

Grapevine



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

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Front cover: Gracie Wiggans of Login, Huw and Sue Jones's granddaughter, with her rainbow painting which is now on display at Cardigan Ambulance Centre

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Editorial

Dear friends,

Well the celebrations for Victory in Europe have passed and on the whole - and for perfectly understandable reasons - they have been somewhat muted, the occasional street party, hopefully observing social distancing and so on, but nothing on a grand scale. Indeed on the eve of the Bank holiday a lady asked on the television programme Question Time whether it was appropriate to observe VE Day at all in the light of the latest figures which indicated that the United Kingdom has the highest rate in Europe of mortalities caused by Covid 19. To add to the point she might well have referred to the relative success of Greece and Germany in keeping the rate of mortalities at a notably lower level than here. No doubt discussion will continue about the reasons for the difference.

It is all too easy for us to become armchair critics, that is to indulge in harsh judgements about the decisions of others when we ourselves do not have to make the difficult decisions in the first place. It is all too easy also to suppose that we know better - especially with the benefit of hindsight. It is no accident then that in the Christian tradition we are urged to pray for all Christian kings and governors that they may indeed truly and indifferently, that is impartially, administer justice and thereby act for the common good without giving preferential treatment to the few or the privileged. We have an obligation to pray for those set in authority over us, especially at a time like this.

One of the difficult decisions which will affect us all, one way or another, is when and under what terms we may gather in public. For those who are missing going to church or chapel a decision to reopen places of worship will answer in part our need for Christian fellowship by enabling us to meet in one hallowed place. In the meantime let us all continue to remember prayerfully those whom we no longer see Sunday by Sunday. The likelihood is that even after the churches and chapels are

reopened we shall still need to continue to observe social distancing until such time as we are advised otherwise. It now looks certain that such a development will not happen before the Festival of Pentecost which falls this year on May 31st. So this Festival, older in origin than Christmas, will, like Easter this year, also be celebrated under muted conditions. But it will still be worthwhile to observe it in our hearts if not in a place of worship. For what is Pentecost? Its Biblical name of Pentecost refers to the fifty days since Passover or Easter. But we are not simply marking the passing of time or looking back to the past. True, there will be the familiar story of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the apostles at Jerusalem as St Luke vividly relates it for our benefit and for our learning. The apostles were all together in one holy place. But there is more to note in his account. We may, as we celebrate this Feast, recall its other name of Whitsun or rather white Sunday - Y Sulgwyn in Welsh. It is called thus because, second only to Easter, this is the day for the celebration of baptism which most Christians believe imparts new life. The word candidate which is used of those who seek baptism comes from the Latin word for white and is a reference to the white garments worn then as now at baptism by those seeking admission into the Church of God. Here then is the gift of new life for God still empowers His Church for service and mission. No nostalgic longing for the past here but strength and purpose for the present and hope for the future!

I hope that all who read these words are keeping well and keeping safe. How encouraging it was in last month's issue of the Grapevine to see the ready and generous response to the editor's invitation to submit material. The Revd Philip Johns cheerfully reminded me recently that it was he, when still a layman, and Chancellor Geoffrey Morris who revived this magazine another example of fruitful co-operation of clergy and laity, now some decades in the past. Long may such common efforts continue to inform us, to stimulate thought and reaction and, yes, to challenge us to deepen our Christian resolve.

With every good wish to you, your families and your Christian communities,

Jeffrey Gainer



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CLYDAU

Continuing our thoughts about everything carrying on as normal (except for us), our first swallow arrived on the 14th April, so a bit ahead of the crowd. They leave South Africa as soon as they realize the nights there have become longer than the days. He sat on our weathervane preening himself on and off for a week before his partner turned up and nagged him for ages: then they started house hunting.

It's always exciting to see them back from distant lands in the south. They usually leave us a few days after the September equinox; they mass on the power lines for roll call and to give thanks to God for their bountiful breeding season before they go - 140 of them last year. We never get anything like that many back: in our 'best' year there were 25 nesting pairs around our buildings and one year we had none at all.

By the 14th the ash trees had been in flower for a week and the larger trees down by the Afon Pedran opened their leaves on the 25th, while trees higher up the valley – i.e. further away from the water – waited until the drought broke and temperatures returned to normal for the time of year.



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Before the Bishop announced the lock-out and closure of our churches for the duration, we'd bought some mini-goblets on Ebay for individual doses of wine in the Holy Eucharist. The Bishop's plan A 'solution' to avoiding catching anything at communion prior to shutting up shop altogether was 'bread only', which is, we thought, a bit catholic. Elizabeth took our collection of shot glasses to church for the one Holy Eucharist we had prior to the lockdown and Paul

was happy to use them. Then we ordered the small goblets and a batch of plastic shot glasses – all of which arrived after we closed down.

Individual doses aren't biblical: Jesus used the common cup of Jewish tradition at that first holy communion or 'last supper' in a variation of what Jews still do on the eve of the Sabbath. Judaica cups are usually silver and readily available on line. We know this from when we were looking for a back-up chalice for Clydau. There were also commemorative silver chalices from the 1970s - quite a few cathedrals, Princess Anne's wedding, stock exchange anniversary etc. but they were all (a) expensive and (b) eggcup sized - less than 5 inches tall. We should have bought the 1939-dated RAF chaplain's chalice and patten instead of waiting for a full-sized chalice to come up. It was suitably austere, unlike the cathedral ones which can be very ornate.

The 'common cup' is a concept fiercely defended by some Anglicans and one of the points of division from those really austere Presbyterians. So, we might incur episcopal wrath from purists while trying to avoid catching anything, to whom we would suggest that celebrating the Eucharist while staying alive is more important than preserving a romantic tradition. As it happens, we're doing neither for now.

Richard Law

CLYDAU & BONCATH AREAS COVID 19 BULLETIN 2

Sut mae pawb! Hope you are keeping safe and well in the lockdown. If you are on your own, feeling fed up, cut off and lonesome, we have volunteers who would be happy to give you a call for a friendly chat and see how you are doing. Just get in touch with your local co-ordinator and they can set that up for you in your preferred language. Their names and numbers were on the "Helo Hello" card you had through the door.

A big thank you to all the local shops who are working hard to make sure we get the essential food and supplies we need. The food delivery hubs in the halls at Tegryn and Boncath are up and running, so please, please do use them to get food delivered. It will make a big difference to the local shops, relieving pressure on them and helping them to keep looking after us. So if you have been getting doorstep deliveries locally, please think about using your community centre hub instead. The added benefit for you is that you can order from all these shops and pick it all up in one stop – 5 minutes in and out. That reduces the risk to you, to shop staff and saves

their time spent on deliveries. It keeps down our carbon emissions too – win/win! If you need help collecting supplies from the hub, please get in touch with your local co-ordinator by phone or through the website - <https://clydau.resilience-hub.org.uk>

Just to remind you, the shops taking part are:

Ken Davies, Butcher Crymych tel. 831978

Bwyd y Byd, Crymych tel. 831537

J.K. Lewis (Spar) Crymych and Glandy Cross tel. 01994 419638 or

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Boncath Shop tel. 841369

Rhoslyn Stores, Rhoshill tel. 841261

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Now for something completely different. Here are a few ideas for you, from our new Helping Halls Project Officer, Julie Payne.

Local Produce Swap Shop

We have had calls from people with excess produce such as vegetables, eggs, and various plants because too many seeds have actually germinated – we have all been there! We thought it would be a good idea to set up a table in the Boncath and Canoflan Clydau Halls on Thursdays, when the Food Hubs are operating, for people to trade or buy local produce. Any donations will be used for a celebration when this is all over. Please let project officer Julie Payne at helpinghalls@outlook.com or Marie know if you can bring something along.

Community Bunting Challenge

Join the Community Bunting Challenge for our local area. Make bunting out of unwanted clothes and fabric while you're stuck at home, ready to link up with others and decorate our local area when we are allowed out.

Volunteers started making up-cycled bunting in Fishguard for their streets and the idea grew as people were looking for things to do.

The idea is simple: let's make bunting to hang up on our homes and ready to string up along our local streets when the lockdown is over, to celebrate community resilience, hope and creativity. And because all the bunting should be made from unwanted clothes and fabric, it's great for the environment too! What's not to love? Let's get sewing! If you have any spare materials then please let Julie know so we can organise getting them to the Village Halls so they can be added to the produce table!

Painting Rainbow Pictures

Calling all children in our communities! Please can you paint some lovely rainbow pictures and not only hang them in your windows so we can all admire them - but also maybe donate some to us to hand out all around the villages to put in other people's windows.

Let me know if you have any to donate and I will put you in touch with the right person to distribute them around your area.

LLANWINIO

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

May I use your good offices to say, "Thank you" to the members of Llanwinio Congregation for paying their offerings through the Church in Wales' "Gift Direct" Scheme. By this means members' offerings for the month are collected (painlessly) by Direct Debit. The Church in Wales recovers the income tax paid and pay both the collection and the tax recovered into the church bank account. The Church in Wales makes no charge for this service. For 2019 we received £212.04 income tax recovered.

Many thanks, Keith Taylor, Church and Group Treasurer

Editor's Note:- If you would like more information about "Gift Direct" why not contact Keith at the address on page 2.

Below is a letter from Mr. and Mrs. James whose daughter, Amanda, is one of the green ladies in Keith's story last month. Keith sent them his copy of the May Grapevine:

Dear Keith

Thank you so much for your letter I received today. What a lovely surprise! I shall keep it safe for when Amanda will be able to come home next, soon I hope.

It has been a worrying time for us as she has been covering several ITU departments in and around Bristol, Bath and Swindon nursing many critically ill patients with Covid. However we keep in touch and so far she is keeping well. I shall send her a picture of your letter and your entry in the magazine. It will make her day!

Kind regards,

Enfys James

Church Ladies with typewriters and typos

They're Back! Those wonderful Church Bulletins! Thank those church ladies with typewriters! These sentences (with all the BLOOPERS) actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services:

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24th in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.

This evening at 7.00 pm there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

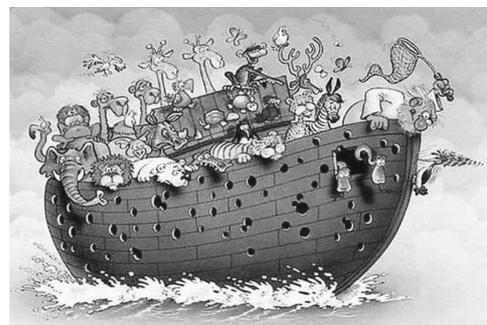
The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7.00 pm. Please use the back door.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7.00 pm at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours.'

Found by Judy Webb



The Woodpecker might have to go!



CBM works in the world's poorest places to prevent blindness, improve health and transform the lives of people with disabilities.

For more than 110 years, since our founder Ernst Christoffel started working with children with disabilities in Turkey and Iran, we've been reaching out to those whom others leave behind.



***Penblwydd priodas hapus
Happy wedding anniversary to
Sian and Matthew Dyer who
tied the knot at Llanwinio two
years ago. Baby Gwenllian
completes the picture!***



Driven by Christian values, we work with disabled people to break down barriers by delivering practical support, improving policy and practice and inspiring the people of the UK to act.

Our Vision & Values

Our vision is an inclusive world in which all people with disabilities enjoy their human rights and achieve their full potential.

We challenge injustice:

We believe that everyone is equal in God's sight. We strive to build a just and equitable world in which all people are included, loved, valued and respected. We serve those in greatest need, regardless of race, gender, age or religious belief.

We make every action count:

Inspired by Jesus' radical example of solidarity with and compassion for marginalised people, we focus our efforts on bringing about tangible change in the lives of those whom others leave behind.

We embrace partnership:

We can achieve more when we work with others. We value everyone's unique contribution and together put God's love into action.

We live with integrity:

We live responsibly and with honesty as custodians of God's creation.

Diane Louise Jordan: an eye-opening journey

Television presenter Diane Louise Jordan has seen the life-changing impact of sight-saving eye treatment, after visiting Rwanda with the charity Christian Blind Mission.

The broadcaster, widely known for presenting iconic BBC shows such as Blue Peter and Songs of Praise, travelled to Rwanda at the end of February. She made the



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journey with her grandson Preston to meet people accessing eye health services, thanks to CBM supporters.

In rural Bugesera District in Southern Rwanda, Diane and 12 year-old Preston met Etienne, a 10 year-old who had been blind due to cataracts since he was a baby. After spending time with Etienne and his family at their home, they made the three-hour journey to CBM partner hospital Kabgayi Eye Unit, where Etienne underwent operations on both eyes to remove his cataracts, enabling him to see for the first time.

“I had the privilege of being with him while his surgery was taking place”, explains Diane. “I witnessed every second of it - and then his dad, also called Etienne, Preston and I were there when he woke up from the anaesthetic. Then the next day we came back for the bandages to be removed.”

“On the final day of our trip we went back to the village to see him with his family and it was such a jubilant day for everybody.”

“One day we saw a little boy who couldn’t see and 24 hours later, he had sight - that’s stunning. And all for the price of £100 per eye. I don’t know what better value you can get out of £100 than that.”

Diane is passionate about CBM’s work to prevent blindness, having seen the effect of sight problems in her own family. Her father lost sight in one eye due to an accident at work, then in later life developed the eye disease glaucoma. Her mother also developed cataracts. During her visit, Diane also met 73 year-old Vincent, who has glaucoma, and heard about the challenges he faces accessing treatment. The journey to hospital for regular check-ups, and to collect the eye drops he must use every day takes several hours on foot and by bus.

Watch *Etienne’s Miracle*, a heart-warming film about Diane’s visit to Rwanda:
<https://www.cbmuk.org.uk/seetheway/diane-louise-jordan-rwanda>



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35 Diwrnod

Congratulations to Phil and Jiwli Higginson's daughter, Gwenllian who plays the starring role in 35 Diwrnod (35 Days) on S4C. Written by Fflur Dafydd, the latest series of this popular crime drama went on air on S4C on Sunday, 26 April and ran for 6 episodes.

Last year the iconic S4C brand changed from 35 Diwrnod to 35 Awr with all the action happening over 35 hours in a country hotel. The writer was nominated for a Bafta Cymru for her work on the series.

Beth (Gwenllian Higginson) and her husband to be Dylan (Geraint Todd) are going to have a wedding that promises to be second to none. With 35 days until the big day, everything is in place: the designer dress, vintage bunting, a sushi buffet and guests to die for.

On the guestlist is the old gang from school – the best friends all together again for the first time in five years. A lot has happened in that time – so how do they now come to terms with this and rekindle that relationship?

Fflur Dafydd tells us a little bit more about the drama which runs over six episodes: "The story opens with a group of women (and one man) in a wedding dress fitting, 35 days before the wedding. At the heart of the story is the fact that this group have known each other since they were young but there are tensions in their friendship following something traumatic that happened five years ago.

"Also, we become aware that one of the friends is absent, but we don't know what has happened to her. Is she still alive? Where is she? There is an element of mystery from the very beginning surrounding this wedding and there is a tension there which we don't quite understand but becomes more obvious during the series."

"There will be a body, like every other series of 35. At the beginning of the first episode, we see a veil in the water, and a girl lying face down. We know from the



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outset that there has been a murder and we work back from there – as we do with every other series of 35. But despite the whodunnit element – I think with this particular series that the characters and their secrets become far more compelling.”

LLANFYRNACH

Fund raising - Well done girls!

Angharad James and Amy Turner, who play football for Reading and Manchester United respectively, have raised the amazing sum of £3,925 by riding their exercise bikes at home. The money will go to charity and the bank is in charge of distributing it. Angharad is the granddaughter Janet and David Carter who are members of Llanfyrnach church.

Mrs Peggy House, latterly of Llantfallteg, passed away peacefully at home on 3rd May. Peggy was a farmer's, wife mother of four and was very involved with The Farm Women's Club. She was passionate about animals - particularly dogs - and judged many local dog shows. Peggy was a member of Llanfyrnach church and she supported all our events. She was a capable out-going family lady who will be sadly missed by her family and all who knew her.

I'm sure you will all join me in wishing our editor, Kathie, a Very Happy Birthday on 11th May.

Eve Brennan

G. Williams

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Above: Gwenllian Higginson as Beth in the latest S4C series of 35 Diwrnod

Below: Television presenter Diane Louise Jordan has seen the life-changing impact of sight-saving eye treatment, after visiting Rwanda with the charity Christian Blind Mission



Lonely dogs, a dog's eye view of lockdown

Where have all my visitors gone It seems ages since anyone came to my garden and patted me on the head and stroked my ears. I get lots of love from my mom but its not the same as having different smells of people and their pets, and some of them used to bring me little titbits, but not any more. When is it all going to end? I am walked and occasionally I am picked up and taken to a paddock where I can play with my friend Harley, we run around play tick and catch-me-if-you-can, and then I am taken home again. But there is only my mom there, I love her dearly, but I do miss the visitors.



Love from *Max* xx

Special Care Baby Unit Carmarthen



I am in touch with the Special Care Baby unit in Carmarthen, knitting for these tiny babies. At the moment they need blankets to go in the incubators. These have to be a special size as ordinary blankets are too big. If you feel you have the time and any odd bits of wool, cast on 150 stitches and knit a border of 1" in moss stitch, then start

knit a row, purl a row doing moss stitch of 10 stitches at either end to make an edge border. Keep knitting until your blanket measures 70 cm then do a 1" border of moss stitch to finish off the blanket the same as you started. Get in touch with me and I will get them there or contact the unit in Carmarthen. Every blanket helps because babies can't share their blankets. Thank you,

Eunice Batchelor

Easy Fundraising

Easy Fundraising has been running now for about 4 years and during that time you have raised over £235 in donations of 1p's and 2p's by the organisation you shop with. It doesn't cost you anything to join, choose



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your charity, ours is 'Frenni Churches' then look for the shop you want and it will take you there, shop as normal, go to checkout and pay and a couple of weeks later I receive a notification that Eunice B has raised 2p. It is the easiest and cheapest way to raise money for our churches without feeling the pinch, especially as we cannot go out to shop at the moment our donations should be rolling in. Come and join in and let the lockdown do something useful for our churches. Thank you. *Eunice*

LLANGLYDWEN

Jane Legg writes: I have continued to write a few lines each week of Lockdown. Here is the latest:

My hairs getting long and unruly.
I'm eating too many sweets.
I'm hoping my teeth will last the duration,
I'll have to give up on the treats.

Adam hasn't had a beer for six weeks.
He's starting to look really trim.
He's dreaming of the day the pub opens
And a pint glass filled to the brim.

We're looking at what's in the cupboard,
Those bottles right at the back.
Looking for something to cheer us,
To clear up what's on the rack.

*The shops are really back in business,
With strict rules of social distancing.
Flour and loo roles can be found,
But treats are sometimes missing.
Local shops have been just brilliant.
On line trade is very brisk.
Delivery vans are here abounding.
They all are coping with the risk.
I get a sense some are fed up,
Have had enough of being in Lockdown.
Wanting to have something normal
Like going out on the town!
But we know we've got to be careful,
We know we've got to stay in.
We must follow the rules at the moment
Otherwise Coronavirus will win.*

What a cracker!

- Q What is white and goes up
A *A confused snowflake*
- Q What do you get if you cross a skeleton with a detective?
A *Sherlock Bones*
- Q What did Cinderella say when the chemist lost her photos?
A *Some day my prints will come!*

Eleanor Parry is the one to blame for these!!!

MYNACHLOG-DDU



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When I was ten....

For 50 years I had yearned to come back to Pembrokeshire to live, but I was stuck in England. Then 20 years ago I met and fell for Jonathan – he was a musician, an electronics inventor, and a vicar! What could be better? He dragged me back here, and we got married. It's wonderful. Sometimes I can't believe it. Strictly we live in Carmarthenshire but the border has changed several times over the years, so that's OK.

I said 'come back to Pembrokeshire'. My father was in the Royal Navy, and when I was ten he was posted to HMS Harrier, at Kete Farm up on St. Anne's Head. So I lived with my family in Dale for 2 years, and I simply loved it. Until a Naval married quarter became available we rented 3 different houses. One of these, Anchor Cottage, was 2-up, 2-down, with the only running water in the back yard, a drop-down basin with a bucket underneath for our washing, an ancient cooker, a rickety staircase, and a loo up the garden. Having a bath involved filling the zinc tub in the back yard, and lying in it, feet and legs hanging over the end. Mum stopped doing this when she learned that the path beside the house was a public right of way!

Wherever we lived in Dale the beach was just a skip away, and we explored, learned to row in the dinghy my dad made, swam at high tide, squelched through the mud at low tide ('Mind you don't sink in'), floated boats in rock pools, and 'popped' bladder rack (scientific name *Fucus Vesiculosus*, Mr Wikipedia tells me today). We collected and cooked cockles once, but couldn't eat them after watching them slowly open as they boiled to death.

Our favourite sandy beach was Marloes. We could walk there past the disused Dale Airfield, weaving 2 miles through the gorse (oh, the smell!), laden with picnic, water and pop, towels, buckets, spades, rug, and sunhats. We drove to the beach sometimes via Marloes village, parking at the roadside, half up the hedge if other

cars were there first, and trekking down the long footpath. Nowadays there's a National Trust car park, so no feeling of adventure or challenge any more.

My brother and I went to Dale County Primary School, and it was a huge culture shock. My previous school had concentrated on nature and the arts so I had to catch up with the Three Rs. The atmosphere and education were excellent, and as well as the basics we learned about classical music, and had a percussion band, painting lessons and nature walks. Once we went onto the beach to watch a yellow Naval rescue helicopter practice in the bay. It was very exciting.

Going to church every Sunday was more or less compulsory for officers and their families, but not to Dale's St. James the Great. Oh no. There was a church on the naval base, a prefabricated concreted block construction, ordinary on the outside, but nicely and thoughtfully set up inside with wooden pews and a beautiful pale oak reredos. I only remember Matins, so Holy Communion was probably an early service, out of bounds to children. After the service we went to the Wardroom, and for the adults there were drinks, chat, haw-hawing, and fog from the smoking of duty-free cigarettes, 6d for 20. We children ran around outside, drinking lemonade or orange squash, getting hungrier and hungrier, darting back inside to tug a sleeve, 'Please can we go home *now*?'

The Naval Chaplain I remember as a welcoming, friendly and gentle man, with time for each member of his flock, young and old. Thank you, Revd Michael Foot.

I knew that we were in 'Little England Beyond Wales'. We learned no Welsh history at all at school, and I can't remember ever hearing Welsh spoken. It amazes me now, but that is how it was. There were no bi-lingual signs or notices, but I did learn how to pronounce Cleddau and Llanelli, and was quick to instruct visitors we had to stay (me, bossy?!). Crymych was Crymmych Arms, and Preseli was Prescelly. During my one term at Milford Haven Grammar School we learned Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau – very useful.

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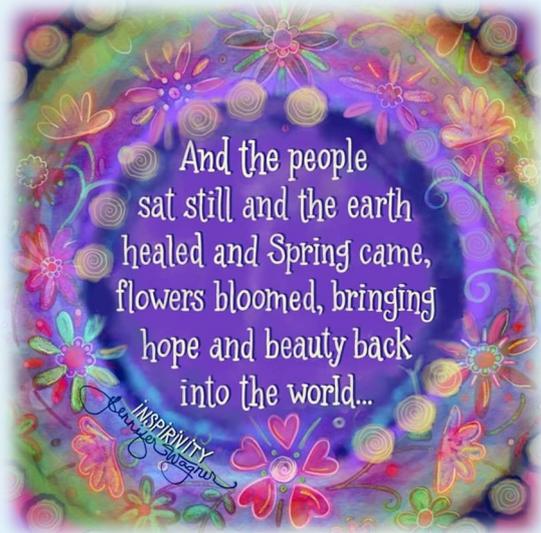


Right: Lili Williams helping to serve the teas on St. David's Day at Llanboidy Market Hall



Below: Whitland Male Choir on St. David's Day at Llanboidy Market Hall

Above: Gracie Wiggins hard at work litter picking



Now we live North of the Landsker line which makes me feel more comfortable, though to my shame I haven't learned Welsh. I have heard it spoken, learned the words of hymns and songs in the choirs I've been in, and admired Jonathan's Welsh in our bi-lingual church services over the eight years he was 'in harness'. During the current lock-down when many of us are doing things we have never had time for, perhaps I should make a start. I must find that 'Welsh for Beginners' book I bought.

Susie Copus

Meidrim and Merthyr

Canon Jeffrey Gainer 01994 231378
sieffremeidrim@googlemail.com

Meidrim

Almor Thomas, who died on Thursday May 7, at the age of 74 was brought up in Meidrim and as a boy would spend many hours playing on the village common. His delight was to play football and some of his school contemporaries have maintained a friendship with him that began in those years of their childhood and youth. A proud Welshman, he came from a large family and spent his life in this area. He was a faithful churchman and a proud father to Alun and Rhian and a loving grandfather to Cerys Jane and William Tomi. His daughter Rhian and her family live in Australia and sadly were unable to return to Wales for his funeral which was taken by the Vicar at Parc Gwyn crematorium on Tuesday May 19. We remember also his siblings Terence and Lawrence (both living in Carmarthen), Randal (Narberth), Heulwen (St Clears), Anthony and Elisabeth (Tenby) and Meirion (Manchester). Almor's condition had deteriorated in recent years but his wife Doreen did all she could to care lovingly for him at home ably assisted by Alun. We assure them all of our sincere sympathy in their loss and commend Almor to God's mercy and protection. May he rest in peace.

It has recently been suggested that the church bells should be rung at 8pm on Thursdays as an appropriate gesture of thanksgiving to God for the efforts, dedication and care given by so many to others during the pandemic. At exactly the same time of course many people will also be clapping etc to mark their appreciation.

Christmas Aid week was held from May 11th but it remains to be seen what effect the present restrictions will have on the fundraising effort as house to house collections are not possible. Indeed all charities are now facing great difficulties. We are told that the Covid 19 virus has led to the biggest recession in history and

assuredly many face uncertainty and anxiety about their livelihood. Let us all ask ourselves how we may best help others in this situation, act responsibly, and look forward in hope. It may be that all this will enable us to reconsider our priorities in life and for some at least lead to a recovery of personal faith which had seemingly become quiescent. It has also been a positive that people have ensured that they keep in touch with others by telephone or technology. A friendly phone call is much appreciated by the elderly, yes, but also by people of all ages and by those living on their own.

Merthyr

We continue to remember the sick from these parishes amongst whom are Mrs Brenda Rees and Mr Delme Herbert. We also assure Mrs Rachel Fitzgibbon of our prayerful support as she, and others, continue to care for the sick at Withybush Hospital. Haverfordwest. Florence Nightingale is commemorated in some church calendars on May 12, a fitting patron of all those who dedicate their lives to the nursing profession to whom we owe so much.

Food for thought. Some words from Dr Robert Runcie, once Archbishop of Canterbury: "A man without God is less than man. In meeting God, a man is shown his failures and his lack of integrity, but he is also given strength to turn more and more of his life and actions into love and compassion for others."

Canon Jeffrey Gainer

East Landsker Ministry Area

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

In Memoriam

Our sympathy to the family and friends of Virginia Price-Evans. The small service took place in St Mary's Churchyard on Monday 27 April. Virginia was such a calm, uncomplaining, dignified person and the whole church will miss her.

Also to the family and friends of Evelyn Doreen Roblin who passed away peacefully on Sat 2nd May aged 93, the funeral took place at Parc Gwyn on Tuesday 12th May with only the family present.

In Lockdown

Everything is odd at the moment, funerals in graveyards only chairs spaced out in the Crem, no church services, though there are services available to watch online. No visiting.

I am afraid I don't film myself doing services for three reasons:

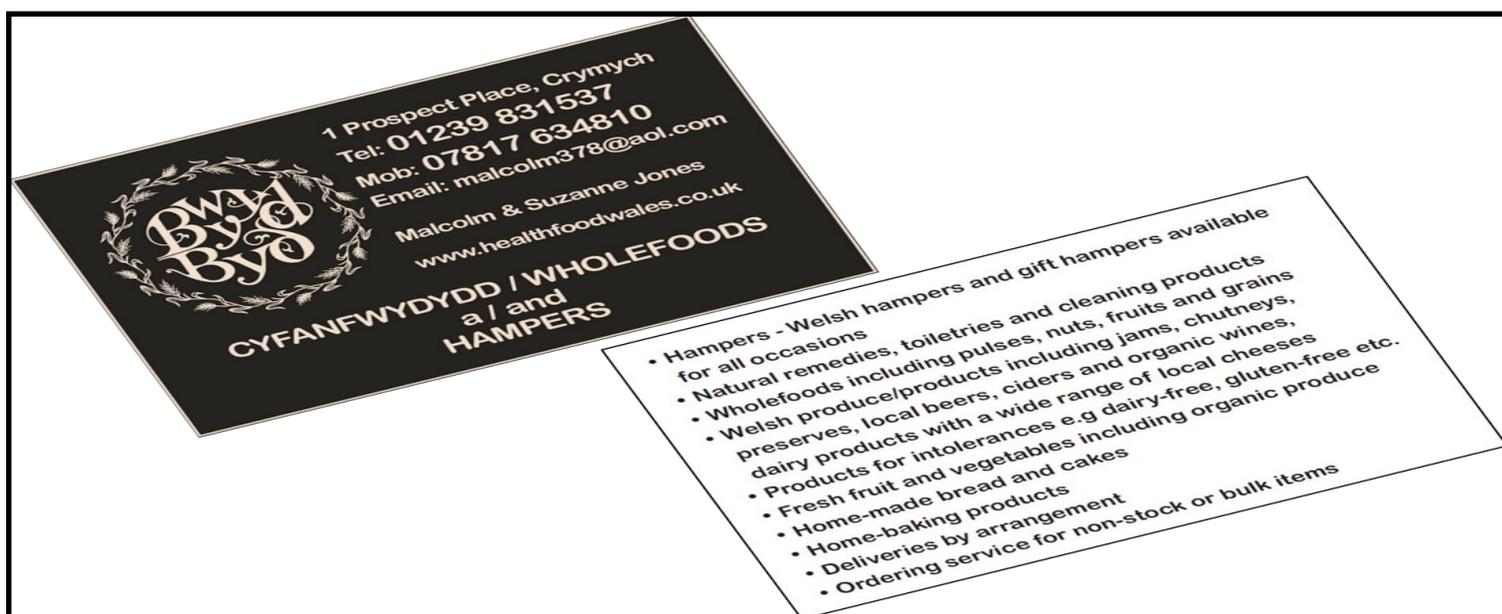
1. I am not that clever technically.
2. I'd hate to watch myself and can't imagine why anyone else would want to.
3. I could not 'perform' in front of a camera as I need to be looking at people to gauge their response.

That said, if you don't already know this is what I am doing:

I send a daily email to everyone I have an email address for and for a strange reason which I can't fathom I find this quite personal. They are only short and they are not sermons, not thoughts for the day, not messages, they are simply the ramblings of a Vicar in lockdown thinking openly about his own faith and calling at this time. The response from people is the thing that has amazed and humbled me in equal measure. It started out quite casually but has become important for me and the recipients! (I don't know why)

If you wish to receive them then send me an email with 'Hello friendly LMA Dean' in the subject line so I don't bin it.

I have also set up a website eastlandsker.com, which I cannot finish because I don't have all the necessary information and would like some more pictures from around the LMA. Have a look and send me stuff you think would be appropriate.



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am also assuming that the proposed new Vicar for the Northern Third will not be coming yet – so you will just have to put up with me and look after yourselves at the same time.

Kingsley Taylor

Rudyard Kipling's Residence



This is Bateman's, the residence of former author, and Nobel Prize winner for Literature, Rudyard Kipling. I took the photo in 1982 when enjoying a tennis holiday in Herstmonceux, in East Sussex. After a morning on court, I pointed my Morris Minor along the country roads towards this 17th century property situated outside the village of Burwash. It is where Rudyard Kipling settled down in 1902, in the midst of acres of greenery, until his

ending in 1936. Shortly afterwards, Mrs Kipling, his widow, bequeathed the premises to the National Trust for a museum honouring her husband's work (National Trust – Bateman's website).

Rudyard Kipling was born in India and travelled extensively, and despite living an active and interesting life, sadness entered his soul. Boarding school in England separated him from his parents, whilst later he lost his first daughter, Josephine, aged 6, before his son, John, died in the Great War. Rudyard Kipling's masterpiece, the poem **If**, is celebrated the world over and here are some of the beautiful and lasting lines – touched with the author's humility and resignation, as if denoting life is not meant to be a breeze:

If you can dream – and not make dreams your master

If you can think and not make thoughts your aim

If you can meet with triumph and disaster

And treat those two imposters just the same

If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew

To serve your turn long after they are gone

And so hold on when there is nothing in you

Except the will which says to them 'Hold on'

When considering Rudyard Kipling's success, the grief that entered his private world can often be overlooked. Indeed his story is another indicating that our grip on life's



From the Chapels

- Top left:** Carys Jones modelling masks made by her mother, Linda Jones
- Top right:** Guto Llywelyn preparing CD's for members
- Bottom left:** Sian Pugh preparing scrub bags for the NHS
- Bottom right:** Eryl Rosser distributing meals for members

reins is fragile. Rudyard Kipling's spirituality is unknown to me, but his dictums seem to suggest knowledge of the Scriptures. Typifying this are his words *'If all men count with you, but none too much,'* in the poem's last verse – for are they not a reminder to *love thy neighbour* (Leviticus 19.18), whilst placing absolute trust in divine sovereignty ... *Book of Proverbs 3.5?*

Roger Penn

LLANBOIDY

There is little news from Llanboidy as we are all in lockdown at time of writing, and of course, I have not been out and around since being hospitalised in November for a few weeks with Guillian Burre Syndrome - my immune system attacked my peripheral nervous system paralysing my legs and partial paralysis of my face and speech. Thanks to our fantastic NHS staff at Glangwili, and follow up physiotherapy and speech therapy, I am now mobile without a stick, albeit a bit wobbly, and speaking and eating although my face is still wonky !!!

Huw and I are self-isolating and enjoying the fantastic weather and pottering around garden and farm – I have sown lots of veg and flower seeds of varying ages – does not seem to matter if they are out of date as they still seem to germinate but perhaps not as well, I've just sown extra – also great opportunity to use up all those tins and jars lurking at back of cupboards and packs in freezer – we've eaten some amazing concoctions of meals !!!!

We are so grateful to Rodney from the Post Office and Stores in Llanboidy for delivering our papers and groceries and Whitland branch of Boots for deliveries of prescriptions and also my goddaughter, Darcy, for collecting goods for us - our heartfelt thanks to all of you out there helping us to isolate – a great community spirit and so happy to be a part of it all and live here

It is with sadness we have heard of the recent death of Mrs Pam Wyatt of Pencnwc Farm – our sympathies go to the family. Also to the family of the late Christopher Allen, formerly of Haulfryn, Llanboidy.

Exciting news of 3 baby girls born in the village! – our congratulations go to the proud families - Nick John and Clare of Lamb Cottage; Darren and Becky of Rhywau, and Huw and Michaela of Castell Pigyn on the birth of Nansi, a granddaughter for Lyn and Marian Davies.

Congratulations to Norah Heseltine who was 90 last week!



Thank you to everyone in the community for helping to make sure that the elderly and vulnerable are being well looked after.

Whitland Male Choir



Whitland Male Voice Choir excelled themselves at the Cawl a Chan tea party at Llanboidy Market Hall on St. Davids Day singing a variety of topical songs that had every one tapping their feet and singing along.

There was also a beautiful performance on her harp by the talented youngster Lottie Makepeace. The charming ladies of the Hall Committee served a scrumptious Welsh tea afterwards, assisted by young Lili Williams. It really was a fun and happy afternoon for all.

Sue Jones

CIFFIG

I imagine everyone has been clapping for the N.H.S. on Thursday evenings.

We would also like to say a huge Thank You to everyone else:- Rev. Kingsley for his "thoughts for the day", Kathie Dubben for keeping Grapevine going, all the keyworkers who actually keep "the show on the road", Carers, cleaners, caterers, farmers, delivery drivers.

Those who keep folk like me in happy isolation, my neighbours, friends, posties, shopkeepers in Whitland who bring me groceries. How lucky am I?! All putting themselves at risk to help others, thank you.

Special thanks to Philip and Margaret James for keeping the Church yard looking tidy and loved.

Lyn Werrett

Eglwys Gymyn

At a time of nothing but bad news across the country over Covid 19, at least some good news in our congregation. As of May no-one in our congregation has succumbed to the virus. although as

'When Just The Tide Went Out'

Last night as I lay sleeping
When dreams came fast to me
I dreamt I saw JERUSALEM
Beside a tideless sea
And one dream I'll remember
As the stars began to fall
Was Banksy painting Alun Wyn
On my neighbour's garage wall
And dreams like that sustain me
Till these darkest times have past
And chase away the shadows
No caring night should cast
But times like this can shine a light
As hardship often can
To see the best in people
And the good there is in man
And I remember Swansea with nobody about
When the shops were closed like Sunday
And just the tide went out

And I remember Mumbles with the harbour in its keep
And the fishing boats at anchor that trowl the waters deep
And I heard the seabirds calling
As the gulls all wheeled about
But all the town was sleeping now
And just the tide went out

And when these days are over
And memories remain
Of children pointing Rainbows
When the sun shone through the rain
And I thought of all the nurses who stretched all the pain
And I hope they never get to see a time like this again
And I prayed last week for Boris
Who knocked on Heavens door
And I thought of voting Tory, which I've never done before
And though the sun is shining now I've no immediate plans
So I'll write a book on "Staying In" and "Ways To Wash Your Hands"
And I'll remember mornings with nobody about
When the shops were closed like Sunday
And just the tide went out.

Max Boyce

mentioned in the May edition, some younger family members living out of the area, have been ill and spent many days on their sickbed. Fortunately they have recovered but its been a slow job. Our thoughts and prayers are for those less fortunate and their grieving families as well as continuing good health for all of our congregation.

A second bit of good news is regarding the Chancel wall in our Church, St Margaret's Eglwys Gwynn. Back in May 2018 in our Quinquennial Report, it was pointed out there was an urgent need for repairs. Obtaining a quote for the repairs was just the first step, as our church did not have the funds or the authority to proceed. So the next step in January 2019 was to obtain a 'Faculty' via the Diocesan office and apply for a grant at which we were successful from Carmarthen County Council. So in July 2019 we were ready to proceed, but as you may recall the end of summer and autumn coincided with periods of rain and as a result remedial work was deferred until spring 2020 Which is where we are now, with a stonemason instructed to start the repairs this month of May. Hopefully by the time this Grapevine reaches the reader, work will have started and even may have been completed.

Lastly in January 2020 we were very fortunate to receive a small grant from Parc Cynog CIC Community Fund. This has been used to replace the door to the Church Hall toilet and add a second light to illuminate the entrance door. We very much appreciate the generosity of a local charity like this (as we appreciate all donations or grants) as it enables us to continue to upgrade and maintain our Church and keep it a presentable state.

Roy Evans

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

It is now over two months since we were able to worship together. It is a very stressful time for us all and I hope everyone is keeping well despite everything.

Here is a brief description of what is going on in the pastorate at the moment:

Every Monday we send an e-mail round titled 'Pastorate News' with news of

anything that has happened and what is on that week.

Also we have a quiz every Monday and we enclose either a General Knowledge or a Biblical Quiz. We ask the members to e-mail their answers in and we publish the correct answers on the Friday.

Every Wednesday we have a 'zoom chat'. We are usually about half a dozen and we have a chat for about three quarter of an hour. Also on Wednesday and Sundays two of our members are responsible for distributing meals to some of our members. Eryl Rosser cooks the food and Meryl James distributes the food around ,and over twenty people have benefited every week from this service since the start of this crisis.

On Fridays we publish pictures on 'Facebook' of what the members have been doing during the week. And then on Sunday morning everyone with an e-mail receives a short devotion which I have prepared.

During these last few days we have been experimenting with putting these devotions on CD so that people without computer and e-mail can receive them as well. We hope to start this service soon.

As in other areas people have been very good to their neighbours during this crisis.

As well as the meals prepared by Eryl and Meryl already mentioned, Sian Pugh has been preparing bags for the NHS to wash their PPE's. This will be very useful for many I am sure.

Also one of our members, Linda Jones, has started preparing masks for members and friends. Fellow member Rose Rickards is responsible for selling them. If you live in the Whitland area they can be bought for £2 each from Rose by phoning her on 01994 240 122. Every penny made will be shared between the NHS and Carmarthen Food Bank.

(Note from Editor—I have bought 2 of these and they are beautifully made and very comfortable to wear)

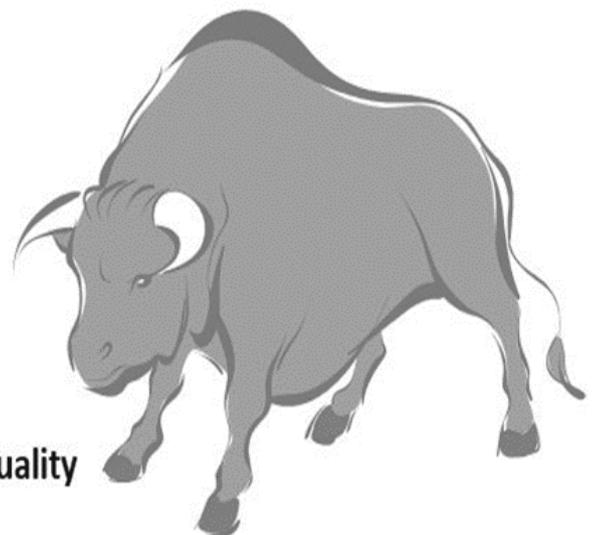
Keep safe everyone and hopefully we can worship together again when it is safe to do so! Guto Llywelyn (Minister for Bethel, Llanddewi, Tabernacle, Whitland and Trinity, Llanboidy)

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Bethel

Although not meeting in chapel now we are still able to keep in touch through technology. Our minister prepares an online devotion each week on Zoom and all the news is on the facebook page of the pastorate, and for those of us not up to date with such things there is always the phone.



Several members have had anniversaries in the last month although celebrations will have to wait. Mr Brian and Mrs Jean Lewis have celebrated 60 years of marriage, and Mr Talfan and Mrs Vera Evans have celebrated 40 years of marriage. Mrs Rhian Thomas had a special birthday in early May when she was years of age. (?!)



We congratulate them all.

After a stormy night early in the month several slates were blown off the chapel roof. We were not sure of the best way to replace them, but local builder Mr Keith Thomas had also noticed and as he had a “cherry picker” on hire at the time for another job he repaired the roof as well without any prompting and we are grateful to him.

Trinity

During April, in line with current guidelines, no Sunday services were held in Trinity. Nevertheless, the Revd. Guto Llywelyn prepared appropriate short services which were forwarded on line to members. The minister also contacted all members to offer pastoral support and guidance. This was greatly appreciated. Trinity Sisterhood has also had to curtail its programme for the year including a visit to the Cardigan coast.

Members wish to send their condolences to all members who have lost family or friends during the month. We think in particular of John and Mary Lewis, Tenby on the loss of John’s sister Mrs. Verona Williams, St. Clears.

Children's Corner

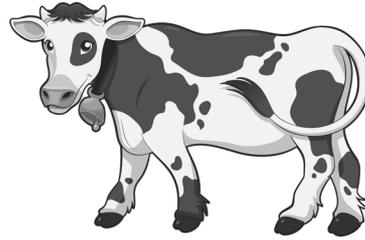
Here is a verse by Robert Louis Stevenson (1850- 1894), for our younger readers.

Submitted by Lyn Werrett of Ciffig Church

The Cow

The friendly cow, all red and white
I love with all my heart:
She gives me cream with all her might,
To eat with apple tart.

She wanders lowing here and there,
And yet she cannot stray,
All in the pleasant open air,
The pleasant light of day:



And blown by all the winds that pass,
And wet with all the showers,
She walks among the meadow grass
And eats the meadow flowers.

Why Bats only come out at Night – A Story from East Africa

Collected by Keith Taylor



If you were a boy or girl living in East Africa and not the United Kingdom, you might find yourself sitting in the evening outside your home eating your evening meal round a charcoal fire on which your dinner had been cooked. As it began to grow dark you would see all manner of birds all heading home to their nests. As it got even darker you might

notice little black creatures flying around your house called “bats” and if you have an enquiring mind you might ask Mum or Dad, “Why do bats only come out at night?”

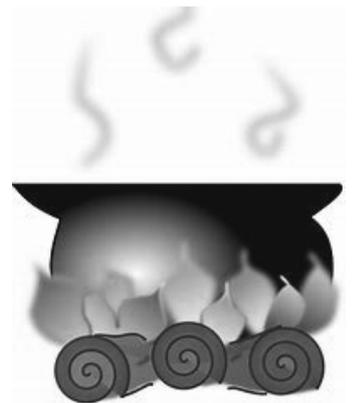
Mum or Dad might tell you this story

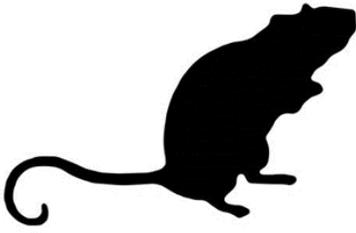
There once lived a bush rat named Oyot. A bush rat is small nocturnal animal. He was a good friend of Emiong, the bat, and they had their meals together. But Emiong was jealous of Oyot.



Whenever Emiong cooked, the dish was delicious. “How is it that when you make the soup it tastes so good?” asked Oyot.

“I always boil myself in the water. As my flesh is so sweet, it adds flavour to the soup.” He went on to





demonstrate how it was done. He got a pot of warm water, but told Oyot that it was boiling hot and jumped into it. Soon, he got out of it, switched the vessels and brought the soup, which he had cunningly made beforehand. The soup, as usual, was delicious.

Following the recipe.

Oyot went home and told his wife he was going to make delicious soup just like Emiong had taught him. He asked her to boil some water and when she was not looking he jumped into the pot. Sadly, he did not survive.

When his wife came looking for him, she found him dead in the pot. She was incredibly angry with the way Emiong had tricked his friend. She complained to the king. The king, in turn gave orders for Emiong to be imprisoned. Everyone turned out to catch him. But Emiong was expecting trouble and he flew away and hid himself in the bush. All day long, they tried to catch him but did not succeed.



Emiong came out at night to search for food. He decided that from then on that it was safe for him to venture out only at night. So, he changed his ways and that is why you never see a bat during the day!



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COVID-19

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