

Grapevine

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Editorial

An explanation. Twelve years ago I became a Cursillista – a member of Cursillo Cymru St. Davids and thus a member of a world-wide Christian family. The following is a talk on Laity that I gave a few years ago when I was 'on team' for the 3-day weekend that we hold annually for new members – a very special residential weekend of talks, discussion, bonding, sharing, laughter and some tears.

When trying to put together the Editorial for this month, I came across a paper copy of this talk. I hope it will 'speak' to you as it did to the participants of that weekend.

In 2013 I fulfilled a lifetime's ambition. I made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in the company of Cursillistas from Southwark diocese. The place in this holy land that had always called me most was the Sea of Galilee – the Syrian sea – where Jesus called his first disciples. At Tabgha, where Jesus fed the multitude with 5 loaves and 2 fishes, and where after his resurrection he appeared to his disciples as they fished, we celebrated the Eucharist looking across the Sea. Later we sat alone on the shore spending time in prayer, meditation and reflection, and I wondered how many disciples had worshipped there before me. Because 2000+ years on – I believe we are all disciples every bit as much as Simon, Peter and Andrew. Now we are called 'laity' but our remit is the same as that of those who walked with Jesus. We are all 'fishers of men'.

We receive our remit of discipleship at our baptism. By baptism we are made holy – we are 'set aside for God's work'. Whether we take up this work in later life is dependent on many circumstances. I'm sure we've heard people say 'you can worship God alone in a field'. This is true – we all, I'm sure, have had those moments when suddenly we're overwhelmed by the feeling of the presence and love of God – sometimes when we're enjoying say the great beauty around us or a piece of music, but equally possibly when we're engrossed in the most mundane of activities.

But our Christian calling is not to a solitary faith but to membership of the people of God – a community that lives in grace, and is a channel of grace for the world. Within the Church we are initiated into, and grow into, our relationship both with our Father and with each other as His family. The church is not the building – it's the people within it. If the Church in Wales were to sell all the church buildings, the Church would remain.

The time comes when we're called to leave the shelter of that environment and go out into the challenge of the wider world. The mission field isn't only across the oceans, but in our homes, our workplaces, our groups – everywhere we go. Stepping out can be scary, but remember, God has told us that He will never ask us to do something that is too much for us. He will always be there with us. The clergy are the ministers of the Word and sacraments while we, the laity, are witnesses to Christ, taking Him into the world beyond the walls of the Church building, and hopefully bringing those to whom we have ministered into our Churches. As lay people we can go places where clergy might be greeted with suspicion and unease, and minister by word and example once trust has been gained. Remember St. Francis's advice? 'Preach the Gospel at all times. When necessary, use words'. There is a saying in Cursillo – Make a friend. Be a friend. Bring a friend to Jesus. Only when we follow our calling can the Church evangelise and Christianise the world.

In our troubled world there is such a need for something to believe in, cling to, belong to, a need for healing. Through God's love and grace we have received

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this, and we would be seriously lacking in our calling if we didn't share what we have been given so freely by such a loving God. We are the hands, feet and voices of Jesus. We know that He is with us in our work, speaking and acting through us. To quote 1 Peter 2, v 9. 'You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a dedicated nation, a people claimed by God for His own, to proclaim the glorious deeds of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvellous light'.

Judy Webb

Cylch y Frenni Circle of Churches

Clydau, Llanglydwen, Llanfyrnach,

Llanwinio and Mynachlog-ddu

SERVICES IN MARCH

1st The First Sunday of Lent

Llanglydwen	9.30 am	Holy Eucharist
Llanfyrnach	11.15 am	Holy Eucharist
Mynachlog-ddu	11.15 am	Morning Prayer

4th Wednesday

Bro Preseli	10.30 am	Home Communion
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9th The Second Sunday of Lent

Llanwinio	9.30 am	Holy Eucharist
Clydai	11.15 am	Holy Eucharist
Llanfyrnach	11.15 am	Morning Prayer

15th The Third Sunday of Lent

Llanglydwen	9.30 am	Morning Prayer
Llanfyrnach	11.15 am	Morning Prayer
Mynachlog-ddu	11.15 am	Holy Eucharist

22nd The Fourth Sunday of Lent – Mothering Sunday

Llanwinio	9.30 am	Holy Eucharist
Clydai	11.15 am	Morning Prayer
Llanfyrnach	11.15 am	Holy Eucharist

29th The Fifth Sunday of Lent: Passion Sunday

Llanfyrnach	10.30 am	Joint Benefice Morning Prayer
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*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*

Some notable dates not on a Sunday:

- 2nd St David Patron Saint of Wales
- 6th Women's World Day of Prayer
- 17th Patrick Patron Saint of Ireland
- 19th Joseph of Nazareth
- 25th The Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary

Llanfyrnach

In Memoriam



On the 21st of January we bade a sad farewell to Ted Batchelor who was a faithful member of Llanfyrnach church for the last 20 years or so. The service, conducted by Rev Jonathan Copus, was a celebration of life and love, the date, 14th February, St. Valentine's Day, having been especially chosen. He was a devout Christian and had a very strong faith. The other side of Ted, of course, was his humour, his outgoing personality and his great kindness.

He was born on 23rd May 1941 in Sandwell Hospital, West Bromwich in the West Midlands and was hastily put underneath the bed as Hitler

was sending bombs down at that time by the dozen.

Ted's working life was rich and varied. He joined the REME, (Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers) Military Reserves and was taught how to Fire L70 Bofers, drive jeeps and heavy goods vehicles, and even had to pilot a boat at some point. He then he joined the RMPs, Royal Military Police and made it to the grade of sergeant, taking First Aid lessons so that he could look after his colleagues who injured themselves in their training camp duties. At the age of 20 he



joined the Ambulance Service, progressing to the EMT, Emergency Medical Team , later becoming a qualified Ambulanceman. In 1961 he met Eunice and they were married in 1962. They went on to have three children, Beverley, Ian and Nigel. The family spend many happy years touring the country in their caravan and having all sorts of fun and adventures.



Once in Wales Ted put his heart and soul into Llanfyrnach church, holding barbecues, donating generously and taking an active part in all fundraising events.

Betty was always the first one to greet Ted at church, and was always met with a big smile and a joke. His sense of fun was legendary and He had some funny sayings - Marnie always remembers this one: "I don't care what the butcher says, I like her". I liked this one—if you had missed church or any event for that matter—"I hope you've got a sick note!"

Lewis Llewellyn thought Ted was very funny man who was always very kind to him. John Llewellyn and Ted had a great love of the Vulcan aircraft and spent some time talking about this famous plane.

Ted was always on the door, up until the last couple of years, taking the money for coffee mornings, Children in Need or any other fundraising event.

Latterly, when Ted couldn't get to church Janet and David Carter gave him communion at home which he greatly appreciated.

We will all miss Ted very much, it was a pleasure and an honour to have known him. May he rest in peace

“There will never be another, with a heart so full of love”

Eve on behalf of Llanfyrnach Church

Llanfyrnach Church sponsored the bingo night at Canolfan Hermon on Friday 17th January. Entry fee was £6 - this bought you a chance to win 6 “houses” with a cash prize of £20 a time, and 6 lines at £8 a line.

The entire evening was generously sponsored by local traders & church members. Joyce & Wyn Williams of Trehenri Farm paid for the venue and for Clebran magazine - a big thank you to them also.

Raffle prizes were donated by Jacqui’s hairdressers, Siop Sian, Midway Motors, Audrey Davies and Family, and church members. We made a profit of £266.00. The numbers were down but the weather may have something to do with that!

We are booking it again for next year probably in March. We would like to say a big thank you Chris Tomos “ the caller” and all the staff at the hall for being so helpful.

Tir Dewi is a charity that helps Farmers in Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire.



As I write this article, Christmas and Epiphany have been and gone and February is now upon us. By the time you read this it will be March, we will of course be in the period of Lent, the time in the Christian Calendar when we take time to reflect and repent as the time of our Lord’s Crucifixion and Resurrection draws near.

It is also the time in the farming calendar when many are in the thick of lambing or getting ready for spring calving. On top of this, farmers are preparing the fields for silage, hay and other crops. A busy time indeed as they are tending to new life and new growth, all in the perpetual regeneration of life and the seasons. Even before the time of Jesus farming has been an integral part of rural community life.

In times gone by farming was hugely labour intensive, with people employed to help spread the workload whether it was arable, dairy, beef, sheep, goats, pigs or poultry, and there were many opportunities for interaction with other people. Here, our Churches, Chapels and Marts, were all centres of activity where people from the farming community met, not only to worship and share Christian fellowship with other farmers, or to buy and sell livestock, but to gather together as social events, catching up with friends old and new, sharing news, problems and even gossip!

Now, as machinery and technology has replaced people, farming is becoming more intensive and demanding, making it a lonelier occupation with some farmers going days, even weeks, without sight of another human being. Markets, once thriving social centres are closing, with increased workloads meaning less time for meeting up for social activities, even worship. These all are contributing factors to the isolation felt by many farmers. This isolation, coupled with increased administration, falling prices, tougher legislation, ill health, relationship breakdowns etc. are all pressures which contribute to increased stress which in turn leads to breakdown or other mental health issues. It doesn't take much to tip the balance, to be the straw that breaks the camel's back.

Tir Dewi, founded by the Archdeacon of Cardigan, the Venerable Eileen Davies, is a charity set up with the help of Bishop Wyn Evans and the Diocese of St. Davids. Tir Dewi is here to help farmers regain some equilibrium in their lives. Working alongside sister charities we help with all manner of issues ranging from the need to just have somebody to talk to, to help with administration problems, and sometimes practical issues. We help farmers to prioritise the problems and face them with the farmer. We work with the farmer until the issues are resolved, sometimes putting in many man hours in the process.

We currently have around 30 volunteers, 5 of whom answer the helpline, taking calls seven days a week. Others are currently on active cases, helping farmers in our communities right now. To date we have helped some 200 farmers, and that number is increasing. Our volunteers bring with them all manner of skills and expertise which they are willing to share as and when needed. Sometimes our volunteers face some very distressing circumstances when they visit. The services of Tir Dewi are free. Referrals come from a variety of sources. To mention but a few:- Farmers Unions, RABI, DEFRA Farm Liaison, Banks, Social



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Edward Albert Batchelor
23.5.1941—21.01.2020

Services, other charities. We are in constant contact with our sister charities, farmer unions, young farmers movements and such like.

So during this Lenten period, as you reflect upon the sacrifice that was Jesus, whose blood was spilled to wash away our sins, please take some time to include a prayer for the farmers struggling in our communities.

Tir Dewi can be contacted on our Freefone helpline 0800 121 4722, email address info@tirdewi.co.uk, website www.tirdewi.co.uk We can be found on Facebook and Twitter.

If you know of anybody from the farming community who is struggling, please give them our name and number and suggest they make contact to hear a friendly voice, find a listening ear and be treated with complete confidentiality.

If you would like to know more about becoming a volunteer or know somebody who would please contact Anne May, Volunteer co-ordinator by email anne@tirdewi.co.uk or call 07483 418673. *Sharon Edge*

Galileans – the outsiders

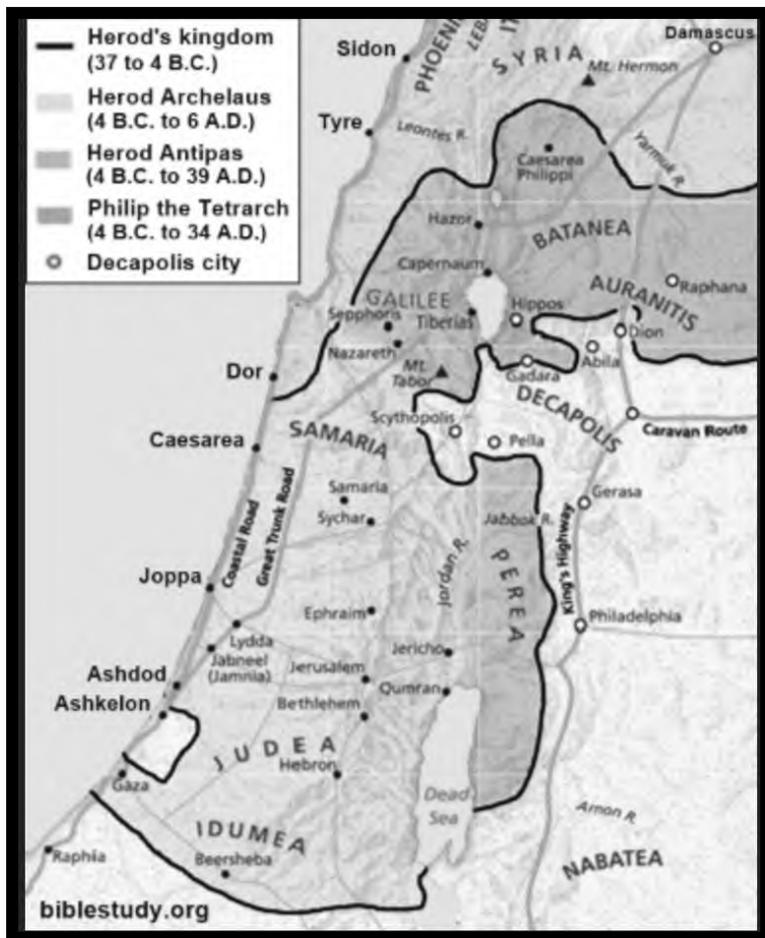
Now that Christmas is over and Easter is in sight (just beyond Lent), give a thought for St Peter, waiting in the dark while Jesus was on trial before the Sanhedrin: when he got 'outed' as one of Jesus' followers, marked out as a foreigner in Jerusalem. (**Matthew 27, vss 69-75**)

Jesus, likewise, was an outsider: or was he? Hailing from Nazareth, he launched his ministry by recruiting followers in Capernaum. These were both quite traditional Jewish towns in cosmopolitan Galilee: which had been the northern kingdom of Israel until the Assyrians over-ran it in the 8th century BC. It was part of several passing empires thereafter until Herod the Great reunited Judea with

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Galilee and Samaria a generation before Jesus' birth; and Perea to the east of the river Jordan and parts of Syria. By then, Galilee was a multicultural area in which Greek was understood by more people than Hebrew.

Galilean Jews had their own Aramaic language and lived cheek by jowl with other cultures without having much to do with them. The biggest towns in Galilee – Sepphoris and Tiberias - don't rate a mention in the New testament. Jesus would not have tried preaching there – his path led to Jerusalem. His mother Mary

was related to John the Baptists' mother Elizabeth, described in **Luke 1 vs 5** as descended from Aaron – the original Levite priest: so, through these relationships he had the gravitas to be taken seriously in Judea.

Following the death of Herod the Great, his kingdom split three ways with Herod Antipas getting Galilee and Perea on the east bank of the Jordan, which he ruled until 39AD. Herod Archelaus got Judea and Samaria; briefly, as Rome banished him and took his area over in 6AD, appointing Publius Sulpicius Quirinius (he of the census) as procurator.



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The genetically different Samaria lay between Galilee in the north and Judea. One had to either pass through it or go around it through Perea to the east of the Jordan, or down the Phoenician coast through Caesarea (capital of Roman Judea) to Joppa and then into the hills.

Anyone making that journey would have seen how different Galilee was from Judea. Galilee was richer; better land, stronger agriculture and a thriving fishing community on the Sea of Galilee. Judea was hill country with less fresh water sources. Snowdonia versus Oxfordshire but with more sunshine.

By the time any Galilean got to Jerusalem, he was wearing his outsider credentials on his sleeve – often literally. Greek influence in the north affected dress styles and textiles, as well as speech. Jerusalem was very much centred on the Temple cult where the tribe of Levi were the hereditary priestly caste – the inventors of nepotism.

How was any outsider to be taken seriously as bringing God's word to the people? John the Baptist did it from as far away as possible, by being on the Perea side of the Jordan – so the people had to travel to him to hear his message – out of Roman territory and into Herod's domain. And that technique for staying out of trouble didn't work for long.

So as soon as Jesus or any of his followers spoke, their slovenly speech and diction (think of a cockney addressing the Oxford Union) immediately marked them down as targets for ridicule. Jerusalemites thought that Galileans weren't proper Jews; they lived too far from the Temple to observe all the necessary rituals (121 miles avoiding most of Samaria – that's Crymych to the far side of the Severn Bridge) and weren't up to speed on theology.



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**Left:
Silwyn Thomas
(on the right)
with Dewi
James
(Treasurer)
when Silwyn
visited the
chapel Society
to talk about
the Talking
Books Service.**

**Below:
Former
minister, Rev.
Llewelyn Picton
Jones, returns
to the
Tabernacle to
celebrate 25
years in the
ministry**



Having set those prejudices out, the Gospels tell that Jesus was taken seriously; debating with Pharisees and Sadducees and ultimately brought before Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin, which is where Peter was waiting outside, denying that he was a follower of Jesus: and kicking himself for that weakness ever after.

Richard Law

On behalf of all the readers of the Grapevine, I would like to offer our congratulations to our Editor, Kathie Dubben, on her promotion to the great and glorious rank of GRANDMOTHER. Her daughter-in-law Becky, and son Jamie, presented her with a beautiful granddaughter, Freya Elizabeth, at 1 minute to 11 pm on Friday, 31st January, thus ensuring that Freya was a European for a minute!

Wonderful news, Kathie – and such a clever baby to chose the birth family she has.

Judy Webb



LLANWINIO WI



February's meeting took place on the 11th of February when Peter Boyle from St. Clears visited Llanwinio again to give a talk about Caldey Island, illustrated with his own photographs. Peter goes on a retreat to Caldey two or three times a year when he enjoys the solitude Caldey has to offer once the day-trippers have gone home. He attends several services at the monastery during his stay and gets up at least once to watch the sun rise. There are red squirrels now on Caldey. Members of Llanwinio WI learnt a lot about the side of the island that most people never see.



The next meeting takes place on the 10th of March when Trelech WI are the guests of Llanwinio for a St. David's Day celebration.

***Meetings usually take place at Llanwinio Community Hall
at 2.00 pm on the second Tuesday of the month.***

For more details contact the President, Anne Summerbell, on 01994 484278.

New members will be warmly welcomed!

Meidrim and Merthyr

Canon Jeffrey Gainer 01994 231378

sieffremeidrim@googlemail.com

Services in March 2020

1st First Sunday in Lent

Meidrim	9.00 am	Boreol Weddi
	9.45am	Litani a'r Cymun Bendigaid
	4.00pm	Evensong
Merthyr	11.15am	Y Cymun Bendigaid

8th Second Sunday in Lent

Meidrim	9.00am	Morning Prayer
	9.45am	Holy Eucharist
	4.00pm	Hwyrol Weddi
Merthyr	11.15am	Litany and Holy Eucharist

15th Third Sunday in Lent

Merthyr	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Meidrim	11.00am	Holy Eucharist (2004 rite, bilingual)
	4.00pm	Litani a'r Hwyrol Weddi

22nd Fourth Sunday in Lent

Merthyr	9.30am	Litany and Holy Eucharist
Meidrim	11.00am	Matins
	4.00pm	Evensong

25th Annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary

Meidrim	10.30am	Holy Eucharist
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29th Passion Sunday: Fifth Sunday in Lent

Meidrim	9.00am	Boreol Weddi a'r Litani
	10.30am	Joint Holy Eucharist
	4.00pm	Hwyrol Weddi

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Meidrim

Good wishes and congratulations go to Elis Anthony James who was baptised on February 23 by the Vicar. His proud parents, Anthony and Catrin of Sarnau Farm, were joined by the godparents, Aled Bowen, Nichola Bowen, Wayne James and Sarah James and a good number of family members and friends who sang Morning Prayer together on that day. The organist was Mrs Elizabeth Jameson.

The sermons before and during the first part of Lent this year deal with the theme of the Church and the sects. This latter group includes the Mormons, the Spiritualists, Jehovah's Witnesses and Christian Scientists, all of which originate in the United States of America and all of which contradict in various ways the mainstream Christian tradition as expounded in the Prayer Book tradition of Anglican Christianity, a tradition which itself is grounded in Holy Scripture and the Catholic Faith as set forth in the Catholic Creeds which we use in our worship. In the second half of Lent, commonly called Passiontide, the sermons will be based on the theme of Christ, the Divine Redeemer.

Nothing remains the same for ever. Recently a consultation was held at St. Clears by the Planning Department of the County Council. The scheme outlined proposes further building in the village in the period up to 2033 and is a revision of proposals dating back from 2014. In effect permission is to be sought to build ten houses described as affordable housing in the gap between the houses in Lon Ddewi and the bungalows and a further fifteen properties in an area behind the elevated properties in Drefach, Meidrim. The hope is that young families may be attracted to the village which would also, hopefully, benefit the local school.

Recently some correspondence appeared in the pages of the Western Mail concerning the costs of maintaining churchyards. Mr Alex Glanville of the



Ted and Eunice Batchelor in their garden at Hermon



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Property Department of the Church in Wales made the point that it is not unreasonable to suggest that local authorities should be encouraged to consider contributing towards the cost of maintenance of some at least of the churchyards since for a long time now people of differing denominations have been entitled to be buried in the parish churchyard. The truth is that many of the churchyards in Wales are now full and therefore unable to generate income from burial fees whilst those which have space are dependent on volunteers to do the necessary cutting of grass and other work needed to keep God's acre tidy. There is no easy answer as the councils themselves are experiencing difficulties in financing their existing legal responsibilities. Here in Meidrim we are grateful to all who give the time and effort to keep the churchyard in good condition. It is hoped ere long to cut back many of the overhanging branches. This is necessary work but it will not be cheap as a professional will be needed for the expert work involved although we have had offers of help for the task of removing the wood from the site. In addition a young student from the village hopes to record the names of the people buried here as part of a school

enterprise. She must however wait for milder weather after the recent storm Ciara!

We wish improved health to the following; Rozanne Kirk of Whitland, daughter of Mr and Mrs Raymond Thomas, Meidrim and Tony Lewis. We are glad to note that Mr Delme Herbert appears to be somewhat better in his home at Llangynnwr.

Merthyr

Our thanks go to Mrs Ann Rees who cleaned the church and donated altar flowers in January in memory of her parents.

The community hall used to be a school and was established by a former Rector at a time of rivalry between Church and chapel back in the 1870s. Pupils still attended the school in the 1950s but at much the same time as the Rectory, also built during the same incumbency and at much the same time, was disposed of by the Church in Wales so the school ceased to educate the young. Consequently the children of Merthyr had no choice but to go elsewhere and some attended Abernant school. With declining numbers each country school faces the possibility of closure and it appears that this fate now awaits Abernant school. No doubt old pupils will feel a sense of loss whilst acknowledging the financial pressures which necessitate, we are told, the unpalatable decision to close the school doors for the last time. It is right to record here our thanks for the dedicated work of teachers and others there over the years in a peaceful,



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beautiful and safe environment where children could be shown the care and personal attention they deserve. The original school in Abernant was likewise built on land given by the then incumbent. What will become of the buildings which stand at the centre of the hamlet of Abernant? The lessons and experiences associated with that particular school community will however live on in the hearts and minds of those who spent part of their childhood there.

Food for thought:

Recently Heads of State and dignitaries from all over the world gathered at Auschwitz for a commemoration of the Holocaust. It was, not surprisingly, a sombre event as people recalled that six million Jewish people and others were killed in the concentration camps. A German Christian wrote in 2004, "the Christian faith is only Christian as long as it retains in its heart the Jewish faith."

We extend our best wishes for improved health and the assurance of our prayers to all those who have been in hospital or have been unwell at home.

Our thanks go to Rhian Walters of Derllys Golf course who has once again kindly produced posters for display in church and has done so free of charge. Diolch.

**Whitland, Cyffig, Llanboidy
Llandysulio, Clunderwen**
The Reverend Kingsley G Taylor, BD MA
01994 240494 ktaylor559@aol.com
Assistant Priest Dr Canon Jeni Parsons
Lay Worship Leader Mr. Nathan Jenkins

Services in March

1st Lent I

St Mary	10.00 am	Holy Communion	KT
St David	11.30 am	Holy Communion	KT

6th Lent II

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

15th Lent III

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

22nd Lent IV/Mothering Sunday

St Mary	8.00 am	Holy Communion	KT
St Tysilio	9.00 am	Holy Communion	KT
St Mary	11.00 am	Holy Communion	KT
St David	11.00 am	Matins	NJ
St Brynach	11.15 am	Holy Communion	JP
Cyffig	2.30 pm	Evensong	KT

29th Passion Sunday

St Mary	8.00 am	Holy Communion	KT
St Mary	11.00 am	Holy Communion	KT

Diary date

Tuesday 3rd March Beetle Drive in the Lamb, Llanboidy 7.00 pm

Pencil in the 22nd March, this is the proposed date when the Bishop will be coming to Cyffig for a confirmation. Cyffig services are always at 2.30 pm and I propose not to have any services in any of the other churches so you can all come there.

Monday 30th March Easter Vestry 10.30 am Llandysilio, 7.30 pm Llanboidy

Cyffig

Spring is here! Well the bulbs in my garden seemed to think so. Flowering bravely, but alas, Storm "Ciara" had other ideas. Now my purple crocuses (planted in support of the Rotary Club campaign to eradicate Polio) are looking very flattened!

On Sunday March 22nd. at 2.30 pm there will be a very special Service of Confirmation in Cyffig Church, when Mrs. Deb. Bowen-Rees will be confirmed by Bishop Joanna. It is a very long time since Cyffig was able to host such an occasion.

Everyone is welcome and we hope the Sun will shine upon us all.

Eglwys Gymyn

Although winter is not the best of times for functions in and around our church, there are always birthdays and anniversaries to celebrate.

In February we celebrated the birthday of Mrs Ann Robinson, a stalwart of our congregation who is now well into her 90th decade. To celebrate, her daughter took her to Cardiff for a family lunch. By the time the Grapevine is published she will be well into a three week holiday in New Zealand, touring with her grandson who now lives and work there. We look forward to her return with photographs and stories. *(See page 27 for a sneak preview!!)*

On March 1st, as well as being St Davids Day, it is the 97th birthday of Mrs. Nesta Wilson. Although no longer able to attend our Church, she has frequent visitors from our Church, and is lucky to have family living close by. We wish her many happy returns.

Separate to these happy occasions, the first of our area LMA meetings has taken place, but our representative Mr John Tunster-Lewis has nothing to report so far, as it is mainly concerned with establishing processes and area of



***Above: St. Davids Cathedral in the Spring sunshine, 17th February, 2020, Kathie Dubben
Below: Ann Robinson with her daughter Christine and grandson Alex on holiday in New Zealand***



operations, etc. The next meeting is scheduled for February 24th.

Without placing a jinx on the repairs to our Church Chancel wall, we have now been reliably informed that work will commence in the second week of March, (weather dependent), just in time for Easter.

Monthly services in March will be as usual, commencing at 2.00 pm with Reverend Huw.

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

Services in March

Bethel, Llanddewi:

March 1st:	14.00:	Communion Service
March 8th:	14.00:	Service through the medium of English
March 15th:	10.30:	Service at Bethel led by Hefin Wyn
March 22nd:	14.00:	Service at Waungron Care Home
March 29th:	10.30 & 14.00:	Annual Services at the Tabernacle, Whitland led by the Reverend Dewi Myrddin Hughes, Clydach

Tabernacle, Whitland:

March 1st:	9.30:	Communion Service
March 8th:	11.00:	Service
March 15th:	10.30:	Service at Bethel led by Hefin Wyn
March 22nd:	11.00:	Service
March 29th:	10.30 & 14.00:	Annual Services led by the Reverend Dewi Myrddin Hughes, Clydach

(Sunday School every Sunday at 9.30 am)

Trinity, Llanboidy :

March 1st:	11.00:	Communion Service
March 8th:	9.30:	Service
March 15th:	10.30:	Service at Bethel led by Hefin Wyn
March 22nd:	9.30:	Service
March 29th:	10.30 & 14.00:	Annual Services at the Tabernacle, Whitland led by the Reverend Dewi Myrddin Hughes, Clydach

Tabernacl, Hendy-gwyn

Uchafbwynt mis Ionawr oedd gwahodd cyn-weinidog y Tabernacl, Parchedig Llewelyn Picton Jones, yn ôl i'r Tabernacl, Hendy-gwyn ar gyfer oedfa i ddathlu 25 mlynedd o waith Llew fel gweinidog. Yn y Tabernacl ac yn Bethel, Llanddewi ac yn Trinity, Llanboidy y dechreuodd Llew fel gweinidog cyn symud i ardal Pontarddulais ar ol bron i pum mlynedd. Cafwyd oedfa hyfryd wrth i ni gael cyfle i ddiolch iddo am gwarter canrif o waith rhagorol a chydwybodol.

Silwyn Thomas oedd y gŵr gwadd yn noson Cymdeithas y Tabernacl ddechrau Chwefror. Cafwyd noson ddiddorol iawn wrth iddo egluro gwaith *Llyfrau Llafar Cymru*. Eglurodd mai gwasanaeth ar gyfer y deillion neu'r rhannol ddall yw *Llyfrau Llafar Cymru* a fod nifer o lyfrau Cymraeg a Saesneg ar gael i wrando arnynt ar CD. Yn ogystal mae *Llyfrau Llafar Cymru* bob amser yn falch cael gwirfoddolwyr newydd i recordio y llyfrau a'r cylchgronnau. Os oes rhywun eisiau defnyddio y gwasanaeth neu am wirfoddoli i helpi cysylltwch gyda Linda neu Phillip ar 01267 238 225.

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The highlight of January was welcoming our former minister Reverend Llewelyn Picton Jones back to the Tabernacle as he celebrated 25 years in the ministry. It was in the Tabernacle and in the pastorate that Llew started a quarter of a century ago before he moved to the Pontarddulais area after nearly five years. We had a lovely service and we were able to thank him for his excellent work over the years.

Silwyn Thomas was the guest speaker with the Chapel Society at the start of February. He came to talk about the talking books service Llyfrau Llafar Cymru which offers Welsh and English books and periodicals free of charge for those who are blind or partially blind. If anybody would like to use the service or offer their help as a volunteer please contact Linda or Phillip on 01267 238225.

Trinity Chapel

During January, the services at Trinity were led by the minister, Revd Guto Llywelyn. On Sunday, 19th January members attended the annual 'Service of Praise' which was held this year in Tabernacle. Members from the three chapels introduced hymns, and led prayers and readings. Following the service, members enjoyed tea and biscuits in the vestry.

On Sunday, 26th January a special service was held at Tabernacle Chapel to mark the 25th anniversary of the ordination of the Revd. Llewelyn Picton Jones as minister of Tabernacle, Bethel and Trinity chapels. Revd. Jones, currently minister of Capel Hope-Siloh, Pontarddulais, recalled his journey into the ministry and the core Christian values that have guided his work throughout. Colleagues and friends shared their experiences and happy recollections of

Ken Davies A'i Fab

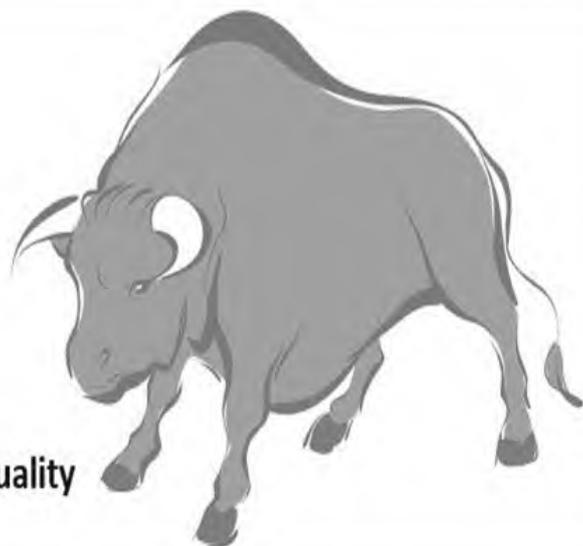
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working with Revd. Jones over many years. It was good to welcome members of Revd. Jones' family to the service. The whole service was a particularly happy occasion.

The guest speaker at the Sisterhood's January meeting was Miss Catherine Griffiths, Blaencorse Farm, St. Clears. Catherine demonstrated the techniques and skills involved in making fascinators to wear on different occasions. After the demonstration, members particularly enjoyed modelling a wide range of fascinators in different styles and colours.

Bethel Chapel

We attended a joint service in Tabernacle on 26th January to mark 25 years in the ministry of Rev Llewelyn Picton Jones. He was ordained in Tabernacle and had been invited back to celebrate this anniversary.

The first Sunday in February saw our Welsh communion in Bethel, with the usual faithful members. As it turned out this was our only attendance in Bethel in February. Storm Ciara hit the county on the following weekend and we decided on Sunday morning that it would be best to cancel our service. Soon after we learned that Trinity and Tabernacle had also cancelled and it proved a wise decision as the storm continued all day.

On the third Sunday we were due to attend a joint service at Trinity taken by Mrs Elonwy Phillips of Whitland, but this was also cancelled because of bad weather. The last Sunday of February sees a special service in Tabernacle for all local chapels to celebrate Christian virtues. The guest speaker will be Mrs Sian Elin Thomas of Crymych.

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Afon Taf Gardening Club Whitland

On the 20th of February Bob Wallis visited Whitland to talk about The Treasures of Tadjikstan and Uzbekistan.

The next meeting will be on the 19th of March when Fiona Mounsey is joining us to tell us all about Velfrey Vineyard

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

New members will be warmly welcomed

St. Clears Walking Well Group



On the 22nd of January the Walking Well Group headed out to Pontargothi for a wild, wet and windy circular walk along the river and then back to Pontargothi Hall for refreshments. Thanks to Peter Boyle for organising it. The group passed through the ancient and picturesque village of Llanegwad where can be seen Pen-Y-Cnap Hill Fort.



On the 5th of February, this time a beautiful sunny day, members met at the New Inn Amroth for a very pleasant walk along the sea-front and then through the woods into Colby Woodland Garden. The group convened at the Temple Bar for refreshments afterwards. The most recent walk, on the 19th of February, took the group to the Bishops Palace, Abergwili for a planned walk along the new cycle-way to Whitemill. Unfortunately flooding along the route shortened the walk and the group returned to the Bishops Palace for a walk around the



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gardens, which are undergoing renovation, before repairing to the Black Ox for light refreshments.

Walks take place every other Wednesday and are about 3—5 miles in length, the next walk planned for the 4th of March. Meet at 10.00 am at St. Clears Leisure Centre in order to share transport to the venue.



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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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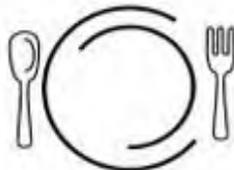
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Te am Dau Tea for Two

Please note change of venue for April and June whilst work takes place at Bwlch Y Groes.

Diolch



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

Just call Diana on 01239 612614 or Marie on 01239 698003.

Ionawr 28 January 2020	Mehffin June - Outing
Chwefror 25 February	Gorffennaf 28 July
Mawrth 24 March	Awst 25 August
Ebrill 28 April	Medi 22 September
Mai 26 May	Hydref 27 October
	Tachwedd 24 November



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Chwefror 11 February - Neuadd Bwlchygroes Hall

Mawrth 14 March - Canolfan Clydau Centre

Ebrill 11 April - Canolfan Clydau Centre

Mai 9 May - Canolfan Clydau Centre

Mehffin 13 June - Canolfan Clydau Centre

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