

Grapevine

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February 2018

Chwefror

Grapevine is published monthly by:



Cylch y Frenni Circle of Churches

A Local Ministry Area comprising the parishes of
Clydau, Llanglydwen, Llanfyrnach, Llanwinio and Mynachlog-ddu

www.frennichurches.org.uk

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Cylch y FRENNI Circle of Churches

Clydau, Llanglydwen, Llanfyrnach, Llanwinio and Mynachlog-ddu



SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

4th The Second Sunday before Lent: Creation Sunday (Green)

Llanglydwen	9.30 am	Holy Eucharist
Mynachlog-ddu	11.15 am	Holy Eucharist
Llanfyrnach	11.15 am	Communion by Extension

7th Wednesday

Bro Preseli	10.30 am	Holy Eucharist
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11th The Sunday before Lent (Transfiguration Sunday) (Green)

Llanglydwen	9.30 am	Morning Prayer
Llanwinio	9.30 am	Communion by Extension
Clydau	11.15 am	Communion by Extension
Llanfyrnach	11.15 am	Holy Eucharist

14th Ash Wednesday (Purple)

Llanwinio	10.30 am	Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes
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18th The First Sunday of Lent (Purple)

Llanglydwen	9.30 am	Holy Eucharist
Llanfyrnach	11.15 am	Holy Eucharist
Mynachlog-ddu	11.15 am	Communion by Extension

25th The Second Sunday of Lent (Purple)

Llanglydwen	9.30 am	Morning Prayer
Llanwinio	9.30 am	Holy Eucharist
Clydau	11.15 am	Holy Eucharist
Llanfyrnach	11.15 am	Morning Prayer

Some Holy Days not on a Sunday

2nd	The Presentation of Christ (Candlemas)
13th	Shrove Tuesday

At Morning Prayer only the first and last readings are used ; 'a' means the first half of the verse; 'b' means the second half of the verse
 Would readers please announce page numbers where given (and give people time to find the page!)
 Page numbers refer to the bilingual copies of the New Testament

I LOVE YOU

February 14th is known throughout the western world as rip-off day for florists, restaurateurs and greetings card manufacturers. Sorry, that should read Saint Valentine's Day.

Saint Valentine of Terni was a third-century Roman saint, associated since the Middle Ages with the tradition of courtly love. He is said to have been martyred and buried at a cemetery to the north of Rome. However, the name Valentinus does not occur in the earliest list of Roman martyrs, the Chronography of 354, a work financed by a wealthy Roman Christian named – wait for it – Valentinus! But it is found in a later list of saints, compiled between 460 and 544.

14th February was first established as the feast of St. Valentine in AD 496 by Pope Gelasius I, who included Valentine among all those ‘.. whose names are justly revered among men, but whose acts are known only to God.’

Today, Valentine is justly revered by loving gestures involving flowers, cards and intimate dinners. And don't forget, as the waiter brings the bill at the end of that romantic meal in that candle-lit restaurant, to utter those three little words your beloved longs to hear: 'I'll get this.'

SAINT DWYNWEN

On 14th February lovers all over the world will be celebrating Saint Valentine's Day. But as Philip Higgs explains, Welsh people have their own patron saint of lovers - Saint Dwynwen.

Llanddwyn, Ynys Môn





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Ar 14 eg o Chwefror, bydd cariadon ar draws y byd yn dathlu Dydd Sant Ffolant. Ond, fel yr esbonia Phil Higginson, mae gan y Cymry eu nawddsant y cariadon ein hunain - Santes Dwynwen.

Yn y fersiwn fwyaf cyffredin mae Dwynwen yn syrthio mewn cariad â Maelon Dafodrill ond mae ei thad eisoes wedi trefnu iddi briodi rhywun arall. Mae Maelon mor gandryll o glywed hyn mae'n treisio Dwynwen.

Mae Dwynwen yn dianc i'r goedwig i alaru. Yno, mae'n gweddio ar Dduw i'w helpu i anghofio Maelon. Pan mae'n syrthio i gysgu, mae angel yn ymweld â Dwynwen ac yn rhoi diod arbennig iddi sy'n gwneud iddi anghofio am Maelon a'i droi i fewn i dalp o rew. Yna mae Dwynwen yn cael tri dymuniad. I ddechrau, mae'n dymuno i Maelon gael ei ddadmer, yn ail, bod Duw yn gwireddu holl freuddwydion a gobeithion unrhyw un sy'n glaf o gariad ac yn olaf na fyddai hi fyth yn priodi.

Gwireddwyd ei thri dymuniad ac i ddiolch am hynny, cysegrodd Dwynwen ei bywyd i Dduw gan fyw fel lleian ar ei phen ei hun ar Ynys Llanddwyn, ar arfordir Ynys Môn, a sefydlu eglwys yno.

Dyma, felly, hanes sant sydd wedi ymwreiddio yn nhir Cymru – Cariadon Cymru, cofiwch y 25ain o Ionawr!

CAROL SERVICES

Christmas may fast be receding into the mists of memory, but it's worth one last look back to our six extremely successful carol services. They were all entirely lit by candles, both in candlesticks and held by the congregation (to the distress of a few but the delight of most). There were only two emergencies: in Llanwinio, Jonathan had to extinguish a flaming window decoration with what little breath he had left after all that singing; and in Llanfyrnach, Hazel quickly blew out her



drip-card which had caught alight. But no harm was done in either case.

Best attended was the service in Mynachlog-ddu, thanks largely to some vigorous leafletting and personal invitations. And the first prize in the raffle afterwards – a giant chocolate creation aptly named Tower of Temptation and donated by Sharon Edge – was received with delight by winner Elizabeth John.

STANDSTILL RELAY

A race where you just stand still? Sounds too good to be

true for the armchair sportsmen among us. But that's exactly what our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Relay is. Teams of 6 people (any age or gender), suitable kitted out in pinnies and each wielding a frying pan, have to toss a pancake from one end of their line to the other and back again – without dropping it. The winning team gets a free pancake each: everyone else pays £5 for a pancake supper with a choice of savoury and sweet fillings. And you don't have to toss for it.



The time? From 6.00 pm on Tuesday 13th February.

The place? Crymych Market Hall.

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Oh, by the way: the pancakes you eat will not be the ones used and abused during the race.

ASH WEDNESDAY

‘Sackcloth and ashes’ is a well-worn phrase denoting that you realise you’ve done something wrong – appropriate for Westminster and Hollywood in recent months, it seems. But then we’ve all done something wrong at some stage in our lives, and Ash Wednesday is the traditional time to recognise the fact, and resolve to try and live a better life.

These days we give the sackcloth a miss; but each year we mark the occasion with a special celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes, where the priest marks a cross on your forehead in ash made from burning last year’s palm crosses. For the rest of the day, every time you look in the mirror or someone peers at you in the street, it’s a reminder of that famous phrase from the old school report: ‘Could do better.’

This year it’s the turn of Llanwinio Church to host the event, on Wednesday 14th February at 10.30 am.

LENT

Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent. The word simply meant ‘spring’ originally, but came to be applied to the season of the Church’s year when we recall how Jesus embarked on a mammoth fast to prepare himself for the momentous life-and-death-and-life journey that lay ahead of him.

It’s something we can imitate by abstaining from pleasures or adopting positive practices – or both – for the six weeks leading up to the joy of Easter. You don’t have to be particularly religious to take up this challenge: at the very least your waistline and your liver would benefit from an absence of beer! At a deeper



level, everyone's life is the better for an annual stock-take of where they are and where they're heading.

JUSTICE AND CLOSURE

So the BBC's Agatha Christie drama *Ordeal by Innocence* is to be partly re-shot, with Christian Cooke replacing the actor Ed Westwick. Why? What has Westwick done?

Well, nothing, actually. Not according to the law of England and Wales, which presumes a person innocent until they're proved guilty. Westwick faces allegations of sexual impropriety, which he denies. While no-one approves of sexual harassment, is it too much to ask that someone be tried before they're convicted?

But even being found guilty and punished doesn't seem to be enough for some people. Just why is cabbie sex fiend about to be freed? asks the Daily Mirror. Because after serving eight years of the sentence imposed on him, rapist taxi driver John Worboys is eligible for parole, that's why.

The outcry is not about any danger to the public: according to London Mayor Sadiq Khan, it is about the feelings of the victims, some of whom may not have been informed of their attacker's imminent release early enough.

Again, no-one endorses rape, and arguments over suitable sentences in individual cases are inevitable. The effects of this horrible, invasive and contaminating crime on the victims are lifelong and simply unimaginable. In the past, the impact of a crime on its victims simply didn't form part of the calculations. Taking these effects into account – as happens nowadays – must surely give the Court a more rounded and informed picture on which to base an appropriate sentence.

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But there can be a disturbing assumption lurking beneath the surface. We often hear it said that too light a sentence fails to give the victims ‘closure’, defined in this sense by Oxford Living Dictionaries as ‘a feeling that an emotional or traumatic experience has been resolved’. How this is best achieved varies from person to person, but frequently the impression given is that the term is a euphemism for revenge. Jesus seems to have taken a rather different view, countering the Old Testament sanction of ‘eye for eye and tooth for tooth’ with a new ethic based on love and forgiveness (see eg Matthew 5. 38-48) – so much so that phrases such as ‘turn the other cheek’ and ‘love your enemies’ have become part of our language.

That’s not to say that rapists and premeditative murderers should just be slapped on the wrist and told not to be so naughty again. The point of turning cheeks and loving enemies is very largely reflexive: it does the doer good. On the other hand, revenge, however severe, may never bring the sort of ‘closure’ that forgiveness can accomplish.

But then forgiveness doesn’t sell papers.

PCCs

There will be PCC meetings following a much-shortened Eucharist on the following dates in the following churches:

Mynachlog-ddu:	4th February
Llanfyrnach:	11th February
Llanglydwen:	18th February
Llanwinio:	25th February
Clydau:	25th February



Young adults of the Tabernacle, Whitland, who held the Christmas midnight service



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CONDOLENCES

‘Promoted to glory’ is the phrase used by the Salvation Army when someone passes from this world to the next – an apt expression for our Christian belief that death is not the end it may seem to us but a new beginning. Recently we bade ‘bon voyage’ to a number of friends in or from our Local Ministry Area.

Alice Wilson, sister of Clydau Church Warden Elizabeth Law, died on Sunday 7th January. She had suffered from Down’s syndrome, but had never let it get the better of her irrepressible good humour and cheerfulness. Her funeral was in Essex, where she lived.

The funeral of Richard Evans of Ffynnowen Farm, Login, a faithful member of Llanglydwen’s congregation, took place on Friday 12th January, after which his body was laid to rest with his beloved Alison in the churchyard. West Wales lost an outstanding expert on cattle and their provenance; Saint Cledwyn’s lost an ever-enthusiastic helper at its various races; and we all lost the radiance of a smile that spread joy wherever it was bestowed.

Clydau Church was the setting for the funeral of Jim Burgess of Nant Neel Farm, Boncath, on Tuesday 16th January – not a gloomy affair, as that was the last thing Jim would have wanted. Ever a practical joker (leave some whipped cream about and it would end up on your face!) he always had the last laugh. The service reflected his love of animals, and was followed by his cremation at Parc Gwyn.

Mr. Francis Kenaghan, late of the Post House, Cwm Bach

It is with much sadness that we record the passing of Mr Kenaghan on the 7th of January.

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Francis was born, raised and educated in Birmingham. He was the eldest child of Francis and Violet, and had 4 sisters (Marg, Pat, Janet and Pauline, who unfortunately died young). He met Jo while holidaying in Highly and they married in June 1953. They had three sons, Peter, Mark and Stephen.

As an apprentice at BSA, Francis won a BSA Group Scholarship to Birmingham University. After gaining his degree in metallurgy he returned to BSA for a brief spell before spending 12 years at the UK Atomic Energy Authority in Aldermaston.

Taking a significant career change, he joined Urwick & Orr as a consultant focusing on industrial relations.

Just 4 years later was appointed to Senior Partner, and during his time there, worked with some well known names in industry and government. During this time Francis wrote a few books and many papers, alongside gaining an impressive list of



letters to add to his BSc (none of which he used, as he felt they were too pretentious – but for the record included BSc CE MIM CBIM MIPM MIMC and FIIM). One of his clients, Carreras Rothmans feted him, and he finally joined them as Director of Operations in 1978. He became Director of Manufacturing and Distribution in 1983 and then Managing Director of Rothmans UK,ME&A. He impressed his sons by presenting the trophy to Steve Davies at the Rothmans sponsored Snooker World Finals, and so being on TV.

I'm not sure if Francis realised Jo's passion for gardens when he married her, but moving a few



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times within the Tadley and Reading areas, with each new garden came opportunity for him to completely dig them up and start again, planting flowers and shrubs where directed. They moved to Cwmbach in West Wales in 1976, buying the village shop and Post Office. Originally Cwmbach was positioned as an opportunity for Francis to retire from his full-time job, and to start a consultancy business with 3 friends, with Francis looking after the south west. As we soon realized, Jo spotting the 6.5 acres of woodland garden might have had something to do with the decision. For the first couple of years, and while still working in Aylesbury, Francis came home Friday evenings and used the new home and gardens as a complete break from his business life. He certainly developed some neck muscles chopping brambles, felling trees, and generally clearing the scrub to reveal the hidden treasures. Although Francis took early retirement, he was not ready to stop work completely, and for the next ten years he supported a number of Welsh companies, as consultant, Non-executive Director or mentor (with the Welsh Business Mentoring Scheme).

Running a local shop was certainly open all hours – it was not unusual for people to knock on the door very late at night, or even Easter and Christmas Days, asking for some last minute item. Oh, and who can forget the Christmas parties, where the whole village was invited for food and drinks - there are some stories, but probably not for now! Over the first few years the house was restored/refurbished from top to bottom and then the gardens needed a lot of attention (although they were always Jo's first focus). All the effort paid off when the gardens were used as the feature introducing a woodland garden competition in the Sunday Times magazine and subsequent book by Peter Rose. The gardens were also regularly opened to the public, generating funds for charity. Continuing with their love of gardens, he also found time with wife Jo, to be founding members (and honorary life members) of Aberglasney and the opening of the National Botanic Garden of Wales – Francis and Jo were in the party introduced to Prince Charles at the grand opening.

With the closing of many local Post Offices and their advancing years, the shop and Post Office were closed, freeing Jo and Francis to focus full time on their own garden. But time takes its toll on all of us, and with Francis's health deteriorating, they took the heart-wrenching decision to sell and to move from the isolation of west Wales to Waterlooville to be near Stephen. With Francis needing full time care, Jo moved into a flat near to his care home. Jo visited Francis most days up until quite recently, when her own health deteriorated, and finally she joined Francis in Wellington Vale Care Home. Unfortunately Jo

passed away at the end of last year, and having survived for over three years since being given just 6 months to live, Francis joined Jo again early Sunday morning (7th January).

Peter Kenaghan

Our condolences go to all the families at this difficult time.

CALLING CHURCH AND CHAPEL ORGANISTS

A message from Stuart Robinson, Coordinator, RSCM Wales

Being a church organist myself, I know that playing the organ of a Sunday can be a solitary business, and human frailty being what it is, sometimes a challenge to keep going! If you're a church or chapel organist, (or pianist turned organist – there are many of you!) and feel in need of some support or coaching and/or even a bit of an uplift, then a new scheme from the Royal School of Church Music in Wales (RSCM) could be for you.

The RSCM is launching courses of organ lessons to be given by accredited tutors with a friendly approach – themselves competent organists. Entitled The Complete Church Organist/Yr Organydd cyflawn, the scheme offers practical help and coaching in a sequence of sessions spread through the year. Tuition can be in groups of up to six students with the fee split accordingly. This then is a chance for organists to give themselves a bit of a revival! Apart from the freshening up of keyboard skills, those taking part will also gain encouragement and mutual support from each other. These sessions are intended for the average player, and will focus primarily on the technical skills to accompany hymn singing, as well as how to deal with stops and where relevant, pedals.

Now is also the time for students to register their interest. This can be done through our website www.rscm.com/mentergerdd where there is more information. Enquiries will also be accepted by phone 01722 424848 and email: education@rscm.com.

GLANDWR W.I.

Cris Tomos (Councillor) spoke to Glandwr WI at their January meeting on the future of recycling in Pembrokeshire. Here he is demonstrating the proposed new system, which is scheduled to start next year. It has different boxes for bottles, paper and plastics, all stacked on a convenient trolley. There will also be provision of small bags for those who can't lift the boxes.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

The Council wants us to increase the amount of recycling we do. At the moment we manage to recycle about 58% of our 'rubbish'. The aim is to get it up to 64% by 2019, and up again to 70% by 2024. If, by 2019, our recycling is less than 60%, then the Council will have to pay a fine of £140,000 per percentage under. Let's try and spare the Council the payment of such a huge fine, which of course would affect their provision of services in other areas to us ordinary citizens.

There's a rumour that some recycling centres might have to close. Let's hope they keep Hermon open, which has increased its facilities recently, and now will take 'tetrapaks', the juice cartons that are lined with foil.

Mr Tomos was not sure what Carmarthenshire is doing about this recycling percentage challenge from Welsh Assembly, but it may follow similar lines.



TRIP TO MOROCCO

John and Eleanor Parry were enjoying a 3 week holiday in Agadir, Morocco when they visited the Anglican church there. They just missed the service but were given a very warm welcome by the Pastor and some members of the congregation.



They only had one contact with home when their family texted “It’s snowing” whence came the reply “It’s sunny!”. John and Eleanor came home to find their porch light on and their home decorated for Christmas—Lovely!
Eleanor Parry

LLANWINIO W.I.

Llanwinio WI started the year off on the 9th of January with a talk and slide show by Kathie Dubben about her travels in America last year. This year’s programme is now complete and should be ready for the next meeting which takes place on the 13th of February. Peter Boyle from St. Clears will be entertaining us with photographs and videos from his trip to Antarctica last year. Meetings usually take place at 2.00 pm on the second Tuesday of the month at Llanwinio Community Hall. New members will be warmly welcomed—contact the President, Anne Summerbell, on 01994 484278.

LLANWINIO HALL

There will be another Table Top Sale on Sunday the 4th of February. For more information, or to book a table, contact Kathie on 01994 484404 or kdubben@hotmail.com.

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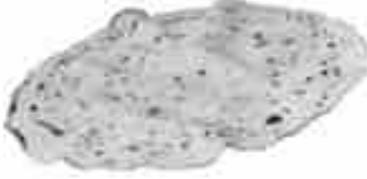
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SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

4th Sexagesima

Meidrim 9.45am Y Cymun Bendigaid

Trelech 11.15am Y Cymun Bendigaid

Abernant 4.00pm Evening Prayer

11th Quinquagesima

Meidrim 9.45am Holy Eucharist

Merthyr 11.15am Y Cymun Bendigaid

Trelech 3.30pm Evening Prayer

14th Ash Wednesday – the beginning of Lent

Meidrim 10.30am Service of penitence, imposition of ashes and Eucharist

18th First Sunday in Lent

Merthyr 9.45am Litany and Holy Eucharist

Trelech 11.15am Holy Eucharist

Meidrim 3.30pm Evening Prayer

25th Second Sunday in Lent

Abernant 9.45am Litany and Holy Eucharist

Meidrim 11.15am Matins

Merthyr 2.15pm Evening Prayer

Meidrim

In the period leading to the Christmas festival the hall was used quite a lot. The schoolchildren produced their pantomime with a Nativity theme; the congregation of the church and Bethel chapel combined for the carol service followed by refreshments; and the parishioners worked hard to ensure a successful and enjoyable coffee morning in late November. However for some years now it has been increasingly clear that the heating and lighting system in the hall needs attention. The parochial Church Council has discussed the matter

and has agreed to fit new equipment to meet modern standards of health and safety, to be responsive to ecological considerations and to be economical. We are pleased to announce that the board of Ynni Teg which seeks to assist local communities and organisations has awarded £3,000 to enable us to carry out these much needed improvements and we are most grateful for their support.

Mr Delme Herbert spent some time in hospital at Glangwili before Christmas but is now back in his home in Llangwnnwr. We wish him an improvement in health. He tries to keep cheerful despite the trials of life and age.

The treasurer, Mr Dorian Evans, would be grateful if any who have not yet paid their annual subscription for this magazine would do so as soon as possible, please. The sum due is £10. Mr Evans can be contacted on 01994 230820.

The collection at the carol service raised fifty pounds towards the appeal for the homeless and the cheque has been sent to Crisis At Christmas which did such good work to provide warmth, food and companionship to those who, for whatever reason, were without a home this winter season.

We were pleased to see that after her recent operation Mrs Elizabeth Jameson was able to play the organ at the Christmas Eve service and to hear that she also conducted a concert by Cantorion Llanddowror on Twelfth Night in Llanddowror Church, We wish her well as she gets ready to move to her new home in St Clears.

We also wish well to Mrs Annette Phillips on becoming the secretary of the Church Council in succession to the Hon. Adam Bruce. We thank her for being willing to serve in this capacity.

We welcome back to this area the new archdeacon of Carmarthen, the Ven. Dorrien Paul Davies, who has now settled in to his new home in the new Vicarage at St Clears with his family, Mrs Rosie Davies and sons Morgan and

Collection!

Please note that each church is responsible for collecting their own copies of the Grapevine from Reception at Dentron, Llys Myrddin, Efailwen.

They will be ready for you after 3.30 p.m. on the Saturday immediately preceding the last Sunday of the month

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Lewis. The archdeacon was appointed priest in charge of the St Clears group of three churches on January 23rd. The archdeacon was brought up Abergwili where his parents still reside and was an ordinand at St. Michael's college, Llandaff, when Canon Gainer was a tutor in New Testament Greek.

Abernant

We are delighted to note that Mr and Mrs Hugh and Eirlys Davies were married sixty years ago on January 18th, 1958. The family, neighbours, friends and the congregation of St Lucia's church join in congratulating them both on this happy occasion. Hugh has been a churchwarden here for some years and takes pride in ringing the bells of the church to call people to Common Prayer.

Thanks to all who attended the joint service on the last Sunday of the year. The loose collection of just over £43 was given to support the Carmarthen Food Bank. In addition £120 was given to the appeal on behalf of Crisis At Christmas. This sum was raised during the Crib service on the Thursday before Christmas.

Please note that the Church Council will meet after service on the first Sunday in March.

We congratulate the Revd Wyn Maskell on obtaining a Bachelor in Theology degree from Glyndwr University, Wrexham. He played the organ at our crib service as well as at Merthyr.

Easter Day will be early this year and falls on April 1st. It is what we call a movable feast i.e. its date is not fixed unlike, say, Christmas which in the Western Church at least always falls on December 25th. However in an attempt to bring home the real significance of Easter the customary chocolate eggs are being sold in boxes depicting the real message of the Feast, the death and resurrection of the Lord. Schools and other organisations are being encouraged to buy in bulk by visiting the online shop: www.realeasteregg.co.uk

Trelech

We extend the assurance of our prayers and sympathy to Miss Freda Davies of Bryn Iwan whose brother, Albert Alun Davies, of Bryn Villa died on December 22nd last year at the age of 93. His funeral service was taken at Bryn Iwan chapel by the Revd Guto Prys ap Gwynfor. Latterly Alun had been resident at Newcastle Emlyn. His wife Doris predeceased him some years ago and he leaves a daughter, Sian, and son in law Jonathan who live in Cardiff.

We also extend the assurance of our sympathy to Mrs J. Parry Williams on the death of her sister-in-law, Mrs Barbara Thomas, in Cardigan. Formerly Barbara had lived at Groesffordd near Pen y bont with her husband Philip. Bendith ar ei llwch.

Merthyr

We are delighted to record that Mrs Jennifer Lewis is now home at Merthyr Fach and we wish her much improved health in 2018. Mr Albert Rees, father of a regular worshipper here, Mr Chris Rees, is still in hospital at the time of writing and we wish him a speedy return home too.

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EGLWYS GYMYN

Although the year at Eglwys Gymyn had seemed to end with the sad news of a bereavement in our close congregation, Eglwys Gymyn did close the year with three splendid and joyful services.

The first was our Christmas carol service on December 17th and a good congregation, led by Reverend David, that sang their hearts out. This was followed by mulled wine (or coffee if preferred) and mince pies, cake and biscuits in the Church Hall.

The second was our midnight Christmas Eve service led by Reverend David.

And the last was our New Year's Eve combined service with members from the five churches in our group. The service was led by Reverend Kingsley and Reverend Huw and the morning service concluded with after proceedings in the Church Hall.

Services in February will follow our usual format of:

1st and 3rd Sundays at 2.30 pm led by Rev Huw

2nd and 4th Sundays at 10.30 am led by Rev David

CYFFIG NOTES

It's hard to believe that it will be almost February already when this comes to print. I do hope this year doesn't go as fast as 2017.

We all enjoyed the Landsker 5th Sunday Service at Eglwys Gymyn on December 31st. Rev. Huw led the service and Rev. Kingsley preached the sermon. The large congregation sang some fine hymns. Thanks to the ladies for the refreshments in the Church Hall afterwards.

The days are drawing out a bit and the bulbs beginning to peep through—it will be wonderful to have some weather other than "Very Wet" or "Very Windy".

Hopefully anyone who was unfortunate enough to have the 'flu or a chest infection over Christmas or New Year is now fully restored to health.

Church Cleaning and Altar Flowers in February

Mrs. M. Beynon

WHITLAND MALE VOICE CHOIR

On Sunday 17th December we sang at the Song and Dance afternoon at Whitland Town Hall. There were very talented dancers from a wide area, and of all ages. Proceeds raised were for the Morgan's Fight Appeal. An entertaining and festive afternoon was enjoyed by everyone.



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On Wednesday 20th December we were in concert with Serendipity Ladies Community Choir at the Regency Hall, Saundersfoot. It was a great evening, with a wide range of music. Our Musical Director, Juliet Rossiter, is also M.D. to Serendipity Ladies Choir. It was lovely to share a festive concert with the Ladies. The Hall was full with an appreciative audience who participated in 'The 12 Days of Christmas'. Accompanists were the talented Hefina, Marrion and Juliet. Hefina also conducted our choir in Anthem and Stesion Strata.

We are back in practice from Thursday 4th January. We have a busy year ahead of us between our Patrons Concert and The Festival of Massed Choir Concert at the Albert Hall, London. Plus all our concerts and weddings to attend.

We are still looking for new members to join our choir. If you are interested please attend our practice sessions on Thursday evenings at the Memorial Hall, Whitland at 7.30pm.

You can sit and listen or join in, no obligation.

You can also contact our

Secretary Hugh Lewis on 01994 240437

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I like Christmas and welcoming in the New Year when neighbours and friends, some of whom you have not seen for a time, wish you a "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year" and I know that they are sincere. Wishing people well is in the true



Above: John and Eleanor Parry visiting an Anglican Church at Agadir, Morocco



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Christmas spirit, and something we should promote all the year round, not only at Christmas.

Ever since man started walking upright on two legs and communicating with his fellow man, we have always had religion. They worshiped various objects and often it was the moon. Only after the birth of Jesus Christ did it become more organised and meaningful and became known as Christianity.

Unfortunately Christianity was frowned upon by the powers that be and caused much conflict. But the Christian faith proved much stronger than the military and the government, and that is why we can sing with confidence today "For man will live for ever more because of Christmas day".

We are now in 2018 and optimistic for the future, but let us not forget that life is what we make it and we must work hard to make 2018 the best year ever, not only for ourselves, but for others as well. This way our wishing people a Happy New Year will come across as sincere. Not only will us happy, but others as well. I must add it is not without effort, but we will find it will pay great dividends.

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Thoughts for today

He that looks at the clouds shall never reap or mow a double edge sword

In 1937 Joe Louis defeated Tommy Farr in an epic fight in New York to retain the world heavyweight boxing title

In 1939 The great evacuation of children from British cities began with the Second World War four days away. Thousands of youngsters were moved to the country to avoid anticipated German bombing

Bethel Congregational Chapel

December 2017 and January 2018 have been busy months in Bethel. On Sunday 3rd December we had our usual Welsh Communion Service and on the 10th we had an English service. On the 17th we had a joint carol service in the Village Hall. This proved a very successful occasion with a capacity audience and £200.00 was collected for Christian Aid. The service was led by the Revd. Guto Llywelyn.

On 24th December Bethel members joined with members from Tabernacle and Trinity for a united midnight service at Tabernacle which was well attended. On 7th January we held our usual Welsh Communion Service and on the 14th we had an English service. On the 17th January we had a united "Songs of Praise" which was well attended by members from the three chapels, and on the last Sunday of the month we had the normal English Communion Service.

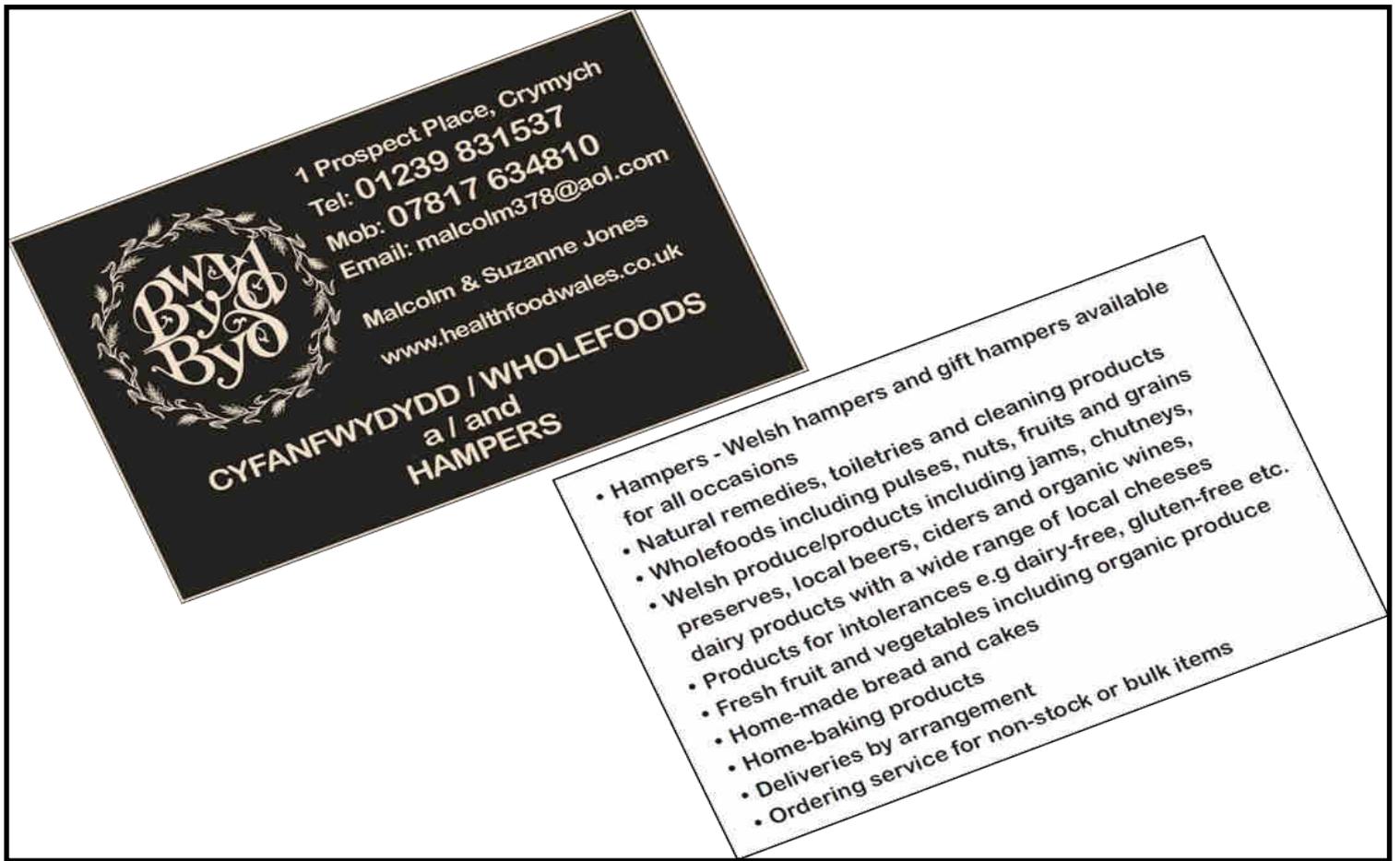
Members would like to express their sincere thanks to the minister Revd. Guto Llywelyn for his loyal service in both English and Welsh during the year and his frequent home visits. We sympathise with one of our members on the tragic loss of her son.

Order of Services for February with the Minister officiating except where indicated

4th February	2.00 p.m.	Welsh Communion Service
11 th February	2.00 p.m.	English Service
18 th February	10.30 a.m.	United Service at Trinity
25 th February	2.00 p.m.	English Communion Service

Tabernacle Congregational Chapel

The 1st Sunday in December being the 3rd (the first Sunday in Advent) was a Communion Service with members, parents, young people and children taking



part with our Minister Rev. Guto Llywelyn officiating. Everyone enjoyed the refreshments afterwards.

The second Sunday, the 10th December, was Carol Service for all the churches in Whitland and this year was held at Nazareth with all the chapels and churches taking part in the service. The collection was donated towards Christian Aid.

The 17th was the Children and Young People's Christmas Service. The 'Nativity' was performed together with readings and carols. A large congregation was present supporting the Sunday School and young people. Everyone enjoyed the party after the service with a visit from Father Christmas.

Midnight Service was again held this year with eighteen young adults taking part and we had a lovely service under the guidance of our Minister.

Our Cultural Society held their meeting on Tuesday the 5th December with the Guest Speaker being Mrs Margarett Hughes. Everyone enjoyed tea and mince pies afterwards.

Several of our young members went out carol singing before Christmas with the money going towards the Sunday School and Youth Club.

Our thoughts are with members that have lost members of their family during the month and we wish members that have been unwell and in hospital a speedy recovery.

Order of Services for February with the Minister officiating except where indicated

4 th February	9.30 a.m.	Communion Service
11 th February	11.00 a.m.	Normal Service
18 th February	10.30 a.m.	United Service at Trinity
25 th February	10.30 a.m.	Gwyl Rhinwedd a Moes



A living advertisement highlighted by a fall of snow and photographed from the New Inn Crossroads near Maenclogoch by Susie Copus. These conifers were planted by Caws Preseli, Pant Mawr of Rosebush about 6 years ago and certainly make a bold statement—and not one bit cheesy!!

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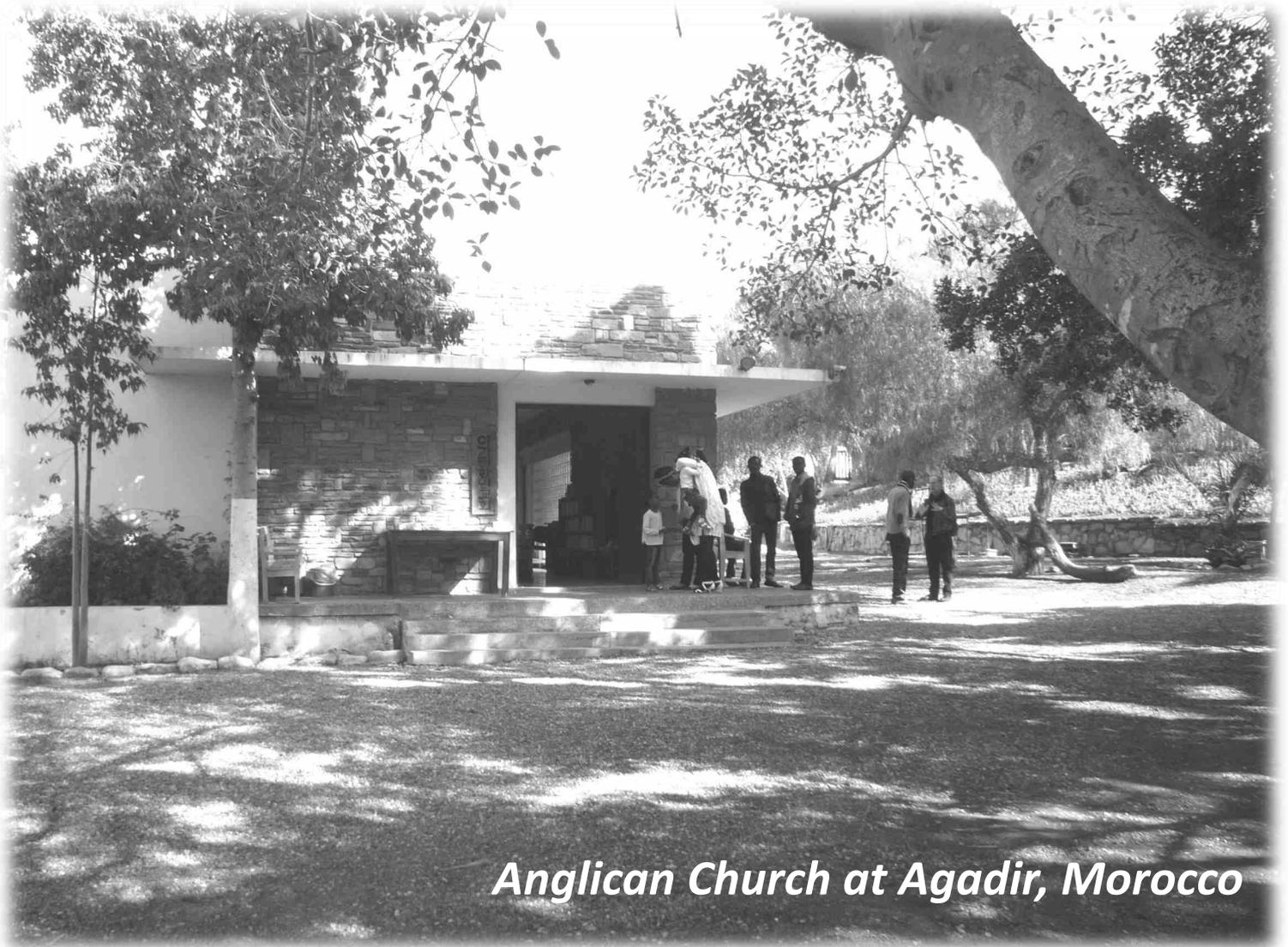
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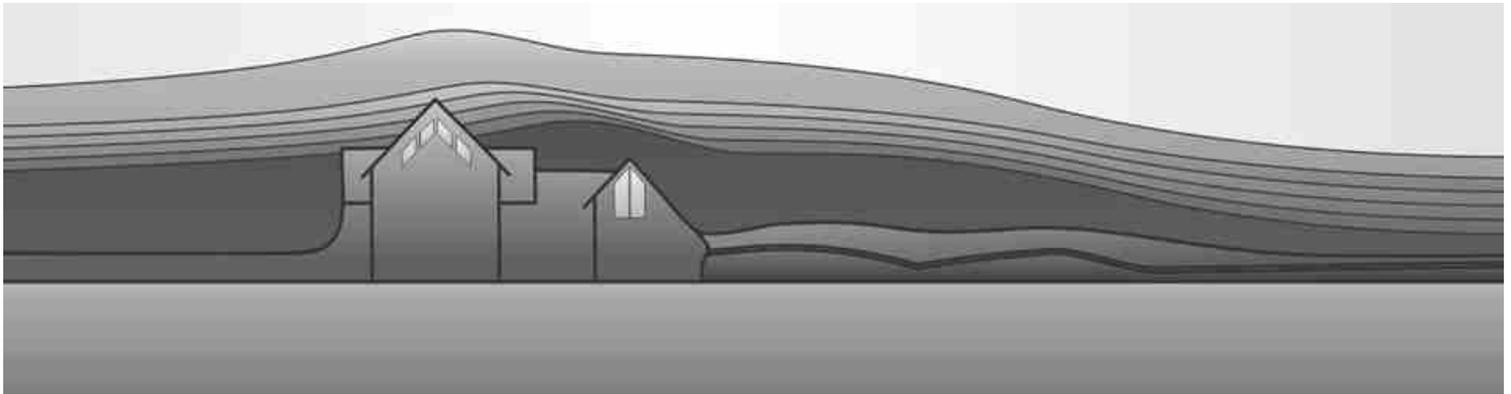
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