

Grapevine

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Rhagfyr
December





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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£130 per full page ad

£70 per half page ad

£40 per quarter page ad

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Cylch y FRENNI Circle of Churches

Clydau, Llanglydwen, Llanfyrnach, Llanwinio and Mynachlog-ddu

SERVICES IN DECEMBER 2018

2nd The First Sunday of Advent (Purple)

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

6th Wednesday

Bro Preseli	10.30 am	Holy Eucharist with carols
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9th The Second Sunday of Advent (Purple)

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

10th Monday

Bro Preseli	4.30 pm	Tea and carols in the Residents' Lounge
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16th The Third Sunday of Advent (Purple)

Llanglydwen	9.30 am	Holy Eucharist
Llanfyrnach	11.15 am	Morning Prayer
Clydau	2.00 pm	Christmas Carol Service + refreshments in church
Llanwinio	7.00 pm	Community Christmas Carol Service + refreshments
Mynachlog-ddu	7.00 pm	Christmas Carol Service + refreshments in church

23rd The Fourth Sunday of Advent (Purple)

Llanglydwen	9.30 am	Morning Prayer
Llanwinio	9.30 am	Holy Eucharist
Clydau	11.15 am	Holy Eucharist
Llanfyrnach	7.00 pm	Christmas Carol Service + refreshments in church

24th Christmas Eve (White)

Mynachlog-ddu 9.30 pm Christmas Holy Eucharist

Llanfyrnach 11.30 pm Christmas Communion by Extension

25th The Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Day) (White)

Clydau 10.00 am Christmas Communion by Extension

Llanglydwen 9.30 am Christmas Holy Eucharist

Llanwinio 9.30 am Christmas Communion by Extension

30th The First Sunday of Christmas (White)

Clydau 10.30 am Joint Holy Eucharist

Some Holy Days not on a Sunday

26th Stephen, Deacon and First Martyr

27th John, Apostle and Evangelist

28th The Innocents

29th Thomas of Canterbury (1170), Bishop and Martyr

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THE ELEVENTH HOUR

This Remembrance Sunday marked the exact centenary of Armistice day, 1918. The Armistice, amounting to a total surrender by Germany in exchange for virtually nothing from the Allies, was settled in a railway carriage in a siding in the Forest of Compiègne in Picardy. It was agreed upon at 5:00 a.m. on

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11th November 1918, to come into effect at 11:00 a.m. Paris time. This is why the occasion is sometimes referred to as 'the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month'.

For this 'special edition' of our annual service in Crymych Market Hall, Sue Player of Mynachlog-ddu had initiated the making of a special frontal for the table on the stage at the front, bedecked with cloth poppies sewn by friends and church folk from the area. Historian and author Richard Law curated a fascinating array of objects from the First World War, together with a collection of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission certificates for every one of the people mentioned on the war memorial tablet outside the hall, complete with a photograph of the individual. 'I wanted to invite the casualties to be there with us as we remembered,' he explained.

During the otherwise solemn ceremony we sang a medley of Songs from the Trenches, not as an interlude of inappropriate levity, but as a mark of respect to those who went to the front – and possibly to their death – with these very tunes in their hearts. The irony of lines such as 'What's the use of worrying? It never was worthwhile' may ring hollow to our ears; but the songs were intended to reinforce the morale of men facing unimaginable horrors, and to help them brave the terrors of hell on earth with staunch courage.

Nowadays, women fight alongside men in the front line; in those days, they acted as nurses, support personnel in the forces and farmers and munitions workers at home. In the jute mills of Dundee they turned their factories into production lines for sandbags for the trenches, and this year Jonathan's old



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school, the High School of Dundee, issued poppies made from jute to commemorate the efforts of these women and so many like them throughout the UK.

During our ceremony, Hazel Jones read a poem as written by a poppy, protesting that it was not a badge of honour or a racist smear, but:

*A Reminder to you all,
That courage, faith and honour,
Will stand where heroes fall.*

Animals, too, played their part, especially horses; and there was not a dry eye in response to a most moving poem about a soldier compelled to release his beloved mount from suffering, with a bullet.

In his essay *The War that will end War*, published in *The Daily News* on 14th August, 1914, H G Wells wrote: 'This is already the vastest war in history. It is a war not of nations, but of mankind. It is a war to exorcise a world-madness and end an age... For this is now a war for peace. It aims straight at disarmament. It aims at a settlement that shall stop this sort of thing for ever. Every soldier who fights against Germany now is a crusader against war. This, the greatest of all wars, is not just another war – it is the last war!'

Sadly, his prophecy may not have been entirely accurate; but the conflict certainly did much to bring home to humankind the futility of such conflict, even if humankind is proving a little slow in absorbing that message.

TREE FELLERS

'Look Mick,' says Paddy, 'that notice over there says "tree fellers wanted". What a shame there's only two of us.'



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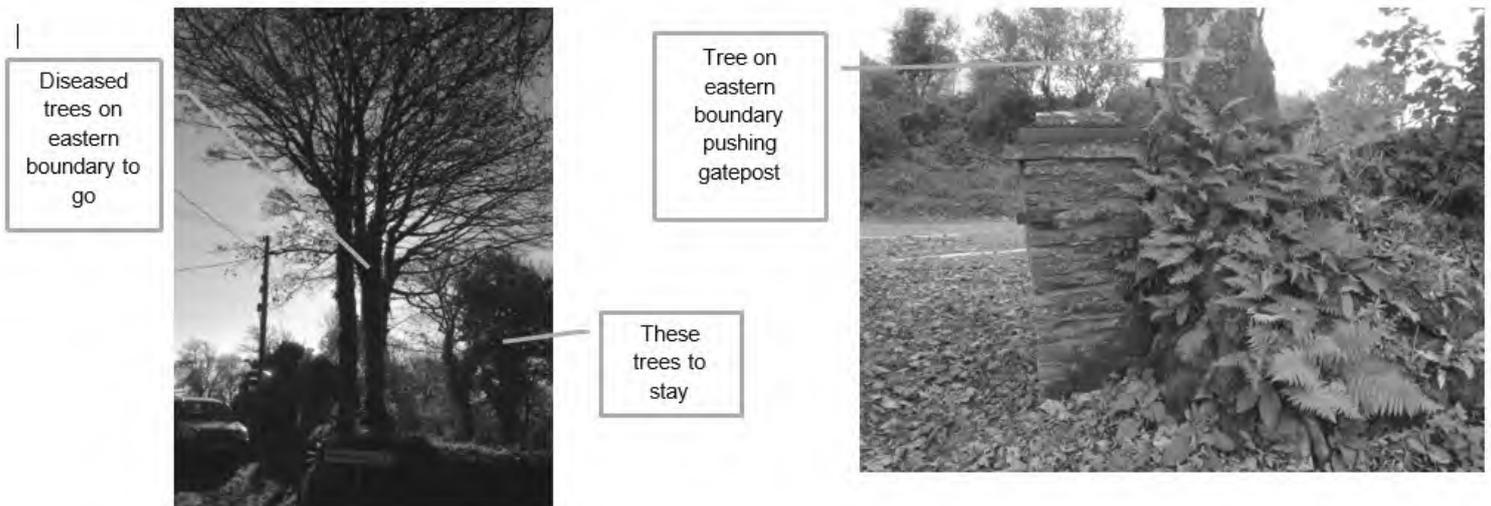
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In case you think this is a shameless piece of racism, please remember that the Irish are to be admired for the wonderful quality (like the Scots) of enjoying a joke at their own expense. Also, be reassured that a certain brand of oil-fired boiler really does ship from Ireland with instructions for installing a 'TREE-WAY FLUE'.

The relevance of all this is that tree fellers are indeed required at Mynachlog-ddu Church, because several of the trees fronting the road are failing, and one has pushed the gate-post out of true. The PCC resolved to take them down; there was no objection from the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park; and the Archdeacon gave his blessing. So by the time you read this, the accompanying photograph will be a collectors' item, and both church and motorist will be that much safer.



Codebreakers

For four weeks in October a group of us met one evening a week at Llys Myrddin to learn how to look for 'code' in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, otherwise known as the 'Synoptic Gospels'. I am not going to go into too much detail of the course content, as it is better to attend and hear it from the Revd Jonathan Copus himself.

In a nutshell, these gospels, three of the four *canonical gospels*, are known as *synoptic* because of their similarity in telling the story of the Good News of Jesus, his life, death and resurrection. Jonathan explained how the Gospels came about and where their similarities lay, or '*parallels*' as they are known. Week by week we followed extracts from each Gospel comparing the differences due to the author's perspective and experience.

For those who had never been to such a course before, everything was blown out of the water so to speak, when Jonathan explained the belief among scholars that the Gospels were not written in the order they are in the New



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Testament! The first to be written is believed to be Mark, whose work Matthew and Luke used to compile their Gospels. The Gospel of John is not one of the synoptic gospels so is the subject of another, different course altogether.

After each session, much lively discussion ensued on how, why, and where certain aspects came about, often leading to discussion on belief. There was also some wonder at how these collections of recorded events had been collated and shaped and had been transmitted down so many centuries, and – varying translations aside – had managed to convey their message undimmed.

All in all, *Codebreakers* is a very good introduction to learning about the Synoptic Gospels and an excellent primer for the more in-depth study that comes with the St Padarn's Institute *Theology for Life* degree course.

I would personally recommend *Codebreakers* for anybody who wishes to take the next step in their religious education or even to learn more about the writers giving their account of the Good News. *Sharon Edge, Worship Leader*

Children In Need

Our annual cawl lunch at the Crymych Neuadd y Farchnad in aid of Children in Need was highly companionable, and raised £330 for this worthwhile charity. No-one had to cycle for miles, sit in a tub of baked beans or have their head shaved - they just had to meet friends, make friends, share news, laugh ... and eat, all for £5. Thank you to all those who cooked, worked in the kitchen and served - they had fun too!



At the Children in Need lunch, friends took the opportunity to give Margaret Ware a birthday card and a small gift. Mags was due to reach a multiple of 21 the next day.



SOAPARTY

Jonathan and Susie are holding an 'everybody welcome' pre-Christmas party at Llys Myrddin, Efailwen on Wednesday 12th December. The entrance ticket is slightly unusual: a bar of soap or some other item of toiletry. The idea is to send the 'proceeds' to PATCH (Pembrokeshire Action to Combat Hardship), who say that at this time of year what people ask for most is soap, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, face flannels, shower gel, moisturiser, face wipes, plasters (dressings), antiseptic cream - that sort of thing. So please do come - prepared, if you can - any time between noon and 5 pm. And many thanks in advance to Jan Newbury for her help with the catering.



Jonathan Copus

EXODUS



Phil Higginson's daughter, Gwenllian, took the leading role in a Motherlode production of *Exodus*. *Exodus* is a play about one of countless stories of displacement across Wales. This particular story takes place in Aberdare, once a thriving industrial town, now faced with the closing of its last ever factory. The four protagonists, on the eve of the demolition, hatch a crazy plan that will take them out of the town and into an exciting new world. Gwenllian has received rave reviews for her role in the play.

Kathie Dubben



***Above: Annual cawl lunch at Crymych Market Hall in aid of Children In Need
Below: Margaret Ware receiving a birthday card and gift at the cawl lunch***



Meidrim and Merthyr

Canon Jeffrey Gainer 01994 231378

Meidrim and Merthyr

Services in December

2nd **First Sunday in Advent**

Meidrim 9.45am Litani a'r Cymun Bendigaid

Merthyr 11.15am Holy Eucharist

9th **Second Sunday in Advent**

Meidrim 9.45am Holy Eucharist

Merthyr 11.15am Litani a'r Cymun Bendigaid

16th **Third Sunday in Advent**

Meidrim 9.45am Holy Eucharist (bilingual, 2004 rite)

Merthyr 11.15am Morning Prayer

23rd **Fourth Sunday in Advent**

Meidrim 9.45am Holy Eucharist

3.00pm Service of carols and readings at Bethel chapel

Merthyr 11.15am Service of carols and readings

24th **Christmas Eve**

Merthyr 8.00pm First Eucharist of the Lord's Nativity

Meidrim 9.30pm Blessing of the Christmas crib and Holy Eucharist

25th **Christmas Day**

Meidrim 9.45am Holy Eucharist with carols

30th **First Sunday after Christmas**

Meidrim 10.30am Joint service Holy Eucharist.

Please note. Morning Prayer will be said publicly in church each Sunday in Meidrim at 9.00 am apart from December 16th.

Evening Prayer will be sung publicly in church each Sunday in Meidrim at 4.00 pm apart from December 23rd.

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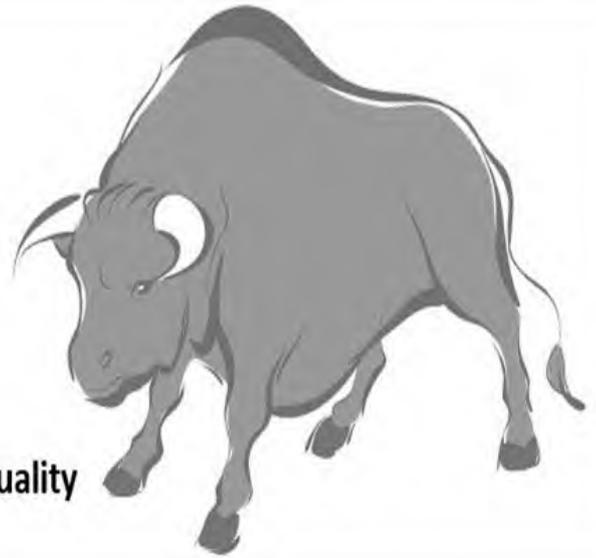


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Both carol services on December 23rd will be followed by refreshments, the first in Merthyr Community hall and the second in Bethel vestry

Meidrim

The new pattern of services is shown above and we are grateful to Mr Dorian Thomas of Eagle Signs for producing the new notice boards with the up to date details.

Thanks go to all who decorated the church so attractively for the Harvest Thanksgiving services, to our visiting preacher, The Ven. Alun Evans, and to all who bought consumables to church for the Carmarthen and district food bank.

One again the church was suitably decorated with poppies for the Remembrance Day service thanks to the efforts of Mrs Elizabeth Jameson. Mrs Jayne Thomas read the lessons and the Vicar preached on the significance of the centenary of the First World War.

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We extend the assurance of our sympathy to Mrs Shirley Bowen, to her sister Ann and to all the family at Lon Ddewi on the passing of a loving and beloved mother, Mrs Beryl Doris Turner, formerly of Oxford and Coventry, at the age of ninety nine. Mrs Turner died on October 28th just six days short of her centenary. Her husband, Mr William Turner, predeceased her several years ago. Her funeral took place at Oxford on November 22nd. May she rest in peace.

We are also sorry to hear of the passing of Mr Penry Davies who lived for many years in the village and after a severe road accident some time ago had lived at Tenby. His funeral took place recently at Parc Gwyn crematorium.

Do not forget the Welfare Committee's childrens' Christmas party in the Youth Hall on Saturday 15th from 3.30 pm.

Are there any reading this who would be willing to join us to sing carols around the village again this year, weather permitting? The proceeds will of course go to a worthy charity. If you are, would you please let the Vicar know. Thank you.

Merthyr

We wish better health to our churchwarden, Mr Ronald Lewis, of Merthyr Fach. He spent a week and more in hospital, first in Glangwili, and then in Morriston.

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Above: Remembrance Day 2018 outside Crymych Market Hall

Below: The fallen were also commemorated in individually-crocheted poppies formed into a wreath, one poppy for each name on the memorial, the work of Girl Guide and Brownie leader Clare Thomas.



He is currently recuperating at home. We thank him also for taking the donations to the local food bank and we also thank all those from Merthyr who supported this cause at Harvest Thanksgiving time.

Thanks go to Mrs Marilyn Davies who gave the altar flowers in October in memory of her late husband, Roy. Marilyn also cleaned the church in the same month.

Our thanks go to the Corran Singers, to their conductor, Mrs Heather Jenkins and accompanist, Mrs Ann Harry, for the varied concert of seasonal music in church on October 21st. Unfortunately there were but few in the audience and adverse weather probably did not help matters. Nonetheless £150 were raised for church funds and the performance was much appreciated. Afterwards the choristers enjoyed the refreshments in the hall which were kindly supplied by Sylvia Evans, Lilian Rees and Huw Evans. Thanks also go to all who decorated the church for the Harvest Thanksgiving service. Well done.

Our thanks also go to all who supported the Bingo evening at Tafarn y Cwm on the Friday after the concert. It was an excellent financial result - £564 were raised in all.

We take this opportunity to wish all our readers a blessed and joyful Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Next year's subscriptions are now due. £10 for the year or £1 for one issue.



LLANWINIO W.I.

A full compliment of members of Llanwinio W.I. met on the 13th of November the their annual general meeting. The committee was voted on again unanimously and discussions took place about forthcoming meetings. The next meeting will be the Christmas lunch on the 18th of December at Pibwrllywd.

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

Abernant and Trelech a'r Betws

Canon Ann Howells 01267 468136

Rev'd Adam Bruce 07976 829111

Services in December

2nd	Advent 1	
Abernant	9.45 am	Holy Communion
Trelech	11.15 am	Holy Communion
9th	Advent 2	
Abernant	3.00 pm	Carols with Cantorion Llanddowror
Trelech	No Service - Join Abernant for Carols	
16th	Advent 3	
Trelech	11.15 am	Cymun Bendigaid
Cymun Nadolig / Christmas Communion		
Trelech	8.00 pm	24 th December - Christmas Eve (bilingual)
Abernant	10.30 am	25 th December - Christmas Day (bilingual)

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Abernant

Cantorion Llanddowror will be performing at our St Lucia's Day Concert with carols in Abernant Church on Sunday December 9th at 3.00 pm. Entry will be £6 which will also include refreshments. We would love you all to join us.

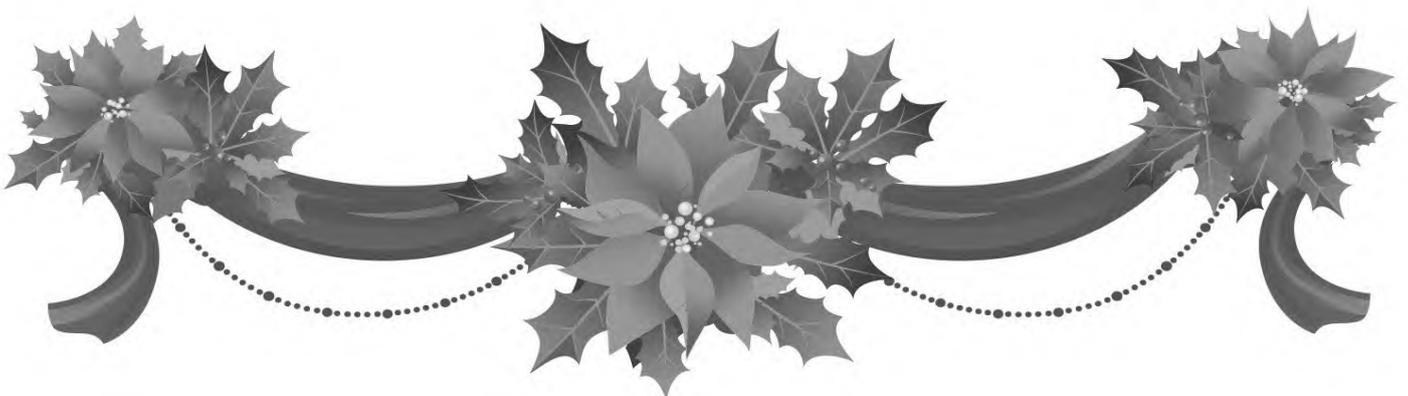
Abernant and Trelech

On 23rd October at St Martin's Church, Laugharne, the Bro Sanclêr Local Ministry Area was inaugurated, during a bilingual service of Evening Prayer, conducted by the Bishop of St Davids assisted by the Archdeacon of Carmarthen. Canon Ann Howells (LMA Dean), the Rev'd Christopher Lewis-Jenkins and the Rev'd Adam Bruce were licensed to this United Benefice to serve in the 11 churches (including Abernant and Trelech a'r Betws), and they, together with the Worship Leaders, make up the LMA Ministry Team, responsible for services, with assistance offered by the Archdeacon when available. Wardens and members of the churches of Abernant and Trelech were present at the service which marked a new beginning in ministry and mission for the people of the churches and the communities they serve.

Canon Ann Howells and Rev'd Adam Bruce would like to thank the people of Abernant and Trelech for the welcome they have received as they take over responsibility as Priest-in-charge and Curate respectively. On behalf of the parishioners of Abernant and Trelech they would also like to thank Canon Jeffrey Gainer for the pastoral care he has offered in these communities over the years.

This will be the last entry in the 'Grapevine' for Abernant and Trelech, as Bro Sanclêr LMA is intending to produce its own magazine in the future. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all every blessing for Christmas and the New Year, and to thank you for your support.

Next year's subscriptions are now due. £10 for the year or £1 for one issue.



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 December

2nd Advent I

St Mary 10.00 am Holy Communion

St David 11.30 am Matins

9th Advent II

St Mary 8.00 am Holy Communion

St Tysilio 9.00 am Holy Communion

Tabernacle 10.30 am United Carol Service

St David 11.00 am Matins

Cyffig 2.30 pm Holy Communion

St Brynach 4.00 pm Holy Communion

16th Advent III

St Mary 8.00 am Holy Communion

St Mary 11.00 am Nine Lessons and Carols

Capel y Trinity 11.15 Carol Service

St David 2.30 pm Holy Communion

23rd Advent IV

St Mary 8.00 am Holy Communion

St Tysilio 9.00 am Holy Communion

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



Above: This Poppy Fall was the idea of Sue Player from Mynachlog-Ddu who, together with members of the church, the village, some residents of Bro Preseli, and her mother-in-law Mo, made all the poppies and sewed them on. It looked stunning on the day, and was much appreciated by those attending the service.

Below: The table display assembled by Richard Law, with some of the pictures of the Commonwealth War Graves records of the fallen men



24th Christmas Eve

St Tysilio	9.00 pm	Holy Communion
St Brynach	?	Holy Communion
St Mary	11.30 pm	Holy Communion

25th Christmas Day

St Mary	10.00 am	Holy Communion
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Christmas

The Church faces a challenge or a crisis. As we celebrate the coming of God into the world in his son, Jesus Christ, it is time to stop looking at all the side issues and remember what he came for and the responsibility of his people to pass his message on. The church, after all, is not the Church in Wales nor even St Mary's, St Brynach's, Cyffig, St David's or St Tysilio's, it is you and me. If all else fails we still have a message of hope and life which the world by and large has forgotten, let us spread it.

Remembrance revisited



I was impressed by the display in the Memorial Hall, I hope no one missed it. What I found most poignant was that they had the chairs with the There but not There who lost their lives in WWI in the service at 10.00, so I

asked those who sat next to them to raise their hand as I read out the names, this reminds us that they are not simply names but people who were part of the community and in a sense still are.

Next year's subscriptions are now due. £10 for the year or £1 for one issue.

Events

Saturday	24 Nov	10.00 am	Mince Pie morning at Llandysilio
Friday	7 Dec	7.30	Raffle and entertainment in Whitland Rugby Club for St Mary's

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EGLWYS GYMYN

Generally I think October tends to be a quiet month compared with, say, September and what's to come in December. On October 17th we had a combined PCC meeting for all the churches in the Velfrey/Pendine group which included members from Eglwys Gymyn, Lampeter Velfrey, Princes Gate, Llanddewi Velfrey and Pendine churches. As one can expect there was a wide variety of topics, mainly concentrated on our group activities especially those over the Christmas season.

The schedule for Eglwys Gymyn includes;

1. A Christmas Fayre in the church Hall from 10.30 AM -3.30 PM on December 1st. The stalls will include: Christmas Gifts Handicrafts, Cakes, Books, Cards, Magazines, DVD's/CD's, pre-loved Items and others.
2. The carol service at 6.00 PM on December 16th. (There will be no afternoon service).
3. Midnight Eucharist commencing at 11.30 PM on Christmas Eve, with the service led by Rev David

Our normal church services in December follow the normal pattern, ie

1st and 3rd Sundays: 2.30 PM with Rev Huw

2nd and 4th Sundays: 10.30 with Rev David

November 11th was Remembrance Sunday, the 100th anniversary of the Armistice that ended the First World War in 1918. Members of our congregation and residents of Red Roses attended a moving ceremony at the War Memorial in Red Roses. Rev David led the service of Remembrance.

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Following this a small group moved to Eglwys Gymyn for a further short, but moving, service where Reverend David read from the poem 'A Soldiers Prayer' which had belonged to a family member who had not returned home after the war. At 11.00 AM the church bell at Eglwys Gymyn was tolled in remembrance .

It is with profound sadness that I have to record that these Christmas services will be the last with Rev David Faulkner, who has finally decided that although he officially retired a good many years ago, this Christmas season will be his last. We have spent the last 12 months hoping and praying he will change his mind but like all good things sometimes they unfortunately come to an end.

Rev David is a superb Minister and has made many friends here at Eglwys Gymyn since he joined us some 6 years ago in our interregnum period. He has always supported us and shared our ups and downs and we wish him and his wife Barbara a long and happy second retirement.

Next year's subscriptions are now due. £10 for the year or £1 for one issue.

Cyffig Notes for December 2018

It's very hard to believe this is the December edition of "Grapevine" 2018, and it's time to wish "Happy Christmas" to everyone again!

The weather is wet and dreary and that lovely Summer seems such a long time ago.

As we commemorate the ending of the terrible first World War, 100 years ago - the war to end all wars—spare a thought for people living still in war-torn areas of the world today, and those facing the dreadful consequences of natural disasters, wildfires and floods. We have much to be grateful for.

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Cyffig Christmas Carol Service will be on Sunday December 23rd at 2.30pm. there will be mulled wine and mince pies after the Service. Everyone is welcome, please come along.

Happy Christmas Everyone!

Next year's subscriptions are now due. £10 for the year or £1 for one issue.

Whitland Male Choir News



On Saturday November 3rd the choir took part in The Llanboidy Palladium with Perlau Preseli, The Over the Hill Tiller Girls, Paul Sax (Violinist), The Swansea Pipe Band, Whitland MVC, Andy Pandy Sketch, and the Generation Game. It was a very entertaining evening, with such a variety of acts and game. All proceeds to Children in Need. If anyone is looking for a Dame or an Ugly Sister for Panto season, there was quite a choice that evening!

On Saturday November 10th the choir will take part with Tenby Male Voice Choir in a 'Battle's End' concert at the De Valence Pavilion, Tenby. To commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the end of WW1. In support of the British Legion Poppy Appeal.

On Saturday 1st December the choir will sing Christmas Carols on the switch on of Christmas Lights at 6.30 pm in Whitland .



***Above: Harvest Festival at the Tabernacle
Below: The inauguration of Canon Ann Howells and
Rev'd Adam Bruce at St. Martin's Church, Laugharne***



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Please note that the choir website is on whitlandmalechoir.net and not whitlandmalechoir.co.uk.

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

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

**Minister Revd. Guto Llywelyn, Tel. 01269 851655
gutollywelyn@hotmail.com**

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

A little boy was playing on the mat and his mother was looking on, so proud of her little boy, when he suddenly got up, went over to his mother and asked her "Who is Jesus Christ?" The mother was taken aback by his question, but she thought for a while in the knowledge that you should always answer a child's questions and a child will respect you as an older person and that you know the answer. After a while the mother answered by saying Jesus Christ wore old fashioned clothes like the vicar and monks do today, but of course they were

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 common dress two thousand years ago but are frowned upon by other religious faiths today. He was a very clever person and that is one reason why he is referred to as the Son of God.

I believe that religion, like everything else, must move on and that includes the vicar's clothes, or there is a danger that it will be rejected by the people. Congregation numbers are already dwindling and too many chapels and churches at present have sign outside, not "welcome" but "for sale". However we must not take this too serious as our churches and chapels were built before the age of the motor car and had to be within reasonable walking distant for the congregation, and as most families have at least one form of transport this is not so important and maybe we now have too many chapels and churches serving our communities. Seeing chapel and churches closing is something I do not like to see happening and I trust that they are closing for the above reason and not apathy. If you do not go to a place of worship on Sunday, that is up to you, but all I ask of you that you "love your neighbour as yourself and ever mindful of the needs of others".

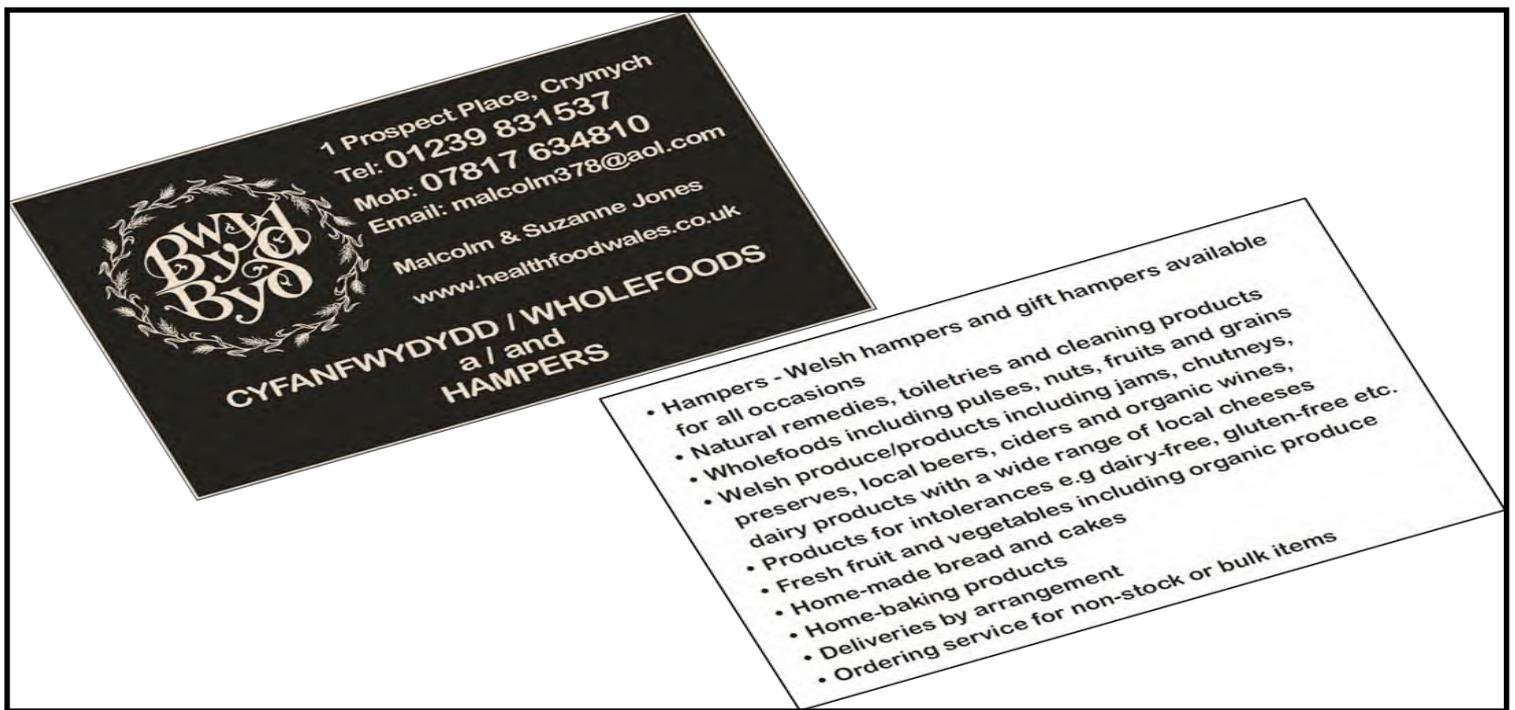
Religion is as old as civilisation itself, but Christianity is only two thousand years old and has made a tremendous difference to our way of thinking and behaviour, and we must do all we can to preserve and spread the words of our saviour Jesus Christ. See you on Sunday.

Eric Howells

Bethel Congregational Chapel

The joint service at Tabernacle on Oct 28th was attended by several members who heard an interesting talk by members of Coda Ni, a group who are active in charity work in Africa and who received donations of clothes etc from many of those present.

On the 4th Nov we held our Welsh Communion Service, taken by our minister who based his sermon on Jesus's question to his disciples, "Who do people say I am?" This was our only service in Bethel in November.



Trinity Chapel

The minister, Revd. Guto Llywelyn officiated at the first two services in October. On Sunday, 21st October the service was held in Bethel Chapel and led by Sian Elin Thomas. On Sunday, 28th October members attended a special service led by 'Coda Ni' at Tabernacle Chapel. The group works with local organisations in supporting those in need. It also works in partnership with Christian Aid in supporting initiatives in areas such as Burkina Faso in West Africa. Members present at the service donated clothing to support this group's valuable work.

Trinity Sisterhood met on 31st October in the chapel vestry. Members began by wishing the president, Mrs Wenfys Rees, a speedy recovery following her recent fall. Members were also pleased to welcome new member Mrs Julie Thomas. The guest speaker for the evening was Mr Robert Davies, a partner in the local veterinary practice in Whitland. Members thoroughly enjoyed listening to Robert recounting many of the more humorous experiences of his job as a vet. The task of seeking to identify some of the instruments used by vets in their work proved quite difficult.

On the 11th Nov the village held its annual Remembrance Day service in the Village Hall. This year, because of the centenary of the Armistice, the congregation was even larger than usual and culminated in the laying of the wreath on the War Memorial.

The following Sunday members attended a joint service in Tabernacle.

There will be no service in Bethel on the last Sunday of the month either as that is when the proceeds of the sponsored walk organised in September by

Cymdeithas Capeli Bro Hywel Dda will be donated to the chosen charities at a service in Henllan Amgoed chapel. The charities this year are Wales Air Ambulance, Paul Sartori and Preseli Surgery Crymych.

Tabernacle Whitland

The chapel is undergoing important work at the moment and we have been worshipping in the vestry during November as the work is being carried out.

The chapel hosted the Whitland Young Farmers Club annual Harvest Thanksgiving Service at the end of October. The club is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year and it was lovely to see the youngsters in the chapel and to see their desire to hold the thanksgiving service.

Our own children and young people held their Harvest Thanksgiving Service earlier in the month. Fifteen children as well as many of the chapel's young people took part with the collection going to the survivors of the tsunami in Indonesia.

There was a service with a difference at the end of October when a group of people from the Pencader area called "Coda Ni" visited us to lead the worship.

Ryland James from Pwlltrap was the guest speaker with the chapel society. In a fascinating address he talked about his hobby of arranging car rallies including one rally across the countries of South America.

The discussion group re-started in November as we discussed all kind of Christian matters.

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Husband and wife, Robert and Diane Evans both celebrated their sixtieth birthdays recently and we send them our best wishes.

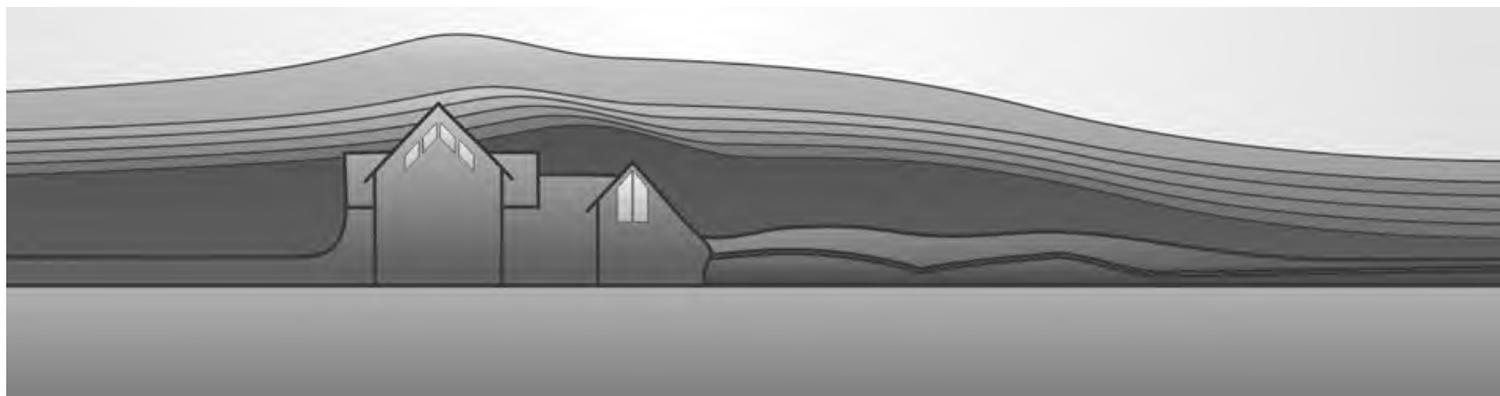
We have a couple of special services coming up over Christmas and everyone is welcome to these and to all the other services.

Also the Sunday School, the only one in Whitland, is held every Sunday at 9.30 am with all children welcome.

December 16th 09.30 Nativity Service

December 24th 23.30 Gwynnos (Midnight Service) led by the chapel's young adults

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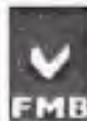


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Ebrill 28 April 2018
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Awst 11 August - Neuadd Bwlchgyroes Hall
Medi 8 September - Canolfan Clydau Centre
Hydref 13 October - Neuadd Bwlchgyroes Hall
Tachwedd 10 November - Canolfan Clydau Centre
Rhagfyr 8 December - Neuadd Bwlchgyroes Hall

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*We wish all our readers a very happy Christmas
and a healthy and peaceful New Year!*



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