



Y DDOLEN FACH --- THE LITTLE LINK

Revised edition, issue 4: Easter/Pasg 2021

***Cylch Lythyr i ardaloedd bugeiliol Brynaman a Cwmllynfell
News Letter for Brynaman & Cwmllynfell pastoral areas***

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March 2021.

Dear Friends,

It has been a very bleak winter, in more senses than one. The coronavirus pandemic has taken its toll in all our communities leading to sickness, death, depression and for many financial hardship and unemployment. Now, that the vaccine is being rolled out our fortunes are improving and as spring arrives we are gradually we are returning to a new normal. My hope is that we will be able to reopen our churches soon after Easter. In the meantime we are continuing to hold virtual weekly Junior Church meetings and fortnightly church fellowship meetings via 'Zoom'; whilst Andrew has kindly prepared an Easter DVD for members of St. Catherine's.

During the past year, with one or two rare exceptions, bad news has dominated the headlines. It all seems so depressing. Have we got any good news to hear? Yes, we have. It's about Jesus's resurrection and the new life he offers to all who turn to him. On the surface, the last few days of Jesus's life appeared to be like a Greek tragedy. It was all doom and gloom: bad news. Here was a young man struck down in the prime of life just for doing good and speaking his mind. He's betrayed, denied and deserted by those closest to him. But that's not the end: there was worse to follow. He is whipped, buffeted and beaten before dying in agony on a cheap wooden cross. It's all bad news ... or so it seems. But no, looking back with the advantage of hindsight we can see that those apparently tragic, meaningless events were part and parcel of God's great plan to save us from our sins and that we might be washed clean in his blood. Jesus's death is not bad news, but good news for us. Furthermore, there's more good news to for you and me: after Jesus's death on the cross comes the glorious resurrection on the first Easter Day, when he defeats death and opens the gates of eternal life to us. Through his spirit he is still present with us in the world, and we know that our place in heaven is secure. Now that's good news for you! Go out into the world and proclaim it.

Finally, on a personal note I thank everyone who has expressed their love and concern following my unexpected hospitalisation at the end of January. I have improved since then, but disappointingly my progress has been far slower than I had anticipated. Hopefully, as I strengthen I will be able to get more fresh air as spring arrives. During the period that I was in hospital at Llanelli, Alison was taken to Morriston for emergency heart surgery. I am pleased to say that she is gradually getting her strength back again. Please continue to pray for both of us.

With Easter blessings to you all,

Gyda chariad i bawb ohonoch chwi.

Adrian

NEWS FROM BRYNAMAN

GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



We extend our warmest belated congratulations to Walter and Joyce year celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary the end of last year. The couple were married at Neath Registry Office on 19th December 1970. The couple have two children, Helen and Gareth, four grandchildren, and a great grand daughter. We wish the couple many more happy years together. Bendith Duw a fo arnynt ar gyfer y dyfodol.

A note from Joyce

Walter and I would like to thank you all, for the lovely cards and gifts, that we received on our golden wedding anniversary, on 19 December. It wasn't how we had planned to celebrate, but because of the virus those plans had to be put on hold. But we did have a lovely few hours with Helen, Robert, Gareth and Emma, and shared a lovely meal together. I felt sad that all our grandchildren were not able to be there, but we would have been too many. Again we thank all our friends and family for the gifts we received: it made us feel very loved and special.

Diolch i bawb ohonoch.

Walter a Joyce.xx

A good woman is hard to find, and worth far more than diamonds. Her husband trusts her without reserve, and never has reason to regret it. - Proverbs 31, 10-11.

MOTHERS UNION MESSAGE FROM JOYCE



THIS PAST YEAR HAS BEEN SO DIFFERENT FROM WHAT WE NORMALLY HAVE. WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO MEET EACH OTHER EACH MONTH, BUT HOPEFULLY WE HAVE BEEN TOGETHER IN SPIRIT. I PRAY THAT EACH ONE OF YOU HAVE BEEN KEEPING SAFE AND

WELL.

WE REMEMBER OUR DEAR FRIEND MARGARET PETERS IN *LLYS NEWYDD*. OUR DEAR FRIEND IRIS EVANS WHO HAD HER 100 BIRTHDAY IN OCTOBER. SADLY SHE HAS BEEN BACK AND FORTH HOSPITAL SINCE HER BIG BIRTHDAY, BUT IS NOW HOME. WE REMEMBER THEM BOTH IN OUR PRAYERS.

SOME OF YOU HAVE HAD SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS DURING THE YEAR: LYDIA EVANS, JOAN GILL, TESS STEVEN. HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EACH ONE OF YOU.

MAY I WISH EACH ONE OF YOU A BLESSED AND A JOYFUL EASTER TIME. IF YOU ARE AT HOME ALONE THIS EASTER TIME. REMEMBER YOU ARE NOT TOTALLY ALONE, AS OUR LORD JESUS IS WITH YOU AT ALL TIMES.

LORD GOD OUR FATHER. AS YOUR HOLY SPIRIT DESCENDED ON JESUS AT HIS BAPTISM, WE PRAY FOR YOUR HOLY SPIRIT TO DESCEND ON US ALL. MAY YOUR LOVE COME DOWN TO EACH ONE OF US, FILLING US TO OVERFLOWING WITH LOVE FOR YOU. MAY YOUR SPIRIT BE LIKE A DRIPPING TAP INTO OUR LIVES: AS THE TAP FILLS AND SLOWLY OVERFLOWS, SO LET YOUR SPIRIT COME AND SLOWLY FILL OUR LIVES.

SPIRIT OF GOD, WE GIVE OUR LIVES OVER TO YOU. COME LORD JESUS, COME. CHANGE US LORD; MAKE US MORE LIKE YOU. IN LOVE FOR YOU WE PRAY. AMEN. - JOYCE. EASTER 2021.

CHURCH FABRIC

We are still awaiting the construction of a new lightening conductor on the church roof. The contract was arranged several months ago. The delay is probably due to the coronavirus pandemic lockdown. Furthermore, we are still awaiting our quinquennial report, which will recommend several major and minor repairs needs to be done on the church fabric in the near future.

CHURCH HALL LAND SLIP

We are currently awaiting the return visit of a church surveyor for expert advice on a land slip on the western slope of behind the church hall. This work will entail major expense. This is very worrying as our church hall account is depleted, and our church funds are not in a healthy position.



CHURCH FINANCE

Thanks to everyone who responded to my appeal and given your financial contributions to Alison, our treasurer, for last year Through your kindness you have helped to keep the church afloat ready for the re-launch when the virus is over.

As we are in a very precarious financial position and the church has not yet opened, we are saving money by keeping the 2021 for use until next year. Alison has therefore requested me to ask you to use last year's remaining envelopes fthis year as the date on them doesn't matter. If you have already used them, you can contact her on 01269 826930 to have replacement ones for this year.

A NOTE FROM THE SOUTH WALES DAILY POST, 11 APRIL 1910

BRYNAMMAN CHURCH The vicar, Rev. E. Jenkins Davies, presided over the Easter Vestry. There was a deficit in the accounts owing to the heavy expense of installation of the electric light and the construction of heating apparatus. Dr. James W. Lewis, J.P., and Mr. Wm. Morgan, Penycae, were re-elected churchwardens. The Vicar said the Vicarage Fund was making steady progress, and that he hoped the new vicarage would be ready before next Easter.

CWMLLYNFELL CHURCH. The vicar, the Rev. E. Jenkins Davies, presided. Accounts showed a favourable balance. Mr. T. Griffiths, Ystradowen House, was appointed vicar's warden, and Mr. H. Grey, Felinfach, was elected people's warden.

YOU'RE IN OUR PRAYERFUL THOUGHTS

We send our warmest Easter Greetings to all sick, housebound and infirm church members and pray for them, including the following:

Mrs. Margaret Peters, yn ei chartref yn *Llys Newydd*, Capel Hendre. Bydded i'r Arglwydd ei chynnal a'i chadw.

Mrs. Iris Evans who, is now back at home having been in hospital for four months.

Mrs. Mary Davies, who is struggling with ill health after being a patient at Glangwili Hospital.

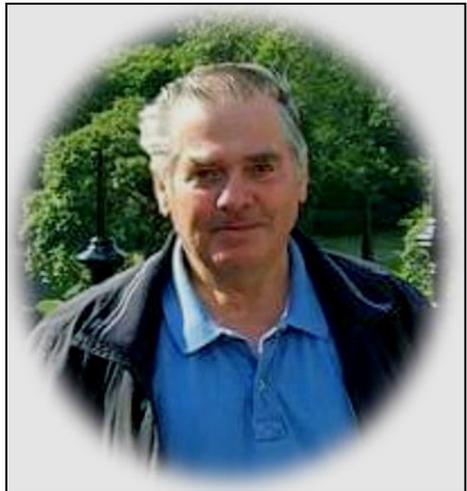
Mrs. Margaret Jones and Mrs. Lydia Evans.



+ IN LOVING MEMORY +

THE LATE MR. ALAN MICHAEL JONES

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Mr. Alan Jones, 7 Park Street, Brynaman, on Sunday, 20th December. He was 72 years old. Alan was brought up in Tycroes. He was the youngest of three children in the family, having an elder brother, Arthur, and sister Hazel. His father died when he was nine months old and his mother when he was fourteen. After



that he went to work on a farm in Llanedi and lived with the farmer's family. He then had a job with Baltic Sawmills in

Ammanford and moved to live with Eynon and Sylvia Owen in Lower Brynaman.

It was at that time that he met the woman who was to become his wife: Marian. The couple married in St. Catherine's Church in 1968 by the Revd. Edward Lewis. They initially lived for four years in a flat in Park Street before moving to their own home in 7 Park Street. The family was complete with the arrival of Paul. In latter years the family increased with the arrival of three grandchildren: Rhys, Bethan and Carys, of whom he was very proud.

During the whole of my ministry Alan was an exceptionally faithful member of St. Catherine's, and rarely missed a Sunday morning service. He endeared himself to all members of the congregation whom he always greeted with a word and a smile. Everyone found him courteous, pleasant and polite. Yr oedd Alan yn hawddgar a serchus wrth bawb.

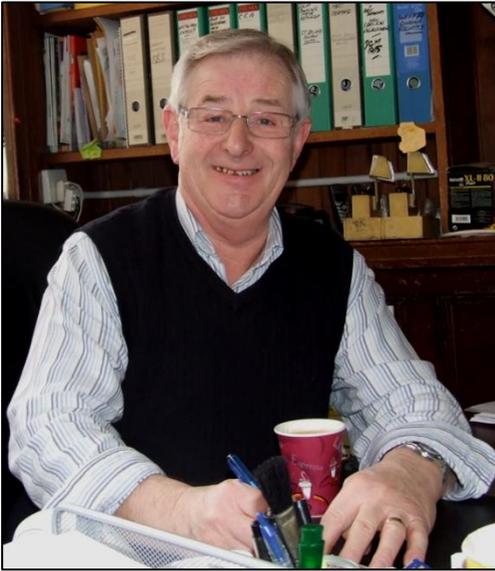
For many years before he retired Alan worked outdoors at Tairgwaith washery and with the council. He was hard working and took a while to adjust to retirement.

Tragically, in November 2017 Alan had an accident at home and fell down stairs. His body was irretrievably damaged which resulted in him being paralysed. After being hospitalised for two years at Morriston, Rockwood, Baglan and Dyffryn Aman hospitals he returned home early last year where he was faithfully cared for by his wife, Marian, with great devotion. During these last three years he was a glowing example of patient endurance in immense adversity, never complaining and always expressing gratitude for acts of kindness. Despite his vulnerable condition, Alan's passing came suddenly and unexpectedly and his family and friends were greatly shocked.

Alan's burial and funeral service took place on Friday, 8 January in St. Catherine's Churchyard with the vicar officiating.

Cydymdeimlwn yn ddwys â Marian, Paul ac Emma, a'r wyrion yn eu colled a'u gofid. Bydded i Alan, trwy drugaredd Duw, orffwys mewn tangnefedd.

THE LATE MR. BRIAN WYN HARRIES



It is also with deep regret that we record the death of Mr. Brian Harries, who lived close to Alan, at 18 Park Street. Brian passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on Wednesday, 16th December. He was 77 years old. Brian was born in August 1943 Being one of three sons to John Moy Harries and his wife, Phyllis. He was brought up in Cefnbrynbrain, having spent his infancy in Ystrad

Owen. As a young man he met the woman who was to become his wife, Gillian Nicholas of Lower Brynaman. The couple were married at St. Catherine's Church Brynaman on 2 July 1966 by the Revd. J. Edward Lewis and spent the whole of their married life in Park Street, living first with Gillian's grandmother, before moving to number 18. Before long two sons, Jason and Jeremy, were born. Brian supported his family by working as a bread delivery lorry. In time the family grew with the arrival of five granddaughters and four great grandchildren. Brian and Gillian doted on the younger generation and loved them greatly.

At the age of 15 Brian began work as a projectionist in at the old Cwmllynfell Public Hall helping his father. The cinema bug never left him and back in 1980s he joined the volunteers at Brynaman Public Hall, eventually taking over from the late Harry Jones as manager. In 2010 he 'officially' retired from his position but up until his death he continued to give sterling service as the hall's managing director and chairman. Indeed, the hall was his second home (and very often his first!) and rarely a day passed without him being there. It was a huge part of his life, and it thrived due to his complete dedication, passion and limitless commitment. In

2013 in recognition of his service to the community he was awarded the British Empire Medal. It is going to be very strange not seeing Brian in the ticket box at the top of the steps.

We in St. Catherine's will also miss him, as during these latter years he regularly accompanied Gillian and Jean to worship with us on Sunday mornings.

Brian's death is thus a tremendous loss not only to Gillian and his large family whom he loved so dearly, but also to the wider community. The vicar officiating at Brian's burial and funeral on Saturday, 9 January in St. Catherine's Churchyard where he was laid to rest close to Alan.

We extend our love and prayers to Gillian and all members of Brian's family in their sadness and sorrow. May Brian, through the mercy of God, rest in peace and rise in glory.

NEWS FROM CWMLLYNFELL

+ IN LOVING MEMORY +

THE LATE MR. VICTOR MORGAN JONES

It is with great sadness that we record the passing of Mr. Victor Morgan Jones, of Plas y Bont, 193 Cwmgarw Road, Rhosaman, on Wednesday, 3 February, after a long battle with illness over many years. Victor, who was 85 years old, was a lifelong resident of the district. He was one of two children, his sister Meiriona having predeceased him a few years ago. In 1961 Victor married Marlene Morgan, daughter of Mike and Megan Morgan at St. Margaret's Church. The couple lived for a few years in Ystradowen before moving to their bungalow in Rhosaman in the early 1970s. After marrying they had a family of three children: Alison, Amanda and Huw. The time would come when they would also become grandparents to three grand children. Victor and Marlene were excellent parents and grandparents showing great love and devotion to all family members, and always putting them first. The couple had a very happy marriage, going on holidays together and enjoying old time dancing. Sadly, the marriage ended with Marlene's early

death in 2006 at the age of 68. Victor courageously carried on with the support of his family. He filled his life by devoting his time by helping to look after his grandchildren. Although Victor was a member of St. Catherine's, after Marlene's death he attended services with Amanda at St. Margaret's.

In many ways Victor was a very solid and steady man. He was quite reserved and quietly spoken. He was always polite and courteous to everyone. Yr oedd yn Gymro i'r carn, ac yn falch o'i genedl a'i hiaith a'i hetifeddiaeth. Ar bob cyfle byddai'n dewis defnyddio Cymraeg fel cyfrwng cyfathrebu.

Victor's funeral took place on Monday, February 15 when he was laid to rest next to his beloved wife in St. Catherine's churchyard. Due to the indisposition of the vicar following his hospitalisation, Canon Suzy Bale of Ammanford officiated at the service.

Cydymdeimlwn yn ddwys â'r plant, Alison, Amanda and Huw, Steven a Craig, y meibion yng nghyfraith, a'r wyrion Craig, Cerith a Lowri. Bydded i Victor, trwy drugaredd Duw, orffwys mewn tangnefedd ac atgyfodi mewn gogoniant.

THE LATE MR. ADRIAN JONES

We extend our deepest sympathy to all members of the family of the late Adrian Jones, 1 Lewis Avenue, Cwmllynfell, especially his dear wife Sandra. Adrian passed away at Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, at the early age of 48 on March 15th. Sadly, since the couple had married in St. Margaret's Church many years ago, Adrian struggled with ill health being a victim of Crohns disease. Adrian's funeral was held in Llanelli Crematorium, on Thursday, April 1st. Unfortunately, as the vicar is still indisposed, he was unable to be present. We uphold Adrian's family in our prayers, and pray that he may rest in peace and rise in glory.

CHURCH FABRIC

Like St. Catherine's, St. Margaret's is still awaiting the construction of a new lightening conductor as well as some repair work to the roof. The contract was arranged several months ago. The delay is probably due to the coronavirus pandemic lockdown. Furthermore, our recent quinquennial report has indicated that several major and minor repairs needs to be done on the church fabric in the next year or two.



MONEY MATTERS

Thanks to everyone who has given your financial contributions to Michael, our treasurer, for last year. Despite the church being closed for worship, we have still had our bills to pay. Through your kindness you have helped to keep the church afloat ready for the re-launch when the virus is over. Your contributions for this year will be gratefully received.

If anyone would like to make a contribution towards St. Margaret's before the end of the year please see Michael.

YOU'RE IN OUR PRAYERFUL THOUGHTS

We send our warmest Easter Greetings to all sick, housebound and infirm church members and pray for them, including the following:



Mrs. Jean Evans, a former churchwarden, who is slowly improving at home after being a patient in Morryston Hospital.

Mr. & Mrs. Ieuan Williams who are struggling with health problems.

Mr. Ivor Davies, who has made good progress after a fall a little while ago.

Mrs. Christine Williams, a former churchwarden, who has been almost housebound since having major surgery almost two years ago.

Mr. Neal Thornton, Mrs. Jean Lewis and Mrs. Ray Jones who are not in the best of health..

Mrs. Myra Rees and Mrs Nellie John who are confined to their homes.

Mrs. Florrie Evans, *Cwrt Enfys*, Ystradgynlais.

THE STING OF DEATH

A little boy and his father were driving down a country road on a beautiful spring afternoon. Suddenly out of nowhere a bumblebee flew in the car window. Since the little boy was deathly allergic to bee stings, he became petrified. But the father quickly reached out,



grabbed the bee, squeezed it in his hand, and then released it. But as soon as he let it go, the young son became frantic again as it buzzed by him. His father saw his panic-stricken face. Once again the father reached out his hand, but this time he pointed to his hand. There still stuck in his skin was the stinger of the bee. "Do you see this?" he asked. "You don't need to be afraid anymore. I've taken the sting for you." This is the message of Easter. We do not need to be afraid

of death anymore. Christ faced death for us. And by His victory, we are saved from sin. Christ has taken the sting! As Paul says it, "Where, O death, is your sting?" (1 Corinthians 15:55). Christ has taken the sting for us. He has risen! Fear is gone. New life is ours.

RESURRECTION by Eric R. Harvey

*Ridiculed and mocked, nailed
to a cross.*

*Each of his followers
mourning his loss.*

*Set down from on high, placed
in a cave.*

*Unmovable stone in front of
his grave.*

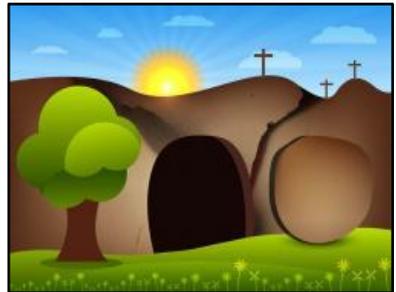
*Roman soldiers guarded the solemn room,
Rejecting attempts to enter the tomb.*

*Entrance sealed so no one could steal
Christ's body, which had a great appeal.*

*Then on the third day, Mary could not believe
Inside the cave - no body to grieve.*

On Sunday he was seen it was said.

Now God had raised His son from the dead.





ATGYFODIAD gan D. R. Thomas

*O fore oer y Groglith
Pan dduodd haul y nen,
Wrth weld Tywysog Bywyd
Yn crogi ar y Pren.
A'r prelad hunangyfiawn
Yn gorfoleddu'n hy
Wrth weld ei gynllwyn anfad
Yn troi y byd yn ddu.*

*O fore bendigedig
Oedd bore'r Trydydd Dydd.
Y cwmni llwfr ac euog
Ar dân gan hyder ffydd.
Lledaenodd y goleuni
I bedwar ban y byd.
A miloedd yn moliannu
Bendithion angau drud.*

*O Arglwydd gad i'n dystio
I'r Atgyfodiad nawr,
A dangos yn ein bywyd
Oleuni newydd wawr.
A'r cariad sy'n cymodi
Gelynyion o bob oes;
Trwy ras y gwas dioddefus
A gwarth a gwyrth y Groes.*



EASTER SPRING TIME

Here we are again facing another year without going to church: not celebrating Easter with our Christian friends, worshipping together, celebrating Easter communion. Sadly its not to

be. But we can celebrate the risen Jesus at home. for he is with us in our hearts.

Spring is the season of light. The dark days of winter are over, the sun is shining more often and stronger each day, and is rising sooner to lengthen the hours of daylight. Spring is the season of life. The gardens and the surrounding fields have been dead all winter. Now we see the first signs of life, as the crocuses and

snowdrops push through the cold earth, in a little sunshine they blossom into colour. Daffodils open to bursts of bright yellow. Buds form on the trees ready to burst into leaves. Lambs appear in our fields, birds start busily nesting. Winter is forgotten, as Spring brings life.

Easter brings to Christians a special new life. When our Lord and Saviour Jesus, rose from the cold dark tomb into new life; when Mary and the women went to the tomb early that morning; the sun was just rising, the first light of day was breaking. And they found that Jesus our Lord, had risen, left the cold tomb, and was alive. This was wonderful. This was new life. We rejoice not only at Jesus rising from the dead, but at the promise we also will rise to new life after death. The light that shone out from Jesus's earthly life, now shone gloriously in his resurrected life. That life and light still shines today for each one of us. We must follow this great light of Jesus in our daily actions and words. For if we do, then it will lead us to everlasting light and life.

We have all had a difficult year with this virus ruling our lives. But no matter what we have been through there are always blessings in our lives. A kind word, a smile, memories. Remember the blessings in your life, and the new life you have with Jesus. May Jesus always be at your side and mine, as we journey through our Christian life with Jesus. - Joyce, Easter 2021.

HAVE A LAUGH!

'Next week's sermon - What Makes God Sick? : Pastor Joe Smith' (from church poster board).

Question: What makes God laugh?

Answer: Tell him your plans.

A new church member asked the pastor if he could have a church service when he died. "Of course," he said, grabbing his date book. "What date have you in mind?"

Spotted on a church marquee: "Love your enemies; After all, You made them".



'This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar' (from church magazine).

'Evening massage - 6 pm' (church magazine misprint).

'Remember in prayer those who are sick of our church and community' (church magazine misprint).

'Pastor is on vacation. Massages can be given to church secretary' (church magazine misprint).

'Glory to God in the highest and peas to his people on earth' (church pamphlet misprint).

'Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days' (from church magazine).

'Please welcome Pastor Don, a caring individual who loves hurting people' (from church magazine).

'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, even though he dies, yet shall be live' (church magazine misprint).

'The rosebud on the altar this morning is to announce the birth of David Alan Belzer, the son of Rev. and Mrs. Julius Belzer' (church magazine misprint).

'The organist invites anyone who enjoys sinning to volunteer for the choir' (church magazine misprint).

YSTYR MARWOLAETH AC ATGYFODIAD IESU

Mae credoau Cristnogol am fywyd ar ôl marwolaeth yn seiliedig ar atgyfodiad Iesu Grist. Mae Cristnogion yn credu bod marwolaeth ac atgyfodiad Iesu yn rhan o gynllun dwyfol Duw ar gyfer dynoliaeth. Drwy ei farwolaeth ar y groes, mae Iesu'n talu'r gosb am bechodau dynolryw ac yn adfer perthynas dynolryw â Duw. Gwneud iawn yw'r enw ar hyn. Mae Cristnogion yn credu, dri diwrnod ar ôl y croeshoeliad, bod Duw wedi cyfodi Iesu o blith y meirw a'i fod wedi ymddangos unwaith eto i'w ddisgyblion. Ystyr hyn yw bod aberth Iesu yn fuddugoliaeth dros bechod a marwolaeth. Er bod marwolaeth gorfforol yn dal i ddigwydd, bydd pobl sy'n credu yng Nghrist ac yn dilyn ei esiampl yn cael bywyd tragwyddol yn y nefoedd.

