

Grapevine 2021

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comprising the parishes of Clydau, Llanglydwen,
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EDITORIAL

In future times, we may look back upon 2020 as fraught and full of uncertainties with the seemingly arbitrary micro-management of our day to day lives; from when we were allowed out of our homes to when we could shop and what for, to when we could worship or take a holiday. And lurking behind it all, the deeper and farther reaching uncertainties facing the farming community in which we live.

Farmers are a key start point of the food supply. The first great uncertainty of 2020 was that there are two separate food chains – one stretches from the farm gate through food manufacturers and processors to your shops, large and small. The other stretches from the farm gate through manufacturers and processors into hospitality in all its forms: restaurants, take-aways, airline meals, hospital and care home kitchens – anywhere people eat prepared meals.

The March 2020 lock-down caused the near collapse of the commercial food chain. Viewing it through the prism of just one take-away, millions of chickens at every daily stage of growth from the 21 days in the shell to 35 days in the hen-house, through slaughter and distribution, had nowhere to go because the two food chains are largely separate. That led to shortages in shops as all the meals which would normally be eaten in restaurants and

on aeroplanes had to be prepared at home with food sourced from the retail sector.

That impacted on our community immediately, as there was nowhere for milk to go. Farming has some flexibility in the case of livestock while their animal feed stocks last but food production only has two speeds: full throttle or stop. The frozen food problem was much the same. Without anywhere to deliver frozen chips to, the freezer warehouses of the commercial food chain were soon full and turning away suppliers' lorries. And that created shortages as soon as the hospitality industry was allowed to re-open on a planet where there is never more than two months' food in the chain at any time.

What was different about 2020 was the variable uncertainty of when we could do what. Previous crises usually reset our expectations to a new 'normal' fairly quickly, as happened in the 2008 financial crisis; just another spoke in the boom-bust cycle of how financial institutions interfere with the economy. What's going to be different in 2021 is the continuing uncertainty of how divorcing the European Union is going to pan out and that is felt more acutely in our farming community than the pandemic ever was.

The difference is that whatever 2021 brings down on us from our government through whatever they negotiate or fail to negotiate with our

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- Fresh fruit and vegetables including organic produce
- Home-made bread and cakes
- Home-baking products
- Deliveries by arrangement
- Ordering service for non-stock or bulk items

ex-partners, the separation from Europe won't impact on us socially the way their handling of the pandemic has. The pain is going to be financial.

What affects us all in these difficult times is the direct control imposed on our social activities. The freedom to worship or to visit relatives or our clubs has never been so impeded before in our lifetimes. What usually prevents us going to school, church or to see loved ones is a weather event, such as a heavy fall of snow. That brings its own new 'normal' as we can't carry on with the old 'normal' without crashing the car or getting it stuck in a snowdrift. We let the new 'normal' take over and help build a snowman, de-dust the sledge or (more likely) get to work shifting it.

Missing the occasional opportunity to worship or to observe the passing of an anniversary is something we can reconcile with, but the prolonged closure of our churches and the ban on communion is much harder to deal with. The 1918 'flu pandemic closed churches for a month in some places. Locally, St Clydai had but one burial in 1918, in January before the pandemic struck; so our records suggest it didn't strike here.

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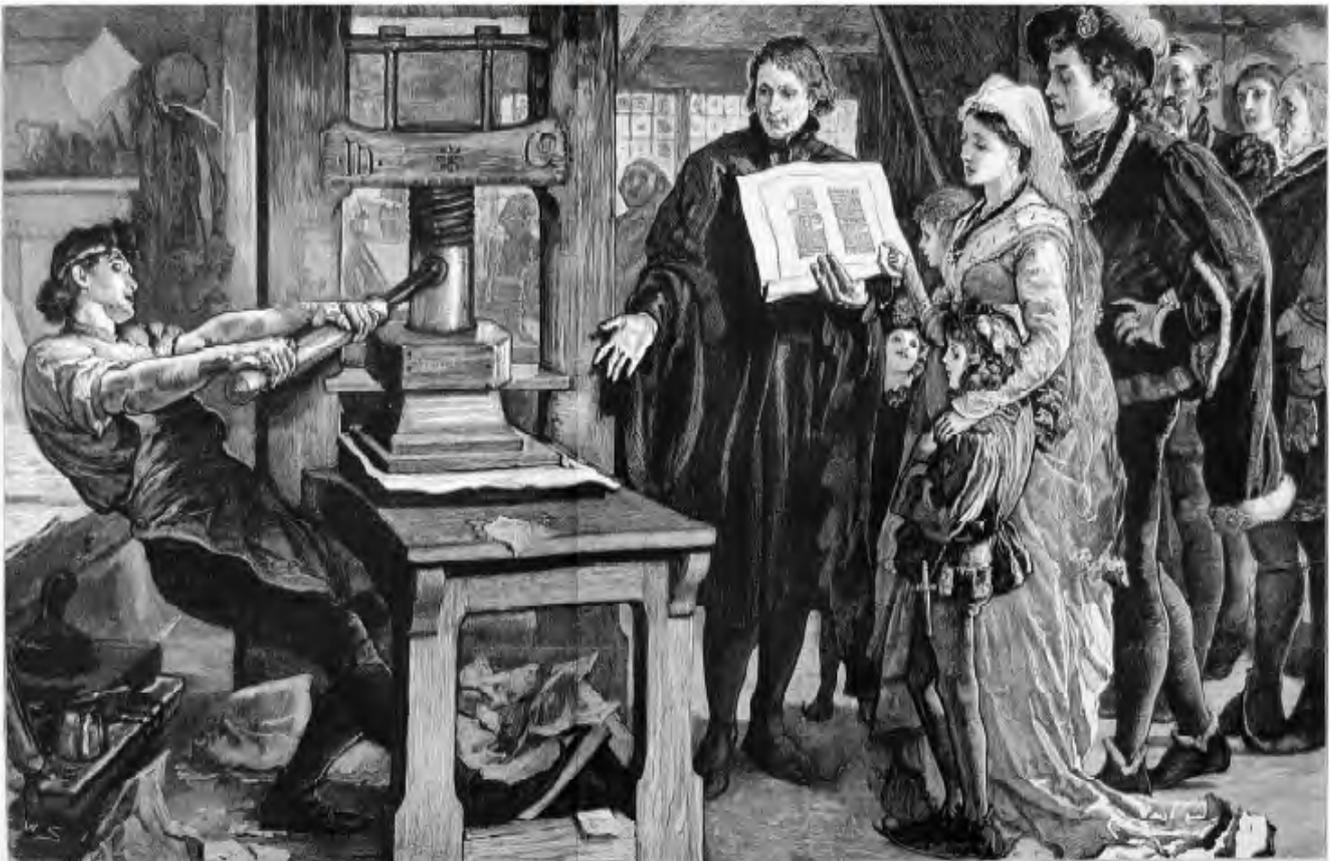
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Not being able to find a new normal, we do other things. Without a proper Remembrance Sunday service, an ad hoc flash mob hung their wreaths on the market hall on the morning of 11th November, at around 11.00 am. Since we can't sing in church, the carol service went outdoors to visit the Christmas Tree at Bwlchgyroes Chapel Yard on the 20th December at 2.00 pm.

We rush, it seems, from Remembrance to Advent Sunday in a fortnight, which comes after nearly six months of Trinity. The church year developed the way we have inherited it for social reasons. The Anglican Church itself developed in Elizabethan England (and eventually in Wales) as the local government, filling the void left by the dissolution of the monasteries and friaries. Our celebrations dovetail into the calendar of commitments: court, social, farming and business. It's no accident that the months of Trinity are those of the harvests and the autumn preparations for the next year.

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Advent leads us to Christmas, ideally located at the time when daylight is so scarce and there's little else to do. It doesn't matter that Jesus may have been born at some other time of year – a Bethlehem shepherd told Professor Bob Briars that he only abided in the fields with his flock from April to October – having an official birthday works for all manner of social reasons, which is why Her Majesty the Queen does it.

January brings us the Epiphany of our Lord. Advanced notice that his mission was for all, Jewish and Gentile; his Jewish circumcision and the gentile magi bringing gifts from the east. February brings us Lent: Ash Wednesday will be the 17th of February. It used to be a fast in remembrance of the forty days and nights (excluding Sundays) that Jesus spent in the wilderness but shrunk to next to nothing because of an emergency – the Second World War and its complications for our food chain. Nowadays it's nice to give up something as a focal point on which to reflect.

March sees us through Lent and into Holy Week. Easter shifts with the moon, as Christ's entry to Jerusalem, remembered on Palm Sunday, is forever linked to the Passover celebrations. Easter Sunday is on 4th of April: maybe communion will be back by then. It might still be social distanced, and we might be using the disposable individual dose plastic chalices we bought just in case, but Easter is the one day it would be nice to have a proper Holy Eucharist.

May sees us through Eastertide and Pentecost to Trinity Sunday on the 30th. After that it's 'ordinary times' until we get to Advent again. And let's hope they are 'ordinary' times. Whether our Covid 19 restrictions will lift by then, no-one can yet say. What should be more certain is our relationship with Europe and how that will be impacting on our community through our farms. After nearly fifty years of successive Prime Ministers occupying so much of the BBC's airtime with talk of a deal, opt outs, a new deal, a renegotiated deal etc with Europe, let's hope there is (or isn't) one. Either way, it would be a relief to have some certainty for next summer.

Richard Law

Cylch y Frenni Circle of Churches

Clydau, Llanglydwen, Llanfyrnach, Llanwinio and Mynachlog-ddu

Services for Churches Currently open

25th December **Christmas Day**
Llanwinio 09.30 am Holy Eucharist (bilingual)

SERVICES IN JANUARY 2021

3rd **The Second Sunday of Christmas**
Llanglydwen 09.30 am Holy Eucharist
Mynachlog-ddu 11.15 am Morning Prayer

10th **The Baptism of Christ**
Llanwinio 9.30 am Holy Eucharist
Clydau 11.15 am Holy Eucharist
Llanfyrnach 11.15 am Morning Prayer

17th **The Second Sunday of Epiphany**
Mynachlog-ddu 11.15 am Holy Eucharist



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24th	Third Sunday of Epiphany	
Clydau	11.15am	Morning Prayer
Llanfyrnach	11.15am	Holy Eucharist
31st	Fourth Sunday of Epiphany	
Clydau	11.15 am	Joint Benefice Holy Eucharist

Please be aware that social distancing measures are in place in all the churches which means numbers may be limited. Please contact the relevant Focal Minister or Church Warden if you wish to attend. Many thanks, The Ministry Team.

Clydau	Mrs Elizabeth Law	01239 698607
Llanfyrnach	Mrs Eunice Batchelor	01239 831556
Llanglydwen	Mrs Jane Legg	01994 419856
Llanwinio	Mrs Judy Webb	01239 698405
Mynachlog-ddu	Mrs Sharon Edge	01437 532681

Llanwinio

There will be a bilingual service at Llanwinio Church on Christmas Day at 9.30 am.

We hope to welcome you there.

Please be aware that current social distancing applies, so if you would like to attend, please let Phil know on 01994 484498

Llanfyrnach

Joyce Williams would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their prayers and good wishes before, during after her spell in hospital.



Above: Narberth and Whitland Rotary Club singing carols at the Day Centre in Narberth, December 2017 . Gracie, Sue Jones's granddaughter, decided to conduct the singing, and afterwards enchanted everyone by going around room and individually shaking the hands of all the ladies and gents.

Below: Susie Copus's class making clay models in Uganda, 1963



Thank you for the numerous cards, cakes and gifts she also received, including the lovely big cake she received from the congregation of Llanfyrnach Church whilst convalescing. Many thanks to you all,

Joyce Williams

Clydau

Last year, we reviewed 'The Star', a feature length cartoon about the nativity and this December we noticed 'Joseph: King of Dreams' – also a feature length cartoon. Made by DreamWorks Animation in 2000 as a prequel to their 1998 'The Prince of Egypt' it was released direct-to-video and that's probably why we didn't hear of it at the time.

'The Prince of Egypt' is about Moses discovering his true identity and leading the children of Israel out of Egypt, while Joseph is the one who invited them into Egypt in the first place to protect the family who sold him into slavery many years earlier from a regional famine.



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"After Ted closes with prayer, there will be a brief meeting in the parking lot to determine what, if anything, was actually decided in this meeting."

Everyone is familiar with what happened to Joseph. It's a Sunday School favourite and anyone who missed out on that probably saw the musical. It's one of the most powerful human stories in the Bible: yet, as director Robert Ramirez put it after screening it to studio executives, *"Nothing made sense. We followed the Bible story tightly. The script had structure. We storyboarded it word for word, yet it fell flat on its face...the sequences were based on good ideas ... good concepts, but when we cut them together, they didn't connect."*

What was missing from their first interpretation was the human side of this most human of stories and once they began *"focusing more on the characters and their relationships to each other, instead of always thinking in terms of plot and structure"* it came together as the video release currently enjoying a fresh airing on Sky channels.

Visually, Joseph's brothers are depicted as bare chested field hands, so Joseph's coat is extra special; he is the only son to have a garment on his shoulders. Translators have struggled with the word ποικίλος: 'many coloured' is the best known option but another is a 'coat with sleeves'.

I quite like the 'sleeves' option because long sleeves denote someone who doesn't work; then and now. Ancient mural and mosaic depictions of 'workers' show them with bare knees and elbows, which makes sense as it's much easier to clean skin than clothing. In modern times, you can spot manual workers wearing (usually dirty) Hi-Viz vests while people who don't do manual work, such as policemen and security guards wear (usually clean) long sleeved Hi-Viz jackets.

On a visit to Turkey, we saw multi-coloured woollen rugs (made in the tribal areas) in which the colours were all natural: shades of black, brown, fawn, grey and white as they came off the sheeps' backs at shearing. Using them thus saved anybody the complication of adding dyes.

Having the coat brought out his brothers' jealousy, alienating him from them to the point that they got rid of him and his idle dreaming. Without the tribal functioning of his family as his daily focal point and alone as a slave in Egypt, Joseph's personal integrity develops and gets him noticed, to his advantage (and his disadvantage when Potiphar's wife does the

noticing) as his dream-interpreter gift from God gets him all the way to Pharaoh's court and more advantages.

The opportunity to take revenge on his brothers arises many years later when they arrive in Egypt hoping to buy grain, he realises that he can do nothing to them that wouldn't punish his father also – and there's a new younger brother he wants to meet. Forgiveness and family reunification are much more powerful than any thoughts of revenge – which he never had anyway. You couldn't make it up.

Richard Law

More about my time in Uganda in 1963 when I was 18 by Susie Copus

At that time in East Africa, Junior Secondary schools were for post-Primary education, equivalent to middle schools for years 6 to 8 in today's system. The ages of the pupils I taught depended on when they had started their education, and whether they had had years out because of lack of funds to pay.

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There were 3 classrooms in the school, one for each year, and for my first term I was timetabled to teach Science, Art, and Music wherever I was needed. Almost all pupils came from miles away so there were 3 dormitories on the site. My first hurdle to overcome, particularly in the top class whose ages ranged from 13 to 19, was facing their curiosity. I was the youngest European they had met, and I needed questioning, and most of my answers had them laughing. Oh how I sweated and blushed, and was so confused. Did I live in London (no), how old was I (18, gasps) and was I married? (no, shrieks and giggles), and how many brothers and sisters did I have (one brother, more gasps and desk slapping and 'eh eh eh', unheard of, what was wrong with my parents?). For the first few lessons with that top year almost everything I said was met with embarrassed giggles, and some supportive 'shhh-ing'. We did settle down together, and I began to aim my teaching at the ones who wanted to listen.

As well as 3 missionary ladies and myself, there were 2 Ugandan teachers, for PE and needlework, and a housemistress who took care of the boarding side.

Every morning there were prayers, and every evening there was hymn singing just before bedtime, in the hall. Each of these was taken by a staff member in turn. I was put on the rota after a few weeks, and had to learn how to talk about a passage in the Bible – another challenge. The evening hymn singing was a very peaceful affair, with girls sitting closely together, choosing hymns and choruses, starting the singing themselves, and swaying to the rhythms.

The Art we did included painting and drawing, but the best activity was making clay models and hand puppets. 'There's clay down in the valley,' said the girls, so our gardener, Charles, went and got some. We chose scenes from the Bible to model, and the girls made shepherds, prophets, sheep and camels as they chatted and laughed together, kneeling on a concrete path. I made the 'kiln': I dug a hole in the earth and made a fire in it, and when it was judged hot enough, the models were lowered into the glowing embers, and earth heaped on top. All this was very ad hoc. Was the fire hot enough? How long would the heat last? Would the models crack?



Mydrim Church & Entrance into Village.

'You'll have to leave it alone, no poking with a stick.' After 3 patient hours the models were cool enough to take out. Excitement, triumph and disappointment – some models had survived, some had broken. The whole ones were painted and dressed with odd bits of cloth we had, and then they went on show.

Before I write of the puppets and other craft happenings, I must tell about the time I was asked to take PE. Netball. Oh, dread. In my school days, had I ever mastered netball, with its flat court and neat white lines and high fence surrounding it? No. However, on this level but bumpy grassy court, 2 nets, no proper boundaries, there was me, bouncing around trying to arbitrate using rules I had never got the hang of. I wasn't needed really. They bickered about the rules as they played very noisily, bumping into each other, trying to avoid me, and scoring goals. No PE kit was worn, just their daily uniforms and bare feet. The lesson had been okay I suppose, but I was glad when it was over. There was much back-slapping at the end, and smiling and scowling and laughing, and 'Thank you, Miss Howard'!

Susie Copus

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Meidrim and Merthyr

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Services

As in recent months Sunday services at Meidrim are:

9.00 am Morning Prayer

9.45 am Holy Eucharist

4.00 pm Evening Prayer

These services, including the sermon, are usually bilingual.

Whenever possible the daily offices are said in church Monday to Friday at 10.00 am and 4.00 pm

Sundays in January according to the calendar of the Prayer Book:

3rd Second Sunday after Christmas

10th First Sunday after Epiphany

17th Second Sunday after Epiphany

24th Third Sunday after Epiphany

31st Septuagesima

In addition, on January 6th, being the Feast of the EPIPHANY, the Holy Eucharist will be celebrated after Mattins at 10.30 am.

In memoriam:

The late Mrs Cecile Davies Drefach, Meidrim, who died in early December at the age of 92, was described shortly after her death as being “Meidrim through and through” and it is true that she spent her whole life in the village where she brought up her three sons, Ira, Lyn and Roy. She also took an active part in local activities whenever health allowed and was for many years a keen member of the Senior Citizens. As a young woman she had

enjoyed singing and had a fine alto voice. She was also a keen supporter of the National Eisteddfod and she, and her late husband Leonard (who predeceased her in 2007), would go each year to this great cultural festival and stay the whole week. She was a great reader, especially of Welsh literature, and enjoyed reciting some of the psalms in her native Cymraeg. The Vicar officiated at her funeral at Parc Gwyn on Monday, December 14. We extend to Cecile's family in their loss the assurance of our prayers and sympathy. Gorffwysed mewn hedd.

One of the Christmas cards received early on at Y Ficerdy included a newsletter in which the writer, the wife of a clergyman who no longer holds a parochial cure of souls as he retired some years ago, opined that many country churches in her area in Mid Wales were likely to close as the congregations were elderly and small in number. In some ways the continuing pandemic will continue to test not only the health services but also the resolve and commitment of Christians in many parts and not least hereabouts. Familiar patterns of worship have, after , disrupted and we have been reminded that it is all too easy to take inherited patterns of services for granted. The treasurer, Mr Dorian Evans, who has given many years of diligent service in that capacity, has asked me to pass on another message to this effect. It appears that many who have contributed to church funds hitherto have not done so in 2020 and this means that, if this pattern persists, then we shall be in danger of failing to meet our



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obligations to the wider church. Accordingly if you happen to read this, would you kindly consider carefully and prayerfully the first rubric in the Order of the Holy Eucharist and encourage your fellow church people to do likewise where appropriate. The best form of encouragement is a good example. The rubric reads: “It is the duty of a Christian to contribute gladly and liberally to the maintenance of the worship of God and the proclamation of the Gospel.” Diolch.

The New Year beckons and with it the prospect of Brexit. Whatever your opinion about this matter, and quite frankly many by now will have long since tired of the subject, it remains a worry for some and not least for those in the farming community. Some of that anxiety stems from the uncertainty about the arrangements that will be in force between the European Union and the British Union on and after January 1st, 2021. Recently the possible effects on Welsh ports have been highlighted. What will happen to Pembroke Dock and Fishguard? or Holyhead in the north? Will the Republic of Ireland increasingly bypass these ports as it continues to trade within the single market with its partners in the European Union?

It is now not a matter of a principle such as “taking back control”, an argument or rather slogan now being applied to possible future constitutional arrangements within the United Kingdom as support for Scottish independence and Irish reunification increases. No. We are about to be faced with the truth that actions, and votes, have consequences. The lamentable thing is that at this eleventh hour so many people in business and commerce still do not know what exactly is going to happen nor indeed what the long term consequences of the decision made in 2016 will be even though four years have passed during which interminable negotiations have been held. Will the effect of the 2016 vote be to destabilise the British Union and where will that leave Wales?

Merthyr

The recent pattern of services every other week is planned for January too. Accordingly there will be bilingual celebrations of the Holy Eucharist on the following dates at 11.15 am:

January 10th and 24th



Above: Nadolig 2019, Tabernacl

Below: Kathie's granddaughter, Freya, meeting animals for the first time at a petting zoo. My excuse for this photo? She is modelling one of Judy's hats and they are, of course, Christmas donkeys!!



We extend our sympathy to Wyn and Huw Evans and to their sister Mrs Ann Rees on the recent death of their aunt Mrs Betty Evans. Betty's late sister, Mrs Nan Evans, was a faithful worshipper at St Martin's where her husband Jack was churchwarden for some years.

Food for thought

Some years ago, in 2006 to be precise, the minister of Cana chapel, the Revd Betty Wyn James, wrote these words about lowliness. (The translation is by the Rector): "God does not choose his people because of any ability or competence they have within themselves as such but because of what He can make of them... God created the world out of nothing and unless we be nought He cannot make anything of us."

Our thanks go to those who have contributed to the local food bank. The gifts were delivered just before Christmas.

Jeffrey Gainer

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Assistant Priest Dr Canon Jeni Parsons

Lay Worship Leader Mr. Nathan Jenkins

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Services in January

Sunday 3rd Christmas II

10.30 am	Morning Service	St Tysilio	PM
11.00 am	Morning Service	St Mary	KT
11.00 am	Morning Prayer	St David	NJ
3.00 pm	Evening Prayer	St Brynach	KT

Sunday 10th The Baptism of Christ

11.00 am	Morning Prayer	St Mary	KT
11.00 am	Morning Prayer	St David	NJ
2.30 pm	Evening Prayer	Cyffig	KT

Sunday 17th Epiphany II

11.00 am	Morning Service	St Mary	KT
11.00 am	Morning Prayer	St David	NJ

Sunday 24th Epiphany III

11.00 am	Morning Service	St Mary	KT
11.00 am	Morning Prayer	St David	NJ
2.30 pm	Evening Prayer	Cyffig	KT

Sunday 31st Epiphany IV

11.00 am	Morning Service	St Mary	KT
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New Year

Epiphanly is the period of the churches year that begins with the visit of the Magi and is about the revelation of the God of the Jews to the greater world. It has come to mean a moment of revelation or realization generally. A moment when suddenly everything makes sense, I wonder if we will begin to make sense of all that has happened in 2020? Surely we can hope for a better year. The pandemic isn't over yet and so far the vaccine hasn't been administered to many people, but the New Year does bring new hope. Please bear with me in the New Year, I feel I will be spread very thin and can only do what I can do and I am grateful to all who already do so much in their own churches.

In Memoriam

Our sympathy to the family and friends of Evelyn Fussel whose funeral took place in St Cledwyn's Church, Llanglydwen.

And to the family and friends of Anthony Ede whose ashes were interred at St Clydai's Church, Clydey.

Kingsley Taylor

News from Llanboidy January 2021

Our usual band of volunteers put up the Christmas lights and decorations in Llanboidy village and the Church Yard, but there was not the usual get-together for the turning on of the Christmas lights, carol singing and visit from Santa because of Covid restrictions.

It is lovely to see the lights as you drive through the village and our appreciative thanks go to all who have made such a special effort with their homes and nice to see lights in the hall windows.

Whitland Male Choir Christmas Concert

Huw Jones writes - the choir enjoyed a memorable Zoom Christmas concert with our conductor Hefina Jones and the musical team of Heather and Owain leading us in song. It was probably a good thing that we were all on "mute" as in our house Sue, myself and Bryn the dog had a great time. It was good to see so many of the choir and their partners.

I attended the Evening Service on December 6th which was very different from all previous services I have been to – our thanks go to the Church Wardens who had gone to such lengths to make it possible for us to attend – I found it very moving, as it is the first time I have been able to attend since I was struck down with Guillain Barre Syndrome a year ago, and I give thanks that I am now able to walk and talk and returning slowly to my old self.

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We are hoping the Church service will go ahead on Sunday , January the 3rd at 3.00 pm but are unsure what Covid restrictions will be in place - please phone Vanw on 01994 448249 to check beforehand

To cheer us up I have included a photo on page 10 of our Granddaughter Gracie, in December 2017, conducting a few of us from Narberth and Whitland Rotary singing carols in care home in Narberth. When we left she ran back inside and solemnly shook hands with the elderly ladies and gentlemen – it was very touching

Jan from Llanboidy WI writes: WI aren't doing anything en masse at present - there are a lot of online courses for members - virtual learning. I know one member has done some courses -making Christmas cards and pattern making (for dressmaking) - Christine Sawley.

Chris and Jan joined the ACM by Zoom which was very informative.

Margaret Kedward of Hafod has 3 grandsons engaged to be married – congratulations all round - could be a lot of partying when Covid is under control!

Tyred of Christmas – Jan sends a photo of one of these outside **Pantglas** - a new hobby for some of us maybe?!!!

Keep well and safe everyone and enjoy what we all have which is a beautiful and friendly area in which to live - and remember a problem shared is a problem halved, so please ask for help if you need it, or just want a friendly ear to listen to you, and I will certainly try and help you – my contact details:

My email: sue@llanboidycheese.co.uk

Phone: 01994 448303

Text: 07530 523813

And please, please, please let me, Sue Jones, have any Llanboidy news for the next edition of Grapevine and I will forward to Kathie, our Editor –
Thanks. **Happy New Year!!!**

Sue Jones





Work under way at Eglwys Gymyn to cut down and remove trees which were encroaching on gravestones.



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Fireside Comforts at Christmas

When winter nights are darkening fast
And biting winds bring fearsome blasts,
There's no more welcome place for me
Than sat aside our Christmas tree.

This cone-shaped 'spruce,' tapered, tall –
Branches scaling our backroom wall –
With lights that cheer and flicker, bright
Bring colour to my weary sight.

A triumphant star sits on top
Peering down upon a drop
Where balls and bows on branches sit
With coloured tinsel draped to fit.

And but a baby's crawl away
The mantelpiece and hearth hold sway,
My spirit cheered with every glance
When watching flames hop and dance.

Engrossed in battle with spitting wood
And coal chips, too, for they are good
At freeing warmth and kindly heat
Till fireside comforts are complete.

So settle, I shall, in my cosy chair
Feet outstretched with not a care
For stepping into the gathering storm
When 'staying put' I'm nice and warm.

Roger Penn



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CIFFIG

A very happy New Year from everyone at Ciffig Church!

Eglwys Gymyn

While 2020 has ended, most people will say things like 'at last and good riddance' and who can blame them. Our church has not been able to hold a service since March 2020 and no one in the hierarchy will give an indication of if or when services will commence again. The risk we now face is that some may have lost the 'habit' of attending church and some may have developed an attachment to churches in the area that they have frequented since March 2020. This is true in the case of my wife and I who have formed new connections to St John's church in Templeton and St Mary's in Whitland.

There are however a few good points to remember about last year.

Firstly and most importantly, the long standing member of our Eglwys Gymyn congregation, Mr William Philips known as 'Willy Boot' has amazingly recovered from the Covid 19 infection. By what miracle he has pulled through, we can only say that prayer is a wonderful thing and our

Ken Davies A'i Fab

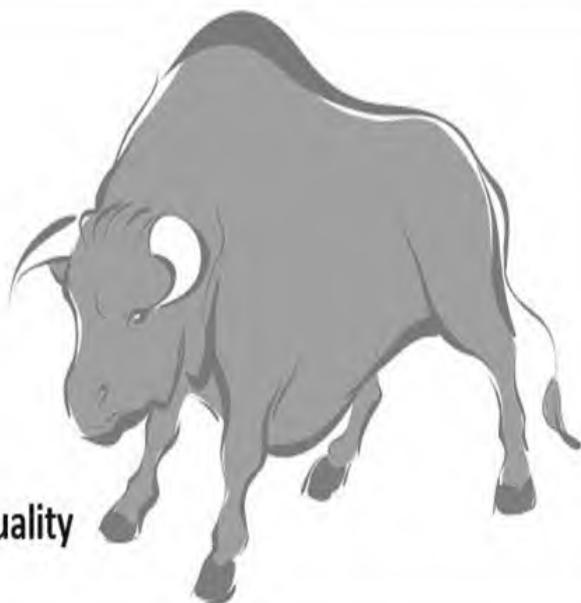
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sympathies lie with all those who did not survive, locally or anywhere in the world, not just Wales. Now all we can do is pray that the new vaccine being introduced across the country will be effective as soon as possible.

Secondly, our long standing two year project to repair the Chancel wall and stained glass window surrounding has not only been completed, but in December all the documentation was accepted by Carmarthenshire County Council in order to release the grant from the Welsh Church Fund which has really helped us to fund the work.

Thirdly, support from dedicated members of the congregation still continues at Eglwys Gymyn to maintain the church and its grounds, which includes spasmodically cleaning the interior and cutting down and removing trees which were encroaching on gravestones, (see photographs). Eglwys Gymyn church has played an important role in the lives of a large number of the community for many generations and we must continue to pray that normality will return and, with it a vibrant church.

I hope all enjoyed a good Christmas and can look forward to a 'healthy' and safe New Year.

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

Tabernacl, Hendy-gwyn

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from everyone at Bethel, Llanddewi, Tabernacle, Whitland and Trinity, Llanboidy.

Here is an article on what Jo Biden can learn from Joseph, son of Jacob, as he prepares to be the next president of America yn January 2021.

Joseph Biden a Joseff fab Jacob

Un o storïau mawr yr wythnosau diwethaf yma oedd yr etholiad Arlywyddol yn America pan etholwyd Joseph R. Biden i fod yn Arlywydd nesaf America.

Mae ganddo enw Beiblaidd da – Joseph , er bod y Joseph wedi mynd yn Joe erbyn hyn wrth gwrs. Mae yna sawl Joseff yn y Beibl a daeth un o rheini i swydd bwysig iawn lle'r oedd yn gyfrifol am dynged miloedd o bobl, sef Joseff fab Jacob. Dyma'r Joseff a'r got amryliw a oedd yn gallu dehongli breuddwydion ac y cawn ei hanes ar ddiwedd llyfr Genesis.

Beth gall Joe Biden ddysgu wrth Joseff fab Jacob wrth iddo baratoi i ddod yn 46fed Arlywydd America ? Dyma ryw 3 pwynt.

Yn gyntaf, Roedd Joseff fab Jacob yn gyfarwydd â dioddefaint a siomedigaethau bywyd. Cafodd ei daflu i'r pydew, ei werthu gan ei frodyr ei hunan, a'i daflu i garchar ar gam. Yr un modd mae Joe Biden yn gyfarwydd â dioddefaint a siomedigaethau bywyd ar ôl colli ei wraig gyntaf a phlentyn mewn damwain car a cholli mab i gancr ar yr ymennydd. Dywedir mai dioddefaint yw'r pŵer mwyaf creadigol yn y byd. Defnyddiodd Joseff ei ddioddefaint er daioni a dyna fydd Joe Biden yn gobeithio ei wneud.

Yn ail, roedd gan Joseff fab Jacob y gallu i ddod ymlaen gyda phawb. Mae'n siŵr nad oedd yn rhwydd gweithio i'r Pharo na chael pawb yn yr Aifft i weithio gyda'i gilydd i osgoi'r newyn. Dyna fydd angen ar Joe Biden – y gallu i ddod ymlaen gyda phawb a chael pawb i gyd-weithio a thynnu i'r un cyfeiriad.

Yn drydydd, roedd Joseff fab Jacob yn dangos trugaredd ac yn gallu gwneud hynny drwy bwysu ar Dduw. Mae'n maddau popeth i'w frodyr gyda'r geiriau "Ai fi yw Duw ?". "Trugaredd a ddymunaf, nid aberth" medd Iesu a

“Compassion is the chief law of human existence” medd Dostoevsky”. Bydd Joe Biden yn gobeithio dangos trugaredd wrth arwain a hynny drwy bwysu ar Un llawer mwy nag ef.

“Egypt looks to you” yw un o linellau Andrew Lloyd Webber a Tim Rice yn ei sioe anfarwol am Joseff. Yn y flwyddyn newydd bydd America a’r byd i gyd yn edrych am arweiniad wrth Joe Biden. Gobeithio y bydd yn gallu dangos rhai o rinweddau Joseff fab Jacob a rheoli yn ddoeth, yn deg a gyda thrugaredd.

Nadolig Llawn a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda i chi gyd.

Guto Llywelyn

Bethel Chapel

We have been able to continue with services in Bethel despite rising coronavirus cases in Pembrokeshire. We have held services every other

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week and at 11.30 rather than in the afternoon. All the precautions are in place but naturally some of our older members do not attend. We are grateful to our Minister for falling in with our plans and for all his work over the last year.

Our first service in December was on the 13th with a short sermon based on St. John's gospel and the coming of John the Baptist. To bring some of the atmosphere of this important time into the service we also played a couple of carols on the CD player that we have. On the last Sunday before Christmas our minister continued looking at St. John's gospel, and again with some carols on the CD player.

We will wait to see what the general position is before arranging services for 2021. Let us hope that we see normal life resume. We wish everyone happiness and success for the year ahead.

Tudor Eynon

Trinity

No Sunday services were held in Trinity chapel during November. The minister, Revd. Guto Llywelyn, continues to undertake his pastoral role and it was good to hear that members find the contact supportive and uplifting during this difficult period. On the Covid front, things are looking better and it is hoped that the vaccination initiatives prove successful.

A few members have been unwell in recent weeks and it is good to hear that they are recuperating.

We would like to wish all members, friends and the whole community a happy and healthy New Year. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all front-line staff, both locally and further afield, for helping and caring for us throughout the year.

Delyth Dent

Lord, please give me a sign if
you think I'm eating too much



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