



*Pastor Rob
writes.....*

We Are the Church

We often say “We are going to church” in the same way we would say “We are going to the cinema.” We talk about church as a location, a destination, a place we go to. But there is a fundamental difference between “going to church” and “being the church.” We can say “We are the Church” but we would never say “We are the cinema” because the cinema is a location. Church is not just somewhere we go on Sundays. Church is so much more than a location.

But why is this distinction important? If we believe that going to church and being the church are one and the same, we might be lulled into the false sense that attending church is the same thing as being a follower of Jesus. They are not the same thing. Being a Jesus follower is a call to give up our own agendas and to take up God’s agenda. God’s agenda for his church is that we deny ourselves and take up our cross and follow him into the world where he is at work. This looks very different from going to church on Sundays. Going to church does not demand your whole life to be given to Jesus. Going to church demands about two hours of your life each week, and for many that means once or twice a month.

The inherent danger in being a “church attender” rather than a “Christ follower” is we forget that it’s all about Jesus and his mission. It’s not about us. When we forget this, our churches stop looking like Christ-centred gatherings and more like self-centred clubs.

We start to complain about the heating or the seating, or the songs we sing, or the building, or the sermon – forgetting that there are people all around us who have never heard the good news of the gospel, who are living in hopelessness every day. Instead of gathering to be equipped to “go” into the world as Jesus has gone, we miss the point and think we are gathering to be “fed” to meet our own needs.

Let me get serious for a moment. Here is a question I have been wrestling with all my Christian life: How can a loving God sit back and watch as children starve in a world full of food, watch them die from diseases that are easily treatable, and watch them be trafficked into sex slavery? How can God just sit back and watch humanity’s unspeakable suffering?

The only response I have is not an easy response to accept, but here it is: God isn’t sitting back and doing nothing. He has commanded his church and equipped and empowered them with the Holy Spirit to go and make a difference.

The shocking truth is that we are not being the church. We are consumed with going to church and putting our energies into “doing” church while evil and human suffering abounds all around us, even in our own villages.

The Apostle James writes, “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and keep oneself from being polluted by the world.” (James 1:27)

We can’t confront all the evil in the world, but we can do something. And it begins by asking God, “Who are those in distress around me?” Then realize God has put you right where you are to be his hands and feet and hope for the least and the last and the lost.

Pastor Rob



**Mount Zion
Baptist Church**

**Priory Street
Cardigan**

MARCH 2020



**We are his house, built on the
foundation of the apostles and the
prophets. And the cornerstone
is Christ Jesus himself.
Ephesians 2:20,21**

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SUNDAY

10.15am Prayer in the upper room - please join us if you can.

11am Morning Service & Junior Church

6pm Evening Service

SPEAKERS

March 1 **Tim Longworth am**
Pastor Rob pm

Evening communion

March 8 **Pastor Rob**

March 15 **Pastor Rob**
Morning communion

March 22 **Baptisms am**
Pastor Rob pm

March 29 **Rob Dobney am**
TBA pm

IN THE WEEK

Tuesday: See 'March at MZ' column

Wednesday: Kidz Club 3.45pm-5.00pm
Term time only

Thursday: Coffee Morning 10.30am-noon
'Encounter' 6.00 – 7.30pm. Term time only
(for school years 6-8, alternate weeks with youth Bible study.)

Friday: 'Sewing and Crafts', 2-4pm
Info from Doreen Driscoll

'Youth Hub' (for school years 9+)
7.00 – 9.00pm. Term time only

March at MZ

Tuesdays at 7.30pm

3rd House Groups

10th Prayer meeting at MZ

17th House Groups

24th Prayer meeting at MZ

31st Prayer meeting at MZ

Sunday 8th Community Church at the village hall in Sarnau, 3pm. Speaker is author Dave Thomas.

Sunday 15th Service at Yr Hafod Care Home, Cardigan at 2pm. For more information about the care home ministry see Peter Sanders or Glenys Davies.

Wednesday 18th 'Women Together' – lunch at 12.15, service at 1.30.

Sunday 29th There will be a Newcomers' Lunch following the morning service. Everyone who has joined our church during 2019 & recently is invited. A sign-up sheet will be available during March.

Youth Bible Study – alternate Thursdays with 'Encounter' - see Jo or Gareth for details.

Our mission giving in March is to **Teifi Pastors**. Pray for their work during March & if you feel this may be a work that God is calling you to, contact Tom Taylor: **tom.taylor597@btinternet.com** or ☎ 01239 615944.

Back to school! From the beginning of April our Sunday morning services will be at Ysgol Uwchradd Aberteifi/Cardigan High School. Usual time of 11am.

Sermons preached at Mount Zion can be heard or downloaded at **sermon.net/mountzioncardigan**, or from the church website.



HOUSE GROUPS

TUESDAYS 3RD & 17TH
7.30PM

Everyone is invited to attend one of the House Groups. Contact details are in the church directory, or available from the church office.

Cardigan 1
Ieuan & Ruth Davies

Cardigan 2
Peter & Ann Sanders

Drefach Felindre
Andrew & Lynne Cunningham

Llechryd
Mark & Bronwen Robb

Newcastle Emlyn
Tony Brookin

North Pembrokeshire
Mark Redhead

Community Church house group meets on two Wednesday mornings each month at 10am. Contact John & Di Burnett for details.