone days there were Anniversary preachers, whose preaching reputation preceded them, sadly those days are gone and such occasions are seldom celebrated.

Here at Bethany we have a special occasion to celebrate. Fifty years since the fellowship made the journey from St Mary Street to Rhiwbina. It was a time of great hope,

dreams and expectation.

So, 50 years on, have those dreams, expectations and hopes been fulfilled?

Personally, I think an Anniversary is like a halt sign, asking us to look both ways before we move. We are all expert at looking in retrospect, we love to reminisce, we feel a sense of security when we talk about days that use to be, there is no harm in doing so as long as we realise that God is always calling us forward.

A number of churches over the past 50 years have seen a decline in congregations, even to the point of closure for some. I understand why some people have little expectation, are a little pessimistic as they contemplate the future for the church: for them the glass is half empty. I have never been

a half-empty man, and no minister of the gospel should be.

As I stand at the halt sign on this Anniversary occasion. I give thanks to God for the past, for those who have borne a faithful witness here, both ministers and congregation, and I am content to leave the past in the hand of God, and open my eyes to the future.

The Old Testament reminds us of an incident in the life of Elisha, when the King of Syria was plotting a campaign against Israel. Under the cover of darkness, the armies of the Syrians surrounded the city of Dothan where Elisha was staying. In the morning Elisha's servant was astounded when he saw the banners of the Syrian blowing in the breeze, he

turned to the prophet and said, *Alas master, what shall we do? Elisha prayed a simple prayer, Lord, open his eyes, that he might see.*

For more than 50 years I have been privileged to preach the good news of the gospel, and my faith today is more confident than it has ever been. On this Anniversary I pray that God will open our eyes that we might see the possibility of what we might become as a church in this area of our city.

This is a time of rededication, of recommitment to prayer and to Bible study, and faithfulness in worship, that the future of Bethany will be greater than the past has ever been.

It depends on us.

BRIAN EVANS (Rev)