

**G**rapevine

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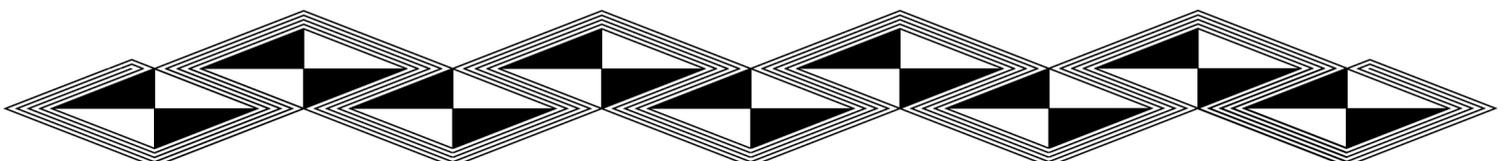
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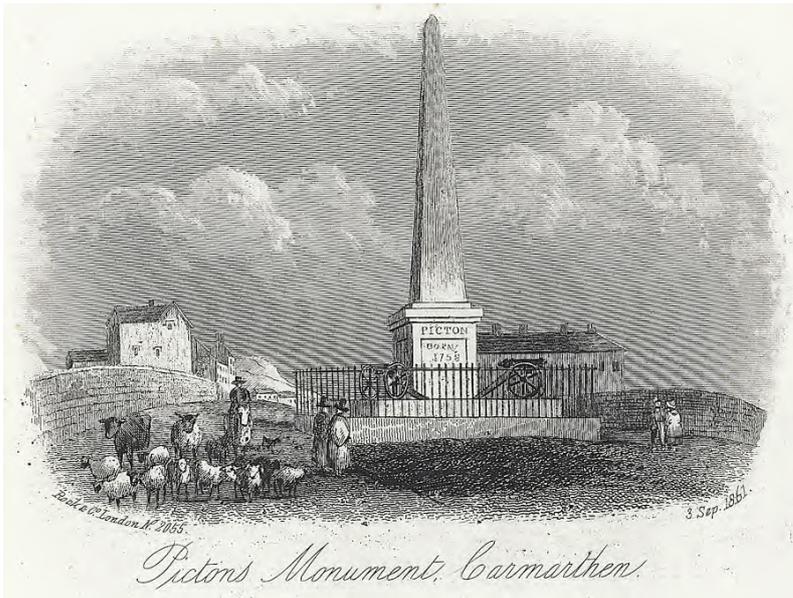
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## Editorial

One of the many interesting aspects of our current situation is the differing policies followed by the four administrations within the United Kingdom in response to the current pandemic. Each claims to be following scientific advice but comes to differing conclusions about what actions to take and when. In England the policy to reopen schools has been rapidly overturned whilst the education minister in Wales is persuaded that the schools should reopen at the end of June, despite objections and reservations in some quarters. In some measure we may account for such differences because of differing circumstances. Covid 19 reached a peak in the populous areas of England such as London before the more isolated areas of Britain were affected to anything like the same extent. Moreover London is a centre for international travel with its huge airports and only recently has quarantine been introduced for travellers to Britain and this delay may well have facilitated the spread of infection there. However even allowing for such factors, it is significant that the number of “excess deaths” - that is the number of those who have died in these first few months of 2020 as compared with the average number of deaths in the corresponding period for the previous five years - is lower in Wales than in any other part of the United Kingdom. This in turn may explain in part why the opinion polls in Wales indicate that people here trust the government in Cardiff to disclose the truth about what is happening more than they do the government in London- although that may change of course as the continuing impact of the virus is felt. Public opinion seems to be very volatile at present.

One sign of such volatile change of mood is the recent clamour for the removal of certain historical monuments related to the slave trade. The immediate occasion of such appeals has been the undeniably disturbing and distressing death of Mr Floyd in Minneapolis whilst he resisted arrest by the police. This event has brought into prominence the slogan, “Black lives matter”. Indeed they do. So do all lives – including, we should add, the lives of unborn children and people of any skin, colour and age. However the riots on the streets of the USA, the disorder in the streets of Bristol as well as the gatherings in other places have done much damage and also increased the risk of spreading Covid 19, thereby putting more lives in danger, including, ironically, more black lives.



Nearer home we are now hearing of petitions to Carmarthen County Council to do something about the Picton monument situated to the west of the county town’s centre. The claim is that Picton was active in upholding the practice of slavery and its related abuses. If nothing else this campaign, for such it has become, may stimulate interest in Sir Thomas Picton, a

Pembrokeshire soldier who administered Trinidad at the end of the eighteenth century after the British seized it from the Spanish. He appears to have had a pronounced streak of cruelty in his character. Nonetheless he was a successful soldier during the Peninsular wars against Napoleon although he was

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disappointed not to have been awarded a peerage for his role in the campaign there. (Several other generals were raised to the peerage for their part in the campaign but the Duke of Wellington was not an admirer of Picton either). This may have been in part because in 1806 he was acquitted on a legal technicality of the charge of what nowadays would undeniably be described as torture to a fourteen year old girl of mixed race. The girl in question was brought all the way from Trinidad to the court in London. Picton fought and fell at Waterloo a few years later. Because of his involvement in the slave trade some now call for the statues to his memory in Cardiff and Carmarthen to be removed. Incidentally he is also commemorated in St Paul's Cathedral in London.

These news items all raise matters of concern for Christians and for citizens. They also remind us of the need to avoid hasty judgement and to think carefully about the fundamental principles involved. First, what should be the reactions of parents to the opening of the schools? As so often in life we have to evaluate seemingly conflicting concerns: on the one hand the laudable intention to resume the pattern of a child's education with the associated benefits of enabling the child to meet with their friends and teachers, and on the other hand the understandable concerns as to whether the preparations in the present crisis have been sufficiently thorough given the time available before June 29th, the date fixed for the reopening of Welsh schools.

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Well, here the principle of taking the safer course of action if in doubt is relevant. If you have an unresolved doubt about the decision then is it not wiser to take the safer course and consider continuing to educate your child at home if possible? Moreover the education minister has already indicated that parents will not be fined for exercising such discretion in this matter and has acknowledged that the authorities will restrict the numbers of pupils attending on any one time to a third of the school roll. In any event this will not be a return to the exact arrangements prior to the closure of the schools.

The clamour regarding slave trading needs to bear in mind that in the late eighteenth century not all Christians were persuaded that all forms of slavery were illicit. We nowadays may regard the evil of the slave trade as a self-evident truth but it was not so regarded then. If the radical Iolo Morgannwg denounced slavery then his own brothers owned slaves. Some Christians pointed out that neither St. Peter nor St. Paul had explicitly condemned slavery even though Paul writes in kindly fashion about a slave called Onesimus in his letter to Philemon. St. Paul urges masters and slaves in the Christian fellowship to be filled with the spirit of mutual charity since in Christ there is no bondman, for all are free. It was this emphasis that eventually led to the abolition of slavery in the British Empire in 1833 - after Picton's days. The way was prepared for this by the teaching of some of the great teachers of the early Church and by the Dominicans and Jesuits who set up a model colony without slaves in Paraguay. The witness of the Quakers and the campaigns of prominent

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Evangelicals also helped to form the Christian conscience in Wales and elsewhere.

But what good would tearing down a statue do? Such an action cannot and does not alter the facts of history. It were far better to teach children (and adults!) why we have come to see slavery as an undoubted evil. After all that is what is done at Auschwitz where thousands of Jews were enslaved on racial grounds. The camp there has not been demolished but is maintained as a witness to what went on and includes the notorious slogan, Arbeit macht frei, Work makes you free. Even children visit this camp where the holocaust was carried out. Its existence does not commend the murder of six million Jews but serves to remind people of the evil of the Nazi ideology. Likewise the Picton monument may serve to remind us that not everything about British imperialism was wonderful. It is all too easy to suppose that by tearing down a monument we have dealt with the underlying cause of disorder, cruelty and inequality. Some may suggest that at least its removal would be a potent symbolic gesture. Far better – and far more difficult and challenging – is to acknowledge the need in ourselves to accept and live by the Gospel truth that all people, whatever the colour of their skin, are made in the image of God and that no one is to be treated as a chattel.

*Jeffrey Gainer*

## **Cylch y Frenni Circle of Churches Clydau, Llanglydwen, Llanfyrnach, Llanwinio and Mynachlog-ddu**

### **Susie's Project Scrubs**

There are big companies making Scrubs uniforms – the washable uniforms worn by nurses - and there are also groups of people and individuals making Scrubs, and I thought I'd have a go myself. So I found a local group called 'Pembrokeshire – for the Love of Scrubs', and I contacted them, and joined their Facebook group. A lovely community of sewing-people!

A pattern arrived by post, and with a length of blue sheeting found in a box of hoarded material, our caravan became the cutting room. Woops, not quite enough material, so the sleeves and pockets were cut from a dark blue pillowcase!

Here is the result, (page 10) not quite finished yet as I'm having difficulty with the trouser pockets (my pattern-following skill is a bit rusty...), and I'm waiting for the elastic I ordered to arrive. But I'm glad to be doing something useful. Apparently Withybush Hospital has enough Scrubs, so we are now making them for nursing homes.

Susie Copus

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***It has been suggested that we run a colouring competition in next month's edition of the Grapevine. Are there any artists out there (and I know there are many!!) who would be prepared to provide a suitable picture, and grant copyright so that we can print it? Please contact the Editor before next month's deadline which is the 10th of July. Many thanks. Editor.***

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## **NO FLOCCULATING**

Screams of agony have been echoing round my village. Actually, they emanate from me. Nothing to do with the taxman, or another dreadful one-liner from Milton Jones. I've just given myself another shock. 20,000 volts, give or take a few thou.

Years ago I invented the world's first electronic antibiotic, which kills germs using a high voltage to generate a concentrated stream of electrically-charged air particles called ions. Yes, it is effective against viruses. But don't get too excited: it only works on your outsides.

Charging up air molecules, though, does have a current relevance (oh, haha). A friend of mine called Coppy Laws, who lived in Hampshire with his son and an enormous ion meter, invented the domestic air ioniser, which immediately made a lot of money for other people. Unfortunately, they made exaggerated claims for its health benefits, and were ridiculed by scientists.

But some of those benefits are real. Airborne viruses don't just hang around tum-te-tumming: they hitch lifts in cough droplets. If you charge up the nearby air, these droplets *flocculate* or clump together, and then either fall to the floor or cling to the nearest wall, leaving fewer of the little bugs to get inside you. When I gave myself that shock, I was working on a super-powerful version to create a small safe haven for Susie and me.

Clumping together, however, is exactly what the Government want us not to do at the moment. Shots on the telly of Dyfed Powys Police shooing folk off Mwnt beach make the message clear: no flocculating.

Susie saunters into the lab. ‘Didn’t you hear me shout out just now?’ I ask. ‘I gave myself an almighty belt.’

‘I heard,’ she says. ‘Here’s your tea.’

It’s five o’clock. I switch on the radio to listen to *PM*. Sipping my tea, I reflect how we’re all a bit *in suspension* at the moment; how that, *charged* with loving our neighbour, we ought to be *coming together* – not literally, but by phoning, doing the shopping, just being there. Then I remember I’m retired, and not paid to think in sermons any more.

So I go back to tinkering with my electronic corner of the battlefield against the Unseen Enemy, only more carefully this time. A kilovolt is aptly named.

Along the bench, the radio is chanting the mantra: *stay safe, stay at home, wash your hands*.

But above all, don’t flocculate.

*Jonathan Copus*

*(This article was first published in Pobl Dewi, June 2020)*

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## **When I was ten, continued.... More memories from 1950s**

### **Pembrokeshire**

It took a long time to get anywhere in those days in our Austin 10 from our home in Dale. But we made many trips, including to St Davids Cathedral, afterwards wandering freely around the Bishop’s Palace and having a picnic on the grass. No CADW until 1984. We had driven there via Talbenny, Little Haven, Broad Haven, Haroldston and Nolton Haven, a wild and adventurous road with gates which needed opening and shutting carefully. Newgale Sands was a marvel – it was, and is, 2 miles long. Wikipedia says *‘The beach is backed by a large pebble bank which was created by a major storm on 25 October 1859, and which acts as a sea defence or storm beach; however, it is often breached, and rocks are washed onto the main road.’* In the ‘50s the road could become impassable in the winter – nowadays the Council has bigger machinery to keep on top of the problem. But the camping field still floods! And remember that bus that was swept sideways during storms in 2014? Another interesting Wiki fact: *‘Newgale marks the boundary between English and Welsh-speaking Pembrokeshire, with the next beach north of Newgale being called Pen-y-Cwm. A physical example of*



***Mercy***



***Susie's Scrubs***



*the boundary is Brandy Brook which runs through Newgale, splitting the English-speaking South Pembrokeshire and the Welsh-speaking North Pembrokeshire.* I didn't know there were physical boundaries. I wonder where the boundary goes inland to the East? Anyone know?

These days the Pembrokeshire Coastal Path is continuous and marked, there are wooden steps at the steep bits, and it is repaired regularly and even strimmed in places. And it's safe – well, adventurous children and dogs should be kept on leads in some places! In the '50s most of the path did exist, but natural erosion had taken some stretches too near the edge, and there were hardly any safety barriers or steps. The length between HMS Harrier and West Dale Beach was officially out of bounds to Naval personnel. There were stories of inebriated and wandering young sailors having late night mishaps....

The 'big smoke' was Haverfordwest, to which we went to buy special things. A pair of new shoes was exciting, from the shop up The High St, opposite and just below St Mary's church. The shop had a Pedoscope – remember those? – an x-ray machine for checking the fit of new shoes. I was told not stare down my tube for more than a few seconds, but my foot skeleton was fascinating, making this, plus the smell of Real Leather Shoes, a huge treat. The toy shop in Bridge Street was where I bought a Dinky Toy army transporter and tank for 7/6d, about 38 pence, or £16 in today's money. There's one for sale on Ebay now for over £600 now - whaaat??!

In 1955 the Queen and Prince Philip toured Wales. They arrived in the Britannia, who nosed her way up the Cleddau and anchored by Pembroke Dock. We launched our little 7ft dinghy from the very slippery slipway at Neyland and rowed out to join the other welcoming boats, which, like the Britannia, were all



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decked out in bunting. We held up a large Union Flag which kept wrapping itself round the four of us, and knowing we had to keep as still as possible with 6ins clearance from the water, this made rowing difficult and got us giggling.

The Queen's itinerary took her round country lanes and we followed in our car, parked on a verge and waited and waited with several other excited people for her car to arrive. Our black labrador was placed gently on the bonnet of the car on a rug, so that he had a good view! The Royal Car drove slowly past and we waved and waved at Her Majesty who was so close, and then she was gone... I wish I could remember exactly where we were, but I had very little idea of time and place back then. Now I am a Google Maps fanatic!

Now, Skomer Island... access to it was very ad hoc in 1955. We phoned up the fisherman Reuben Codd, who met us on the beach at Martin's Haven in his 20ft open boat. No life jackets or any kind of safety gear, but the trip over was exciting, scattering the puffins before us, Jack Sound negotiated expertly. The landing was a case of 'OK, jump out NOW'. We seemed to be the only people on the island that day. We marvelled at the tameness of the puffins, we roamed around watching other birds, avoiding the vicious dive-bombing great black backed gulls, and watched the seals bobbing in the sea below us. The farmhouse, which had been vacated in 1950, was derelict, but we found a cosy and sheltered place and had a picnic. Bad weather delayed our return trip, but it got late and Reuben said we just had to go. The 'jump now' had got more tricky but we all made it. There was a strong smell from discarded fish on board which didn't help our nerves. My brother chose to lie at the bottom of the boat and I sat in the bows clinging onto both sides at first, but slithered down to join



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him amongst the fish. My mother was brave, my father seemed unconcerned, but my aunt, terrified of the sea, mouthed protests, went grey and then green. It was really rough, with a strong tide and wind, particularly passing Jack Sound. But Reuben made it back, grounded the boat gently, and we jumped out, getting our feet and legs wet but we didn't care! Thank you Mr Codd.

*Susie Copus*

## LLANWINIO

**H**uge congratulations go to Peter and Margaret Robinson who clocked up an incredible 70 years of married life on the 10th of June! They were married at Spetchley Church, Worcester on June 10th 1950 and moved to Wales on September the 29th 1953 - first to Talley and then to Waun Llan on May the 13th 1961 where they are live to this day. They were blessed with two children, Daphne and Colin; 7 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren whose ages range from 6 months to 15 years. Gwenllian (Sian's daughter) was the latest arrival. For many years Peter was churchwarden at Llanwinio and Margaret was organist and treasurer.



The original Waun Llan circa 1961



Margaret kept a very tight grip on the purse-strings which enabled the church to weather many a financial storm.

They liked going abroad on holiday with Mr and Mrs Derek Richards from Gellywen and would also rent cottages in the UK. Mr. Richards would cook the main course whilst Peter did the sweets.



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Mixers, spices and other ingredients would be packed for these holidays. Daphne says she doesn't remember Peter doing much cooking at home while she was growing up!

Occasionally when the weather was hot the children would persuade this hardworking couple to take the children to the beach, either to Pendine or Poppit Sands. See photos on page 16.

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## **Nouwen Meditation: Solitude is the Place of Conversion**

**I**n order to understand the meaning of solitude, we must first unmask the ways in which the idea of solitude has been distorted by our world. We say to each other that we need some solitude in our lives. What we really are thinking of, however, is a time and place for ourselves in which we are not bothered by other people, can think our own thoughts, express our own complaints, and do our own thing, whatever it may be. For us, solitude most often means privacy. We have come to the dubious conviction that we all have a right to privacy. Solitude thus becomes like a spiritual property for which we can compete on the free market of spiritual goods. But there is more. We also think

# **G. Williams**

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married life on the  
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of solitude as a station where we can recharge our batteries, or as a corner of the boxing ring where our wounds are oiled, our muscles massaged, and our courage restored by fitting slogans. In short, we think of solitude as a place where we gather new strength to continue the ongoing competition of life.

But that is not the solitude of St. John the Baptist, of St. Anthony or St. Benedict, of Charles de Foucauld or the brothers of [the] Taizé [Community]. For them solitude is not a private therapeutic place. Rather, it is the place of conversion, the place where the old self dies and the new self is born, the place where the emergence of the new man and the new woman occurs.

*Father James Martin Sourced by Judy Webb*

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I was very interested to read the article about the CBM (Christian Blind Mission) in June's Grapevine. This is one of the charities supported by the Scrabble Group in the Crymych Group of Churches (we each pay £1.50 a session which we then send every few months to a charity of our choice - though we're not of course meeting at the moment). It is also a charity which in turn helps support the hospital that takes care of Mercy - the 10 year old Ugandan girl who lost her feet in a fire and whose medical expenses are sponsored by the five members of the Churches' house group and a few other very lovely people. The CoRSU hospital, near Entebbe, provides Mercy's surgery, prosthetic legs etc. It's worth googling the hospital to see the wonderful work they do - obviously not just eye surgery!

In this difficult time when we can't hug our nearest and dearest (though hopefully things will have moved on safely by the time you read this) I have come up with an idea that is helping Mercy and bringing a little happiness into

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loved ones' lives. As a passionate crocheter I have raised a goodly sum of money for our little lass by selling crochet items - you may recall previous articles and pictures in Grapevine. Now I am offering to send a crochet heart with your personal message to someone you care for, for the sum of £2.50 (that's £2 for the heart plus 50p towards the postage). Or for the same price I can send a selection of 5 small hearts and/or stars. Various colours available - if you're on line you can select from a picture. The large hearts come either starched with a hanging loop, or unstarched without a loop to use as a coaster. Those who have received such a surprise package have, I know, been given a tremendous 'lift' - surely the next best thing to a cwotch? Just a hint - little girls simply love hearts!

Our main means of fundraising - line dancing, craft fairs, within our own social groups - are now of course unavailable to us but meanwhile Mercy still needs attention - she 'broke' (wore out!) a prosthetic leg just before lockdown. Her foster-parents couldn't take her the 250 miles to the hospital so we paid for a technician to visit her in Fort Portal to repair/ replace the offending limb.

If you think a surprise symbol of love would cheer someone in your life, do contact me - Judy - by phone 01239 698405, or e-mail [judy.webb@btinternet.com](mailto:judy.webb@btinternet.com)

## **MORE BEST CHURCH BULLETIN BLOOPERS!**

***A few more sentences which have actually appeared in church bulletins, or were announced in church services:***

Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa, will be speaking tonight at Calvary Methodist. Come hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.

**Announcement in a church bulletin for a national PRAYER & FASTING Conference: "The cost for attending the Fasting and Prayer conference includes meals."**

The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been cancelled due to a conflict.

**Remember in prayer the many that are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say "hell" to someone who doesn't care much about you.**

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**For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.**

Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Pastor Jack's sermons.

**During the absence of our Pastor, we enjoyed the rare privilege of hearing a good sermon when J.F. Stubbs supplied our pulpit.**

The Rector will preach his farewell message after which the choir will sing "Break Forth into Joy."

**A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.**

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.

**The Lutheran men's group will meet at 6 pm. Steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, bread and dessert will be served for a nominal fee.**

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

**Attend and you will hear an excellent speaker and have a healthy lunch.**

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

**The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM. The Congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.**

Mrs. Johnson will be entering the hospital this week for testes.

**Our next song is "Angels We Have Heard Get High."**

## LLANFYRNACH



Hearty congratulations to Eunice Batchelor on her 80th birthday on the 3rd of July!!! Sorry, Eunice—I hope it wasn't supposed to be a secret!!



### Resurrection of an Angel

This may not be the angel you are thinking of, but the angel I am referring to is a FireAngel smoke alarm. I have two in my house originally installed by the Fire Brigade in Crymych and one of these little angels decided to let me know its presence every hour throughout the day. At 10:00pm I had had enough and asked my neighbour to take it down and put it in the garage where I couldn't hear it. I contacted a friend and asked if the Fire

Brigade if this service was still in operation, but the answer was no.

Then another friend said why don't you see if there is a telephone number on the back of the smoke alarm? Off I went to the garage to retrieve said alarm and turn it over to inspect the back. And there it was, so I rang the firm and was incredibly pleased to hear that it had a ten-year life span, and something had upset it and all it needed was the vacuum treatment.



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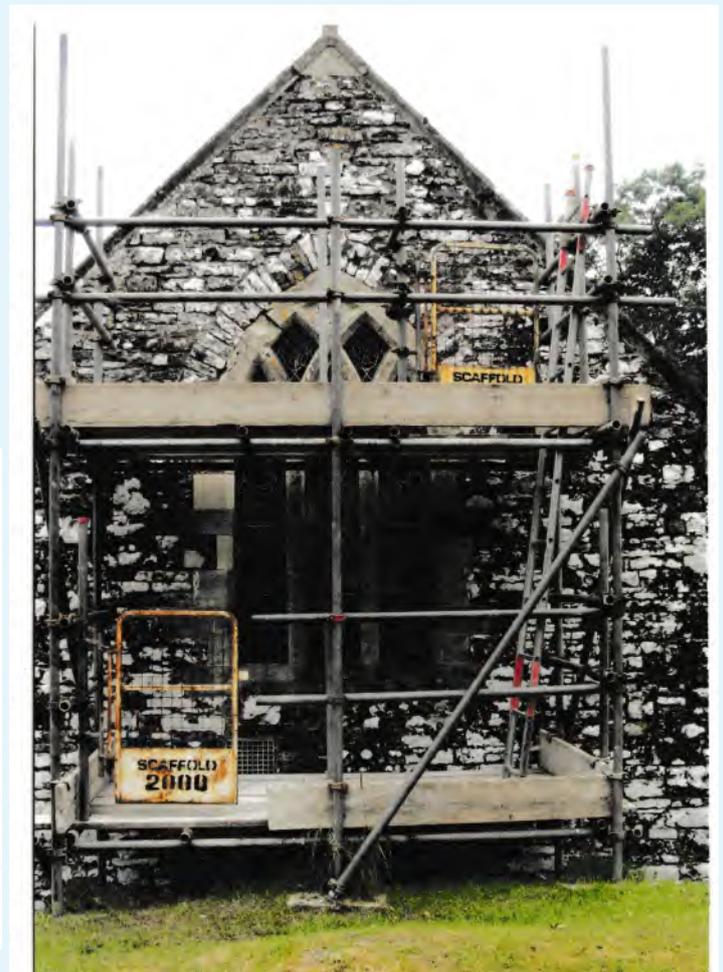


***Left: Mair Bartlett who celebrated her 80th on the last day of May***



***Left: Dewi James who celebrated his 80th birthday on June the 22nd***

***Below: Ongoing repairs to the Chancel Window at Eglwys Gymyn***



Apparently if this happens to your little angel, you have to vacuum it for five minutes giving it a bang on the table during the process, its no good doing it for two or three minutes it has to be for a full five minutes, and do you know what? It worked, my little angel is back on the ceiling just sitting there as quiet as can be but to see if it was still awake I prodded it with a stick, and would you believe it screamed at the top of its voice – but only for a moment. Job well done.....

*Eunice Batchelor*

# **Meidrim and Merthyr**

**Canon Jeffrey Gainer**

**01994 231378**

**[sieffremeidrim@googlemail.com](mailto:sieffremeidrim@googlemail.com)**

## **Meidrim**

We extend the assurance of our prayers and sympathy to the archdeacon of Carmarthen, the Venerable Dorian Davies, whose father, Mr Ceri Davies, was buried at Abergwili on June 2nd. Some will remember Mr Davies from his time as the village postman here over thirty years ago when he was a cheerful and friendly presence. He leaves a widow, Mrs Mary Davies, whom we also remember at this time.

The late Mr Roderick John Lewis was one of a large family brought up in the cottage next to the church. He worked for some years as a groundsman at Trinity College, Carmarthen, and also dug graves in our churchyard as required. He would attend Evensong on a monthly basis until ill health prevented him from so doing. Latterly he was looked after well at the Caldey Grange home, near Saundersfoot. Three of his four surviving brothers attended the interment of his mortal remains in the same churchyard on May 30 namely, Arwyn, Archibald and Elfyn. The fourth, Leslie, is now resident at home in Llandeilo and was unable to attend. We remember Roderick and his family in our prayers at this time and give thanks for his contribution to village and church life.

Back in the early 1960s several young men decided to leave the village and make their way to distant Canada. One of them was Mr Ronald Herbert. He settled there, married a Mexican lady and brought up his family. He left behind two brothers, Cliff and Delme. Ronald passed away recently and it is only fitting

that we should extend our sympathy to them and to his nephew, Mr Malcolm Herbert in their loss. May Ronald rest in peace.

We are glad to be able to report that Miss Sophie Jones is at last somewhat better and wish her well as she continues to be cared for by the dedicated staff of the National Health service in Crewe.

We have received a useful letter from the chairman of the Diocesan Board of Finance, Mr Nicholas Griffin of Lampeter Velfrey, outlining the response of this diocese and Province to the financial problems caused by the pandemic. He rightly points out that the financial contributions of the faithful are vital to the continuing witness of the Church in the parishes and that the Representative Body, which holds in trust many of the assets of the Church in Wales, has agreed not to levy the Ministry Share or quota for the second quarter of this year. Thanks to the prudent stewardship of our treasurer we have been able to meet all the charges on our finances hitherto but obviously we do not know as yet when services in church will resume. We shall do our best to keep you informed of any developments.

## **Merthyr**

The grand raffle has at last been drawn albeit in a somewhat unusual venue, that is in the garage of our treasurer, Mrs Marilyn Davies with the Rector present and keeping the required social distance of two metres. We take this opportunity to thank all who have donated prizes, all who sold and bought tickets, and also to congratulate those who have won one of the fourteen prizes.

The following prayer is commended for your use at this time:

***O Most mighty and most merciful God, in this time of grievous sickness,  
we flee unto thee for succour, and  
Deliver us, we beseech thee, from our peril;  
give strength and skill to all those who minister to the sick;  
prosper the means made use of for their cure;  
and grant that, perceiving how frail and uncertain our life is, we may  
apply our hearts unto that heavenly wisdom which leadeth to eternal life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

*Canon Jeffrey Gainer*

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**The Reverend Kingsley G Taylor, BD MA**

01994 240494 ktaylor559@aol.com

Assistant Priest Dr Canon Jeni Parsons

Lay Worship Leader Mr. Nathan Jenkins

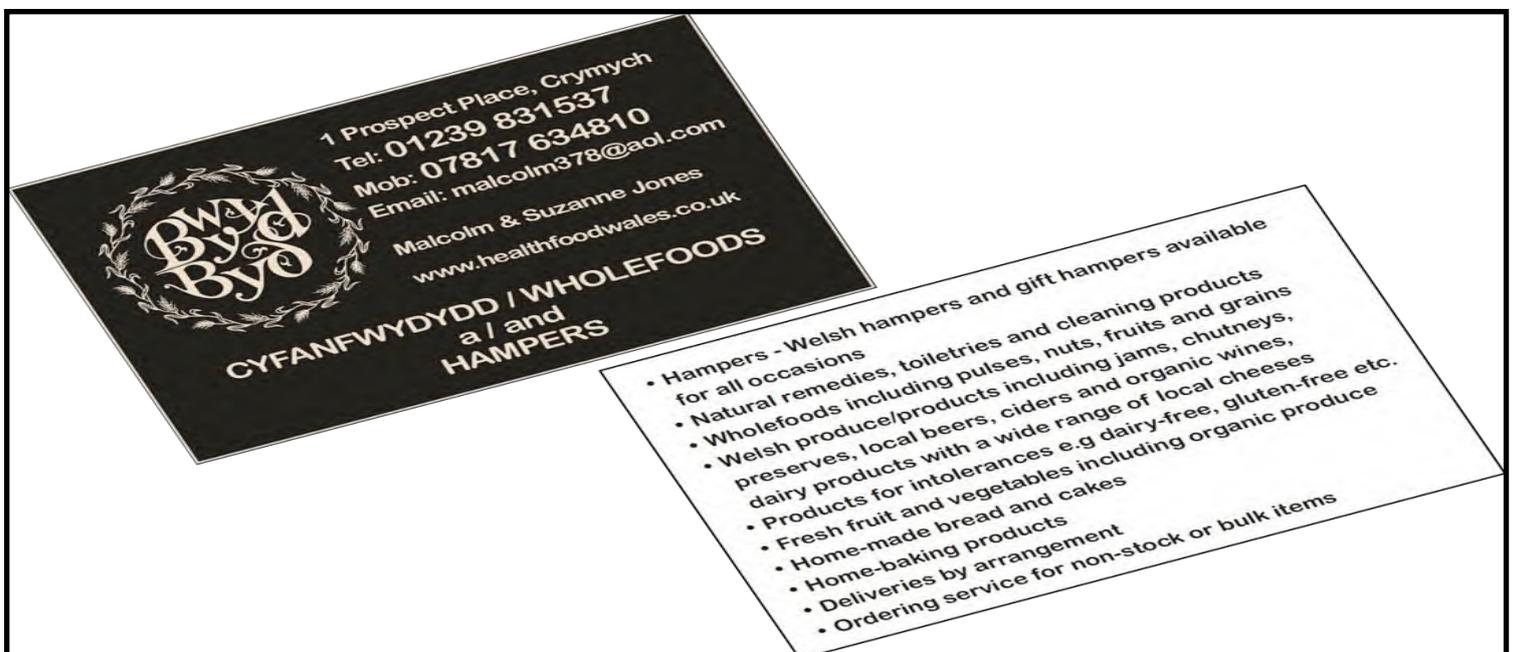
**eastlandsker.com**

### In Lockdown

By the time you read this information may be different, so please look on the website for more recent information.

I can now go into the church, primarily with an eye to assess the suitability of the churches when they do open. Obvious things are hygiene and social distancing. I doubt we will be able to have communion straight away. In England the churches will open for personal prayer but this is Wales and regulations and timing are different.

The other thing I can do is visit, however this is under the regulations of what is allowed in Wales, I may as one household visit another household within 5 miles but we have to meet outside. I cannot enter anyone's house or have tea



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and cake. I cannot take communion to people either. And please remember the virus hasn't gone away so there is still a risk.

Zoom services are not practical because of the geography of the place - many people do not have fast enough broadband, may not have computers with cameras, may not even have the internet at all and when it was proposed so few people were able to join.

I will continue with the daily emails, but not everyone can get these either so it is only a partial answer.

Don't expect the old normal, many of us (if not all of us) have been reassessing what is important, we have got out of a bit of a rut and I don't intend to go back into it.

The really important thing is human contact, something even the most sophisticated technology cannot replace. Just to be able to meet together for fellowship and worship will be something to celebrate.

*Kingsley Taylor*

### **Little Red Ants 'See Red'**

**K**ingsley often reminds us that fellowship provides an opportunity to help each other in acts of kindness, and I'd like to relate this to a chance meeting I had with, would you believe, a small colony of red ants a few hot summers ago. I was standing on a bench in our back garden, looking over the high boundary wall onto the former milk factory premises, and happened to see on top of the wall the equivalent of red full stops charging around in every direction. What are they doing, and where are they going, I wondered, as they went in and out of cracks and crevices with legs darting and mind unswerving? Probably they're gathering food, I thought and, if so, were they helping each other or simply filling their own plates?

Nearby, more red dots made similar efforts with equal gusto and sharp-wittedness but, seemingly, with little consideration for others. I don't know how many near-misses I witnessed, and I just hoped that before leaving this little world I had entered I might see one of these characters giving way to the next with, perhaps, some kind of 'excuse me, so sorry, mate, I'm getting in your way' gesture. But far from it: moments later two crossed paths and neither budged. In a mad flurry lasting a second or two, they violently spun each other around, so that an unforgettable double-sized full stop whirled before my eyes. Then, each raced away in opposite directions as if nothing, at all, had happened!

**HAPPY 70<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY! 2020 RODNEY**



**Above:  
A very happy 70th  
Birthday to Rodney from  
the Shop at Llanboidy**

**Right:  
Caleb and Ellis Wiggans, of  
Yr Hen Pawlwyr, Login on  
their first birthday just  
about to demolish their  
birthday cake.  
Well somebody had to do  
it!!!**



*'How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity'* are the words of *Psalm 133*, and what a challenge this can present!

*Roger Penn*

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## **LLANBOIDY**

*Llanboidy news from Sue Jones*

All is rather quiet in the village with Lock down, except on Thursday evenings, when the clapping and saucepan bangings start in support of all the NHS and Support Services – folks in their gardens, on their doorsteps and leaning out of their windows – a grand show from you all.

On another cheerful note - congratulations to Caleb and Ellis, my grandsons, of Yr Hen Pawlwyr, Login on their first birthday – they had a great time demolishing their birthday cake as can be seen in photo. Luckily Mummy Emily had made another for us to eat !!!

At the other end of the age spectrum we wish Rodney from the Spa stores, Llanboidy a very happy 70th birthday. As can be seen from photo he also had an amazing cake, unfortunately I did not manage to have a piece of that one!!

An advantage of Lock down has been the great feeling of camaraderie in the village and locality with so many folks offering help and phoning up those isolated to keep in touch and try and ease the problems arising. The Lamb Inn has been busy preparing evening take-aways and the extra special Sunday lunch. St Brynach's School staff have produced really helpful work sheets for pupils to use at home and have been phoning parents to keep in touch

Glad to see that Sammy Thomas of Brynderwen; Margaret Kedward of Hafod Farm; Julie Thomas of Maesybryn and Fred Scourfield are all safely home after spells in Hospital.

Diana Fairclough wrote the following for the Grapevine magazine on the passing of her Dad:

**G**eoffrey Fairclough (known as Geoff Frowen) passed away peacefully at home on 23rd May 2020, aged 84 years. Loving Husband of Joyce; Proud father of Jane, Dora and Diana; respected Father-In-Law of Dryw, Celt and Ben; much loved Grandad of Ashley, Rhys, Deri and Dion, and the late Stefan. Under current circumstances a private funeral service was held at St. Brynach's Church, Llanboidy on 1st of June with

The Reverend Canon Dr Jeni Parsons as the officiating minister. The family would like to thank everyone for the kindness shown to them in these difficult times, and would like to say a special thank you to neighbours and friends for standing out and showing their respect, and a big 'thank you' to people who have done work for Geoff over the years who followed the funeral cars in their tractors, work vans & lorries. Geoff was a true gentleman who will be missed by all who knew him.

We were very sorry to learn of the death of Stuart Carter on 10th May at Maesgwyn Isaf - he was a great character who kept us amused with tales from his interesting past working in France and Switzerland before he settled in Llanboidy in the late 80's with his late wife Jenn – the service was conducted by Jeni Parsons at Parc Gwyn Crematorium on 26th May and there will be a celebration of Stuart's life at a later date in the Peace Wood at Maesgwyn Isaf.

Stuart will be missed by us all who knew him – and especially for his acclaimed barn dances at the farm

Please, please, please let me, Sue Jones, have any Llanboidy news for the next edition of the Grapevine and I will forward to Kathie, our Editor. My email – sue@llanboidycheese.co.uk; Phone – 01994 448303; Text – 07530 523813

## **CIFFIG**

We send our sincere sympathy to anyone and everyone who has suffered bereavement during this "lockdown" period.

We look forward hopefully to the easing of restrictions, and a time when we will be able to open our Church again to welcome everyone.

Thank you to Rev. Kingsley for his uplifting "Thoughts for the day". Thanks also to Philip and Margaret for keeping the Church yard neat and tidy.

*Lynn Werrett*

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## **Eglwys Gymyn**

**W**ith the effects of Corona virus still affecting our country and the rest of the world, there is so much grief for so many people directly caught up with the loss of loved ones who cannot really grieve closely with family and friends because of the lockdown. Normally the hurt and the sadness can be helped with the church service but even that at the moment is not allowed. Like the rest of the country our Church has been closed since March so there is not even the

opportunity to meet as a congregation and pray together as well as rejoice with the Christian spirit. This year for the first time in living memory we will not celebrate St Margaret's day

There is however hope and as the saying goes, 'hope springs eternal' and at Eglwys Gymyn there is a lot of hope that sometime our Chancel window will be restored to its historical splendour. Two months ago the scaffolding was erected but then the stone mason was caught up in another job, then he was taken unwell which resulted in one delay after another. Then when he became available, the surprise that stopped construction was now 'there is no special stone available because the quarry has ceased working because of the Corona virus'.

As I write this on June 9th, the promised repair will start by Monday 15th June. Hopefully will soon be able to celebrate in church and all the problems will be over.

*Roy Evans*

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

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

<b>Trinity:</b>	Delyth Dent	Tel. 01994 448606	delythdent@btinternet.com
<b>Tabernacle:</b>	Meryl James	Tel. 01994 240350	Meryljames534@btinternet.com
<b>Bethel:</b>	Eric Howells	Tel. 01994 240205	erichowells@rocketmail.com

### **Na Ladd – o stori Cain ac Abel hyd at George Floyd**

**G**ellir darllen am y llofruddiaeth gyntaf yn y Beibl mor gynnar â'r drydedd dudalen pan mae Cain yn lladd ei frawd Abel. Ac ar hyd y canrifoedd mae dyn wedi bod yn torri'r chweched gorchymyn o'r Deg Gorchymyn sy'n dweud wrthym "Na ladd".

Ystyr Abel yw anadl ac ystyr Cain yw creu ac wrth gyfuno'r ddau enw mae awdur llyfr Genesis yn dweud wrthym ein bod wedi ein creu gan Dduw gydag anadl bywyd ynom. Ac mae anadl yn cyfleu pa mor fregus yw bywyd ac mae ond anadl ydym ar ddiwedd y dydd a gall yr anadl hynny gael ei diffodd unrhyw adeg.

Yn stori Cain ac Abel ym mhennod pedwar o Lyfr Genesis mae Cain yn eiddigeddus o'i frawd am fod Abel wedi derbyn bendith Duw ac yntau heb. O fewn dim amser mae cenfigen wedi troi yn gasineb, casineb yn troi yn awydd i ladd, a'r awydd i ladd yn troi yn weithred o ladd wrth i Cain ladd Abel.

Stori o ladd sydd wedi bod yn brif stori'r byd ers pythefnos bellach sef yr hanes am fel y lladdwyd y gŵr croenddu George Floyd yn Minneapolis ar ôl i blismon gwyn benlinio ar ei wddw am funudau lawer.

Mae'r hanes wedi cythruddo pobl o bob rhan o'r byd ac wedi atgoffa ni gyd fod pobl groenddu yn dal i gael eu trin yn warthus ac yn ein hatgoffa fod yna hiliaeth ofnadwy yn dal yn bodoli. Tra ein bod ni bobl croenwyn yn cael bywydau digon cyfforddus mae ein brodyr a'n chwiorydd croenddu yn dioddef hiliaeth yn ddyddiol yng Nghymru, yn Lloegr ac ym mhob rhan o'r byd.

Gwelwyd nifer o sêr y byd chwaraeon yn codi eu llais yn erbyn yr hyn ddigwyddodd i George Floyd gan gynnwys Raheem Sterling, Lewis Hamilton ac Anthony Joshua. A dyma ddywedodd y pêl-droediwr Paul Pogba:

“Rhaid i hyn stopio unwaith ac am byth. Dim fory, na'r diwrnod wedyn. Mae'n rhaid iddo stopio heddiw”

Mae stori Cain yn lladd Abel a hanes George Floyd yn cael ei ladd gan y plismon yn dangos 3 peth i ni :

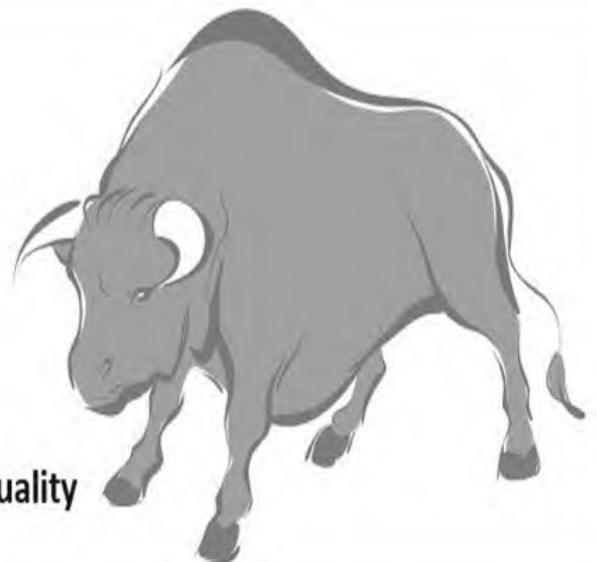
- 1) Mae bywyd yn fregus, yn sanctaidd ac wedi ei greu gan Dduw
- 2) Heb Dduw, bwystfil yw dyn
- 3) Brodyr a chwiorydd i'n gilydd i ni gyd beth bynnag yw lliw ein croen. Rhaid i ni ddysgu byw mewn heddwch ac mae stori Cain ac Abel a hanes George Floyd yn dangos beth sydd yn digwydd os na wnawn hynny.

## **Ken Davies A'i Fab**

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Yn y dyddiau ar ôl lladd George Floyd gwelwyd Donald Trump yn gorchymyn saethu bwledi plastig a 'tear gas' i ganol protestwyr heddychol fel y gallai gerdded trwyddynt i ddal Beibl o flaen eglwys. Roedd y cyfan yn droëdig ac yn gabledd ac yn dangos nad yw Trump wedi dechrau deall neges Iesu.

Gobeithio y bydd marwolaeth drasig George Floyd yn profi yn drobwynt yn hanes y byd ac yn arwain i'r ddynoliaeth gael gwared ar hiliaeth unwaith ac am byth. Ac os gwnaiff hynny ddigwydd bydd ein byd ni yn fyd fel y breuddwydiodd Martin Luther King amdano yn ei freuddwyd enwog :

“Mae gennyf freuddwyd, ryw ddydd y bydd y genedl hon yn codi ac yn byw gwirionedd ei chred - ‘Credwn fod gwirioneddau fel hyn yn rhai amlwg, fod pob dyn wedi’i greu yn gyfartal.’

Mae gennyf freuddwyd, ryw ddydd y bydd meibion caethweision a meibion eu meistri yn eistedd ynghyd wrth fwrdd brawdgarwch.

Mae gennyf freuddwyd y bydd fy mhedwar plentyn, ryw ddydd, yn rhan o genedl lle bernir hwy, nid yn ôl lliw eu croen ond yn ôl natur eu cymeriad.

Mae gennyf freuddwyd, heddiw”

(This is an article through the medium of Welsh titled ‘Thou shalt not kill – from Cain and Abel through to George Floyd)

*Guto Llywelyn*

## Trinity

In line with current guidelines, no Sunday services were held in Trinity during May. We remain grateful to the minister, Revd. Guto Llywelyn for preparing and forwarding Sunday services and news items on line to members. This is in addition to the regular phone calls to offer pastoral support.

# *W. J. Kenneth Davies & Sons*

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Members were saddened to hear that Bethan Williams will be leaving the area soon to move closer to her family in Swansea. As a deacon and organist, Bethan has been a loyal and hard working member of Trinity for many years. We will all miss her ready smile and good humour on a Sunday morning and thank her for her valuable contribution to the work of the chapel.

Members wish to thank neighbours, friends and family for the practical support provided with shopping and other chores during this difficult time. This includes younger members of the community who readily offer their help. We are also very grateful to local businesses, including the local post office, for their readiness to deliver goods and essentials.

## **Bethel**

After over three months of the chapel being closed and restrictions on travelling around we are becoming accustomed to a different way of worshipping and thankfully there are now so many ways to keep in touch. Our minister provides a devotion every week through Zoom, something many of us had never heard of

before; there is a regular online meeting with other members of the pastorate every Wednesday and a newsletter to keep us up to date and online quizzes.

One of the regulars at our English services, Mrs Jean Lewis celebrated her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday early in June and received many cards and messages. We send our best wishes to all who have celebrated anniversaries recently and we also think of members who are in Care Homes or are unwell at present.

Another lockdown review will have taken place before this article appears and we look forward to further easing of the restrictions.

## Children's Corner

*It has been suggested that we run a colouring competition in next month's edition of the Grapevine.*

*Are there any artists out there*

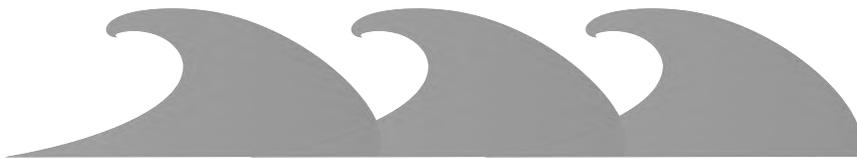
*(and I know there are plenty!!)*

*who would be prepared to provide a suitable picture, and grant copyright so that we can print it?*

*Please contact the Editor before next month's deadline which is the 10th of July. Many thanks. Editor.*

The following poem was submitted by Lynn Werrett of Ciffig Church. It is possibly one that most of us remember from long ago schooldays, but Lynn remembers it mainly because she did not recite it to her teacher's satisfaction the first time, and had to miss playtime until teacher was satisfied!

### Sea Fever



I must go down to the seas again, to the lonely sea and the sky,

And all I ask is a tall ship, and a star to steer her by;

And the wheel's kick and the wind's song and the white sails shaking,

And the grey mist on the sea's face, and a grey dawn breaking.

I must go down to the seas again, for the call of the running tide

Is a wild call and a clear call that may not be denied;

And all I ask is a windy day with the white clouds flying,

And the flung spray and the blown spume, and the sea-gulls crying.

I must go down to the seas again, to the vagrant gypsy life,  
To the gull's way and the whale's way where the wind's like a whetted knife;  
And all I ask is a merry yarn from a laughing fellow rover,  
And quiet sleep and a sweet dream when the long trick's over.

*John Masefield (1878—1967)*

---

## **Fifty Ways to Beat This Virus**

Stay away from the pack, Jack  
Don't visit your Gran, Stan  
Wipe down your toy, Roy  
To keep virus free.

Don't hop on the bus, Gus  
Don't listen to Don, Ron  
Don't hoard the TP, Lee  
To stay virus free.

Sneeze in your sleeve, Steve  
Stop touching your face, Grace  
Keep back to six feet, Pete  
Heed the CDC

Just use the PURELL, Mel  
Keep wipes in the purse, Nurse  
Keep care of your stock, Doc  
You need PPE

This isn't Spring Break, Jake  
Stay home if you're sick, Dick  
As COVID leaps, Peeps  
Just follow the rules, Fools  
And stay virus free.

*Author Unknown*

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