

Grapevine

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February



Grapevine is published monthly by: **Cylch y Frenni Circle of Churches**

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

www.frennichurches.org.uk

Ministry Team Leader: The Reverend Jonathan Copus MA 01994 438414 rev@frennichurches.org.uk

Focal Ministers

Clydau: Mrs Elizabeth Law 01239 698607 clydaufm@frennichurches.org.uk
Llanfyrnach: Mrs Eunice Batchelor JP 01239 831556 llanfyrnachfm@frennichurches.org.uk
Llanglydwen: Reader Mrs Maureen Henneveld 01994 419841 reader@frennichurches.org.uk
Llanwinio: Mr Philip Higginson 01994 484498 llanwiniosec@frennichurches.org.uk
Mrs Judy Webb 01239 698405 llanwiniofm@frennichurches.org.uk

Mynachlog-ddu: The Reverend Jonathan Copus MA

Pastoral Eucharistic Assistants

The Focal Ministers

Mr David Carter 01239 831103 llanfyrnachwardens@frennichurches.org.uk

PCC Secretaries

Clydau: Mrs Elizabeth Law
Llanfyrnach: Mrs Hazel Jones 01239 831595 llanfyrnachsec@frennichurches.org.uk
Llanglydwen: Mrs Susan Copus 01994 438414 llanglydwensec@frennichurches.org.uk
Llanwinio: Mr Philip Higginson 01994 484498
Mynachlog-ddu: Mr Alex Velky 01994 419849 mynachlogddusec@frennichurches.org.uk

Publicity Officer

Mrs Sharon Edge 01437 532 681 publicity@frennichurches.org.uk

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Editor: Ms Kathie Dubben, Myrtle Hill, Gellywen, SA33 6DS editorgrapevine@frennichurches.org.uk

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Treasurer: Mr Keith Taylor, Brynderi Farm, Whitland, SA34 0JD lmatreas@frennichurches.org.uk
01994 448653

Front cover:

These beautiful orchids have been lovingly cared for for years by Margaret Robinson of Llanwinio. They are particularly lovely at the moment, possibly due to husband Peter's secret ingredient ...

Cylch y FRENNI Circle of Churches

Clydau, Llanglydwen, Llanfyrnach,
Llanwinio and Mynachlog-ddu

SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

3rd The Fifth Sunday before Lent (Green)

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

6th Wednesday

Bro Preseli	10.30 am	Holy Eucharist
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10th The Fourth Sunday before Lent (Green)

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

17th The Third Sunday before Lent (Green)

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

24th The Second Sunday before Lent – Creation Sunday (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

Notable Holy Day not on a Sunday

23rd Polycarp (c 155), Bishop and Martyr

THE WILDERNESS YEARS

That was part of the bleak title of an eight-part British television series made in 1981 at a cost of nearly £4,000,000. The all-star cast of Siân Phillips, Nigel Havers, Tim Piggott-Smith and Eric Porter was headed by Robert Hardy in the title role of Winston Churchill. The drama dealt with Churchill's exile from real political influence during the 1920s and 1930s, when he tried to convince three-times Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin of the rising danger of the Nazi party in Germany, and opposed the appeasement policy of Neville Chamberlain. Hindsight has vindicated him, and hailed him as the saviour of the nation in its darkest and finest hour.

But the phrase 'the wilderness years' continues to haunt politicians of all shades, from those parliamentary colleagues who opposed the election of Jeremy Corbyn as Labour leader, claiming he would make their party unelectable, through the glum Lib Dems, huddled on a shrinking island of middle ground as punishment for a perceived manifesto promise they couldn't deliver, to those who claim that Theresa May's alleged Brexit intransigence will doom the Tories to wandering a vote-free desert for a generation.

But is the desert necessarily a bad place to be? Is the wilderness as wild and unproductive as its name suggests? According to the Bible, the Israelites spend 40 years in the desert, sometimes in a spirit of despair and rebellion, before reaching the Promised Land. In an obvious echo of that story, Jesus wanders in the wilderness for 40 days before beginning his mission to lead his people to freedom. This period is described as a time of testing.

Time spent in a metaphorical wilderness can indeed be testing, but it can also be productive. The most prolific oil wells are often drilled in desert places, as our television screens showed us so dramatically when Iraqi troops set fire to

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around 700 well-heads in Kuwait in 1991. Symbolic deserts have a similar potential to catch fire, releasing undreamed-of quantities of energy.

I once accidentally walked in on a priest friend of mine listening to a woman telling him about her fears that she was lost in a spiritual desert, not knowing quite what she believed. I knew them both well, so they didn't break off their conversation. His reply was profound: 'That's no bad thing; deserts can be very productive places, you know.'

Isaiah certainly thought so: 'The desert will rejoice, and flowers will bloom in the wilderness,' he said. He may not have been thinking about Brexit, or even arid patches of personal faith. But 2019 is still young: may it blossom with unexpected blooms for us all.

BOOKING THE COOKS

From *MasterChef* to *The Hairy Bikers' Meals on Wheels*, the popularity of cooking programmes on television reflects one of Britain's foremost obsessions – food. There used to be a joke about the nightmare EU scenario, where each nation was given a role according to what they were worst at: the British were the cooks. But this is not the case any more; and certainly not round our way, once *Cegin y Frenni/A Taste of West Wales* has been put together and published.

The plan is to gather favourite recipes from all over our LMA, preferably but not necessarily with a Welsh flavour (ha ha) and compile them into a book which can be sold in local shops during the summer. It's hoped the project will tickle the palate of tourists, raise awareness of our Ministry Area, and swell its coffers.



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HEARD IT IN THE GRAPEVINE

Regular subscribers know that this magazine provides an excellent way of keeping in touch with church and community news month by month. But have you ever considered contributing? We're trying to widen our circle of writers, leading to a broader range interest and a variety of styles. One noticeable feature of the publication is the rarity of articles in Welsh. So if you have something to say – a report of a special occasion, for instance – fire up the word processor and email your contribution to the Editor.

On the other side of the coin, we want to reach the widest possible audience. So say after me: 'How would you like to keep in touch with the latest local news and views with *Grapevine*?' Excellent! Now say it to all your friends.

LLANWINIO W.I.



The January meeting was spent discussing ideas for the Group Meeting entertainment which is being hosted by Llanwinio this year in March. The raffle was provided by Chris and won by Anne. The new programme has been prepared and will be ready for distribution this month.

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

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Services in February 2019

Meidrim and Merthyr

2 nd	Presentation of Christ in the Temple.	Candlemas.
Meidrim	10.00 am	Holy Eucharist
3 rd	Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany	
Meidrim	9.45 am	Cymun Bendigaid
	4.00 pm	Evensong
Merthyr	11.15 am	Holy Eucharist
10 th	Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany	
Meidrim	9.45 am	Holy Eucharist
	4.00 pm	Hwyrol Weddi
Merthyr	11.15 am	Y Cymun Bendigaid
17 th	Septuagesima	
Meidrim	9.45 am	Holy Eucharist (bilingual, 2004 rite)
	4.00 pm	Evensong
Merthyr	11.15 am	Morning Prayer
24 th	Sexagesima	
Merthyr	9.45 am	Holy Eucharist
Meidrim	11.15 am	Sung Matins
	4.00 pm	Hwyrol Weddi

Morning Prayer will be said in St David's, Meidrim, at 9.00 am on the first two Sundays in the month

Merthyr

Our good wishes for better health and the assurance of our prayers go to Mrs Sylvia Thomas, Parcmaen Street, Carmarthen, who has been unwell at home for six weeks. We trust that it will not be long before we see her back in church. We



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also wish improved health to Mary Chadwick, now well installed in Garth Martin, better known to some perhaps as the Old Rectory.

Incidentally life was not always easier in the old days despite the attraction of nostalgia for some of us. The Rector of Merthyr in the late 1940s found pumping the water up to the upstairs tank too much of an effort and apparently persuaded some of the local lads to do the work for him but was obliged to supply them with a packet of cigarettes as a reward. Doubtless that particular clerical gesture would not meet with complete approval in these days of concern for health and pure air.

We thank all who worked so hard to decorate the church for the Christmas festival and for the lovely results of their efforts. We are grateful to the children who took part in the Nativity scene. The Fennemore children had a busy morning as they had also been to Christ Church, Carmarthen just before our service. Quite a rush for them, I suspect. We are also grateful to the grandchildren of Mr and Mrs Ronald Lewis, who sang an appropriate seasonal item, and also to the readers and our organist, Mr William Bott. It was also good to see Mr Clive Bott in church and he was seated alongside his granddaughter Rosa who was duly dressed as an angel. Her brother, James, was a confident Joseph and likewise appropriately attired. Our thanks go to all the parents who ensured that their offspring were fittingly habited. Who knows what effect such observances may have on a child's spiritual growth especially if that child comes to associate Christmas not just with presents, exciting as that may be, but also with feeling part of a loving family and community which rejoices to celebrate the birthday of Christ. That birth is after all for millions of us the greatest gift of all.

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Meidrim

Although the Deanery of St Clears is no longer in existence the memories of friendships made remain. The deanery facilitated common activity and friendships through the Deanery choir, the Sunday School festival, the Ruridecanal Conference, the production of the Deanery magazine and in other ways. In each of the twenty four parishes which made up the Deanery there were found keen and active laypeople. One such was the late Mr David Bryan of Broadway. When I was Rural Dean between 2003 and 2013 it would fall to my lot to encounter his vigorous approach to discussion at the occasional Parochial Church Council meeting but my principal memory of him is his reading out aloud the charter at the Portreeve's service at St Martin's, Laugharne, first in Latin and then in English. David was in his element! Underlying it all however was a definite Christian faith and hard work - those who worked with and for him when he was a surveyor invariably refer to him as a "good boss". He also gave loyal support to the work and witness of Llansadurnen and Laugharne churches. From time to time too he would join us at worship at Meidrim although deteriorating health had restricted his ability to do so latterly. It was a privilege to be asked by his family to assist at his funeral at Parc Gwyn crematorium on Friday, January 18th and to assure his children Glyn and Margaret and wider family of our sympathy and prayers. May David rest in peace and rise in glory.

Our thanks go to all the members of Bethel Chapel for their kindly welcome to the joint carol service on the Sunday before Christmas. Thanks also go to the readers and to the accompanist, Mrs Elizabeth Jameson. Afterwards we were able to enjoy a bountiful tea in the nearby vestry and wish one another a joyful Christmas. The Calvinistic Methodists were formed in 1811 when some of the heirs to the Evangelical revival ordained their own ministers and thereby



Above: Cylch y Frenni Catering Corps prepared for action in the kitchen area of Llanfyrnach Church

Below: Gareth and Catrin Owens who married in St Tysilio Church on Monday 31st December





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separated themselves from the Church which insisted then, and insists still, on ordination by bishops. The Calvinistic Methodists produced men of real distinction. One such was Dr Lewis Edwards who was the first Principal of the ministerial training college in Bala for many years. He has a link with this area as he taught the family at Pentowin when he was a young man and then did similar work at Laugharne. A new biography in Welsh of Lewis Edwards was published a few years ago so he is not forgotten nor should he be. The Calvinistic Methodists have shown much spiritual vitality over the decades but, like the Church in Wales, have faced the cold blasts of indifference, especially in the second half of the twentieth century and since. It was and is good therefore that we can come together in a bilingual context to celebrate Christmas as we did recently.

One aspect of a recent survey of knowledge of the Bible is encouraging. It seems that there is a noticeable difference in knowledge of Bible stories between Wales and England. Welsh parents under forty years of age having a much better outline knowledge of Scriptural stories such as the story of Creation, Joseph (and his coat) and the Gospel miracles and parables. It would be interesting to account for this. Is it due to the work of Sunday Schools or day schools? Or the perduring influence of a Bible-centred form of Christianity from the once dominant Protestantism of Welsh language culture? Whatever the reason it serves to encourage us to build on what we have inherited from the faithful witness of our Christian ancestors.

Christmas 2018

There was a very small increase in the numbers of communicants at the Festival. These included Mrs Nora Davies and Mr Ken Thomas who received Holy Communion at Y Garreg Llwyd, the residential home in Salem Road, St Clears, where they are settled and content.

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Lay Worship Leader Mr. Nathan Jenkins

Services in February

3rd Epiphany IV

St Mary	10.00 am	Holy Communion
St David	11.30 am	Matins

10th Epiphany V

St Mary	8.00 am	Holy Communion
St Tysilio	9.00 am	Holy Communion
St Mary	1.00 am	Matins
St David	11.00 am	Matins
Cyffig	2.30 pm	Holy Communion
St Brynach	4.00 pm	Holy Communion

17th Septuagesima

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

24th Sexagesima

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

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Railway Crossing

As the railway crossing will be closed for 17th, 24th Feb and 3rd March there may be some alterations in the above services on the precious page. Please listen to announcements.

Tempus Fugit

We are already into the New Year and as you can see above we are approaching the pre-Easter period. Whatever the weather is now we are at least approaching Spring, and St Valentine's day is this month. The cycle of life goes on. We may face an uncertain future, the worry of Brexit, the concern of the Ministry Area, falling numbers in churches and among the clergy (and those of us who are left are increasingly becoming administrators – not what we were ordained for), but God has shown over and over again that he has the future in his hand and perhaps he is doing something new.

In Memoriam

Our sympathy to the family and friends of Vivian Moon who passed away on Christmas Day. There was a simple private service on Tuesday Jan 15th at Parc Gwyn. Vivian Moon was a fascinating person and will be sadly missed.

Eglwys Gymyn

Here at Eglwys Gymyn, a quiet January follows the busiest Christmas we can remember,

1. We had the very successful Christmas fayre on December 1st which enabled us to meet a lot of old friends and make new, while at the same time managing to add to our finances ready for whatever January 2019 throws at us.
2. A very joyful Christmas carol service (9 traditional readings and carols) on December 16th led by Reverend Huw which concluded, as is also traditional in our church, with mince pies and mulled wine, (the usual choice included alcohol free}.
3. The Christmas Eve service was led by Reverend David which sadly was his last regular service for Eglwys Gymyn and ended a more than 6 year relationship during which we relied enormously on 'David' for supporting our church through many difficult changes and for his good humour.

We do hope that it might be possible to see Rev David at an Easter service, but no promises.



***Above: A beautiful rainbow shines down over Eglwys Gymyn
Below: Nadolig 2019, Y Tabernacl, Hendy Gwyn***



Although the year ended on this sad note, the Christmas festivities helped to raise the spirits as did the photograph of our church underneath a wonderful rainbow showing again God's Promise!

Services: 2.00 p.m. every Sunday with Rev. Huw

Regards and a Happy New Year!

Cyffig Notes for January 2019

It is strange reading about Christmas Carol Services in February. When already Jan. 10th as I write, Christmas seems an awfully long time ago. But we had such a splendid Service on December 23rd we just had to say "Thank you" to everyone who came (and there were a lot). To Mary Morris for playing the organ and to all our readers and to Rev. Kingsley of course.

It was lovely to see Cyffig so full, young and old, and everyone enjoying the Festive Spirit with mulled wine and mince pies.

We look forward to welcoming you all again.

Good Health and Happiness to everyone in 2019

Whitland Male Choir



On Friday 14th December we held a Carol & Talent Concert at Llanboidy Market Hall. It was a great evening to showcase local talent, including Clive Edwards, Hefina and Elin Jones, David Thomas, The Elderly Brothers, Gareth Edwards, Rob Phillips, Richard Lewis, Nigel Jenkins and Dafydd Page. Over £1,200 was raised for Kidney Research.

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On Tuesday 18th December we had our annual Christmas evening at the Fishers Arms, Whitland. Christmas Carols were sung, and Diane (Landlady) provided us with a lovely buffet, as per usual. We appreciate the support from Diane and Roger at the Fishers very much. Thank you.

On Thursday 10th January the Choir presented a cheque for £1,268 to Kidney Research, proceeds from our Carol and Talent Concert held at Llanboidy Market Hall on Friday 14th December 2018. It was an entertaining and successful evening with Clive Edwards as compère, in his usual humorous style, Hefina and Elin Jones singing duet, also taking part were David Thomas (solo) and part of the Elderly Brothers with Rob Williams and Phil Garrod. A funny skit aimed at Clive Edwards, from Gareth Edwards, Richard Lewis, Nigel Phillips, Dafydd Page, and Rob Phillips. The audience joining the choir singing Christmas Carols.

Choir practice starts back on Thursday 10th January at 7.30pm for all sections. Looking forward to seeing everyone, and starting the new year as we mean to go on. Onwards and upwards.

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

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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.



Afon Taf Gardening Club, Whitland



2019 kicked off to a flying start with the first meeting of the year on the 17th of January. The club was treated to a wonderful set of photographs taken by the award winning local photographer, Nigel McCall. Nigel spends long days at Aberglasney, near Carmarthen, where he photographs the gardens, flowers and wildlife throughout the year. In 2018 he won the prestigious Garden Photographer Of The Year which is run in conjunction with the Royal Botanic

Gardens at Kew where his prize-winning photographs will be exhibited, followed by a rolling programme of touring exhibitions in the UK and abroad. Members were joined by officials and friends of Aberglasney, and also a group from Llanteg who are considering starting up their own Gardening Club.

Copyright prevents me from publishing his prize-winning photograph, but part of it can be seen on the wall behind Nigel in the photograph above. He won first prize in the category 'The Bountiful Earth' with his beautiful photograph of flowers and fruit trees growing in abundance at Aberglasney, and also first place in the category 'Beautiful Gardens'.

The Club was privileged to welcome him to Whitland.

The February meeting takes place on the 21st of February when Linda Screen will give a talk on Seed Saving.

Meetings usually take place at 7.30 pm at Whitland Town Hall on the third Thursday of the month.

For more information please contact the Chairman, Jan on janlanfarm@yahoo.co.uk

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

Minister Revd. Guto Llywelyn, Tel. 01269 851655
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Tabernacle: Meryl James Tel. 01994 240350 eryljames534@btinternet.com
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Tabernacle

2019 promises to be a big year for the Tabernacle, Whitland due to the fact that the first ever book on the history of the chapel will hopefully be published before the end of the year. The author Denley, Owen, has finished the first draft and we are now in the process of collecting photos before the book goes to the press. If anyone has old pictures of the Tabernacle, Whitland, could you please contact Guto on 01269 851 655

The highlight of the Christmas period was the Nativity Play by the children and young people. Also during the festive season the United Carol Service was held at the Tabernacle as well as the mid-night service on Christmas Eve.

The young people met twice over Christmas time. As well as going out carol singing just before Christmas the youngsters went to watch the Scarlets v Dragons rugby match at the start of the year.

We lost a member during December and we extend our condolences to the family of Glyn Evans, formerly of Brynmenyn, Whitland. *Guto Llewellyn*

Trinity Chapel

The minister, Revd. Guto Llywelyn officiated at the services in December. On Sunday, 16th December, members of St. Brynach's Church joined Trinity members for the annual joint Christmas service. The service was planned and led collaboratively by the Rev. Guto Llywelyn, Rev. Kingsley Taylor and the Rev. Jeni Parsons with further prayers and readings by church and chapel members. The service was greatly enjoyed by the large congregation present. The service was followed by tea and mince pies prepared by chapel members.



Above:
Organiser Rodney Williams and Chairman Dorian Phillips presenting the cheque to Danielle Angell Jones, Head of Fundraising and Events at Kidney Research.



Left:
Christingle Service held at Llanglydwen on Sunday the 13th of January, 2019

Members wish to send their best wishes for a speedy recovery to Mrs. Bethan Williams and Mrs. Wenfys Rees.

Delyth Dent

Bethel Chapel

We celebrated Christmas at Bethel with a joint Carol Service on 16th Dec when we were joined by St David's Church and Ffynnon and members of other chapels in the area. On Christmas Eve there was a service in Tabernacle at 11.30 pm taken by the younger members of the chapel with a large congregation present.

It was then back to normal for our first service of 2019 with a Welsh communion service. The following Sunday was an English service. Both services had a smaller number than usual in the congregation due to illness. We wish all those who are unwell at present a speedy recovery.

We were saddened just after Christmas to learn of the death of a former faithful member, Mrs. Nana Eynon, at the age of 97. She had been unwell for some time and had lived in the Pontardawe area for many years. Her minister there was the Rev Ll Picton Jones who was our minister for a period in the 1990s.

We had one more service in Bethel during the month, that being an English communion service on the 20th. On the 27th we will be going to a service at Trinity which will be a service of praise.

Tudor Eynon

G. Williams

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Becky Garnault



We have been praying for Becky in our intercessions week by week. She was the daughter of the former Principal of Plas Dwbl in Mynachlog-ddu and sadly died on the 21st of August, 2018 at the tragically young age of 27. She did so much for so many in her short life. She was passionate about peace, going to various

international peace camps and was Vice Chair of Abolition of War. She was also active with asylum seekers and Friends of Palestine. The Quakers were central to her life and she served on many committees. All of this despite her illness and physical frailty—she was an absolute inspiration.

Becky's family are setting up a trust fund in her memory to help young people aged 18 to 30 to take forward her work and legacy, working to increase peace in the UK and abroad. The target is to raise £10,000 and thanks to the generous donations and hard work of Becky's friends and supporters, more than 50% of this target has been reached already.

Jonathan Copus



Libby



Libby is a beautiful chocolate Labrador, now living in luxury and safety with Eve and Mags of Llanfyrnach. She is a rescue dog which they picked up from Greenacres Rescue Centre which is near Haverfordwest.

When she first came to Ty Newydd she could hardly walk because she had been kept in a cage all her life and cowered at just about everything. She came from a disgusting puppy farm and it is thought she is about 3 years old and has had at

least two litters of puppies. Somehow she managed to escape and was picked up by the RSPCA. She then led them back to the puppy farm where they were appalled to see the conditions where she, and several other dogs, had been kept. Greenacres took them all in, nursed them back to health and managed to

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rehome all of the dogs and puppies. At Greenacres they named her Libby because she had *liberated* all the other dogs. She has now put on weight, grown a beautiful glossy coat and has overcome her fear of humans. Eve and Margaret had little trouble house-training her, but she is still afraid of sticks because she has obviously been beaten in her previous life.

Greenacres do wonderful work, surviving completely on donations and proceeds from their charity shops and will take in any animal that is in distress or needs homing.

People always joke that "dog" spells "god" backwards. They should consider that it might be the higher power coming down to see just how well they do, what kind of people they are. The animals are right here, right in front of us. And how we treat these companions is a test.

Linda Blair



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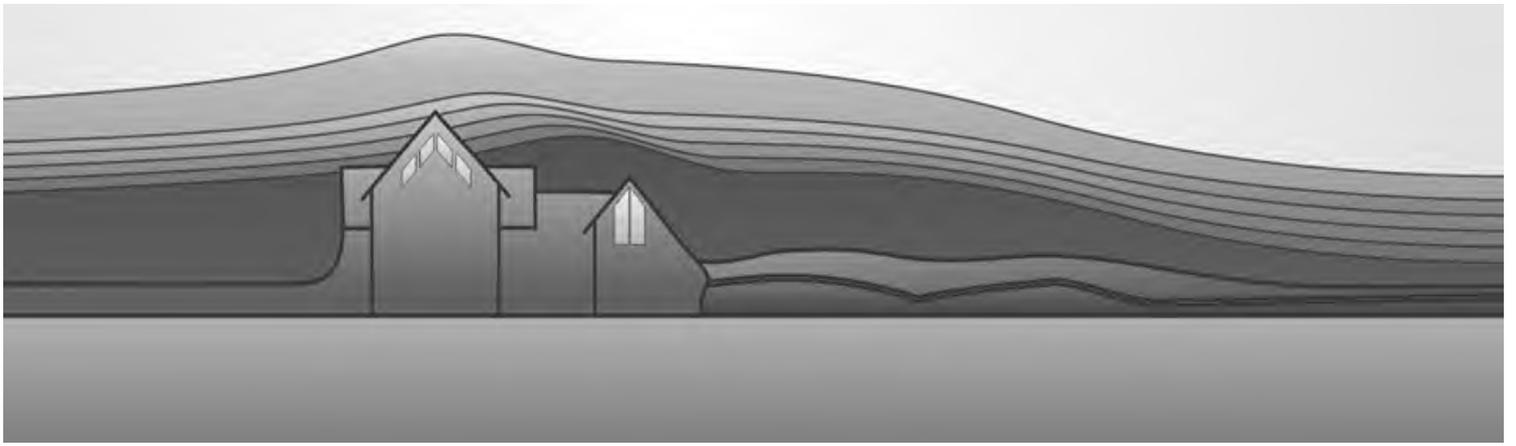
St. Clears Walking Well Group

The first walk of the year took place at Marros on the 9th of January. It was a cold, but sunny day and members met either at St. Clears Leisure Centre for car-sharing or at the carpark at Marros Church. A lovely walk –a bit steep in places—followed along the coastal paths with wonderful views out towards sea.



The next walk takes place at The National Botanic Garden of Wales. Entrance to the gardens is always free in January, so lots of walking groups take advantage of it.

Walks take place every other Wednesday. Meet at St. Clears Leisure Centre at 10.00 am sharp.



**Bingo at Canolfan Hermon on the 18th of January
in aid of Llanfyrnach Church**





And I see the Catering Corps have been out in force again!



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Collection!

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

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



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2nd Saturday every month 2pm

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Chwefror 9 February - Neuadd Bwlchgyroes Hall
Mawrth 9 March - Canolfan Clydau Centre
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Please join us at our Lunch Club in the Canolfan Clydau in Tegryn, on the 4th Saturday every month at 12.30.

The cost will be £6 for a home cooked lunch, pudding and tea or coffee.

Everyone is welcome, but you need to book in advance.

Please phone Diana on 01239 612614 or Marie on 01239 698003.

VOLUNTEERS ALSO WELCOME!!

Ionawr 26 January 2019

Chwefror 23 February

Mawrth 23 March

Ebril 27 April

Mai 25 May

Mehefin 22 June (outing)

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