

# Grapevine

## W 2022

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



comprising the parishes of Clydau, Llanglydwen,  
Llanfyrnach, Llanwinio  
and Mynachlog-ddu

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**Grapevine copy deadline is 23:59 hrs on the 10<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month**

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**Front Cover:** Tim and Yvonne Griffiths who were married on the 25th of October at Penally Abbey, pictured with their children Osian and Nia

***Here at the Grapevine we would  
like to wish all our readers  
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the past difficult couple of years.***



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**May I please remind you that subscriptions for 2022 are now due. The price for readers remains at £1.10 per copy or £11.00 for the year. If you would like us to post your Grapevine to you it will be £17.00. If you would prefer a digital copy emailed to you, the cost will be £6.00. For our valued Advertisers, please find the prices inside the front cover. Again we have been able to keep last year's prices.**

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***Thank you. Diolch yn fawr***

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## EDITORIAL

### Why Jesus Came Down to Earth

It is a privilege to be invited to share some thoughts at a time of year when the birth of Jesus is still fresh in our minds. Over the Christmas Season we will have enjoyed singing many Christmas carols, but what is important for us all to understand is why Jesus came into this world.

In Luke chapter 19, verse 10, Jesus gives us the answer from his own lips “*The son of Man has come to seek and save that which is lost,*” he states.

The word ‘lost’ is small and almost inconsequential, but it has a powerful meaning. So many people in this world today are lost. It is not only Covid-19 that has created this sense of loss; it is our failing to understand our true purpose in life, and it is also our failing to accept this purpose if we do, in fact, understand why we are here.

You may have questions to ask about yourself – and, to be wise, you need to know yourself. Part of the problem of being lost is having no idea where we are from or what we are supposed to be or to do. “Are we part of the animal kingdom?” one might ask. “Do we have a calling?” others might wonder. There are so many searching questions because people are desperately lost. Yet, the answer is in the *Bible* in simple terms. We are made from dust in the image of God, and we are invited to live and work to God’s praise and glory.

Jesus never suffered from the question of identity. He knew exactly who He was and what He was about. He had come from Heaven itself, just as Daniel states in the Old Testament. Later on, the leaders who put Jesus to death, understood these things. In His trial, before He was sent to die at Calvary, Jesus was asked if he was the Son of God. He replied, “It is as you say. Hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power.” They knew what He meant and accused Him of blasphemy because He made Himself God. (Matthew 26:64)

In arriving to seek and save the lost, Jesus was on a rescue mission. He left His Heavenly home in glory because He could see that we could not find our way ‘home.’ He took pity on us and wished to offer us direction. Mankind has made many pathways but none of them lead ‘home’ to God. We are all like sheep which have gone astray. We are like a ship lost at sea, with no north star to guide us, morally, spiritually or ethically – unless we turn to God. Many are those who grope in darkness with a sense of hopelessness to their being.

These days we are offered myriads of books, DVDs, therapies and tuition to help find ourselves – but without being introduced to the importance of God. Even if we went on a retreat, to a quiet place to get away from the rat



***Above:***

***The resident church mouse at  
St. Clydai Church.***

***Right:***

***Eunice Bachelor's Christmas table  
decoration which she made by copying a  
video on YouTube with no measurements to  
help her.***



race and “to find the real me” – we will still fall short of our objectives if we do not acknowledge God. The humbling effect of laying ourselves before God and emptying our sins and troubles at his feet, will breathe peace and contentment and a sense of direction to our often-chaotic lives. But if one does not do this, he or she will discover overpowering darkness that will lead eventually to freefall.

The statement made by Jesus that I mention in the first paragraph, occurred whilst he was making his way through Jericho – once upon a time a beautiful city deemed the gateway into the promised land for people seeking God. But sadly, it was destroyed and lay in ruins for a long time. When Jesus, the man, arrived in the city, it was not to judge people but to save sinners. He knew he would eventually end up on the cross (at Calvary) for the salvation of men and women in this world, but whilst on Earth he would do good. His purpose was manifest in all he did, and this day in Jericho bears testimony to his good intentions.

Whilst there, Jesus was determined to save Zacchaeus before continuing on his travels. Zacchaeus was a wealthy tax collector and, being short in stature, Zacchaeus had decided to view the arrival of Jesus from a tree. But when Jesus walked to that spot, he called Zacchaeus down, because Jesus wanted to stay at Zacchaeus’ home so as to save him from sin. As Jesus left the scene to be warmly received at the house, onlookers commented about



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Jesus being hosted by a sinner. In the course of the meeting, Zacchaeus was consumed by humility and the purpose of doing right.

“Look, Lord,” he states, Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.”

In reply, Jesus states:

“Today, salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the son of man came to seek what was *lost*.”

Salvation has come through Jesus arriving and dying and His sufferings on the cross. Salvation has come from His blood, His sweat, His tears, His agonies, His beating and the pain that He bore. His groans and suffering saved men and women from the blackness of hell and the hopelessness of eternity. The Son of Man shed those tears. The groanings are from the agony of the One who is Emmanuel, meaning *God with us*. His blood is from the veins of the One who is the life giver of the world. His suffering is of infinite worth. I assure you that He did not fail. Not one of his promises has been found wanting. He came to save and He certainly does save. This account of Zacchaeus and his salvation reveals the truth.

Paul states that Zacchaeus was the chief of sinners and that may be the case, but Zacchaeus could claim this too. He was a chief tax collector. We

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could not speak or write the words people spoke about him. He had lost his friends, his people, his God and his moral compass. He was a tax collector for the Romans who occupied the land. Essentially, he was lost, and Jesus knew this – so Jesus took time to put him on the right pathway.

The story of the Bible, from cover to cover, tells of God seeking the lost. Some people say they are seeking, but they never find God; but thankfully there is One who is seeking this day and He never fails. *We* fail because of our short comings and we fall short. *We* fail because this world stops us from coming to Christ. There are those who do want to find Jesus and would come to church but they do not feel it is the right place or they feel unwelcome.

Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus – *yet, it is Jesus who made the first move*. It was Jesus who called out to Zacchaeus. Make no mistake, *God is seeking and calling to us all* in this lost world. He knocks on the door of everyone of us, but *we must open it and let him in*. In this respect, we must follow the lead of Zacchaeus.

You may have sat in church and hidden yourself, preferring to just watch what is going on. However, every Sunday, God has been calling you. There is the call of Jesus Christ even through the gospel. The message has your name on it and it fits just you. You may well admit to yourself, “Yes I am lost, I need to be saved. I am far from *home*.” So, there is urgency and the need for a quick response. It is for us to get out of that tree or wherever we are hiding. We have to come to Him. There is authority in Christ’s call. Jesus says to you, “I am coming to your house and into your life, today.” You must allow this to happen.

So, as we enter the New Year, with thoughts of Jesus, the baby, entering the world still in our minds, let us make ourselves available to the Lord so as to be set free from our state of being lost. Let us be led by the actions of Zacchaeus and by his humility to climb down and accept his true purpose in life – so that our pathway, too, can be found.

With God’s blessing to each of you this New Year.

***Chris Rees,***

***Minister of Bethesda Baptist Church, Narberth***

# **Cylch y Frenni Circle of Churches**

## **Clydau, Llanglydwen, Llanfyrnach, Llanwinio and Mynachlog-ddu**

### **SERVICES IN JANUARY 2022**

<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>The Second Sunday of Christmas - White</b>		
Llanglydwen	9.30 am	Joint Benefice Eucharist	JP
<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Wednesday</b>		
Bro Preseli	10.30 am	Home Communion	JW/EL
<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>The Epiphany of Our Lord</b>		
Mynachlog-ddu	6.00 pm	Service of the Light	SE
<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>The Baptism of Christ - White</b>		
Llanwinio	9.30 am	Holy Eucharist	PM
Clydey	11.15 am	Holy Eucharist	PM
<b>16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>The Second Sunday of Epiphany - White</b>		
Llanwinio	9.30 am	Boreol Weddi	FM
Mynachlog-ddu	11.15 am	Holy Eucharist	PM
<b>23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>The Third Sunday of Epiphany - White</b>		
Llanwinio	9.30 am	Holy Eucharist	PM
Llanfyrnach	11.15 am	Holy Eucharist	PM
Clydey	11.15 am	Morning Prayer	EL
<b>30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany – White</b>		
Llanwinio	10.30 am	Joint Benefice Holy Eucharist	MF

***Please be aware that social distancing measures are in place in all the churches which means places may be limited. Please contact the relevant Focal Minister or Church Warden if you wish to attend.***

**Many thanks, Cylch y Frenni Ministry Team**

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Llanglydwen:	Mrs Jane Legg	01994 419856
Llanwinio:	Mrs Judy Webb	01239 698405
Mynachlog-ddu:	Mrs Sharon Edge	01437 532681

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## Clydau

### **The baptism of Trixie May on a special day in the church year.**

**T**he infant baptism of a new member of our community is a special occasion, marked in Trixie May's case by some 70 family and friends cramming into St Clydai for the occasion. Social distancing was just about maintained within their bubbles – not that it mattered all that much as everyone went to the party in Hermon Community Centre afterwards. Trixie herself was quite unfazed by being the centre of attention, and like the Venerable Paul Mackness, was suitably dressed for the occasion.

'Christ the King' is the last Sunday of the liturgical year – this year it was the 20th November – and the Venerable Paul Mackness arrived dressed for the occasion, hot from the morning service at Llanwinio, to take the evensong and christening service.

Jesus first appears in early Christian art 'taking over' other images, such as the good shepherd. In Greek and Roman interpretation he looks Greek or Roman – clean shaven – so in very early instances he's 'under-cover': venerated by the commissioning household without giving their Christian secret away to visiting thought police.

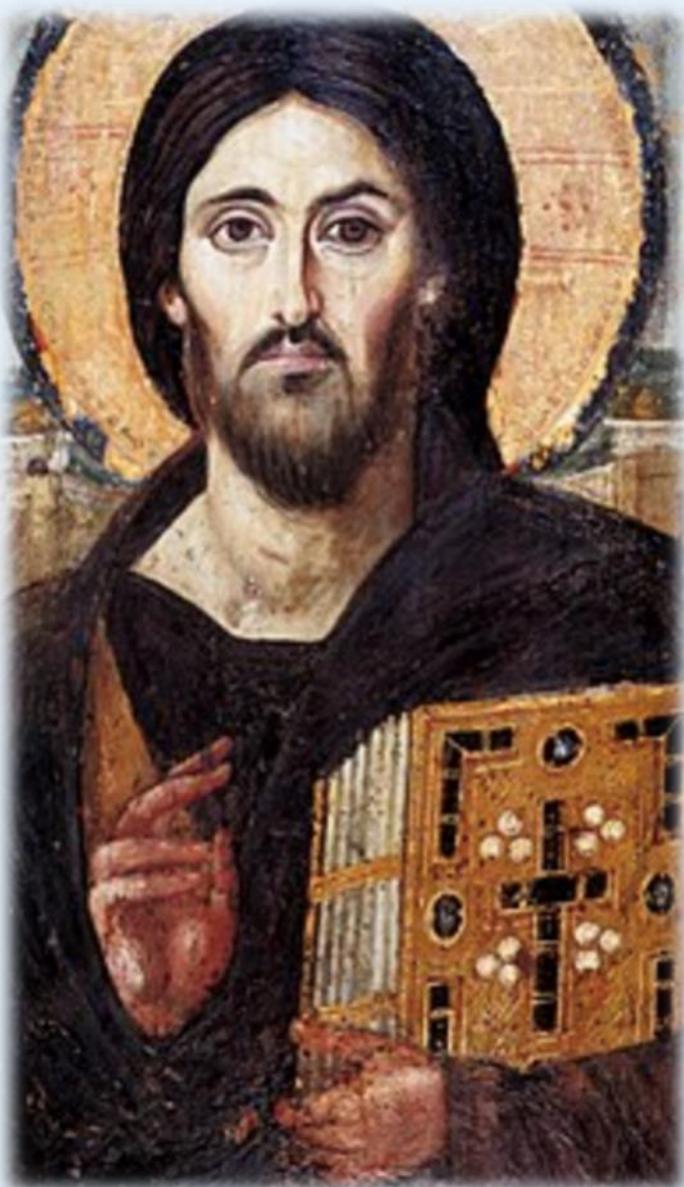
The earliest specific images of Jesus that have survived are post-resurrection images. A fourth century mural in Rome shows him sitting between St Peter and St Paul (all bearded) and a sixth century image on wood called 'Christ Pantocrator' (Lord of the universe) is preserved at St



*Earliest images of Jesus*

*Above: 3rd century mural of the Nativity*

*Left and below: Christ Pantocrator'*



Catherine's monastery in Sinai. That image, depicting Christ with a halo and a book is followed by many similar depictions, such as the one adorning Paul's stole in the photo on the previous page.

All the early art is to be found in the eastern orthodox religions and the post-resurrection Christ is one of their most prominent images. The hardest wearing art is mosaic floors which just don't have a 'best before' date. Christian mosaic images start to appear in the 4th Century on the floors of churches. Art on perishable materials such as wood, canvas or plaster tend to survive better in warm dry countries. Nothing made of wood in East Landsker's climate lasts for long outdoors except living trees.

In the west, we are used to seeing Jesus depicted as a dead man on the cross shortly after he died and at the beginning of his life, shortly after his birth asleep in the manger. The great images of Easter and Christmas respectively.

The earliest crucifixion image is a 2nd century graffiti insult and the oldest known nativity scene is a 3rd century mural but it was the renaissance in Italy when art really embraced and developed Christian images; crucified Christ, penitent Magdalene, nativity scenes – not to mention Da Vinci's 'last supper' and Michelangelo's depiction of God on the ceiling of the Sistine chapel.

*Richard Law*

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## SPOT THE CHURCH MOUSE

Somebody added a small wooden plaque to the hymn book stand in St Clydai a few years ago which asked the question "can you see the church mouse?" which was tricky as there wasn't one. There is a church rat;



unmentioned in the guide book and never before referred to in print; he's been there for many years doing what a spelter rat does, which is nothing much.

To go with the sign, Elizabeth Law acquired a wooden church mouse

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acquired a wooden church mouse (holding a book) from the gift and souvenir shop in Yorkminster Cathedral and he's been a feature of the church ever since. If you spot him it becomes your job to relocate him and one of the ways we could tell if visitors had been to the church – back in the days when the church was open and welcoming of visitors - was noticing that the mouse had moved.

On a recent visit to Lincoln Cathedral, Elizabeth noticed another mouse standing before a lectern, so now he's been added to the church inventory and your chances of spotting the church mouse have been doubled ready for when we can open and welcome visitors again.

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## Liturgical Colours

The Venerable Paul Mackness led the Holy Eucharist service at St Clydai on Sunday 12th December, resplendent in his rose vestment. Rarely seen, as this colour is only suggested for two Sundays in the liturgical year; one of which was 12th December – the 3rd Sunday of Advent – *Gaudete*.

The other is *Laetare* in Lent. On both occasions we are in a season of penitence and preparation, where rose (which looks pink) is worn to remind us of the joy that follows the season. It's coming to a close and the great feast is approaching. 3rd Advent also remembers John the Baptist and the rose vestment can make occasional appearances on other saints days.

*Richard Law*

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## Llanfyrnach

Here is my attempt at making a Christmas table decoration. I watched it on YouTube and thought I can do that! With no measurements and no pattern I watched how she did it and here it is.

*Eunice Batchelor*



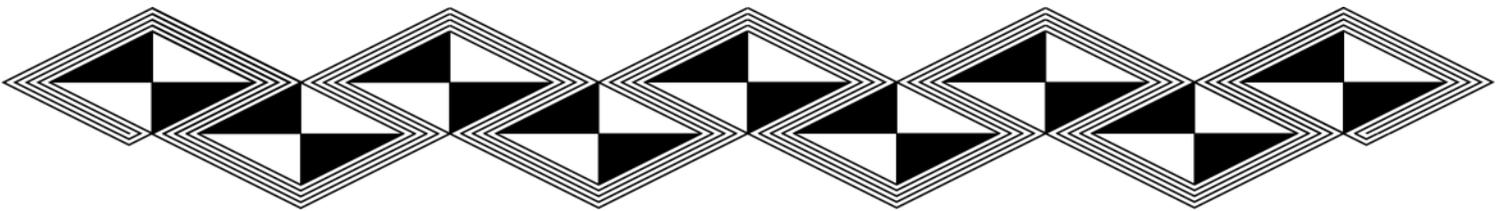
# Llanglydwen

How wonderful that the Grapevine is alive and kicking. There was a big sigh of relief when I told people.

Our thanks and good wishes to Kathie and the new team! We would like to thank our group for its support over the year. Especially Paul for enabling us to have regular services.

Over the last two years we have learnt not to take anything for granted. Our community and friends has been the stable factor. So we send our best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year.

*Jane Legg*



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# Llanwinio

After a very difficult couple of years, when meetings and outings have been severely limited, Llanwinio WI is up and running again. Members enjoyed a lovely Christmas dinner at Caffi Beca on the 6th of December.



In July our annual outing took us to the Lovespoon Workshop near Kilgetty followed by a visit to Manorbeir Garden Centre. Later on in the year we visited Moylegrove Garden Centre.

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

A programme of outings and meetings is being prepared for 2022.

If you would like to join us, please phone our President, Anne Summerbell on 01994 484278.





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01994 240494 ktaylor559@aol.com

Assistant Priest Dr Canon Jeni Parsons

Lay Worship Leader Mr. Nathan Jenkins

eastlandsker.com

### Services in January

#### Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup>

#### Christmas II

9.00 am	Holy Communion	St David	KT
10.30 am	Morning Prayer	St Tysilio	PM
11.00 am	Holy Communion	St Mary	KT
11.00 am	Holy Communion	St Brynach	JP

#### Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>

#### The Baptism of Christ

11.00 am	Matins	St Mary	KT
11.00 am	Morning Prayer	St David	NJ
2.30 pm	Holy Communion	Cyffig	KT

#### Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>

#### Epiphany II

9.00 am	Holy Communion	St Tysilio	KT
11.00 am	Matins	St Mary	KT
11.00 am	Morning Prayer	St David	NJ
4.00 pm	Holy Communion	St Brynach	KT

#### Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>

#### Epiphany III

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

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Epiphany IV**

11.00 am

Morning Prayer

St Mary

KT

11.00 am

Morning Prayer

St David

NJ

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## **New Year**

Thanks to willing volunteers the Grapevine is still here. It is a New Year and we all wonder what it will bring. Every time we think the virus is over it throws a new variant at us. As I write the omicron variant is supposed to peak this month. Still, we have the spring to look forward to and let us hope we have seen the worst and only better times to follow.

I have baptisms and weddings in my diary, this should be a good year.

*Kingsley*

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## **News from Llanboidy**

What an amazing sight greeted us as we drove into Llanboidy the other evening – the village was so welcoming with Christmas lights festooned over buildings and the Church yard welcoming us with its beautiful nativity scene - well done parishioners!!!

Llanboidy has been a buzz of activity recently – a much needed new footpath is being installed from the lower village to the car park area and the Ladies of the Community Council have organised daffodil planting alongside - very smart iron railings and a gate have been erected outside the Leisure park, ensuring the safety of all - AND, Father Christmas was tempted to make an early visit to see the Christmas lights switched on alongside a good turn-out of children and adults - all enjoyed food and carol singing .

A fantastic series of community activities!!

We are delighted to hear Tim (son of Ieuan and Jan Griffiths of Lan Farm, Llanboidy) and Yvonne were at last married on 25th October at Penally



***Above: Revd Paul Mackness wearing rose***

***Below: The Elderly Brothers, Llanboidy, receiving their award***



Abbey. The wedding had been postponed three times due to Covid. Their children Osian and Nia, and close family were able to be present.

**Living Memories Group** - In October Huw Jones of Cilowen Uchaf, Login, received the High Sheriff of Dyfed's award on behalf of the Elderly Brothers in recognition of their work with the Living Memories Group who met pre-Covid in Narberth Rugby club. The Living Memories Group provide a meeting place for people who are lonely, have memory difficulties or just want a good natter. The Elderlies (Huw, Phil, Dave and Andrew from Whitland Choir and Cyril the drummer) play and sing 50's 60's and 70's songs - music is a memory that remains strong. The group is looking forward to entertaining the Living Memories Group again when conditions improve.

Report of the 725<sup>TH</sup> meeting of Llanboidy Women's Institute:

Meeting held on Nov 18<sup>TH</sup> 2021 in the Market Hall.

There were 12 members present.

Chris welcomed Frankie Owen Pavett (WI Advisor ) and her colleague Janet to our meeting,

She also thanked the members present for releasing her from a dream (or nightmare) she had experienced a few days ago, when she dreamt that only 3 members came to the meeting, (Jan, Val and Chris) and Frankie could be seen knocking on doors asking where the hall was!



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**Apologies** had been received from:

Norah, Merle, Mavis, Anna, Christine, Mary Jarvis, Sue and Beth.

The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted and signed by Chris. Everyone had read their newsletters but there were no matters arising.

June was congratulated for receiving a prize for her entry in the Zena Jenkins Memorial competition, June wrote an amusing letter.

Also congratulations to Norah for her third place in the competition to make as many words as possible from one Welsh word.

The county quiz was answered.

## **Christmas lunch**

Members were less enthusiastic about a meal out due to the high levels of Covid, so it was suggested that we meet in the hall and all have a tea box prepared by one of the local ladies. This suggestion was well received, and went ahead on Dec 9<sup>th</sup>, though the timing had been brought forward to 12.15 pm instead of 2.30 pm. The WI contributed to the cost for everyone.

## **Afternoon Meetings**

Members decided that afternoon meetings will continue in the hall until March, when there will be further discussions.

Denise has kindly agreed to teach us to make a wired daffodil in Jan /Feb.

This concluded the ordinary business meeting and we then moved on to our AGM.

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# Report of WI AGM held on Nov 18th 2021

Val gave the financial report which was seconded by Denise. Jan then gave the secretary's report, which outlined our activities over the past year.

Chris then gave a brief President's report, saying how much she had enjoyed her 6 years as president. She had especially enjoyed meeting and talking to new people and all our speakers during that time. We have had 3 meetings at Maesgwynne over this summer, and she had enjoyed having members there, and hoped it would be possible to have another meeting there this coming summer.

She then handed over to Frankie, to oversee the election of a new president - we all voted and Frankie announced that our new President would be Denise.

Congratulations were extended to Denise, and to her two vice presidents, Gwen and June.

Chris offered to be the minutes secretary, we will be asking for other offices to be filled when we meet in the New Year.

This concluded the AGM, so we then had a drink and some social time.

## **St. Brynach's Church Services:**

1st Sunday in January      11.00 am      Communion with Jeni

Third Sunday in January      4.00 pm,      Communion with Kingsley

Covid restrictions apply.

**May we at St. Brynach's Church, Llanboidy** wish everyone a Healthy and Happy New Year, and would love to welcome many new faces in St. Brynach's next year.

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:

**email: [sue@llanboidycheese.co.uk](mailto: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 the Grapevine and I will forward to Kathie our Editor – Thank you.

*Sue Jones*

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## **CIFFIG**

Wishing everyone at Ciffig and all readers of the Grapevine a very Happy New Year.

*Lynn Werrett*

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## **Bwlch Y Groes WI**

Members of Bwlchygroes Women's Institute (and two brave husbands) gathered together at the new Community Hall for a pre Christmas fish and chip lunch, quiz and sing-along in the run up to Christmas. A very good time was had by all - it was particularly appreciated by those who live alone.

*Judy Webb*

# St. Clears and District Walking Group



In spite of all the restrictions over the past couple of years, St. Clears and District Walking Group managed to pull off a few walks in 2021, being always careful to follow safety guidelines.

Three weeks ago the walk took us to Carmarthen where we followed ancient drovers' roads—now mostly in the middle of housing estates!!



The Christmas walk took the group around Stepside and Wiseman's Bridge on a lovely sunny morning which was quite remarkable considering the rages of storm Barra only the day before.

The walk was followed by a delicious (non-traditional!) dinner at the Wisemans Bridge Hotel. The only disappointment was that Barbara and Bob Rumbold—who had organised the whole thing—were not able to attend due to Covid legislation upon their return from a foreign holiday.



***Above: Trixie May's baptism at St. Clydai Church Below:  
a wintry morning at St. Mary's Church, Whitland from Roger Penn***



The Walking Group meets every other Wednesday at 10.30 am—usually at St. Clears Leisure Centre—and new members will be warmly welcomed. The walks are quite gentle and no more than five miles long, usually taking in features of historic interest.

For more information, please phone me, Kathie Dubben, on 01994 484404.



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**A pastor giving a children's sermon on vestments asked:  
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**One kid answered:  
"Because it kills ticks and fleas up to 30 days?"**

# **G. Williams**

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# Rwenzori Medical Fund

## Christmas 2021 and the New Year Newsletter



Mercy and her school aged sister Betty and brother Keith have all broken up from Green Circle Primary School. In western Uganda this the start of their long summer holidays.

This term was uneventful except for thieves violently breaking into their home causing damage and stealing several items including garden tools, and their wheelbarrow. The thieves also took two hens being kept for Christmas. It just is not possible to quantify the fear and dread such a break-in causes in each little heart and mind.



However, a big "thank you" to those who contributed to replacing the stolen items. A steel gate has been fabricated and is almost complete and will soon be installed to securely close their compound at night. There was enough money to purchase four young chickens. One each for Florence, Mercy, Betty and Keith, and a cockerel. So, who knows, if one of the hens go broody, they may all hear the flap of tiny wings. The stolen water feeder was also replaced with a new one.

The children have told Mum to get another chicken for Christmas from near where she works!!



### Mum Mary

Mum Mary works indirectly for Compassion International, an organisation which supports poor families around the World through child sponsorship. Even though English is an official language in Uganda it is not always learnt or spoken in rural and remote areas. Part of Mary's job is to translate, and letter write from the children to their supporters.

What better place to letter write in the heart of tropical Africa than from under the shade of an overhanging tree?



The Rwenzori Medical Fund wish a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our friends without your support Mercy and her foster family simply could not manage. Thank you!

Our bank account details

Account Name:- Rwenzori Medical Fund. Sort Code:- 20-18-17. Account Number:- 03446751

PayPal or Card donations via our PayPal account using the link <https://tinyurl.com/rwenzorimedicalfund>

The Rwenzori Medical Fund, Treasurer: Keith Taylor. The Shambles, Davids Lane, Benington, Boston PE22 0BZ Tel. 01205 761788 Mobile 0793 141 2156 Email :- [gw3wwh@wacral.org](mailto:gw3wwh@wacral.org)

### Stop Press

*Mercy's little brother Keith has today been admitted to Mengo Hospital, Kampala for a hernia operation. His Mum is with him. More news to follow*

NHBC

Adeiladwyr



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