

Bont Elim Newsletter

www.bontelim.church November 2026

What Can I Give Him?

Written by Pastor Jason

Happy November precious ones! And welcome to the beginning of the outward wave of Christmas. I say outward, as some have been preparing this season all year around. It is the season with the most opportunities to show people the love of God in the hope that they find, experience and receive a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. I find myself increasingly fascinated by what people say and do. This is the period where people tell me its too early for Christmas, yet the display of all we have here fills people with a Christmas peace that passes all understanding.

The title of this message comes from a Christmas carol; In the Bleak Mid-Winter. In the fifth verse, which many of you would sing without looking at the words: “What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb, if I were a wise man I would do my part, yet what I can I give him, give my heart.” In a recent WhatsApp conversation between me and my regional leader, his simple but sincere question to me, “what can we do to help?” As this message appeared on my phone, so this song started playing in my heart. You see, we are getting busier and busier - positively busier, not simply for the sake of being busy. All around me, I see ministries developing both in the building, in community and wider. That mixed with the ever-growing safeguarding challenges and new to the mix, Martyn’s law (please ask if you have not heard of this), in my frustration, I see many opportunities that we simply can’t stretch the resource to step into.

As we leave behind the month of our harvest celebrations, we remember the words of the Lord Jesus when He referred to the abundant harvest and the few workers. We have all remembered the song: “All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above”, we are reminded of how much we continue to receive of the Lord Jesus.

Continued overleaf...

What Can I Give Him?

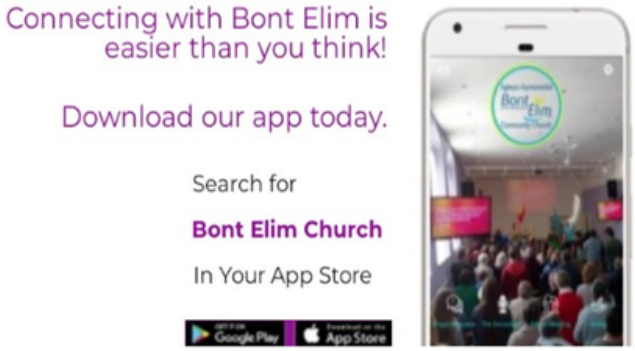
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And as we step into November, we remember those who gave their lives to protect us, also remembering the Ultimate Sacrifice of the Lord Jesus for us. As together, we cherish the Old Rugged Cross and also, it causes us to cry out with the hymnist, 'I surrender all.'

Where are you going with this Jase? My reply to my regional leader, was to ask him to pray for 40 new workers for the Bont. I would ask you to partner in this prayer with us please. We are praying for the Lord to raise up a new group that will look upon the Christmas Carol afresh and declare, 'yet what I can, I give Him.' And yes the ultimate declaration is to give Him our hearts but I am also praying for a fresh zeal that gives us 40 people each giving one hour through the week to assist in this amazing community project. I really do appreciate all that our current workers do. Every time we put on something new, busy people are stretched even further. And as well as praying for the blessing of new helping hands, I am praying for these new people to receive the blessing of service. It is a wonderful thing to be involved in the ministry of the Most High God, with all He is continuing to do in the Bont.

So please pray with us for these 40 new workers. As I pray for this each morning, I'm praying for people who know Jesus and who are journeying towards Jesus. People who have freely received the love so in turn, the giving is a natural reaction. I'm praying for those who know how to smile, even when things aren't great. I'm praying for people who want to build others up and encourage. I know, it's a big ask, but is anything too big for our God? So please pray with me daily, as we move forward together in this ministry.

Every love and blessing of the Lord
Jason



Operation Christmas Child

Shoebox Sunday is fast approaching! It's not too late to get involved, you can either donate items or money or feel free to pick up a shoebox from the foyer to fill yourself. We have lots of community groups coming in to pack the boxes this year during the week of 9th November - if you'd like to get involved, please speak to Samantha.

On Tuesday 17th November at 7:00pm we will be having a special prayer meeting to pray over the filled shoeboxes before they are collected the following day - everyone welcome.



Harvest

We unintentionally ended up celebrating harvest for the whole month of October! Starting with our morning harvest service where our missionary from Malawi; Jackie Griffiths joined us (you can find more on this on page 5). Next, we took a harvest assembly in the Primary School with the Open the Book team (see page 13). Then, we had a week of three harvest concerts that the Primary School held in the Sanctuary where the parents/guardians came to watch. The school were very grateful to us for hosting them and it was our pleasure to have them join us. It was great to hear many different conversations over the week of people who were enjoying our coffeeshop for the first time - we pray that it'll be the first of many. We ended the harvest celebrations with our afternoon traditional service where many of the harvest 'classics' were sung.

A big thank you to everyone who donated non-perishable goods and monetary donations for Harvest - they are being put to good use with locals who are in need.

A-men

The next A-men will take place on Friday 20th November at 7pm - all welcome! Feel free to speak to Pastor Marcus Thomas with any queries.



Elim 2.0



Our first meeting in September was really encouraging and it was great to have so much participation from those who attended - thank you! Our next meeting will take place on 24th November at 7pm to discuss Elim's vision for the future and how this applies to us as Bont Elim. It consists of a small video, a discussion on the video and a time of prayer. Please make every effort to attend as we help shape the future of the Church.

Missions in Malawi

As a church we have supported Swansea born Jackie Griffiths as a missionary from Elim out in Malawi for many years. It was brilliant to have her join our Sunday morning Harvest service last month providing updates about the work in Malawi and how their idea of harvest differs from ours! The photos below show how they teach the children to plant and care for the crops and then the small harvest they received. Jackie updated us on the Chifona Trust School for the Deaf where she works - sharing about their pre-school, after school classes and youth, new and retired teachers, her bible study group, weekend conferences and more recently; prison ministry. Jackie also spoke about individual cases of some of the famillies that they support - some of whom she has had the privilege to come alongside for 12 years!

We also heard about the challenges of fuel, food and foreign exchange shortages - please pray for Jackie and all those in her community in Malawi; that the Lord will meet their needs. If you missed the service, you can catch up on our YouTube channel.





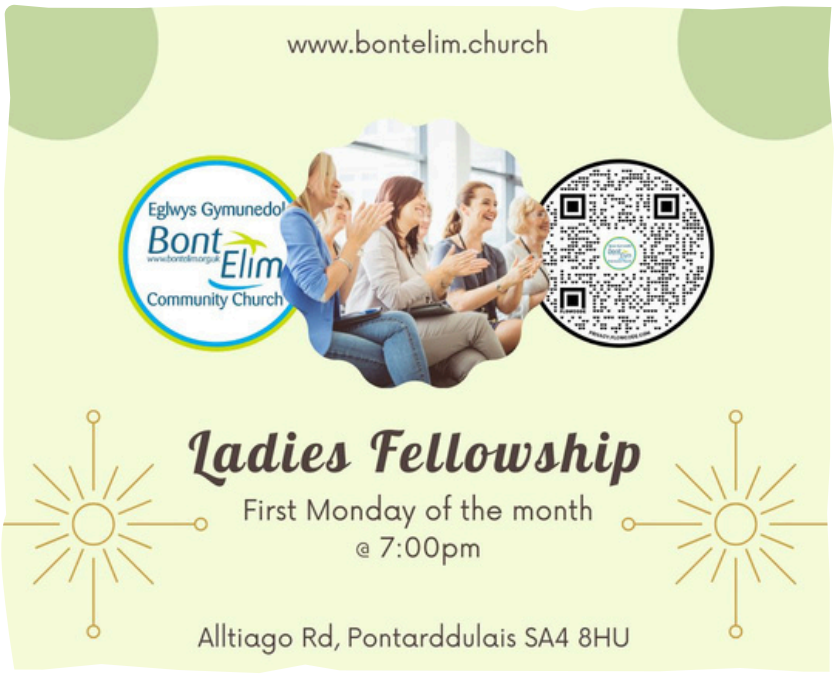






Ladies Fellowship

Last month the ladies were really blessed by the ministry of all who took part. Lynne John spoke on Psalm 23 - bringing a fresh insight into the well known Psalm. Lorraine shared a heartfelt poem that she'd written about coming back into the fellowship. Helen shared about Mary and Martha and Hazel read a Psalm. The next Ladies Fellowship will be on Monday 2nd November at 7pm and it's sure to be another good one!



Communion

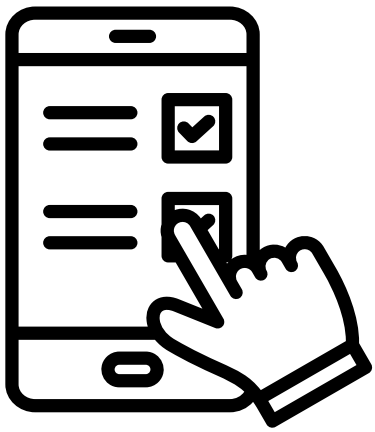
This month, our communion services will be as follows:
Sunday 1st November: 4pm Traditional Service
Tuesday 3rd November: 7pm Prayer Meeting
Sunday 8th November: 10:30am Contemporary Service
Sunday 29th November: 10:30am Contemporary Family Service



The Prayer Point will not be in use during the morning communion services but should you wish to receive prayer, please speak to Pastor Jason or one of our prayer team members.

Forms

The observant among you may have noticed that there is a new area on our app called 'Online forms'. This can be found on the third page of the front screen and contains many forms that may be useful to you. For example, the 'data capture' form that we ask everyone to complete to ensure that we have the correct emergency details for you should there be an emergency when you are with us.



There is also a building maintenance form where if you spot something around the building that is broken/needs work etc. you can log it here. These are just two examples - check it out for yourself!

Light Party

A fantastic time was had at our Light Party at the end of October. We had a lovely mix of 38 children joining us along with some parents/guardians too. The children thoroughly enjoyed all of the light themed games and crafts along with the light switch on itself and of course the food!! A big thank you to all those who came, who helped in any way and who prayed - the night wouldn't have been the same without you!



Elims International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church

Written by Dave Phillips

It was great to hear from Jackie Griffiths last month of the Malawi mission in Africa speak of her hands on work in a part of the world in dire need. Upon hearing this and learning that it's Elims International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church on 1st November, I was prompted to do a little research just to touch upon the pitfalls and the dangers of working for the Lord around the globe.

In Malawi, while Christians are free to worship and serve, converts among the native people and those working in Christian missions do still face intense opposition to the faith - they endure beatings, death threats, the burning of churches and more.

According to the Open Doors World Watch List, 380 million Christians world wide currently suffer high levels of persecution. Many countries on the list saw an increase in anti-Christian violence, the targeting of Christian communities and the destruction of homes and churches!! Many thousands of Christians the world over pay the ultimate price for their belief. In the African continent alone, 1 in 5 Christians suffer various forms of persecution. Incredibly, in Nigeria, religious violence has claimed the lives of nearly 56,000 people over four years — with victims being disproportionately Christian. In North Korea where owning a bible carries a death sentence, an incredible half a million Christians gather and worship in secret through underground organisations.

In the UK we are relatively fortunate to be able to worship and practice our Christian faith quite freely but given current trends here, it may not always be this way! Whilst the United Kingdom continues to guarantee freedom of religion or belief under domestic law and the European Convention on Human Rights, a growing number of Christian organizations; clergy, parliamentarians, and advocacy groups argue that the practical environment for the public expression of Biblical Christianity has become significantly more restrictive than in previous decades. These concerns were increasingly framed not as the disappearance of Christianity from Britain, but as the emergence of legal, cultural, and institutional pressures affecting Christians who publicly expressed traditional theological positions or evangelized in public spaces.

Good news overleaf...

Elims International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church Continued

Written by Dave Phillips

On a more positive note, it is recorded by the Worldwide Christian Encyclopedia that an average of 174,000 people join the body of Christ each day with 3,500 new churches opening every week and a reassuring fact to end on is that the Pentecostal movement is currently the **worlds** fastest growing Christian organisation with an incredible 35,000 people joining us every day!!!



Father God, we pray for peace across the world and for the persecuted church. We pray for stability and security in our own communities. Lord, we ask that hearts and minds be calmed; for the peace that is borne of You is the only peace that matters. Help us not to be spectators but to offer ourselves in heartfelt service to you Lord - not through words and lip service but by what we do and how we give of ourselves to promoting and carrying your message to those yet to find you. May we all be guided and counselled in this purpose by our ever present Helper; the Holy Spirit., so that the Divine gifts given to all who truly believe will not be wasted.

This we ask in the precious name of Jesus,
Amen.

Pray for the Nations



Elim are hosting a prayer gathering on Sunday 1st November at 6pm; 'Pray for the Nations' to mark the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. You can join in person at Cardiff City Church or join online via the YouTube channel. For further information, please speak to Lisa Gray.

Nursing Home Chaplaincy

It has been another lovely month across our now, two nursing homes, with plenty of opportunities for fellowship, creativity, worship and encouragement.

At Llys-y-Twysog, our wellbeing sessions have been enjoyed by residents, with some seasonal fun, making and painting pumpkins. It has been wonderful to see residents getting involved, expressing their creativity and enjoying time together. Our regular services have also been very well attended, with up to 20 residents gathering together in the room. It is encouraging to see so many coming along to share in worship, prayer and fellowship.

We have also started visiting Llys Gwyn House, where we introduced a "Sing-a-longa Hymn-a-long". This has been very well received by most residents, bringing back familiar hymns, memories and, hopefully, a few smiles along the way. Music has a wonderful way of connecting with people, and it has been lovely to see residents joining in and enjoying this time together.

As we move into the winter months, we would really appreciate your prayers for both homes. Please pray for continued good health for residents and staff, protection throughout the winter season, and that we can continue to bring comfort, encouragement, companionship and the love of God to everyone we meet. Thank you for your continued prayers and support for our nursing home chaplaincy ministry.







Save the Date!



Alpha - Holy Spirit Course

The Alpha team have kindly agreed to trial a course that Elim have put together, based on the Holy Spirit. This initial course began last month and continues this month on Sundays at 6:00pm; at this stage it is for previous alpha guests. The course will be available for the wider church in February - further details to be announced nearer the time.

Word for Today

The Word for Today booklets for November/December/January are available in the church foyer free of charge - please help yourself.

Toddler Group



Our toddler group takes place on Tuesdays, 9:30am - 11:30am. It continues to be a time where parents/grandparents/carers and their children enjoy a time of play and snacks in a safe space for free! A big thank you to Caz and Dave who continue to show up every week.

Open the Book

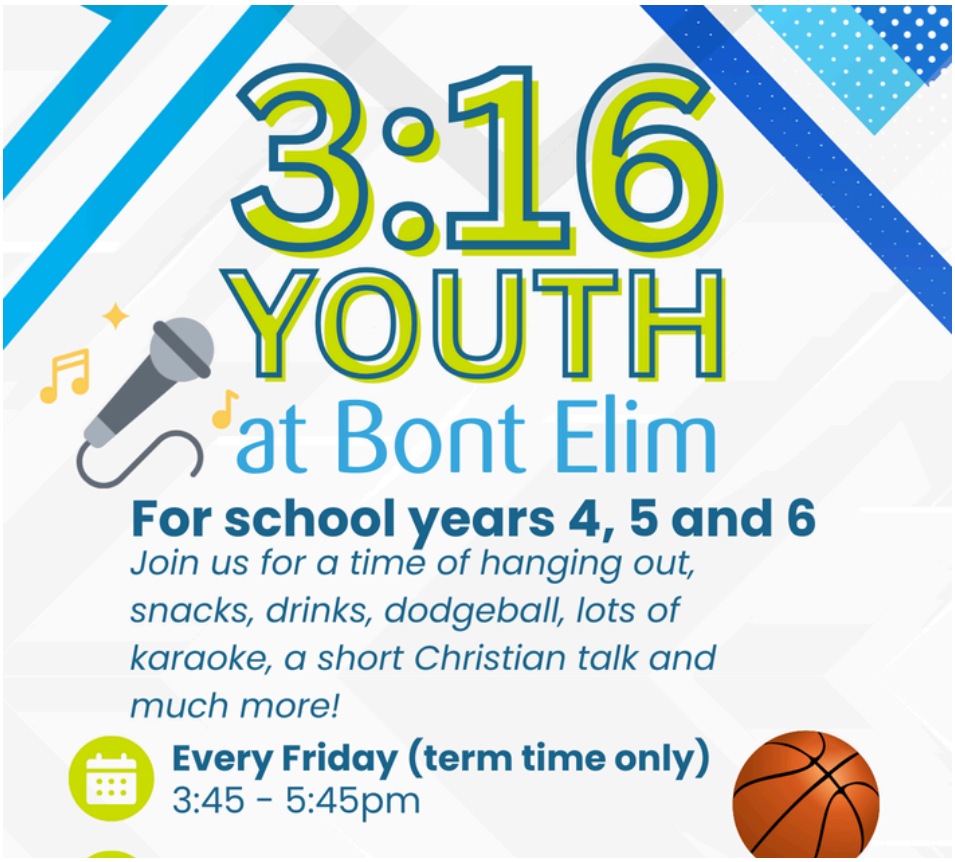


It was great for the Open the Book team to get back into Pontarddulais Primary school last week following the summer break. They told the Harvest story with Boaz, Ruth and Naomi (not forgetting the important farm hands and prop people!!) The children were taught the Makaton sign for 'Harvest' and once again loved the songs! Please continue to pray for this work.

Schools Work

Pastor Jason took the Junior assembly in Pontarddulais Primary School last week, with the children acting out the story of the Good Samaritan. Looking at the message around 'Whose my neighbour?' in advance of the school taking part in the Operation Christmas Child shoebox project. Looking at their neighbours across the world as well as in their everyday lives.

3:16 Youth



3:16 Youth continues to grow in number! A big thank you to everyone who has been involved in this group - whether that be in person or with your prayerful support. It is our prayer that the children linked to this group will continually remember the 3 R's (respect yourself, respect others and respect the place you're in). Please pray that the Lord will have His hand on this group.

Kidz Church

Our Kidz Church have begun their preparations for Christmas! It's a time of great fun whilst the young people learn more about Jesus through games, songs, stories and crafts.

Please pray for this group, for the leaders and children - that the Lord will strengthen their faith and add to their number.



Bible Study

This month's bible study is on Tuesday 10th November at 7pm where Pastor Marcus Thomas will be concluding the series on 'Little Foxes'.

Healing Ministry



This month, the healing ministry will take place on Wednesday 11th and 25th November. Appointments can be made via the church app or by phoning Pat Thomas on 07356291119. Also, the prayer team is always available on Sundays to pray with you - prayer team members can be identified by the church lanyards that they wear.

Please continue to pray that we will see the Lord's healing power at work in a wonderful way and that many lives will be saved, restored, healed and set free.

There are invitation leaflets available on the table, as you come into the church. Please make use of these and pass them on to friends, neighbours, relatives or workmates who are ill or in pain and invite them to come for healing prayer.



Love the House

We've got another busy month ahead of us! If you are able to spare just an hour of your time, please speak with Pastor Jason who will be delighted to assign you a task!

Call Jesus' Name

Written by Stuart Tweed (20th November 1994)

Sometimes when you're feeling low
And to Church don't want to go,
Don't want to read or even pray,
It's then the devil gets his way.

He'll try so hard to pull you down,
Make your face sad, you wear a frown,
"Why do I feel like this?" you say,
"Has Jesus left and gone away?"

My brother, sister be assured
You're not deserted by our Lord,
He's close at hand to help you through,
He only needs a word from you.

If you just call our Jesus' name
The devil will run off in shame,
He will have tried and failed again,
He'll never get past Jesus' name,

So, when you're feeling low again
Call on the Lord; He'll take the pain,
He'll bring the joy and smile back,
No more His praise and gladness lack.

Psalm 145:18 "The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth."

Save the Date!



The Lighthouse Coffee Shop

Exciting news!! Last month we purchased a brand new coffee grinder and coffee machine - if you were looking for an excuse to pop in, now's your chance!





The Lighthouse is a fantastic place to meet up with friends for a coffee, chat and bite to eat! Please continue to pray that it will be filled with lots of customers having great conversations and that this facility will continue to be used for God's House.



Services
Sunday mornings from 9:30am - A free, pre-service, breakfast is served.
Sunday mornings at 10:30am - Contemporary Praise & Worship (in person and online).
Sunday mornings at 10:30am - Kidz Church - including Bible stories, crafts and games.
Sunday afternoons at 4:00pm - Traditional service (in person and online) with light refreshments after.
Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm - Prayer meeting (bible study, first Tuesday of the month).

For an example of the weekly schedule at Bont Elim, **please see overleaf.**

For the very latest information, photos etc check out our Facebook pages.

Why not download our church app - search Bont Elim in the app/play store.

Livestreaming

Did you know that our Sunday services are live streamed? You can access these recordings at any time via the link on our app, Also by visiting our YouTube or Facebook pages.

Eglwys Gymunedol Bont Elim Community Church
www.bontelim.org.uk

Weekly Schedule

FLOWCODE
PRIVACY.FLOWCODE.COM

WEEKDAYS: (TERM-TIME)

FOR UP TO DATE INFO PLEASE CHECK OUR FACEBOOK PAGE













EVERY SUNDAY:







MONTHLY/AS ANNOUNCED:- LADIES FELLOWSHIP, BONT PRAISE, MEN'S FELLOWSHIP 'A-MEN', CELEBRATION SERVICES, ALPHA COURSES, SCHOOLS MINISTRY, HEALING MINISTRY, SAFEGUARDING COURSES.