



Grapevine

2022

in

new

year

days

of

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new

March

Mawrth

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

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Front cover: Spring daffodils and Freya Dubben

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. Please credit this account as soon as possible:

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K E Dubben, Grapevine Editor, Myrtle Hill. Gellywen, Carmarthen, SA33 6DS .**

Thank you. Diolch yn fawr

EDITORIAL

'Breathe on me, Breath of God' runs the first line of Edwin Hatch's hymn. God's breath features in nearly every book of the Old Testament and as the Holy Spirit in the New.

We are embarked upon the busy phase of our church year; the countdown to Lent – Septuagesima, Sexagesima, Quinquagesima - via Shrove Tuesday and pancakes to Ash Wednesday and the five Sundays of Lent, the last of which is Passion Sunday. Next is Palm Sunday; the following Holy Week includes Maundy Thursday, culminates in Good Friday and then Easter Sunday.

This year's lectionary shows five Sundays after Easter – we used to call the first one Low Sunday – which starts the first week after Easter and the countdown to Christ's ascension and then the breath of God descends upon the apostles at Pentecost.

The Biblical account of these great events is visited in the lessons appointed for reading on the Sundays and high days, but with the interregnum and us not having a service every week we miss revisiting chunks of the Gospels. And as the Venerable Paul Mackness pointed out in a landmark sermon last

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year, the quest for Biblical literacy will not be achieved through the appointed lessons alone, as a large proportion of the Bible is not visited in them.

A further complication is that the lectionary provides three sets of readings for each Sunday – different ones for communion; morning and evening prayer and each consists of an extract from the Psalms, an Old Testament reading and a New Testament reading – two of them at Communion.

In the liturgical year not everything is in the strict Biblical sequence. It sort of wraps around twice. Immediately after Christmas Day we celebrate the first Christian martyr St Stephen – as we are reminded in the carol ‘Good King Wenceslas looked out...’. His executioners left their outer garments at the feet of Saul, who became St Paul after his conversion and that was after Pentecost. Long after Pentecost in the liturgical year – on the 25th of January this year. And in between Stephen and Paul we have celebrated the circumcision of Christ and the arrival of the men from the east bearing gifts.

Ash Wednesday is the start of Lent, and the Gospel reading (Matthew 6, 16-21) begins “And when you fast...”. Giving up something for Lent is a tradition: but just going without something – be that chocolate or intoxicating liquor – isn’t quite the point. Lent is a time of reflection and of asking for forgiveness, so that which is given up is to make the time in which to reflect.

As good a way as any of reflecting upon the great events related in the Gospels during Lent is to read through the lessons you would have heard in your church had there been a service for you to hear them at. Concentrating on the Gospel readings, those for the first Sunday of Lent are Matthew 4, 1-11; Luke 5, 27-39 and Luke 18, 9-14.

On the second Sunday of Lent, the Gospels are Matthew 15, 21-28 and Luke 14, 27-33.

On the third Sunday of Lent, it's Luke 11, 14-28 and John 17, 1-19.

On the 4th Sunday of Lent (also Mothering Sunday) we read John 6, 1-14 and on the 5th Sunday of Lent we look in next month's Grapevine.

One final thought; the forty days of Lent is not inclusive of the Sundays of Lent so If you do give up something for Lent, you get Sundays off!

Richard Law

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February 2021

Newsletter

I feel that I should be circulating a Newsletter but there is not a lot to report. In the photo, Mercy, Betty, and Keith are off to Saturday school. They struggle with homework as Mum is usually away during the week. Many folks think that sub-Saharan African weather is steaming hot under an overpowering tropical sun but in Fort Portal, in the foothills of the Rwenzori Mountains it can be quite cold hence the warm coats and hoods. The children don't have to wear school uniforms for Saturday school.



Betty, Keith and Mercy

The picture also shows that compound gate surround is still not complete. A little more money has been sent to expedite this project.

The good news is that two of the young chickens that replaced those stolen have started to lay eggs!!

We hope Mum Mary will be able to find a teaching job in Fort Portal as her contract with Compassion International ends this year. Travelling and staying away during the week is increasingly expensive. Moving is not really an option as each part of rural Uganda has a local language. Indeed, for the first five years of Mercy's life her Gran spoke to her in the Acholi language. Around Fort Portal they speak Rutooro. In school they are taught in both English and Rutooro. Hence the reason why big sister is a bit behind with some of her schoolwork.

Again, we are all very grateful to you all for your prayers, craft purchases and financial support. We make every penny count. **Thank you.**

Our President, Mrs Judy Webb, who works so hard to support Mercy has been diagnosed with cancer. We ask God's richest blessing for a speedy recovery as she goes into hospital for treatment.

Our bank account details

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Cylch y Frenni Circle of Churches

Clydau, Llanglydwen, Llanfyrnach, Llanwinio and Mynachlog-ddu

SERVICES IN MARCH 2022

2nd	Wednesday	Ash Wednesday	Purple	
Bro Preseli		9.30 am	Home Communion	FM
Mynachlog-ddu		7.00 pm	Service of Ashes	PM
6th	The First Sunday of Lent		Purple	
Llanglydwen		9.30 am	Holy Eucharist	PM
Llanwinio		9.30 am	Boreol Weddi	PH
Llanfyrnach		11.15 am	Holy Eucharist	PM
13th	The Second Sunday of Lent		Purple	
Llanwinio		9.30 am	Holy Eucharist	PM
Clydey		11.15 am	Holy Eucharist	PM
Llanfyrnach		11.15 am	Morning Prayer	HJ
20th	The Third Sunday of Lent		Purple	
Llanwinio		9.30 am	Boreol Weddi	PH
Llanfyrnach		11.15 am	Morning Prayer	EB
Mynachlog-ddu		11.15 am	Holy Eucharist	PM
27th	The Fourth Sunday of Lent		Purple	
Llanwinio		9.30 am	Holy Eucharist	PM
Llanfyrnach		11.15 am	Holy Eucharist	PM
Clydey		11.15 am	Morning Prayer	EL

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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A message from the Archdeacon

It may surprise some of you to know that one of my favourite programmes is *Call the Midwife*. If I'm honest, no one is more surprised than me that I like it, it is not the sort of thing that I would normally watch, however, I watched the first episode and was hooked. It is a programme which shows Christianity in action throughout and is in tone more evangelistic in a gentle, kind way than any overtly religious television programme. It is one of those rare shows that can even bring a tear to my cynical eye.

What makes it so good in my mind? I think it is the way that you see the Nuns of Nonnatus House and the secular midwives/nurses living out lives of devoted service to their fellow human beings without expecting any reward, save the satisfaction of knowing that they have served others and their own calling and also in the case of the Sisters, their God.

It doesn't shy away from dealing with issues of morality, where things are not as black and white as we might like to believe, and brings a human dimension to every situation. Sometimes this leads to conflicts between long held beliefs and customs and we see the main characters struggling, like any other person with how to reconcile faith with life in all its complexities.

Equally the writers are not afraid to show both times of great joy and sorrow, and there isn't always a happy ending, sometimes an injustice will not be put right, a character might die, there might not be a happily ever after for someone we have come to empathise with.

What *Call the Midwife* shows though is the importance of not only participation in the communities we serve in but also that in serving others

we must always have compassion and kindness. Orthopraxis, doing the right thing, is sometimes in conflict with Orthodoxy, believing the right thing. Life is never simple, but it is a blessing not a curse.

As we hopefully emerge from the global pandemic to a new world that none of us would have planned or designed, we need to take a lesson from the Sisters of St Raymond Nonnatus (it is a fictional order) in being there for the communities we exist to serve and live in, and learn to be kind in all that we do, even when it might conflict with our faith. Jesus never tells anyone to hate another person, only to love them. A simple commandment but one that is not always easy, as human beings are not always easy to love, but we are all created in the image of a loving God, and we need to recognise that in each other, despite what we may say or do.

Please be assured of my continual prayers and support

Pau

Archdeacon of St Davids

Llanwinio

The Crymych Group's fifth Sunday combined service on 30th January was hosted by Llanwinio where the Holy Eucharist was blessed by Archdeacon the Venerable Mones Farah. He who so delighted Clydau in December when helping fill our service schedule there during this interminable interregnum.

Nobody can guess where he's from by listening to him speaking English. All guesses are wild in his experience. He told us that his hometown was Nazareth and that his Welsh mother lives in Letterston. "And from where would Jesus the carpenter have got his wood?" I asked. He said he thought of Jesus and Joseph as builders. The big project around the time Jesus was born was Sepphoris, which doesn't rate a mention in the New Testament, as it's not on the way from Nazareth to Capernaum or anywhere else mentioned in the Gospels.

After Herod the Great died, Herod Antipas made Sepphoris his capital and beautified it with public buildings and works. Lots of work for local-ish artisans, some eight miles from Nazareth. John The Baptist preached against Herod Antipas, while Jesus just gave him and his capital city a wide berth.

Earlier building works by Herod the Great included Caesarea, which was started two decades before Jesus was born and fifteen years after his enlargement works on the Jerusalem temple in 37BC.

I wondered if Joseph's forebears worked on those projects. He probably didn't; received wisdom is that first century Jews married quite young – in their teens – so Joseph could have been in his prime when Sepphoris was being built up and wasn't born when the Temple works were undertaken.

Mary likewise; but they could both have had ancestors who did. My interest in this speculation is that only priests could work on the sacred temple, so to get the work done the builders were made into temporary priests. Mary's cousin Elizabeth is described as 'of the daughters of Aaron', that branch of the tribe of Levi from which the priestly caste was drawn. She was married to Zachariah, who worked in the temple, but Mary seems to be an outsider.

If Mary and/or Joseph had forebears who worked on the temple as temporary priests, they would have been in their sixties when Jesus was of school age to hear what they had to say from their own lips.



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Jesus was presented at the temple as an infant, according to St Luke, who also mentions a subsequent visit to the temple in which Jesus got left behind and was found three days later in discussion with the elders.

His adult ministry was against the temple cult and his attack on the money changers is in all four Gospels. This all leads to the complex theology in the Epistle to the Hebrews, which explains to devout Jews why the temple blood sacrifice cult was not the way to worship God.

Back in Llanwinio, Mones mentioned the possibility of organising a trip to the Holy Land; not just for sightseeing but also to worship with Christians living there. We haven't had an overseas trip since Ann Howells led one to Uganda in 2005. He also mentioned a change of job that will occupy him every Sunday, so he will not be available again to us as a supply vicar. Not for Sunday services anyway.

Llanglydwen

As the season begins to change we look forward to Spring and also to St. David's Day.

I have been compiling a Welsh Quiz for Glandwr WI. We are having a Cawl lunch at Cafe Beca with a quiz for fun.

So have a go! Answers are available but no prizes I'm afraid!



***Above:
Candlemas at
Mynachlog-ddu***



***Left:
An intriguing
picture
submitted by
Katrina Blundell
entitled
'Hands Off'!***

- 1 Which English King was born at Pembroke Castle?
- 2 What is the ancient earthwork on the border of Wales and England?
- 3 What was the original name of famous Welsh actor Richard Burton?
- 4 Name the politician who was born in Port Talbot and became Foreign Secretary and Chancellor in Margaret Thatcher's government
- 5 Which Welsh comedian used to march around the stage with a giant leek?
- 6 Which river, the fifth longest in the UK, flows through Symonds Yat and Monmouth?
- 7 Which town was the seat of Owain Glyndwr's Welsh Parliament in 1404?
- 8 Which actress from Swansea is married to Michael Douglas?
- 9 Who is the main lead in Hinterland, a crime drama set in Aberystwyth?
- 10 What was the Welsh capital before Cardiff?
- 11 What type of cheese is used to make Glamorgan sausages?

Ken Davies A'i Fab

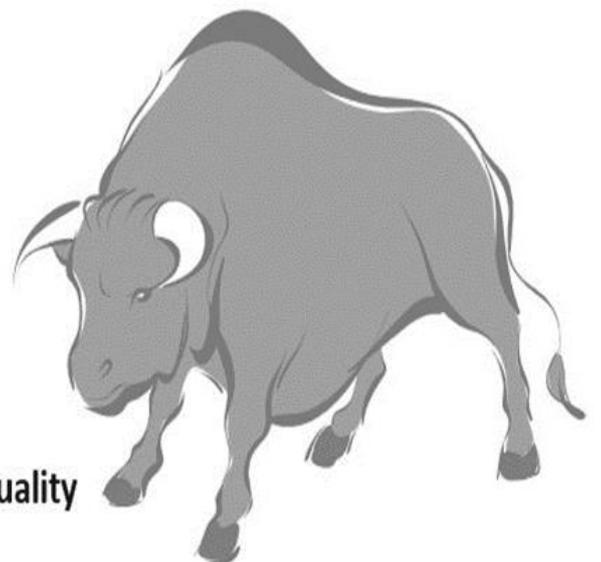
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- 12 Which Welsh beach was used as a Harry Potter filming location?
- 13 How many theme songs has Shirley Bassey sung for the James Bond films?
- 14 Who sang the song 'Total Eclipse of the Heart'?
- 15 Which Welsh cyclist won gold medals at both the European Championships 2020 and the Track Cycling World 2020?
- 16 What is the largest stadium in Wales?
- 17 Which Welsh author wrote 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'?
- 18 Which mathematical sign did the Welsh mathematician Robert Recorde invent?
- 19 The Welsh corgi has two distinct breeds, one is the Pembroke Welsh corgi, can you name the other?
- 20 What bird is depicted on St. David's shoulder?

Good Luck!

Jane Legg



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Mynachlog-ddu

Candlemas

Sharon led the candlelit evensong service at Mynachlog-ddu on Wednesday 2nd February, attended by representatives of three of the five churches in the group. Starting at 7.00 pm, we gathered in the darkness and followed a string of fairy lights down the church path to the door. Mynachlog-ddu may be a small church – it's almost square inside – but it has the best acoustics to sing in; 'Shine Jesus shine' and 'Calon Lan' were two of the four hymns we tested the roof with.

Clydau

Researching an article about the Epistle to the Hebrews led me into the Book of Revelation and in the pop-up list for that last book of the Bible appeared this evangelical song:

*I've been readin' in the Bible,
'Bout the ending of the age.
And one thing that's for certain,
It grows closer every day.
But I am not concerned about,
The way it's gonna end.*

'Cause I've read the back of the book and we win.

*I've read the back of the book and we win,
No more livin' in darkness we'll be living at home with Him.
You see there's no need to worry about it if you're born again.*

I've read the back of the book and we win.

*Now we all wanna be winners,
In the games of life that we play.
And friends since I'm a sinner,
I've already lost the race.*

*But Jesus blood can take my sin,
And throw it in the deep blue sea.*

*He can put an end to my last place living,
Give me the victory.*

*I've read the back of the book and we win,
No more livin' in darkness we'll be living at home with Him.
You see there's no need to worry about it if you're born again.*

I've read the back of the book and we win.

*I've read the back of the book and we win, (we win)
No more livin' in darkness we'll be living at home with Him.
You see there's no need to worry about it if you're born again.*

I've read the back of the book and we win.

There ain't no need to worry to about it if you're born again.

I've read the back,

I've read the back,

I've read the back of the book and we win.

It'll never catch on in our churches, but I did like the idea of reading the back of the book for the answers!

Richard Law



Faith or Fear

It is said that a person's intelligence is more apparent in questions asked than in answers provided. Of course, we all know that the Lord Jesus is more than just an intelligent person. He is 'Wisdom incarnate' and when He walked on this earth, many tried to trick Him with their questions. But how swiftly Jesus made them eat their words and made them marvel at His answers. And, oftentimes, Jesus's replies came from the questions he asked.

One of these, to His disciples, is recorded three times in the gospel records and is most apparent in a story known well to us all. At a time when Jesus

ministered on the shores of the Sea of Galilee (also a substantial lake) and relied on jumping aboard the fishermen's boats to sail from one town to another to address his followers – Jesus was sleeping peacefully when a storm suddenly raged and frightened the men on board. In those days, and even today, the hills surrounding 'Lake Galilee' experienced sudden changes of weather that caught experienced fishermen off-guard. And this is what prompted the disciple-fishermen to panic and to awaken Jesus with the words "Lord, save us, we are perishing."

There is a children's song with a chorus that rings out: *'With Christ in the vessel, we can smile at the storm, smile at the storm, smile at the storm ... With Christ in the vessel, we can smile at the storm, as we go sailing home.* But, when stormy times enter today's modern world, fear often grips our hearts as doubts emerge about God's protective powers over us. Unfortunately, instead of paying overwhelming respect to 'The One' who came from glory to save us, a dying and lost humanity – we have the audacity to ask: "Don't you care that we are perishing?" So, if the Lord responded to the fishermen "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" – should not this same comment be directed also towards all of us because of our response to the dangers and death that we have confronted of late with Covid.

Admittedly, today's problem is a genuine life-threatening concern and to feel we are perishing and sinking like the early disciples is understandable. We are all touched by the news we have heard and, as we look to the future, we might well wonder if we will prosper again. But, to combat such thinking I beg to ask if there is really a place for such fear in the Christian mind?" Referring to Jesus again, who asked "Why are you so afraid?" I consider this is a rebuke aimed at us.

Sadly, the Church has failed badly to exercise leadership during the recent pandemic. In fact, it is guilty of having been more fearful of it than many other leading sections of today's society. It is a shocking indictment of our faith that I mention the following:

1. Christians have been more reluctant to return to places of worship than fans to football matches
2. Christians claiming to know the Lord Jesus Christ have been among the first to fail to report to work in some cases, and
3. Many who are inspired by Jesus have responded like the fishermen in the boat by being fearful.

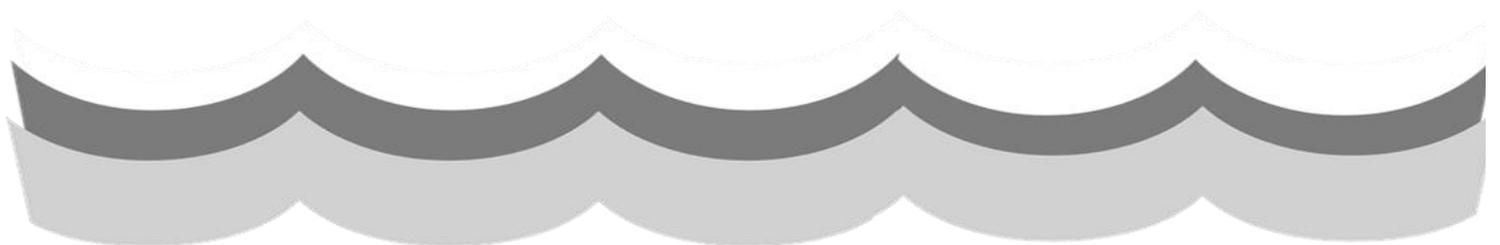
In Luke's Gospel, the Lord asks, "Where is your faith?" And, if Jesus's disciples were left trying to search for an answer, then we, too, should ponder over the same question. When we regularly worship God, and sing and pray to God, and read about God, whyever should we enter into a state of fear? Surely, this is an indication that our former faith has been lost. And, for one Christian to detect this in the eyes of another, is sad to the point of being surreal and baffling.

What storms do for us, is highlight the validity of our personal faith in Jesus. We know from Mark's account that Jesus with His word was able to still the storm and say to the wind and waves "peace be still," for He is Almighty God. But what this account highlighted to the disciple-fishermen, is not that they had lost faith, or that they had little faith, but that they had heard Jesus asking them "How is it that you have no faith?" They realised this is the most serious and important of all questions to answer. They knew that without faith it is impossible to please Him and that by faith we are saved in Christ alone.

Therefore, if we in testing times claim that Jesus is able to save us from death and the grave, how is it that we doubt the care of *The One* who died for us? Is it that we have little faith, or have we lost our faith, or, after being with Him so long, have we no faith?

Chris Rees

Minister of Bethesda Baptist Church, Narberth





Above: Rev. Mones Farah at Llanwinio at the Group Service on the 5th Sunday of January with Judy Webb and Kathie Dubben

Below: Coffee Morning and Taster Session at the Market Hall, Llanboidy



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Lay Worship Leader Mr. Nathan Jenkins

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Services in March

Sunday 6th

Lent 1

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 13th

Lent 2

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

Sunday 20th

Lent 3

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 27th

Lent 4

Mothering Sunday

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

In Memoriam

Our sympathy to the family and friends of Diana Joan Ross of Precelly View, Clunderwen who passed away peacefully on 4th January aged 85. The funeral was at Parc Gwyn on 24th January.

Also to the family and friends of Gillian George of Waungron Mansion who passed away on 8th January aged 75, the funeral was at Parc Gwyn on 26th January.

And to the family and friends of Sandra Elaine Shurmer aged 60. The funeral was at St Mary's Church and Parc Gwyn on 2nd February.

And to the family and friends of Pam Kuhl who passed away peacefully on 29th January aged 78, the funeral was at St Mary's on 11th February.

All these people are sadly missed and we entrust them to God's care.

Kingsley

News from Llanboidy

Llanboidy Market Hall—It has been all go in February with the start of weekly Tuesday coffee mornings and workshops featuring taster sessions of Tai Chi, Holistic Healing and Yoga, with a fascinating talk by Dorian Phillips on the history of Llanboidy Tug of War, plus a Saturday Club for children with workshops of circus skills and balloon modelling and drama. These are all free to us, thanks to the hard work of the Llanboidy Fundraising Group



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“A New dawn for LLanboidy “ - as mentioned last month—and great fun.
All are welcome!

March dates are:-

Coffee at 10 am followed by Optional Activity at 11 am on Tuesdays

8th March Welsh for Beginners

15th March Pilates

22nd March Therapy Dog

29th March Local History

5th April Singalong with The Elderleys - our very own local group

Activities for Children at 11 am on Saturdays

5th March Art Workshop

19th March Games – Menter Gorllewin SG

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26th March to be arranged

2nd April Art Workshop

Please note no activities on March 12th due to the Urdd

Afternoon Tea on Sunday March 6th - chance for old and young, newcomers and locals to meet and get to know each other – so do come along.

Cyril tells me there has been a good response to his questionnaires about what folks would like to have in the Hall and there is a big demand for Dance, Drama and Arts – is there anyone who would be able to help with these, and if so please let me know and I'll pass them on to Cyril.

Llanboidy WI



The next meeting is Thursday 10th March at 2.30 pm in the Market Hall.

Hope to see you there's lots to discuss!

We wish all who have been unwell or in hospital during the last few weeks a speedy recovery, remember, if you would like a visit from the Vicar please get in touch with one of the Wardens - they do "lift your spirits" you know! 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

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

CIFFIG

Spring really is on the way, it's daylight until 5.30 pm. and the crocus and snowdrops are flowering, all of a sudden it seems.

Although the wind is seriously cold the daffodils are in bud - they'll be all over before Easter at this rate! But I mustn't speak too soon, the forecast for this weekend is for atrocious weather, never a dull moment!

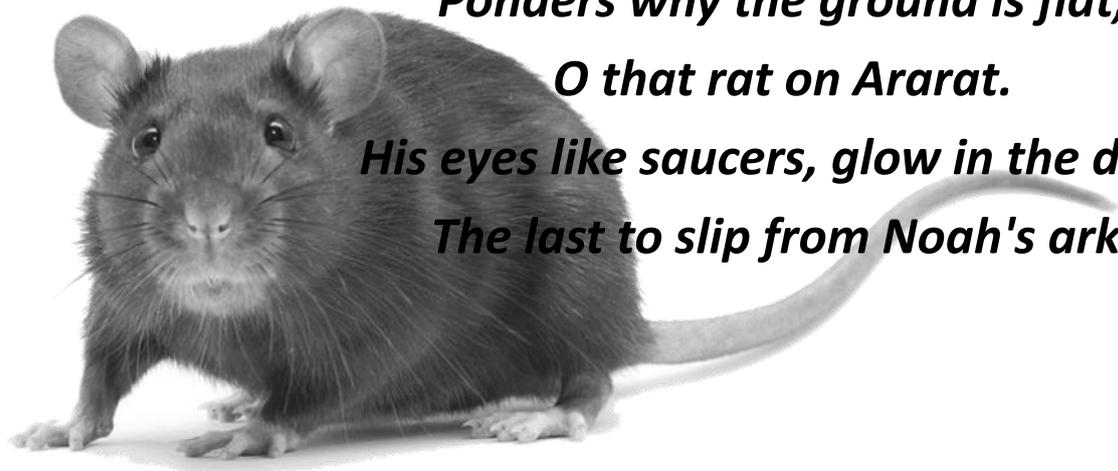
Colin (Blaenwaun) is home from hospital. We are all thinking of him and send love and encouragement to help him through this difficult part of his recovery.

Best wishes to other members who are not so fit as they would like to be, Mary Richards and Ken Priest.

Here's a poem by Grace Nichols. She was born in Guyana in 1950 and came to Britain in 1977. It's from the Puffin Treasury of Verse.

Ar-a-rat

***I know a rat on Ararat,
He isn't thin, he isn't fat
Never been chased by any cat
Not that rat on Ararat.
He's sitting high on a mountain breeze,
Never tasted any cheese,
Never chewed up any old hat,
Not that rat on Ararat.
He just sits alone on a mountain breeze,
Wonders why the trees are green,
Ponders why the ground is flat,
O that rat on Ararat.
His eyes like saucers, glow in the dark,
The last to slip from Noah's ark.***



Lynn Werrett



***Members of
St. Clears and
District Walking
Group
on the old tramway
at Begelly on the
16th of February.***



St. Clears and District Walking Group



16 Intrepid walkers braved ‘Storm Dudley’ last week and went on a four mile walk on and around the old tramways at Begelly. In the 18th and 19th centuries there were a number of coal mines near Begelly. One of these was at Thomas Chapel, and the first pit was sunk in 1784. In the 1830s a 4’0” gauge railway was opened which took Anthracite from this, and neighbouring pits, to Saundersfoot from where it was shipped to the South East of England to provide fuel for the brewing industry.

On the 16th of June 1838 there was a disaster when an inrush of water into the Thomas Chapel pit killed six men, all from Begelly. The owner, William Brace, appeared at the assizes on a charge of Manslaughter, but the outcome is not known. The Royal Commission into the working of women and children underground found that several children under the age of 12 worked 8 to 10 hour shifts as trammers for 2 or 3 shillings a week dragging 7cwt loads along roads never more than 36” high. The colliery was purchased by the Pembrokeshire Iron and Coal Company in 1851 but was abandoned by around 1880.

The Saundersfoot Railway and Harbour Company was formed in 1828 to build a harbour at Saundersfoot and a tramway to connect it to the collieries around Begelly and Stepside. The tramway, which consisted of two main mineral lines and a number of small branches, originally used horses to pull up to three laden wagons along the tracks. Of the two main



lines, the first was built in two stages to connect collieries near Stepside and the later ironworks (a mile east of Kilgetty railway station) to Saundersfoot, running along the coast through a series of short tunnels and terminating in the centre of the village at the harbour. The second line ran from the harbour to Thomas Chapel colliery, Begelly. The route, which traversed an incline of 1 in 5 approximately half a mile from the harbour, passed beneath the GWR station through a tunnel at Kingsmoor. As part of a modernisation project, the whole line was upgraded to a narrow gauge railway in 1874. The tramway was re-laid with flat bottom rails on wooden sleepers allowing a locomotive to be used on the line to Stepside. Following the cessation of large-scale mining around Begelly, the track from the Kingsmoor tunnel to Thomas Chapel was lifted in 1887. Around 1914 it was re-laid and a new 1.5 mile branch line built to support the opening of a short-lived colliery at Reynalton. A new engine was purchased for this purpose. But by the late 1920s coal mining was in recession and the line closed. In 1932 a brief resurgence in local mining led to the lines being briefly reopened. However, only seven years later, due to financial considerations and the workings becoming exhausted, the railway finally



closed on the eve of the Second World War. Subsequently, the rolling stock, along with the tracks, were scrapped for use in the war effort.

Kathie Dubben

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G. Williams

Monumental Masons

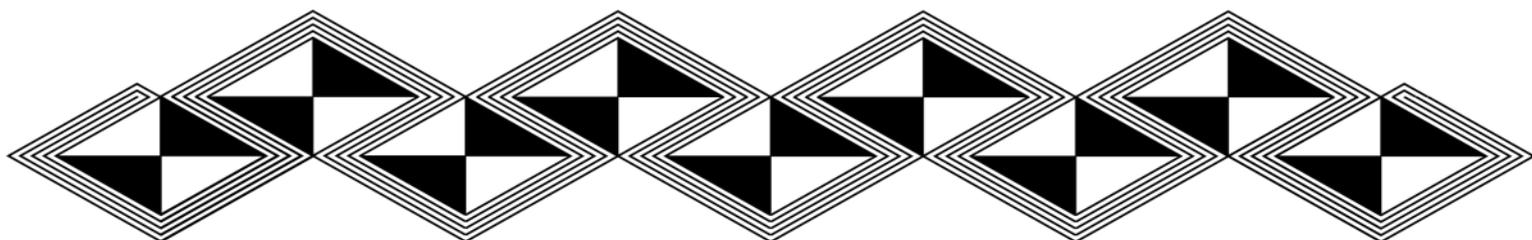
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