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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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Grapevine copy deadline is 23:59 hrs on the 10th of the preceding month

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01994 484404

£130 per full page ad

£70 per half page ad

£40 per quarter page ad

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01994 448653

Front Cover: Gymnast Kieran Thomas, Rhyd, Llanfyrnach, who represented Wales at the Trampoline and Tumbling Regional Team Finals & NDP Qualifier Gymnastics Competition held at the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham on Sunday 27th June 2018



Cylch y FRENNI Circle of Churches

Clydau, Llanglydwen, Llanfyrnach, Llanwinio and Mynachlog-ddu



SERVICES IN AUGUST

1st Wednesday

Bro Preseli 10.30 am Holy Eucharist

5th The Tenth Sunday after Trinity (Green)

Llanglydwen 9.30 am Holy Eucharist

Mynachlog-ddu 11.15 am Holy Eucharist

Llanfyrnach 11.15 am Communion by Extension

12th The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity (Green)

Llanwinio 9.30 am Communion by Extension

Llanfyrnach 3.00 pm Licensing of Eunice Batchelor as
Focal Minister of Llanfyrnach

19th The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity (Green)

Llanglydwen 9.30 am Holy Eucharist

Llanfyrnach 11.15 am Holy Eucharist

Mynachlog-ddu 11.15 am Communion by Extension

26th The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity (Green)

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

6th The Transfiguration of Our Lord

15th Mary, Mother of Our Lord

24th Bartholomew, Apostle

29th The Beheading of John the Baptist

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
 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

BEERS OR TEARS?

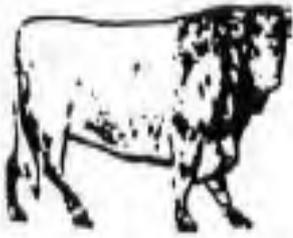
By the time you read this, we'll know whether the UK's Football World Cup representatives will have returned home in glorious victory or almost equally glorious defeat. But at the time of writing – the day before they face Croatia in the semi-finals – the questions still hang in the air: will the elegant Mr Southgate's young team bring it home? Will England's streets be awash with beers or tears?

Perhaps I should ask for a day's extension to the *Grapevine* deadline, so that at least we would know whether the hopes of glory had been dashed. But that would rob me of the chance to talk about one of life's most testing elements: waiting. It can be bursting with excitement – *What will Father Christmas bring me?* – or heavy with dull dread – *Is it cancer?* Or it can dreary with in-between-ness, neither one thing nor t'other, but just unsettling uncertainty.

Do dogs worry? I don't have the woolly jumper and the PhD to answer that question. But I did once witness my Scotch collie apparently dozing while her young puppies wrestled playfully with each other on the lawn. Without warning, she leapt up and raced over to where one was heading for a two-foot drop into a semi-basement window well. She batted the errant youngster back from the edge with a swipe of a front paw. Comically, he was bowled over and over like a tennis ball; but Mum had saved him from what might have been a nasty fall. So even though she appeared unconcerned with her brood's behaviour, she had the foresight to recognise imminent danger and take appropriate action. Instinct? Or had she imagined what might have happened?

How much greater are the agonies of anxiety which can assail a planning animal such as *homo sapiens*. Life for us humans is full of 'what ifs'. The positive ones can be productive, spurring our creativity and inventiveness. The negative ones were doubtless designed to save us from danger, like that puppy; but so often when we try to look into the future we end up simply paralysed with doubt and fear. Physicists may claim that time's arrow is an illusory projectile: but it can do a jolly good job of stabbing you in the heart.

Expectans expectavi, saith the psalmist: *I waited patiently*. That's more than a lot of us can manage. Perhaps, though, his lack of anxiety is explained by what he's waiting for: *I waited patiently for the Lord: he turned to me and heard my cry for help*. This is how our faith can bring release from the worry of not-knowing, if only we can master the art of trusting in God's providence – His foresight-and-providing-for. He *does* know the arrow's trajectory and target, and the destiny of each one of us, the trials and triumphs down the track ahead. The



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setbacks along the way can still be challenging, of course; but that same trust, that our maker is also our guardian and our guide, can provide the ultimate reassurance. Whatever the future may hold, the writer of Psalm 40 is confident: *Your constant love and truth will always guard me.* Jonathan Copus

TRIP OF A LIFETIME

For the enjoyment we all got out of it, it might have been a flight to Venice and a cruise round the Med. But a simple coach outing to Brecon and a trip on the 'Mon and Brec' Canal gave us all the fun we could possibly wish for. Midway Motors laid on one of their finest coaches, complete with reclining seats, footrests and air-conditioning fit for a journey through sun-baked southern Spain. Actually, Brecon was pretty sun-baked as we wandered and viewed and visited and browsed and snacked before embarking on our two-and-a-quarter hour voyage on the peaceful waterway. We were especially glad that a cohort from Bro Preseli made up a substantial part of our company. And company was what we all enjoyed to the full, enhanced by a hearty sing-song on the way home. Our thanks to Eunice for the song sheets; and our very special thanks to Janet and David Carter for their hard work in organising such a very enjoyable and successful trip.

WE'LL UP AN' GIE THEM A BLAW, A BLAW

So runs part of the Scottish song *Wi' a hundred pipers*. At the wedding of Jai Caorthann and Daniele Tose in Llanwinio Church there was just one piper – Danny's father, John – and he was playing the Welsh, not the Scottish bagpipes; but they're both Celtic instruments. John was joined by harpist Jess Ward and

Holly Robinson on fiddle, and the musical theme was well milked by Jonathan in the sermon. Joint Focal Ministers Phil Higginson and Judy Webb read the lesson and led the prayers. We wish the happy couple well.

CAKE BAKE

It's not too late to heat the oven up and bake a cake or four for Mynachlog-ddu's stall at Nevern Show on 8th August. If baking isn't your thing, you could help man the stall – or even just turn up and buy, under our policy of mutual support between our parishes. There are other things to do, of course, at this ever-popular event, with elements usually ranging from giant marrows to vintage vehicles. If you can help, please contact Susie Copus on 01994 438414.

A LOAD OF FUN

Preparations are well under way for the annual Ball Race in aid of Llanfyrnach and Llanglydwen Churches. As usual, it takes place behind the Bont in Llanglydwen, by kind invitation of Landlord Brynmor Thomas. There will be up to 1,000 balls hurtling down the hill which leads to Cefn y Pant, and the same number of chances to sponsor one. This year the expenses are pretty well covered in advance, thanks to the proceeds of that coffee morning hosted by Ted and Eunice Batchelor; so that's all the more to go straight into the coffers. But it's not all about fund raising: the fun to be had is the main attraction. So please keep the date free – Bank Holiday Monday, 27th August.



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TREE WORDS

Anyone who's spent sleepless nights wrestling with our *Can't see the words for the trees* quiz can rest easy now, because here are the answers. Remember, 36 words or parts of words in a story were replaced by the names of trees or something to do with trees – sometimes on a 'sounds like' basis.

Congratulations to Mrs Sue Adams of Station House, Whitland, the only person to score a straight 100% in our quiz - and therefore a worthy and outright winner of the £50 prize. The competition produced a lot of furrowed brows and £28 for the Local Ministry Area coffers. Here is the full story to put you out of your misery:

Jim and Jane Jones had gone to the seaside for a week with their two children, Tom and Tammy. 'Can we go to the BEECH, Daddy?' asked Tom, the ELDER of the two.

'OAKay,' replied his father.

'We'll have to take Spot,' said Tammy, her HAZEL eyes full of pleading, 'or he'll PINE.'

Spot BARKed in agreement.

'Perhaps they'll have some pedal boats!' Tammy was jumping up and down with excitement.

'I prefer ordinary ROWAN ones, said Tom.

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

Suddenly, a speedboat with a young lad at the hELM roared close to the shore. 'He'll be POPLAR 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 BIRCHing.'

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

Chimes came wafting on the breeze. 'Can you CEDAR 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 TWIG. 'Oh, yes,' she agreed. 'Daddy, I want an ice cream

now.'

'All right,' laughed their father, giving them some money. And I fancy a LEMONade. Could JUNIPERcross and get one while YEW're at it?'

'No ice cream for me, thanks for not asking,' said Jane. 'See if there's some freshly-squeezed ORANGE juice,' she added to Tom as he and Tammy scampered off. 'If not,' she called after them, 'I'll have to PLUMp 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 – CYPRESS, in fact.'

Soon, the children were back. 'Sorry to diSAPpoint 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 PEAR.'

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 SYCAMORE.'

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

'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 APPLE!' 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.'



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‘This new technology is all very well,’ Jim grumbled, ‘but it’s not as reliable ASPEN 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 ALDERman 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. ‘WILLOW 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 LEAVES at ten past eleven, and we daren’t miss it. There isn’t another one until the evening. It’s only a BRANCH 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 HOLM OAKay?’

‘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 nEUCALYPTUS,’ said Jim ruefully. ‘We’ll have to PRUNE 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 HOLLYday.

AIMING HIGH!

Congratulations to Gymnast Kieran Thomas, Rhyd, Llanfyrnach, who represented Wales at the Trampoline and Tumbling Regional Team Finals & NDP Qualifier Gymnastics Competition held at the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham on Sunday 27th June 2018. Well done Kieran on your Silver Medal in the 13+ age group. Kieran is the grandson of Hazel and David Jones, Llanfyrnach, and Beverley and Phil Thomas, School House, Trelech

WHY WE SIT IN PEWS

All our churches have them: box pews in Old Manordeifi where you can sit with your back to the altar; stiff Victorian ones in St Clydai and older ones in many



**Kieran Thomas
Trampoline & Tumbling Regional Finals 2018**

The Bishop of St Davids, with Rev Huw, A Robinson, M Lewis, D Lewis and of course 'Willy Boot' from Eglwys Gymyn after afternoon tea.



other churches. Not so in most cathedrals: the 1950s Coventry rebuild has serried ranks of movable chairs, as you'll also see in London landmarks St. Paul's and Westminster Abbey. These great buildings do have some permanent seats and pews – for the Monarch, the choir, the Bishop, the dean and the canons – but not for the congregation.

St Davids, however, does and that's a clue; for St Davids is the only Anglican church in the city named after it; so it serves its community as a parish church as well as being the Bishop's seat: hence the pews for the congregation.

The 'need' for pews has its origins in the Reformation under the Tudor monarchs. Prior to that, Wales was an independent 'country' of seven counties of the March. Since it had been solidly Catholic since the Synod of Whitby (664AD), it imposed Rome's version of the liturgy (and how to calculate Easter) on the Ionian or Irish Celtic Christianity of the age of saints (after whom many of our little churches are named). In the Catholic Mass, people stood or knelt, but facing the priest, who moved around the church to the various icons and statues of faith as the service progressed. They typically had benches around the sides for the infirm, hence the expression 'the weak go to the wall'.

Churches were the first stone buildings (after monasteries and castles) in Pembrokeshire and were thus dry enough inside and secure enough from our wildlife to be used for the storage of grain as well as worship, so following the harvest grain sacks made a convenient if temporary seat and hassock.

Nearly 900 years passed before the upheaval wrought by King Henry VIII, which began for our parishes in 1536 when he annexed Wales to the English Crown. Then he dissolved the monasteries 1536-9 and passed a further Act relating to

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Wales in 1543. Apart from being significant landlords, the monasteries were provider of what became local government services, so with their dissolution went local welfare, education, medical and social services. What Wales got instead was magistrates appointed from the non-monastic landed gentry and the English language for worship and the judicial system in a turbulent 40 years from which the Church of England emerged through an Act of Settlement with Elizabeth I at its head; a Protestant church as the official state religion; and a series of legislative changes that made it her local government.

The new liturgy brought with it numerous changes to the way things were done in church: Communion instead of Mass, sermons, Bible readings in English and compulsory attendance on Sundays. Poor laws made parish officials responsible for both collecting the tax and administering the welfare needs those taxes were providing for. It's these changes that made seating relevant as a social control: easier to log whose missing and while it's attractive to think of them being necessary because of the introduction of sermons and the abolition of much iconography, they are really more to do with social order.

Blamed for creating the class system, the earliest pews were paid for by the families using them – so the wealthiest parishioners got the best locations in church and that was how participants and visitors alike could read the social pecking order. Box pews are a reminder of this: the first users would have had title deeds to their places in church to pass on down the family and could be seen in their prominent positions in church (and thus in the community) by everyone at the compulsory services. Lesser mortals rented their seats from whoever provided the pews; usually the owner of the living.

The Pilgrim Fathers took this practice to the New World, where it continues to this day in some places of worship. In Britain, churches started to abandon it in the 19th century; the problem for London in particular was unoccupied paid-for seating and a growing population who found the churches too small to accommodate them all. One easement for this was additional services – holding a Morning Prayer and an Evening Prayer as well as a separate Communion service to get everyone close enough to the collection plate to use it and the policy of reserved seating died out in the second world war.

None of our little churches is anything like big enough for its community, but all were adequate. The 1876 restoration of St Clydai provided pews to seat 140 in a parish that the vicar said (on a grant application form) was home to 1109 people. The ghost or vestige of booking your seat in church can still be seen in the way that most members of our congregations sit in the same place every

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time. Clydau's churchwarden Dai Evans sat in the same pew for more than six decades – until it was removed to make room for a radiator in the recent modernisation.

Now he sits nearer the front, but has never used the seat reserved for his office as churchwarden. The tradition of predictable seating probably causes a few inadvertent tensions at combined services, but bear in mind that these days the only reserved seats are for the minister, the organist and the churchwardens.

Everywhere else the seating is free and welcomes you.

Richard Law

LLANWINIO W.I.

July's meeting took the form of an Open Gardens visit to the homes of Barbara and Arthur Howells, and Judy Watkins. Both gardens were a sight to behold and the end product of hours of love, dedication and hard work on the part of their owners. Tasty refreshments were available at both venues along with a well stocked plant sale table. There will be no meeting in August, but in September Emily Skeet will be telling us about her life as a female chimney sweep.



Pictured above are Barbara Howells, Judy Watkins, Winnie James, Edmond and Brenda Davies Mayor and Mayoress of St. Clears

New members are always welcome. Meetings are usually held at Llanwinio Community Hall at 2.00 pm on the second Tuesday of the month. For more information, contact the president, Anne Summerbell on 01994 484278



Above: The end of a lovely day in Brecon, 6th of July

Left: 'Willy Boot' from Eglwys Gymyn

Below: Tabernacle Sunday School enjoying the sun, sea and sand on their annual trip to Tenby on the 30th of June



Meidrim, Merthyr and Abernant, Trelech a'r betws

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SERVICES IN AUGUST

5th Tenth Sunday after Trinity

Meidrim 9.45 am Y Cymun Bendigaid

Trelech 11.15 am Y Cymun Bendigaid

Abernant 4.00 pm Evening Prayer

12th Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

Meidrim 9.45 am Holy Eucharist

Merthyr 11.15 am Y Cymun Bendigaid

Trelech 3.30 pm Evening Prayer

19th Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

Merthyr 9.45 am Holy Eucharist

Trelech 11.15 am Holy Eucharist

Meidrim 6.30 pm Evensong

26th Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Abernant 9.45 am Holy Eucharist

Meidrim 11.15 am Morning Prayer

Merthyr 2.15 pm Evening Prayer

Merthyr

Sincere congratulations go to Richard and Elin Walters, now resident in Lon Ddewi, Meidrim, on the safe arrival of their daughter Enlli on June 10th, a granddaughter to Robert and Meinir and a great granddaughter to Mrs Joyce Walters of Derllys Court who is due to celebrate her 92nd birthday on July 20th. Four generations of the same family therefore. Recently their golf course celebrated its 25th anniversary with a display of photographs in the club house. The club has over 400 members and with the recent fine weather many of them have been out and about on the green!

We are glad to note that Mr Clive Bott is home after a few days in Glangwili Hospital and wish him better health. We also send good wishes to Mr John Spong who also spent a few days in the same hospital at much the same time.

Meidrim

A word or two from the Vicar: May I take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in the celebration on June 24th on the occasion of my ruby jubilee of ordination into the priesthood. We had a fine sermon from the Ven. Martin Williams, the singing was fervent, and the tea after the service was delicious. There was a joyful atmosphere to the whole event and an opportunity to thank God for his many blessings to us all. Diolch o'r galon i bawb.

After a lengthy stay in hospital Mrs Ann Rhosina Phillips, Penrhosyn, beloved wife of Daff, and mother of Llywela and Elgan, died on June 18. The funeral was held in Bethel chapel on June 27th when a large congregation came to commend Ann to God. The Vicar officiated at the request of the family and spoke of Ann's varied contribution to the life of her family, her community and her chapel, first at Panteg and then at Ffynnonbedr. At the grave side the words of O fryniau Caersalem were sung, a custom not so common nowadays as formerly but fitting for one whose Christian faith was real and deep. A family friend, Mr D. C. Davies (Swansea, formerly a schoolmaster in St Clears), read the lesson and Mr Dafydd Evans announced the hymns. At the family prayers before the public service two of Ann's grandchildren, Thomas and Gwenllian, also read in English and Welsh respectively. May Ann rest in peace and may her grieving family be sustained in their loss by the awareness of the sympathy and support of so many.

We have been pleased to see in church in July – after a gap of two years - Mr and Mrs Armin Falb from Hesse in Germany. They attended the Welsh eucharist, Mrs Charlotte Falb having studied mediaeval Welsh some years ago at Saarbrucken University. In a small but genuine way their presence with us at worship reminds us of the ties which bind the countries of Europe together in a common Christian heritage whatever the change in political and economic relationships that are impending.

Congratulations go to those ordained at Petertide and amongst them to the Revd. and Hon. Adam Bruce who continues to be a busy man as a lawyer and as a non-stipendiary cleric..

We are glad to hear that Mrs Janice Lovecey is making good progress after her recent operation and assure her of our good wishes for improved health.

Thanks go to all those who ensure that the churchyard is kept tidy, and amongst them to Messrs Cecil Harper, Archie Lewis and sons and their cousin Tony Lewis. These gentlemen go about their useful work quietly and efficiently and we are truly mindful of, and grateful for, their care for God's acre.

Mr Kenneth Howard Thomas, formerly of Garllegan, has been living at Y Garreg Lwyd, St Clears, for some time now but takes a keen interest in village affairs. Although he is visually impaired, to use the modern jargon, he remains, thankfully, as mentally alert as ever and appreciates the opportunity to receive Holy Communion at the great Festivals of the Church.

Trelech

Good wishes go the Revd Wyn Maskell for his continuing ministry at Christ Church, Carmarthen.

A recent meeting between the Parochial Church Council and the new Diocesan Secretary went well and helped to bridge the gap that can sometimes open up between the local church and the diocesan bureaucracy. The new secretary described himself as London Welsh and has lived in Scotland, so he brings to his post a varied experience. We wish him well as he seeks to assist the work and witness of this predominantly rural diocese at a time of flux.

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Advance Notice: The Harvest Thanksgiving services will be held on the last Sunday in September when a bilingual eucharist will be celebrated at 10.30 am. The celebration continues with Evensong at 7.00 pm when a guest preacher will hopefully be with us. On November 18th in the evening there will, we trust, be a concert held in church. Please book these dates. Diolch.

Abernant

We wish better health for Mr Graeme Young and his brother John. The latter lives in Sussex. We also remember in our prayers Mr Robin Williams who has had to contend with poor health for quite some time.

We are again grateful to Canon Michael Lewis for once more covering for services whilst our priest in charge was away on holiday in mid-July. We owe a considerable debt to the retired clergy - a bit of a misnomer really as you can never cease being a priest—for all they do to sustain the pattern of public worship in this far flung diocese.

Thanks go to all who supported the Barbecue on June 22nd. The food was tasty and abundant, the company convivial, the weather congenial and the surroundings familiar as we all mingled in the grounds of Mr and Mrs Hugh Davies, Plasnewydd. Looking ahead, we should mention that it has been agreed that on October 30 we shall hold the parish Harvest Thanksgiving service in St Lucia's. This will be followed by a tea party, a little change from the usual routine this year.

Heartiest congratulations go to Miss Teleri Davies of Castell Dwyran on obtaining a 1st class Honours degree from Cardiff University. Her subject involved the study of food technology. Da iawn, Teleri, a dymuniadau gorau i'r dyfodol.

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Iaon Ellis Thomas who was baptised in Llanfyrnach church on 15th July 2018



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Lay Worship Leader Mr. Nathan Jenkins

SERVICES IN AUGUST

5th Trinity X

St Mary 10.00 am Holy Communion

St David 11.30 am Holy Communion

12th Trinity XI

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

19th Trinity XII

St Mary 8.00 am Holy Communion

St Mary 11.00 am Matins

St David 2.30 pm Holy Communion

26th Trinity XIII

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

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Summer

This has been an exceptional hot summer (either due to global warming or Brexit) and it has been a busy one - there have been so many events with the churches. I hope it has been a productive one as well. I am, as always, grateful to all who have worked so hard and been so generous at all the events, and these are as much about getting together as raising money. After all what is the church if it is not for and about the people as well as our relationship with God.

Events (so far)

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---|
| Saturday 28 th July | 2.00 pm | Cream Teas at Red Roses for Cyffig |
| Friday 17 th August | 6.30 pm | BBQ at the Station House for St Mary's |
| Wednesday 22 nd August | 7.30 pm | Bingo Evening at Red Roses for Cyffig |
| Friday 21 st September | 6.30 pm | Clunderwen, Druids & Kings at St. David's |

EGLWYS GYMYN

The weather is too hot and it seems to be more pleasant/cooler indoors, although we should be outside enjoying a summer that in 20 years we'll talk about as we do now about 1976, (if you can remember so long back). Anyway, to business:

June 10th: St Margaret's Day. Celebrating Eglwys Gymyn's patron Saint is always an opportunity to share our church and its heritage with the whole community and any passing motorists. This year was no different. For a change the summer weather was just perfect and some 30 visitors joined our congregation for the service and a simple afternoon tea in the church hall. It was simply one of those summer afternoons which the children present will remember as 'summers were always warmer/better/drier/more fun in the old days'.

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June 18th: A favourite film on television is 'An inspector calls' with Alastair Sims and of course it involves suspicious nefarious activities etc. None of which is related to the following, except that June 18th was the day our Bishop of St David's called, as promised, on Eglwys Gymyn's oldest church member, Mr W Phillips, affectionately called 'Willy Boot' which, as you can guess, relates to his professional trade for many years in Whitland. As arranged the weather was bright, sunny and hot when the Bishop arrived, which coincided with the engineers who were installing the new central heating system, so not ideal, and so the venue was quickly rearranged with the help of the Rev Huw and the church warden.

July 15th: Songs of Praise concert in the Church at 7.00 pm. At the time of printing this has yet to be held but is eagerly anticipated.

August 24th to Monday August 27th: LEGO & Model Exhibition over the Bank Holiday weekend in the church hall. The exhibition will cover most of the hall and show a broad expanse of the best of Lego's wide range of models including Lego architecture, Cathedrals, cars, helicopters, aeroplanes, animals, dinosaurs Tecnic and Japanese Nanoblock sets etc.

Viewing times vary but the current plan is ;

Friday 24th: Grand opening at 2.30 pm with tea

Saturday 25th: 10.30—4.30 pm

Sunday 26th: 3.00—6.00 pm

Monday 27th: 10.30—4.30 pm

Normal Church services in August will be ;

1st and 3rd Sundays: 10-30 am with Rev David

2nd and 4th Sundays: 2.30 pm with Rev Huw

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WHITLAND MALE VOICE CHOIR



On Friday 29th June we competed at the Gwyl Fawr Aberteifi, and won first prize with a cup and £300. It was well worth the work we put in, under Hefina Jones and Heather Jenkins. It was nice to follow the Welsh tradition and keeping it alive.

On Tuesday 3rd July we had another concert at St John's Church, Tenby, raising money for Guide Dogs for the Blind. It was a great evening with Serendipity Ladies Community Choir taking part as well, singing a variety of popular songs with Juliet Rossiter and Christie Goymer conducting and Marion on the piano.

On Thursday 12th July we are in concert at Blaenmarlais, Narberth at 7.00 pm.

Saturday 21st July we are at a wedding in Broadway House, Laugharne.

Saturday 28th July we are at a wedding at Llawhaden Church.

Friday 3rd August we are at a Concert for Whitland Week with Clive Edwards at the Social Club, Whitland.

Saturday 18th August we are at a wedding in St Mary's Church, Pembroke Dock.

Friday 24th August we have a Barbecue at Cresswell Quay at 5.30 pm

1



1
*Dorian
Phillips
(Chairman)
and Hefina
Jones with
the winning
cup*

2

*Heather
Jenkins
and
Hefina Jones*

2





Fun and Games for Cylch y Frenni on the Monmouth and Brecon Canal on the 6th of July



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Trinity, Llanboidy, Tabernacle, Whitland
and Bethel, Llanddewi Velfrey

Minister Revd. Guto Llywelyn, Tel. 01269 851655
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Trinity: Delyth Dent Tel. 01994 448606 delythdent@btinternet.com
Tabernacle: Meryl James Tel. 01994 240350 meryljames534@btinternet.com
Bethel: Eric Howells Tel. 01994 240205 erichowells@rocketmail.com

I travelled from Tavernspite to Llanboidy and back to Whitland and home to Llanddewi Velfrey and was not very happy with what I discovered en route.

Leaving Tavernspite I passed Glanrhyd Baptists Chapel which is no longer in use on Sunday. Then onto Princes Gate Church which has a dwindling congregation of aging people with no young people attending, and then Crinow where I found the church door locked with the grass growing around it showing signs of neglecting attendance. Then onto Narberth where I was greeted by a Chapel that closed its doors several years ago, and then onto Tabernacle Congregational Chapel which closed due to lack of support. Bethesda Baptist Chapel and the church meet regularly.

From there I travelled to Llanddewi Velfrey and found that Ffynnon chapel only meet once a month and then onto Llanfallteg where I found the church closed and the vicarage sold, and then onto Capel Mair - once a very thriving chapel with a full-time minister that they shared with two other chapels - closed and, I am told, sold. I then came to the village school and then onto Capel Rhos, both with closed doors. I thought to myself who do I blame for this—is it apathy or

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.

the motor car? Whatever the reason the effect on the people and the village is just the same.

I went from there to Henllan Amgoed where I found the church closed and the manse sold. Henllan Amgoed Congregational chapel meet every week, but without a resident minister. Llanboidy I found more cheerful with a thriving chapel and church and the same or almost the same can be said about Whitland with Tabernacle Congregational Chapel, Nazereth Baptist Chapel, the English Congregational Chapel and Church holding weekly services with residential ministers.

I then went back to my own village of Llanddewi Velfrey where I found the Church meets weekly, and back to Bethel Congregational Chapel a little late where they were singing the first hymn "I can see afar the day coming etc".

TABERNACLE CHAPEL

The first Sunday in June was a Communion Service with our Minister the Rev Guto Llywelyn officiating. Everyone enjoyed tea/coffee after the service. On the second Sunday members from Tabernacle attended Bethel chapel for their Anniversary Services with Mr Ffred Francis officiating in the morning and afternoon services. The third Sunday, being the 17th, was an united service at Trinity chapel with Mr Hefin Wyn officiating. On the last Sunday, the 24th of June, our minister officiated the service.

The last Saturday of June was the Sunday School trip and 16 children and parents went from Whitland to Tenby on the train. The weather was beautiful and everyone thoroughly enjoyed on the beach for most of the day. The Sunday School has finished for the summer and will be starting back on September 9th at 9.30 am.

Our thoughts are with members who have lost close family during the month.



Some of our members have been unwell during the month and we wish them a speedy recovery.

Services for Bethel, Tabernacle and Trinity

August 5th

| | | |
|-------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 10.00 | St. Mary's Church, Whitland: | Whitland Week Service |
| 14.00 | Bethel: | Welsh Communion Service |

August 12th

| | | |
|-------|---------|--|
| 10.30 | Bethel: | Joint service led by Mrs. Beti Wyn-Holmes |
|-------|---------|--|

August 19th

| | | |
|-------|----------|---|
| 10.30 | Trinity: | Joint service led by Miss Delyth Jones |
|-------|----------|---|

August 26th

| | | |
|-------|-------------|--|
| 10.30 | Tabernacle: | Joint service led by Mrs Margaret Griffiths |
|-------|-------------|--|

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St. Clears Walking Well Group

New Mill, Llanddowror, was the venue for the walk on the 4th of July. The walk took us through the woods above Llanddowror where the shade was very welcome as we continue to enjoy this wonderful hot summer. The Old Mill café provided welcome refreshments afterwards.

On the 18th of July the group ventured north to Llanwinio and followed the path through the woods to Gellywen which St. Gwynio followed in the 6th century as he walked between his hermit's cell at Cilsant and the church he founded at Llanwinio.



In 1994 this walk was undertaken on St. Gwynio's day (3rd May) by members of the congregation of Llanwinio Church led by Ivor, the then Bishop of St. Davids, resplendent in his purple robes. On this occasion walkers only had the horse-flies to contend with, but Gwynio would have had to deal with far more, namely the wild boar and wolves which roamed the forests. Ultimately he also encountered a band of Irish marauders who set upon him and decapitated him along the route. Llanwinio Church is built upon an elevated and ancient site, as indicated by the circular graveyard. The present building is Victorian and

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unfortunately no pictures survive of the churches there prior to that. Refreshments were enjoyed at Llanwinio Hall and those interested had a tour of the church.

Walks take place alternate Wednesdays.

Meet at St. Clears Leisure Centre at 10.15 am.

<http://www.walkingwellcarmarthenshire.org.uk>

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Afon Taf Gardening Club

Those who attended the June meeting were entertained by Carmel Richards on the subject of 'Fit for Gardening'. Carmel runs a physiotherapy clinic in Pembrey and somehow manages to tend for her large and productive garden around her full-time work. At the July meeting Sheena Crossley gave a talk on 'Colour with Herbaceous Perennials'. On the 16th of August Carole Whittaker will address us on the subject of Show Preparation ready for the annual show on Sunday the 9th of September. New members will be warmly welcomed, and meetings usually take place at 7.30 pm on the third Thursday of the month at Whitland Town Hall.

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- Mai 26 May 2018
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- Awst 25 August 2018
- Medi 22 September - Outing
- Hydref 27 October 2018
- Tachwedd 24 November 2018

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 Awst 11 August - Neuadd Bwlchgyroes Hall
 Medi 8 September - Canolfan Clydau Centre
 Hydref 13 October - Neuadd Bwlchgyroes Hall
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