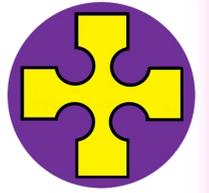


# Grapevine

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2018

**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

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**Front Cover: Sarah Williams and Noir Jones on the occasion of their marriage  
at the Trinity, Llanboidy at the start of April**



# Cylch y FRENNI Circle of Churches

## Clydau, Llanglydwen, Llanfyrnach, Llanwinio and Mynachlog-ddu



### SERVICES IN MAY

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday

Bro Preseli 10.30 am Holy Eucharist

#### 6<sup>th</sup> The Sixth Sunday of Easter: Rogation Sunday (White)

Llanglydwen 9.30 am Holy Eucharist

Mynachlog-ddu 11.15 am Holy Eucharist

Llanfyrnach 11.15 am Communion by Extension

#### 13<sup>th</sup> The Seventh Sunday of Easter: Sun. after Ascension Day (White)

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

#### 20<sup>th</sup> The Day of Pentecost (Red)

Llanglydwen 9.30 am Holy Eucharist

Llanfyrnach 11.15 am Holy Eucharist

Mynachlog-ddu 11.15 am Communion by Extension

#### 27<sup>th</sup> Trinity Sunday (White)

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

1<sup>st</sup> Philip and James, Apostles

10<sup>th</sup> Ascension Day

14<sup>th</sup> Matthias, Apostle

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

## EASTER OFFERING

As usual, our churches kindly gave me the cash from their Easter collections' – and thank you so much for your remarkable generosity in this 'Easter Offering'. And as usual, I passed the money straight to charity. It's often difficult to know which cause to choose, but after Cliff Henneveld's brave plea in Llanglydwen Church a month or so back there was only one option: the prostate cancer department of Cancer Research UK.

*Jonathan Copus*

## HOLY WIND

Wind is something we know all about in this part of the world, as witness the many turbines on our hills. But it's also something central to the New Testament story of Pentecost, a feast we celebrate this month.

'A rushing, mighty wind' is how Acts describes the arrival of the Holy Spirit in the room where the Apostles were sitting. The idea of the movement of air being associated with God permeates the Old Testament, where the Hebrew for 'wind' can also mean a host of other things, including the breath of life and the spirit of God. The Greek word *pneuma* also denotes something to do with air, and has been incorporated into the English word *pneumatic*. It, too, can mean '*spirit*' – nothing to do with whisky or ghosts, but in a more abstract sense, which has again found its way into English in concepts such as a *spirit* of helpfulness, or the idea of *inspiration*.

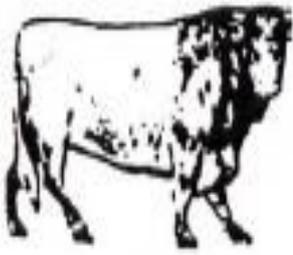
This month also sees Trinity Sunday, a celebration of the Holy and Undivided Trinity, God in three persons. Now there's a curious idea.

It's often said this is a mystery, beyond human understanding. The story is often told of how St Augustine (4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>-century Bishop of the delightfully-named Hippo in north Africa) planned to explain the mystery of the Holy and Undivided Trinity to his congregation and was ruminating while walking along the sea shore when he spotted a young lad trotting back and forth collecting a shell-full of sea water and pouring it into a hole in the sand. 'I'm emptying the sea in this little hole,' said the boy.

'Ho ho ho!' exclaimed Augustine, anticipating Father Christmas outside Morrison's, 'you'll never manage that!'

'Well, replied the boy, 'I've got a better chance than you have of explaining the mystery of the Holy and Undivided Trinity to your congregation on Sunday.'

That precocious little brat has always worried me. There are indeed many mysteries beyond human understanding, ranging from how a sub-atomic



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particle can be a wave at the same time, to why there's always a teaspoon left in the bottom of the washing-up bowl. But all Christian doctrines – including that of the Holy and Undivided Trinity – must have their origins in human experience, so they can't be totally beyond human understanding.

Many years ago I had the honour to be tutored in Christian doctrine by one of the twentieth century's leading theologians, and was present when a fellow student asked that intellectual giant Dr David Jenkins: 'All this high-falutin' theology is all very well; but what would you say if someone came up to you in the street and asked you to tell them in simple terms about the doctrine of the Holy and Undivided Trinity?'

The great scholar thought for a moment and said: 'When you get the feeling you're being looked after, that's God the Father. When you read about Jesus, you get the same sense of love and caring: that's God the Son. And when you recognise the same thing in yourself and other people, that's God the Holy Spirit.'

So simple. And yet theologians have come to blows over the centuries trying to shoehorn this idea into one outdated system of philosophy after another. But perhaps one such attempt is still useful today. Another early Christian from Africa, the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> century author Tertullian, came up with the formula *una substantia, tres personae*. A detailed exegesis of these terms is quite complicated; but just note that the root meaning of the Latin *persona* is the mask worn by Roman actors to remind the audience what character they were playing. The same went for Greek actors, who called their masks *prosopa*, or

‘faces’. This term was applied to the three persons of the Holy and Undivided Trinity by some early theologians, although they fell out over what they actually meant by it and excommunicated the most prominent exponent of this idea – one Sabellius – as a heretic. But then the idea has its origins in the writings of St Paul (see 2 Corinthians 4. 6), and the reasons for rejecting it are not completely flawless themselves.

So don’t tell the boss, but perhaps the idea of the three faces of God – as loving creator and Father, seen in Jesus the Son and a wind-like driving Spirit active in people today – might just make a lot more sense than our stickly forefathers would allow.

*Jonathan Copus*

## **HAPPY EVER AFTER**

Philip and Jiwli Higginson’s eldest son Caio celebrated his wedding at Pen Y Groes chapel, Crymych, on the 7th of April. His bride was Meleri Thomas, daughter of Windsor and Glynwen Thomas. The bridesmaids were Gwenllian Higginson, Gwen Griffiths and Hannah Davies. The reception was held at the Cliff Hotel, Cardigan. Many congratulations to you both and we wish you a long and happy life together.

## **MARCELIN’S STORY**

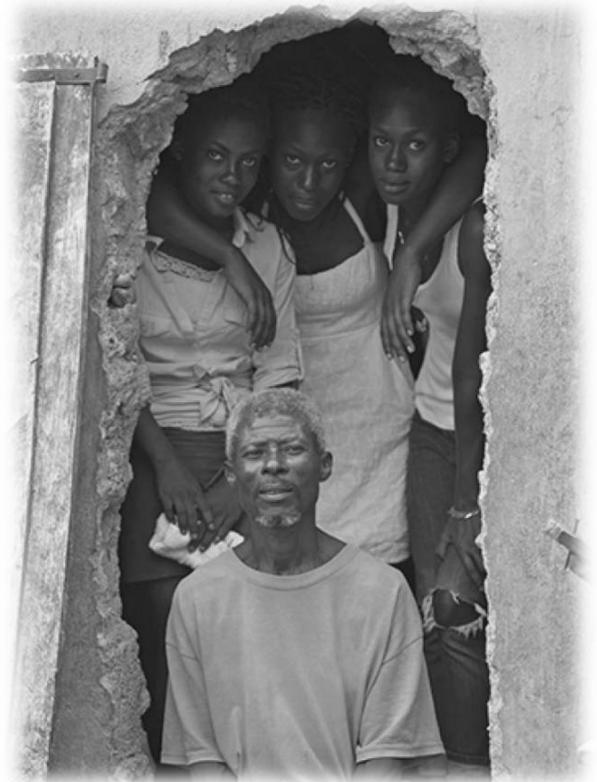
Marcelin lost his home and livelihood when Hurricane Matthew hit Haiti in September 2016.

‘I lost pigs, goats, everything in the house. I have nothing left,’ he says.

He now lives in an old concrete shower block, a tiny space he shares with his teenage daughters. There are no windows or doors, and the only furniture is a single bed that the girls sleep on.

Marcelin has shown incredible resilience in the face of such hardships and is working hard

to raise his children alone. Every day he gets up at dawn to work the land but he’s struggling to support his family. The changing weather frequently destroys the food he grows and his family often go hungry. He can no longer afford to send all his children to school and is unable to save any money for a new home.



But there is hope. Christian Aid – ‘our’ charity – is working hard to help people like Marcelin. Donations are translated into deeds: after the 2010 earthquake, Christian Aid built 700 houses. Hurricane Matthew damaged just one, which has since been repaired.

Every year, we as an LMA take part in Christian Aid week, which this year runs from 13<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> May. Envelopes will be available. Please give generously to help our global neighbours in need, in Christ’s name.

## EASTER GARDEN



Many churches carry on the delightful tradition of the Easter Garden, rich in symbolism and recalling (among other things) how Mary Magdalene mistook the risen Lord Jesus for a gardener. The connection with the new life on offer through the Resurrection is another obvious message. This year, Mynachlog-ddu Church sported a particularly fine example of an Easter Garden, mainly the work of Sharon Edge, our LMA Publicity Officer and so much more. Thank you, Sharon, for this and all the other work you do on our behalf.

## NEW ARRIVALS

The Christian family welcomed a new member on 18<sup>th</sup> March, when 7-month-old **Cole Austin-Lee Phillips** was baptised in Llanglydwen Church. Cole is the son of David and Hazel Phillips (née Owen), who were married in the same church in 2015.

On 15th April **Daisy Grace Jones** joined the Christian Family in Holy Baptism in Llanfyrnach Church, following the example of her sister, Annabella Pixie Jones, who had been baptised in the same font just over a year earlier. Daisy was amazingly good-natured about the whole affair, and seemed to be following the service assiduously in the arms of Mum Shelley Williams, while Dad John Wayne Jones holds Annabella - who had obviously seen it all before."

## CAN'T SEE THE WORDS FOR THE TREES?

In the following story, some words have been replaced by references to trees – a type of tree, or something to do with a tree, sometimes in a ‘sounds-like’ style. The ‘tree-words’ are represented by numbers. Can you work out what they are? If



so, just list your answers, numbered 1 to 36, on a piece of paper with your name, address and phone number on it, and pop it with £2 in an envelope addressed to 'Tree Quiz, Llys Myrddin, Efailwen, SA66 7XG' – or drop it in to Y Badell Ffrio in Crymych.

The prize is £50, and goes to the entry with the most correct answers received by 23:00 on 31<sup>st</sup> May. In the event of a tie, the winner will be drawn from a 'hat' on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. The judges' decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

Our thanks are due to the kind donors of the £50 prize. Now, here's the story:

**J**im and Jane Jones had gone to the seaside for a week with their two children, Tom and Tammy. 'Can we go to the 1, Daddy?' asked Tom, the 2 of the two. '3ay,' replied his father.

'Well have to take Spot,' said Tammy, her 4 eyes full of pleading, 'or he'll 5.' Spot 6ed in agreement.

'Perhaps they'll have some pedal boats!' Tammy was jumping up and down with excitement. 'I prefer ordinary 7 ones, said Tom.

It was a perfect day for a picnic on the sand. Waves spl8ed gently on the shore. Overhead, silent 9s left white trails in a cloudless sky. 'It's really lovely here,' said Jim, glancing 10tively at the blonde a few yards away who was almost wearing a bikini.

Suddenly, a speedboat with a young lad at the h11 roared close to the shore. 'He'll be 12 with the swimmers,' remarked Jane.

'Inconsiderate little so-and-so,' grumbled Jim. 'If I'd done that my dad would've given me a good 13ing.'

'Not without getting arrested, he wouldn't. But I agree, that sort of behaviour has to be 14ed out.'



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Chimes came wafting on the breeze. ‘Can you 15 ice cream van anywhere?’ asked Tom.

‘It’s over there,’ said Tammy, pointing. ‘Daddy, I want an ice cream.’

‘Isn’t there a little word missing at the end of that sentence?’ asked her mother.

Tammy didn’t quite 16. ‘Oh, yes,’ she agreed. ‘Daddy, I want an ice cream *now*.’

‘All right,’ laughed their father, giving them some money. And I fancy a 17ade. Could 18cross and get one while 19’re at it?’

‘No ice cream for me, thanks for not asking,’ said Jane. ‘See if there’s some freshly-squeezed 20 juice,’ she added to Tom as he and Tammy scampered off. ‘If not,’ she called after them, ‘I’ll have to 21p for an iced lolly.’

‘Ah, this is heaven!’ sighed Jim as he lay back on the sand. ‘Who needs to go abroad?’

‘Adrian and Cerys,’ replied Jane. ‘They’ve gone to the Med – 22, in fact.’

Soon, the children were back. ‘Sorry to di23point you, Mum, but no iced lollies left,’ said Tom.

‘Just look at you two!’ Said Jane. ‘Ice cream all over your faces! You look a right 24.’

Tammy had finished hers already. ‘Can I have some more ice cream, Daddy?’ she pleaded.

‘More?’ exploded Jim. ‘More? That’s all I ever hear from you two: “More, more, more.” I’m 25.’

‘Anyway,’ Jane intervened, ‘we’d better be getting back. We’re going out tonight, so you two had better 26 yourselves up. Did you remember to book a table, Jim?’



## NEW ARRIVALS

*Above: 7-month-old **Cole Austin-Lee Phillips** who was baptised in Llanglydwen Church on the 18th of March. Cole is the son of David and Hazel Phillips (née Owen), who were married in the same church in 2015.*

*Below: **Daisy Grace Jones** in the arms of mum Shelley Williams at her baptism at Llanfyrnach Church on the 15th of April. Dad, John Wayne Jones, is holding Annabella Pixie Jones, who was baptised on 12th March 2017, also in Llanfyrnach Church.*

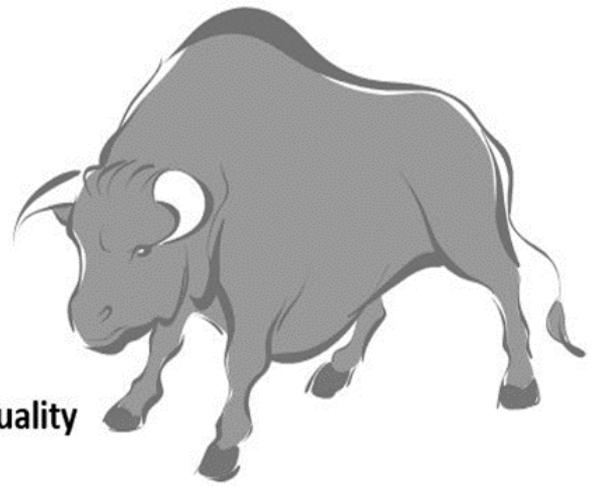


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I tried, but the restaurant was closed. I'll try again now. I've got the number on my phone.' He pulled out his iPhone, but saw that the battery was flat. 'Typical 27!' he moaned.

'You know what they say about a bad workman,' said Jane; 'you just forgot to charge it. Here, have my Android phone. Mr Google will know the number.'

'This new technology is all very well,' Tom grumbled, 'but it's not as reliable 28 and paper.' He made the reservation, and then they all went back to their rented chalet to change.

Later, they walked the short distance into town. Their restaurant turned out to be right opposite the town hall, with a huge statue of some famous 29man in front of it. By the time they had finished eating it was dark.

The walk back to their chalet took them across some marshland, and Tammy held her mum's hand tightly. Suddenly, she stopped and pointed. 'Look,' she whispered, 'fairies!' Sure enough, some strange lights were dancing across the marsh.

'Well I never!' exclaimed Jim. '30 the wisp – *ignis fatuus*. I've heard of it, but I've never actually seen it.'

'It's fairies!' insisted Tammy.

'Yes, of course it is,' agreed Jane.

'Straight to bed when we get back,' said Jim. 'We've got an early start tomorrow. The train 31 at ten past eleven, and we daren't miss it. There isn't another one until the evening. It's only a 32 line.'

Oh,' whined Tammy. 'Can't we stay just a few more days?'

Look, you've got school on Monday, so we've got to get 33ay?'

'Will our car be mended by the time we get back?' asked Tom. 'It's always breaking down. Why can't we have a new one – a Nissan Adeptus, or even a Renault Kalliptus?'

'We certainly can't afford a n34,' said Jim ruefully. 'We'll have to 35 our household budget severely just to pay for the repairs to our old Ford Focus.'

But whatever the worries ahead, they'd at least had a wonderfully refreshing 36day.

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## STAYING IN THE LOOP

The new Data Protection Regulations coming into force this month give us all as individuals more control over the way information about us is stored on computer and used. The new regulations should help stop big corporations abusing this information; but they could also prevent the clubs we belong to from telling us when the next meeting is!

To make sure they stay on the right side of the law, all sorts of organisations – including the church – are asking people to give their explicit permission about their personal data. We have prepared a form for people to fill in so we can store their contact details on computer and keep folk ‘in the loop’. Please collect a form from your local church and fill it in as fully as you feel able. We won’t sell your data or bombard you with spam – promise!

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### Moving On

Our dear friend Anita has moved so that she and her husband Paul can spend more time together.

We will greatly miss her. She has been a very willing helper over the years at all our Llanfyrnach church fundraising and social events. Anita is the daughter of Dana Banks who was also very supportive of Llanfyrnach Church. I am sure you will join with me in wishing them a long life of health and happiness together.

*Eve Brennan*



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### LLANWINIO W.I.

The April meeting was held at XEL Bowls, Carmarthen, which was followed by a huge supper at Morgan’s Chippie! The next meeting will be



on the 8th of May when there will be a demonstration of hooking. Please don’t jump to conclusions!! Meetings usually take place at Llanwinio Community Hall at 2.30 pm on the second Tuesday of the month.

*New members are always welcome. For more information, contact the president, Anne Summerbell on 01994 484278.*

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# Meidrim, Merthyr and Abernant, Trelech a'r betws

## Canon Jeffrey Gainer

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### SERVICES IN MAY

<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Philip and James, Apostles</b>	
Meidrim	10.00am	Holy Eucharist
<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Rogation Sunday</b>	
Meidrim	9.45am	Y Litani a'r Cymun Bendigaid
Trelech	11.15am	Y Cymun Bendigaid
Abernant	4.00pm	Evensong
<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Ascension Day</b>	
Abernant	7.30pm	Holy Eucharist
<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Saturday</b>	
Meidrim	11.00am	Holy Matrimony
<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Sunday after Ascension Day (All service are bilingual)</b>	
Meidrim	9.45am	Holy Eucharist
Merthyr	11.15am	Y Cymun Bendigaid
Trelech	3.30pm	Evensong
<b>20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>PENTECOST: WHITSUNDAY (All services are bilingual)</b>	
Merthyr	9.45am	Holy Eucharist
Trelech	11.15am	Holy Eucharist
Meidrim	6.30pm	Holy Eucharist
<b>27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Trinity Sunday</b>	
Abernant	9.45am	Holy Eucharist
Meidrim	11.15am	Matins
Merthyr	2.15pm	Evensong

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## Meidrim

Our good wishes go to Mrs Elizabeth Jameson who has recently moved from Croeso to Rhydygors , St Clears after over twenty years' residence in this village. Good wishes also go to her son, Ian, who celebrated his birthday on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

We also remember in our prayers the sick, and amongst them Mrs Ann Phillips of Penrhosyn who has been in Glangwili Hospital for several weeks, and also her near neighbour, Jane Kimpton, who has likewise been there for some time.

We extend our sympathy to Hefin and Catherine Lewis of Bwlch farm , Meidrim, on the death of Hefin's mother, some six months after his father's demise. Mrs Sheila Lewis was a staunch chapel woman and played the organ for many years at Ffynnonbedr chapel. May she rest in peace.

By the time you read this it may be that work will have started on rewiring the church hall, a task that need to be done to meet modern requirements.

Food for thought. The following is taken from a sermon preached by Augustine Hoey in 1980:

(It merits careful thought as we prepare to celebrate the Ascension of our Lord.)

*The eucharist "is also the Ascension because as we kneel at the altar and receive the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation Our Lord takes us up with him into the heavenly places, into the bosom of the Father. Every act of Holy Communion is an ascension with Christ into heaven."*

## Trelech

Heartiest congratulations go to Mrs Doris Godden of Nant yr afr near Trelech who is due to celebrate her 100th birthday on April 16. She is a Londoner by

origin but moved many years ago to West Wales and used to attend St Teilo's with her husband. He died in 2000. Until six years ago Mrs Godden lived independently in her own bungalow but circumstances have changed and now she is surrounded by her family who span four generations. We wish her many happy returns of the day. She is a truly contented lady.

Six years ago Mr Alan Charles Challenor fulfilled his dream of moving to rural Wales from Wolverhampton. He took up residence at Trenoeth and was very happy in rural Carmarthenshire. Sadly he had a stroke a year and a half ago but was lovingly cared for by his wife Jennifer and other family members. He passed way on March 12 and was cremated at Parc Gwyn a day after what would have been his 68<sup>th</sup> birthday. We extend the assurance of our prayers and sympathy to his family who will miss a kind husband, father and proud grandfather.

The Annual Vestry Meeting will be held in the church hall on Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> May.

Recently the architect charged with carrying out the inspection of the church building visited the church building and was pleased with the work on the fabric that has been done in recent years.

## **Merthyr**

The Annual Vestry Meeting was held after church on April 8 and the two wardens were duly re-elected. We wish Mr Huw Evans and Mr Ron Lewis health and vigour as they take up again this ancient honourable office at a time of change. We also wish better health to Mrs Jennifer Lewis who has been unable to join us at services for several weeks now. She is recovering from extended treatment.

Our good wishes also go to Mr Clive Bott who has retired from the office of chairman of the local branch of the Parkinson Society.

It is clear that much work needs to be done on the community hall in order to bring it up to modern demands and standards. In particular the toilet and kitchen facilities need extensive refurbishment. We intend making an application to the Garfield Weston Centenary fund as this particular body is especially keen to help communities improve local centres of social activity. There can be no doubt that the hall should be a means as hitherto of integrating newcomers into this community

We wish good health to Mr Robert Davies of Brynhyfryd, Tavernspite, as he recovers from his recent operation. Thanks go to Mrs Jennifer Bott for cleaning the church in March.

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The tea party on Easter Saturday was most enjoyable and was attended by a good number of people who had once attended the school. One gentleman, who had travelled over from Glamorgan, spoke amusingly of his experiences at the school during the war years and even mentioned a schoolmaster who was wont to fall asleep after lunch, much to the children's amusement.

The tea itself was delicious, up to the usual Merthyr standards, and was followed by a visit to the church where tithe map, photographs and other documents added to the interest of the occasion. The visitors were able to see the very attractively decorated interior which was bedecked with flowers for the Easter festival. In all over five hundred pounds were raised for the fund to renovate the community hall. Thanks go to Mr Huw Evans for thinking of this event in the first place and to all who made it possible.

### **Abernant**

We were sorry to hear, just before Easter, of the death of a former school headmaster at the age of 54. Mr Aled Davies was always very helpful in organising services for the school at St Lucia's and showed a commendable interest in the history of the village. Unfortunately the demands of the post affected his health. We assure his grieving family of our prayers for him and them at this time. Characteristically he sent a card of good wishes to Mrs Linda Davies who retired after 38 years dedicated service as an assistant teacher. Sadly Aled was unable to attend the tea for Mrs Davies' retirement.

The date of the Vestry meeting will be announced in church. This is an important meeting for election of officers and scrutiny of the accounts amongst other matters.

Thanks go to Mr Graeme Young for preparing the fire for the Easter Vigil service at St Lucia's and to Mrs Elizabeth Jameson for playing the organ. Canon Gainer thanks the congregation of this and the other churches for their kind and generous Easter offering which has enabled him to have a post Easter break at Llandudno!

*Jeffrey Gainer*

---



Former pupils of Merthyr School came together, seventy years on, at a reunion in their former classrooms, now Merthyr Community Hall. Standing are Eric Evans and John Thomas. Seated are Irene Thomas, Annie Mary Evans, Dorah Evans and John David Benjamin Thomas. The class of 1947-51 reminisced through the afternoon of Saturday April 7th at a tea attended by more than forty members of the local community. Groups of visitors called at the Church of St Martin and St Entail to view displays of spring flowers and items of parish history.

*Ron Lewis*

---

# Whitland, Cyffig, Llanboidy Llandysulio, Clunderwen

The Reverend Kingsley G Taylor, BD MA

01994 240494 ktaylor559@aol.com

Lay Worship Leader Mr. Nathan Jenkins

## Services in May

### 6th Easter V

(St Mary	10.00 am	Holy Communion)
St David	11.30 am	Holy Communion

### 13th Sunday After Ascension

(St Mary	8.00 am	Holy Communion)
St Tysilio	9.00 am	Holy Communion
(St Mary	11.00 am	Matins)
St David	11.00 am	Matins
Cyffig	2.30 pm	Holy Communion
St Brynach	4.00 pm	Holy Communion

### 20th Pentecost

(St Mary	8.00 am	Holy Communion)
(St Mary	11.00 am	Matins)
(St David	2.30 pm	Holy Communion)

### 27th Trinity

(St Mary	8.00 am	Holy Communion)
St Tysilio	9.00 am	Matins
St Mary	11.00 am	Holy Communion
St David	11.00 am	Matins
St Brynach	11.15 am	Holy Communion
(Cyffig	2.30 pm	Evensong)

## Notes on the services above:

The services in brackets above may change, there are two reasons:

1. For the first two Sundays in May the railway crossing in Whitland will be completely closed, the old gates will have been removed and there will be no safe way of warning of oncoming trains. The people south of the railway can get to the church easily but the people north will have to walk over the bridge and down to the church or drive a long way. If we had services in another hall then the people south of the railway will have the long walk. This is a matter for all the people to discuss and as I type this they have not discussed it yet.
2. I am going on holiday and am waiting to hear back from people I have asked to cover the services so things are still quite fluid.

## **Welcome to the World**

We extend a warm welcome to the world to Esme Valerie Louise Lamport (great granddaughter of Des and Hillary) on 16<sup>th</sup> March, and to Faith Esther Penn (daughter of Roger and Celeste) on 28<sup>th</sup> March and congratulations to their families.

## **Thanks**

Thanks to all who decorated their respective churches for Easter, it is really good to see flowers back in the church again, and such bright displays particularly. I have to say that the display in St Mary's by Lyn Thomas and helpers was particularly outstanding as always.

## **Events (so far)**

Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	10.00 am Gift Day at St Tysilio's, Llandysilio
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	10.00 am Coffee Morning at Pen-y-Lan for Cyffig
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	10.00 am Gift Day at St David's, Clunderwen
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	2.00 pm Summer Fete at Llanboidy
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	2.00 pm Cream Teas at Llandysilio
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> July	2.00 pm Cream Teas at Red Roses for Cyffig
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Aug	7.30 pm Bingo Evening at Red Roses for Cyffig

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## EGLWYS GYMYN

### Eglwys Gymyn meets the Terracotta Warriors!

On March 18th it snowed but this didn't deter the intrepid 6 adventurers from Eglwys Gymyn from embarking on the coach at Llanteg. The trip to Liverpool had been organised for when the weather was more summery, but the snow on this Sunday just added to the expectation of meeting these amazing representatives of a bygone age and culture. Mind you, at Llanteg we were not aware of how bad the road was going to be around Llandeilo and the Sugar Loaf mountain. Still no one resorted to 'Abide with me'! (Although we did catch up with several convoys led by snow ploughs, before the roads all cleared before Newtown).

The Terracotta Warriors were all we expected them to be, and the 90 minute exhibition told the story, not just of the actual exhibits, but also the violent culture and civilisation that existed in China in the period between 2500 and 2000 years ago.



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We all probably showed our age prior to entering the exhibition by our pleasure at seeing the statues of Billy Fury and the Beatles as well as the Ferry across the Mersey.

The trip did allow time to visit the Roman Catholic cathedral and the Anglican cathedral which on their own were probably worth the whole trip.

One of the benefits of being part of a group of churches is that special occasion when we hold a service at a sister church in the group. On Good Friday this year a combined service of all the group was held at St Margaret's church in Pendine. The service turned out to be quite exceptional from the choice of hymns to the individual reading by several members from across our churches. The variety of the voices added to the emotion of the scripture. (The hot cross buns and coffee went down well as well!)

Church services in May follow the standard format, ie  
1st and 3rd Sunday services at 2.30 pm with Rev Huw  
2nd and 4th Sunday services at 10.30 am with Rev David.

## WHITLAND MALE VOICE CHOIR

On Friday 23rd March 2018 we held our Patrons Concert at Tabernacle, Whitland. It was a great evening with an appreciative audience. Thanks to all, for your continued support, also to all the advertisers. President for the evening was Mr Steve Stephenson, a former chorister at Whitland, who interestingly



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gave us the history of Whitland Choir. Rev. Guto Llewellyn was our compere for the evening. Choir President Mr Ian Gravell was present. Juliet Rossiter and Hefina Jones took turn in conducting, and Heather Jenkins accompanied, as well as Hefina Jones.

Catrin Raymond (Soprano) was one of our soloists. Catrin was raised at Trefelyn Farm, Mathry. She has graduated with a first class honours degree from the Royal College of Music and Drama, where she studied music, specialising in Voice.

Joy Cornock (Soprano/Harpist) also entertained us with her voice and the harp. Joy is from Fishguard. After receiving an entrance scholarship in 2004, she entered the Royal College of Music and Drama where she completed her B.Mus. (Hons) degree and graduated with First Class Honours.

Both Catrin and Joy mesmerised the audience, and got a standing ovation. It just proves what talent there is on our own doorstep.

Members of our choir are doing a sponsored cycle to the Albert Hall, London to coincide with the Festival of Massed Male Voice Choirs. They are raising money for Prostrate Cymru. They carry out different legs of the journey every weekend, meeting up with participating choirs for sponsorship. They are doing very well, and we are all very proud of all of them. The choir members cycling are Gareth Edwards, Paul Hughes, Nigel Phillips, Gerwyn Richards, and Richard Lewis, plus a couple from the cycle club.

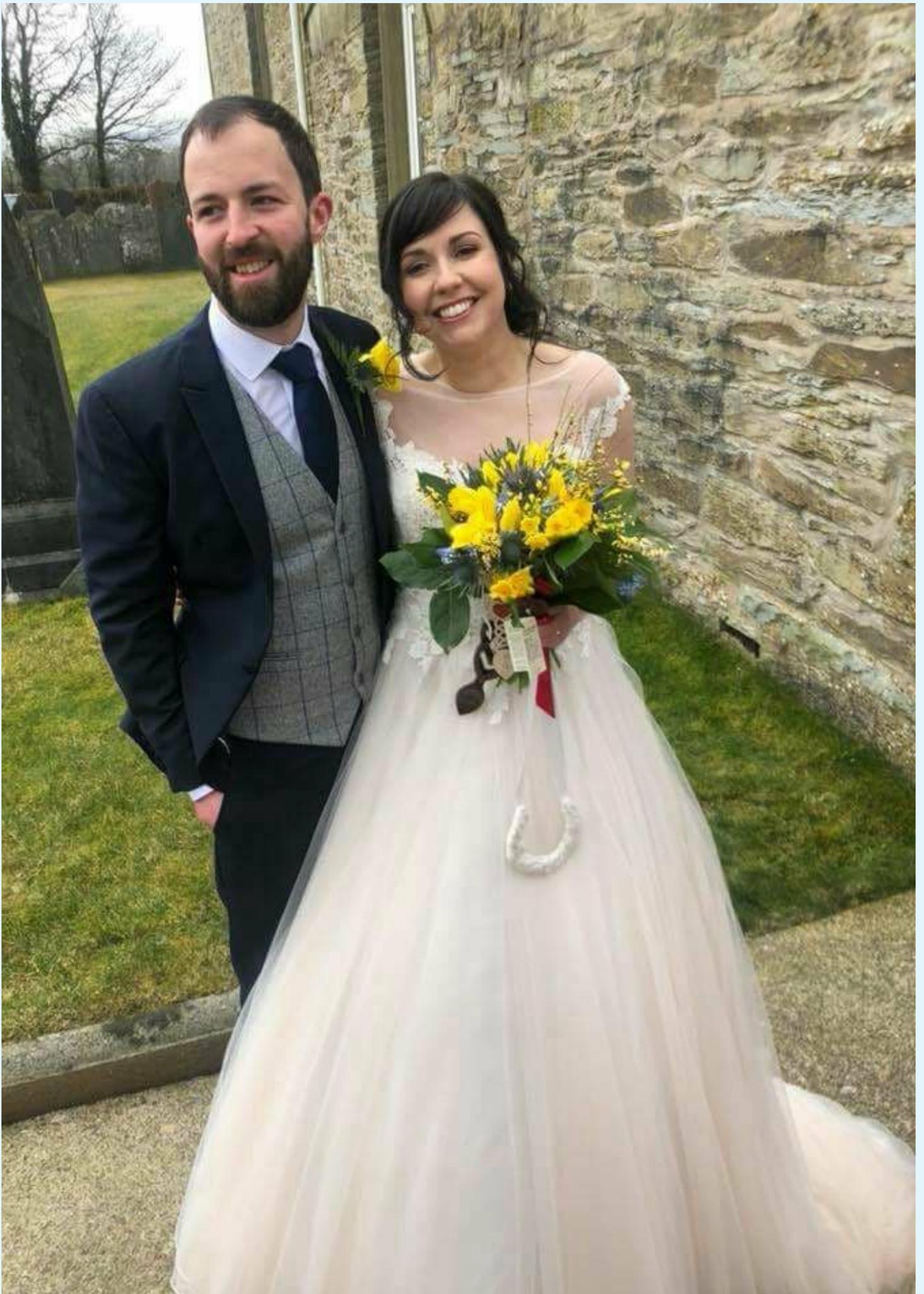
Last Saturday, 7th April, the cyclists started from Whitland, went down to Haverfordwest, then on to Pembroke Dock, to Tenby, back to Narberth, and finally back to the Fishers at Whitland, where they were presented with a cheque from Whitland Choir for a total of £980.00.



I have been instructed by Paul Hughes to thank everyone that turned up for his surprise birthday party last Thursday at the Fishers. Thanks to Gareth Edwards for organising it all, and making the cake. What other talents are you hiding Gareth?? 🤔 A massive thanks also to Diane at the Fishers, for the lovely spread, delicious as always. Diolch yn fawr i chi gyd!



*We are still looking for new members to join our choir. If you are interested please come along to one of 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*



*Caio Higginson and Meleri Thomas after their wedding on the 7th of April at Penygroes Chapel, Crymych*

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**Bethel:** Eric Howells Tel. 01994 240205 erichowells@rocketmail.com

May is a wonderful month of the year—the fields have greened up and the animals that have spent their winter indoors are now enjoying their outdoor freedom and grazing the spring grass. The lambs are running about the fields and the birds are busy surveying for sites to build their nests. The fields that were brown after ploughing are now changing colour as the corn begins to germinate. The daffodils that welcomed in the spring have now wilted and the cuckoo that we used hear this time of year is not heard anymore.

Over the years I have written to many papers and magazines and the feedback can be very interesting, sometimes good, bad or indifferent, but we never hear from readers of the Grapevine, and I have come to the conclusion that no one must read it!

In the past months I have written about sleeping rough and loneliness. Sleeping rough is something that some individuals choose to do by their own free will although the reason why they chose to do so can spring from many different

ways. I value my bed and am weighed down with several blankets, and the only conclusion I can come to is that they have been driven to this predicament by either drugs, alcohol or poverty and the failure to organise one's life. For whatever reason we must feel very sorry for them. What can be done to bring them back into society is another very complex situation. How can you communicate with these people? They are usually independent people or they would not chose this lifestyle in the first place and do not communicate or mix easily with others. They are people that need help and should be helped, but how I do not know, and I am sure you, like myself, would like very much to help them and have them join us on Sunday.

Loneliness, to which I referred last month, is different and is usually caused by circumstances and I would say to those that fall into that category to do all in their power to remain active. We have always looked on New York as a city of crime, but I am sorry to say it is now London, and much of it caused by boredom and idleness.

### **Thoughts for to-day**

*It is an honour to meet the Queen, but it is a greater privilege to live by ordinary people.*

*Don't get so busy making a living that you forget to live.*

*Time waits for no man - it just passes you by.*

*Since Christmas fifty one people have been killed in London.*

*London is now worse than New York.*

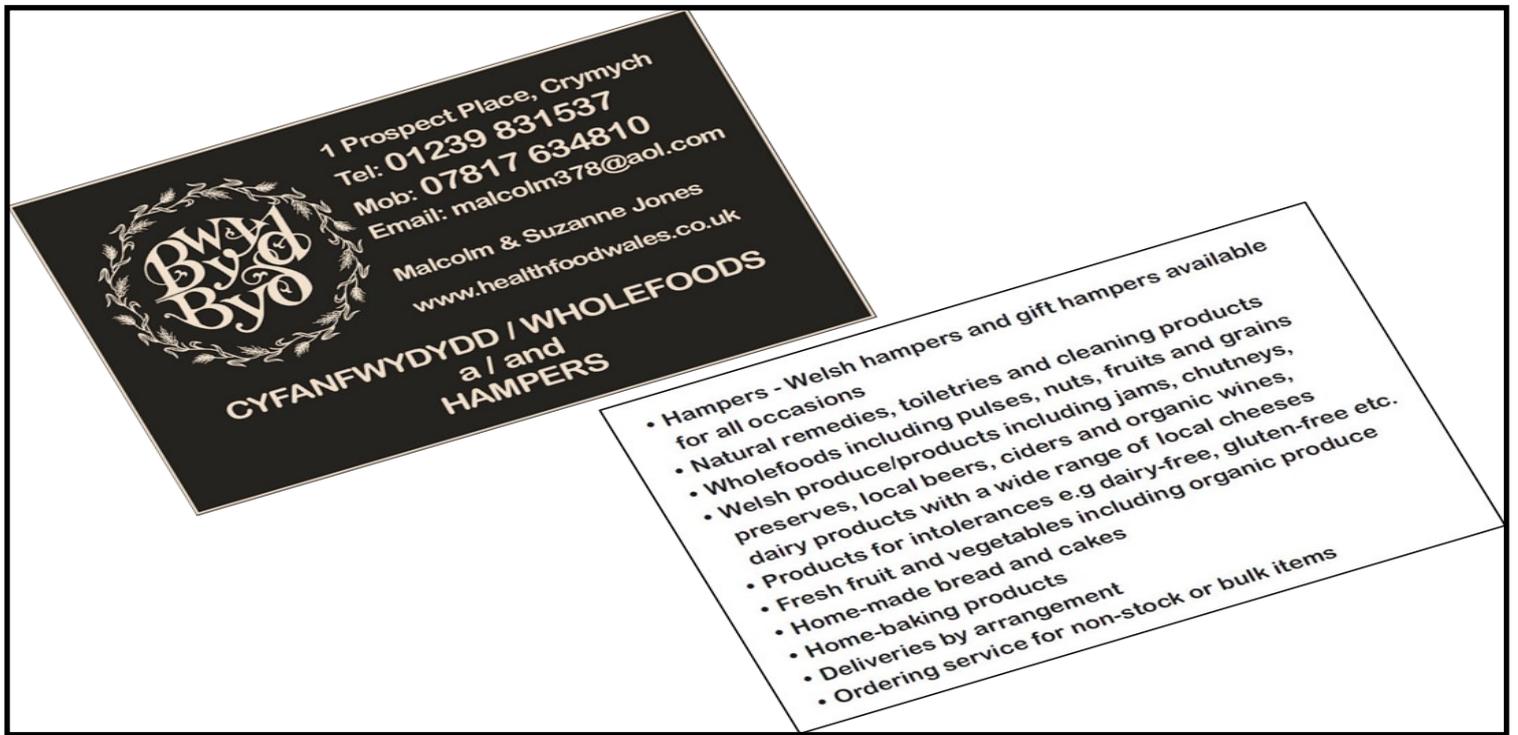
## **Bethel Congregational Chapel**

With the first Sunday in April being Easter Sunday there was a special service at Bethel when members took part with reading and prayer and announcing the

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hymns. The minister gave a sermon that was very relevant to the day and to our times. The following Sunday saw the usual English service with several friends joining the regular congregation. The following two Sundays were Welsh services and the last Sunday was an English communion service which was again well attended.

We now look forward to the Annual Preaching Service at Tabernacle on May 13<sup>th</sup> when the guest preacher will be Rev. Beti Wyn James of Priordy Chapel, Carmarthen. There will be no service at Bethel on that Sunday.

Our own Annual Services are on June 10<sup>th</sup> with a Welsh service at 10.30 a.m. and an English service at 2.30 p.m. The guest preacher will be Mr Ffred Ffrancis. There will be a lunch at Nantyffin in between the two services which everyone is welcomed to attend. Please give your names to Eric H.

Mrs Nancy Eynon, a deacon and faithful member at Bethel who is 95 years old, is confined to her house at the moment.

Morfydd Howells, Bryncoed who is a resident at Park House Nursing Home celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

On a sad note we record the passing of Marian Lewis 'Ne Mathias of Cardiff. Marian was born in Cyncoed Farm, Llanndewi Velfrey and married Dai Lewis, Hendre, where they farmed for years. They had one daughter and when they retired from farming moved to Bethel Cottage and later to Cardiff to be near their daughter. Marian was a faithful member of Bethel Chapel and the Sunday School. Her brother Gareth worked for British Rail in their headquarters in Crewe.

## Order of Services for May

- 5th May 2.00 p.m. Communion Service.
- 13<sup>th</sup> May Annual Service at Tabernacle Rev. Betty Wyn James  
Morning Service at 10.30 a.m. Afternoon 2.00 p.m.
- 20<sup>th</sup> May 2.00 p.m. Officiating Miss Delyth Jones.
- 27<sup>th</sup> May 2.00 p.m. Normal Service with the minister officiating.

## Tabernacle Congregational Chapel

The first Sunday in March being the 4<sup>th</sup>, was Communion Service and also celebrated the life of our patron Saint David. The children and young people took part and all dressed in national costume with the minister the Rev Guto Llywelyn officiating. The second Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup> was taken by the Ladies as "The Women World Day of Prayer Service" and this year had been prepared by the women of Swrinam South America. The last Sunday was taken by our minister.

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> was Good Friday Service at Trinity, several members from the three chapels took part with our Minister officiating the Communion.

Easter Sunday was a Communion Service with members from Nazareth, and again members taking part in the reading and prayers with the minister officiating the communion.

The youth club ended the winter programme by having a meal at the Indian restaurant at St. Clears.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of two of our members, Mrs Linda Thomas and Mrs Linda Davies. Both had been faithful members in Tabernacle over the years. Our thoughts are with the family at this sad time.



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Some of our members have been not well during the month and we wish them a speedy recovery.

#### **Order of Service for May with the minister officiating except where indicated**

- 6<sup>th</sup> May Communion Service at 9.30 a.m.
- 13<sup>th</sup> May Annual Service with Rev Beti Wyn James the guest minister.  
Services at 10.30 a.m. and 200 p.m.
- 20<sup>th</sup> May Service at Bethel at 2.00 p.m. Miss Delyth Jones.
- 27<sup>th</sup> May Normal Service at 9.30 a.m.

*Sunday School every Sunday at 9.30 a.m.*

#### **Trinity Congregational Chapel**

The theme for the Communion Service on the first Sunday in March was the life and work of St. David with members contributing to aspects of the worship planned by the minister. The service on the other Sundays were led by the

minister, Rev. Guto Llywelyn. On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March, the Good Friday Service was held in Trinity with members from Tabernacle and Bethel chapels introducing hymns, readings and prayers. The service was well attended. Following the service refreshments were provided in the chapel vestry.

On Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March, members of Trinity Sisterhood held their monthly meeting in the chapel vestry. The meeting took the form of an evening of light - hearted puzzles and activity led by Edwin Williams from Ammanford. The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all present.

Members wish to send their warmest congratulations to Mrs Merle Evans, Delfryn, Llanboidy on becoming a great grandmother twice more and all within a period of three weeks. Our best wishes go to Liam and Danielle on the birth of Oliver James and to grandparents Meurig and Carol. Best wishes also to Andrew and Sarah on the birth of James Christopher and a grandson to Goronwy and Susan. We also remember at this time the children's great grandfather, the late Eddie Evans.

Warmest congratulations go to Sarah Williams and Noir Jones on their marriage at the Trinity, Llanboidy at the start of April. Best wishes for a happy marriage from everyone at the Trinity!

# **G. Williams**

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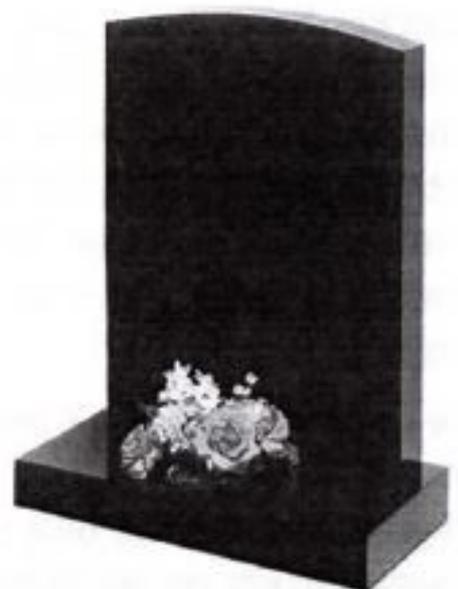
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## Order of Services for May

- 6<sup>th</sup> May Communion Service at 11.00 a.m.  
 13<sup>th</sup> May Annual Service at Tabernacle with Rev Betty Wyn Jones officiating.  
 Morning service at 10.30. Afternoon service at 2.00 p.m.  
 20<sup>th</sup> May Service at Bethel with Miss D Jones officiating. Service at 2.00 p.m.  
 27<sup>th</sup> May Normal Service at 11.00 a.m.



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