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**August**

**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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**Front cover: Phil Mahiques and his beautiful bride, Joan**

The Editor would like to apologise for her 'deliberate' mistake on the cover of the Grapevine last month. If you didn't spot it you are not paying attention!!! I told you I needed a proof reader!

*Kathie Dubben*

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# **Cylch y Frenni Circle of Churches**

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

### **SERVICES IN AUGUST 2022**

<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>The Eighth Sunday After Trinity—Green</b>		
Llanglydwen	9.30 am	Joint Benefice Holy Eucharist	JP
<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Wednesday</b>		
Bro Preseli	10.30 am	Home Communion	
<b>14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>The Ninth Sunday After Trinity—Green</b>		
Llanwinio	09.30 am	Holy Eucharist	PM
Clydey	11.15 am	Holy Eucharist	PM
Llanfyrnach	11.15 am	Morning Prayer	EB/HJ
<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>The Tenth Sunday After Trinity - Green</b>		
Llanwinio	9.30 am	Boreol Weddi	PH
Mynachlog-ddu	11.15 am	Holy Eucharist	PM
<b>28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>The Eleventh Sunday After Trinity—Green</b>		
Llanwinio	9.30 am	Holy Eucharist	PM
Llanfyrnach	11.15 am	Holy Eucharist	PM
Clydey	11.15 am	Morning Prayer	EL

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## EDITORIAL

**O**ur Archdeacon, the Venerable Paul Mackness, started his sermon at St Clydai on Trinity Sunday by saying that when he was a vicar, he would delegate the Trinity Sunday sermon to a curate; the complexities of explaining the Holy Trinity being amongst Christianity's most difficult theology. Having no curate to hand, he then gave us a great sermon without mentioning the Trinity again.

We have been blessed in this interregnum to have him standing in for the vicar we still have not got to replace Jonathan; he who beautifully balanced his evangelical Christianity with his learned academic leanings – without quite articulating how. Paul tends to step effortlessly from his managerial role in the church hierarchy to speak in the name of the Living God in our churches – at least until a new incumbent takes over.

So different from the late Euros Thomas who covered many services at St. Clydai during the lengthy interregnum that straddled the Millennium. He never preached at any service he took, and he also shortened services by leaving out some verses from each hymn. Paul always comes prepared and on Trinity Sunday his plan was not to talk about the Trinity; wise choice.

The term 'trinity' was first coined by an early Christian writer known as Tertullian (155-200 AD). He lived in Carthage in North Africa and wrote in Latin. His writings – some since lost - covered the whole theological field of his time – against paganism and Judaism, polemics, polity, discipline, and morals, or the whole reorganization of human life on a Christian basis and as such his writings paint a picture of the religious life of his community and of what was hot in academia in the later second century AD.





Winding back to the beginning, Jesus opened his ministry in the Capernaum Synagogue, built up a following and gradually presented his theology to an ever-widening audience by travelling around Galilee, Samaria, and the Decapolis. After three years he made a big splash when he took his mission to Jerusalem and was crucified shortly after: so he was a stranger with an unknown message to most Jerusalemites. And they were the people who voted for Barabbas when Pilate gave them the option. Him they had heard of and knew what he stood for and that would have been quite an insult for Pilate to endure.

The Gospels portray the disciples who followed Jesus to Jerusalem as falling back to Galilee after the crucifixion and that is where they met Jesus for the last time for the barbecue on the beach. He told them to spread the word throughout the world and St Paul got the same message on the road to Damascus – although he was a bit short on what the word was to start with. He met with the surviving founder members of Christ's church in Jerusalem to sort that out.

The Jesus family clearly stayed on in that city, where James, the brother of Jesus, was murdered in 62AD, with the Temple as their focal point. Saints Peter and Paul



**Left:**

**Phil Mahiques who married Joan Wilson at St Tysilio on the 28th of June. Faith Penn was the beautiful flower girl.**

**We wish this lovely couple much joy and happiness in their married life.**

**Congratulations!**

**Below:**

**A couple of snaps from the Walking Group's trip to Abergavenny and Crickhowell.**





both went to Rome, as a missionary and a prisoner respectively, and died violently there during Emperor Nero's 64-68AD reign. The Jewish revolt kicked off in 66AD and the Jerusalem Temple was overrun and destroyed in 70AD.

The academic wing of early Christian studies always favour late dates for any writings attributed to people who died in the first century, as though what became the New Testament was either floating around as gossip for a hundred years before anybody wrote it down or it was simply made up in the second century. The facts that support late dating is the absence of New Testament writings surviving from the first century, and the second century Christian writers not quoting from what became the New Testament in their arguments. That said, one cannot prove a negative.

The oldest surviving library from antiquity is the Dead Sea Scrolls, which at best, contain one scrap of St Mark's Gospel (7Q5). They were hidden during the first Jewish revolt and most of the texts were 'old' when hidden. There is nothing in the scrolls that was written by the people who hid them and it's worth remembering that everything was hand-written by scribes or copyists, so the business of spreading the word was much more efficient orally.

Yet writing spreads the word through space and time. The problem in the classical Middle East was that writings were kept in libraries, and they kept getting burned down. There was probably a considerable body of Christian writings in the Jerusalem Temple library that went up in smoke along with the Temple and its defenders, leaving a gaping hole in the written record.

By 70AD all the first-hand witnesses to Christ's ministry on earth were gone; they were either dead or dispersed, yet here and there, the Christian message was kept alive in the churches St. Paul wrote to; in a sort of Monastic setting on the island of Patmos and in centres of learning that had yet to be sacked, such as Alexandria and Rome. Some churches hid in plain sight. The authorities cared little for religious differences and the early Christian martyrs identified themselves by refusing to pay their taxes. There must have been libraries and collections of writings in these places with 'who you know' access and a great deal of free movement around the Mediterranean basin by people who carried ideas in writings and in their minds.

The Carthage Tertullian lived in was not exactly a centre of learning, but Alexandria was and although they were 1600 miles apart, both were coastal cities with harbours – as were all the communities St. Paul wrote to and visited. Just as we know nothing of Jesus Christ's theological training, we know nothing of Tertullian's, yet he was a great contributor to the academic debates of the early Christian church.

He described the Trinity as a "divine economy" as in the household or monarchy of God. God the Father laid out the divine plan, God the Son carried out the will of the Father, and God the Spirit motivated the will of God in believers.

All the second century Christian writers were second-guessing what had been lost by the first-hand sources having been prematurely rubbed out and the first century Apostles likewise did not have the complete picture to start with. The problem confronting these early academics was explaining the divinity of Jesus to the Monotheistic culture he came out of.

Greeks and Romans recognized multiple gods and adopted the Egyptian principle that Pharaoh became a god when he died. Julius Caesar liked that idea and cribbed it for himself, and each of his successors did likewise. Vespasian joked on his deathbed that he was turning into a god. Throughout the biblical era, the gods strove for mastery over one another – more accurately their priests do, as Elijah is portrayed in 1 Kings 18, vss 17-39 proving his god to be mightier than next door's god Baal.

Judaism, while appearing to be a one-God monotheistic religion nevertheless admits to multiple divine beings; a hierarchy of Heaven. The ancient Egyptian religion - The Great Ennead – is a family of immortals. While they can be seen as 'many gods' they were one family, or nine facets of one god worshipped at Heliopolis: the sun god Atum; his children Shu and Tefnut; their children Geb and Nut; and their children Osiris, Isis, Set, and Nephthys. A tenth facet is sometimes included – Horus, the son of Osiris and Isis.

Jesus is not recorded as claiming divinity. He called himself the son of man; yet his resurrection and ascension into Heaven make that statement for him. The Holy Spirit appears throughout the Bible as wind – the breath of God. What Tertullian articulated was the three facets of one God - Tritheism - which would have been understood by his contemporaries along the North African shore with their general knowledge of Egyptian deities.

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Tritheism portrays Father, Son and Holy Spirit as three independent divine beings; three separate gods who are linked together in some special way - most commonly by sharing the "same substance" or being the same sort of thing. And since Trinity takes up nearly half the church calendar, it bears thinking about.

*Richard Law*

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## **A message from Rev. Jonathan Copus**

In the light of rumours which are apparently circulating, I have been invited to set the record straight about the relationship between Susie and me. I do so with no little trepidation, aware of the phrase 'dirty washing' lurking in the wings, but also conscious of the hovering charge of hypocrisy, having stressed to so many wedding couples the if-humanly-possible permanence of the sacrament of Holy Matrimony.

The facts are that while Susie and I were house-hunting from our caravan in Somerset she received a distress call from one of her daughters who was finding it difficult to cope with a baby son and the two young girls her partner had brought with him. So we set off for Hastings on a week-long mercy mission.

However, when we reached Bristol, Susie decided that she wanted to go on alone so that she could devote her attention exclusively to her daughter's needs. 'It's only temporary,' she said; but as the weeks passed she concluded it ought to be permanent.

While this situation bears ample testimony to Susie's self-giving generosity of nature, it does mean that we are engaged in the irredeemably sad process of disentangling lives that were once so securely entwined.

Meanwhile, we remain mutually-supportive best friends – a state we devoutly hope will continue; and we would welcome your prayers for all concerned, especially the young family who continue to face daunting challenges.

*Jonathan Copus*

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## **Llanwinio**

Barbara and Arthur Howells, Blaengelli, opened up their beautiful garden on the 9th of July and gave the proceeds to Llanwinio Church. They raised £320 on the day and would like to thank Spar St Clears for a £40 donation and also to Denzil Elias for his generous donation. Phil Higginson and Huw Phillips officiated 'on the door'. Delicious refreshments were provided. Although it was a hot day, the breeze kept everyone cool.

A Level students from Ysgol Bro Preseli ringing the bells at St Gwinio's recently, where they received a blessing from the Archdeacon.



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## Llandysulio

On a beautiful Midsummer day our Vicar's warden Philip Mahiques married Joan Wilson at St Tysilio in the presence of family and friends. Given away by Carwyn Phillips, the bride looked stunning and was accompanied by flower girl, Faith Penn. After the service a reception was held in Nantyffin Hotel. Members of the church would like to wish them lots of happiness in their life together.

*Barbara Pegg*

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## Bwlch y Groes



On 12th July, members of Bwlchygroes joined together to celebrate the Institute's 65th birthday. Sadly quite a few members were unable to attend for a variety of reasons, but those that managed to attend enjoyed a beautiful tea in an equally beautiful garden - thank you Gini and all those involved in preparing the delicious food - and who arranged the souvenir mugs and bags.

Here's to the next 65 years of fun and friendship.

*Judy Webb*

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## Cyffig

We're having real Summer at last. Though, as usual, old sayings spring to mind - "You can have too much of a good thing" and "Be careful what you wish for."

Parts of the day have been too hot for any activity, and by next week we'll all be praying for rain, so long as it doesn't all come at once.

Recently, I was very happy to be able to welcome folks to a Coffee Morning at Pen y Lan again, after such a long time. Thank you to everyone who came and spent their money on the Cake stall and the Raffle. We raised £250 for Cyffig.

Congratulations again to Revd. Kingsley and his loyal band of followers who continue to walk the "Way of the Cross", the end is almost in sight ..... Pendine, Monday 1st. August. We are looking forward to welcoming the band of Pilgrims to Cyffig on Monday July 18th when they will have walked from St. Mary's, Whitland to Cyffig, one of the shorter sections, but probably the steepest.

We are very glad and thankful to see Mr Colin Beynon recovering from what must have been a very difficult time. We wish him continued good health.

*Lynn Werrett*



## **Birthday Girls!!**

***Left: Ester Higginson who celebrated her second birthday last month. Ester is the first grandchild of Phil and Jiwli Higginson, Llanwinio.***

***Below:***

***Mags, the daughter of Arthur and Barbara Howells from Blaendwr (Blaengelli), who celebrated her 50th birthday on the 14th of July with a party at Nantyffin.***

***Congratulations both!!!***



## Gloucester and Tewkesbury

The Platinum Jubilee is just the latest in a long line of events in our Royal Family's history – every so often it's a different family – as we were reminded by visiting Tewkesbury and Gloucester recently.



The descendants of William the Conqueror were all chips of that block – warlords descended from the Viking warrior cult who engaged in civil wars off and on until 1485 when born-in-Pembroke-Castle Henry won the crown in battle, aged 28. His mother was at the battle of

Tewkesbury 14 years earlier trying to cross the river into Wales where she would have had more support. Tewkesbury remembers this with a medieval fair and battle re-enactment, which played this year after two years off.

*Richard Law*

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## Platinum Jubilee Floral Tribute

The Tower of London has commemorated the Platinum Jubilee by planting 20 million wild flowers in the castle's dry moat and then charging visitors £24 each to walk through them. No need to pay though, there are plenty of shady spots overlooking this magnificent sight from which to take pictures. I have no idea how many of their seeds came up. We planted 10,000 wild flower seeds last year and none came up, so I hope we have better luck with the seed mix they sold me for £6 in the souvenir shop!



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**Assistant Priest Dr Canon Jeni Parsons**

**Lay Worship Leader Mr. Nathan Jenkins**

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## Services in August 2022

<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Trinity VIII</b>		
10.00 am	United Service	St Mary	KT
10.30 am	Morning Prayer	St Tysilio	PM
11.00 am	Matins	St David	KT
11.00 am	Holy Communion	St Brynach	JP
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Trinity IX</b>		
11.00 am	Matins	St Mary	KT
11.00 am	Morning Prayer	St David	NJ
2.30 pm	Holy Communion	Cyffig	KT
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Trinity X</b>		
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
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Trinity XI</b>		
11.00 am	Holy Communion	St Mary	KT
11.00 am	Morning Prayer	St David	NJ
2.30 pm	Evensong	Cyffig	KT

# The Way of the Cross Grand Tour

At the time of writing we have walked all the way from Clydey to Lampeter Velfrey. Until recently a handful of us have been walking in the mornings but more wanted to walk and could only do so in the evenings and one week we were seventeen! The hospitality we have received from the various congregations along the way has been marvellous.

As I write this I am preparing for the walk from Lampeter Velfrey to Whitland and the latest figure for the donations to the Ukraine fund is £801.

I cannot thank everyone involved enough, the walkers, the providers of refreshment and the donators. I have been impressed by how people have rallied together throughout the LMA for this.

There will be a service of Holy Communion in St. Margaret's, Pendine when we arrive on 1<sup>st</sup> August, possibly about 8.00 pm (this depends on how fast we walk from Eglwys Gymyn), to mark the end of the walk, it would be good to see as many of you as possible at the service.

## **Congratulations**

Congratulations to Philip Mahiques and Joan Wilson who were married in St Tysilio's on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June.

*Kingsley*

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# The Fall

**T**he doctrine of Scripture that is the most offensive and unpleasant for the natural man to accept is the teaching concerning humanity's fall. Learning about the extent, depth and consequence of the fall can be the most depressing of realities. It brought death to all men and made all children of wrath, leaving them unable to change their state. Yet, it can be one of the most helpful for the regenerate to grasp. When properly understood, it assures the believer of salvation and furnishes practical application for the Christian life.

No other teaching accurately explains the world we live in and the personal experience of the human heart. Contrary to modern thought, humanity is not on the rise in the process of evolution. Instead, it is fallen from the place of life to death. *'God made man upright, but he [i.e. man] has sought out many schemes'* (Ecclesiastes 7:29).

God placed humanity in the garden of Eden with a command not to eat of the tree of good and evil, declaring, *'for in that day that you shall eat it you shall surely die'* (Genesis 2:17). On the day when Adam's sinned and broke God's law by taking and eating the forbidden fruit, our first parents fell from their original righteousness and communion with God. Thus, death entered the world and thus spread to all men.

There are many objections against the biblical doctrine of the fall, but two especially are raised. The first objection is to the Biblical teaching of the total depravity of the human soul due to the fall. Not only does sin spread to all, but it also defiles every faculty of the body and soul. Therefore, the whole of a person: heart, mind, will and conscience, has been damaged to such an extent that no one can come to God in their own strength.

The natural man cannot accept this because he will not believe what God says is true. Humanity's natural disposition is against God and his word. His mind is darkened because his deeds are evil. He prefers to choose his own way, thinking that man's wisdom is sufficient. Thus, he defiles his conscience by thinking and acting against his created purpose to glorify God. The second objection is to the Biblical teaching that Adam is the federal head of the human race. The natural man refuses to accept that Adam's sin is imputed to all humanity, and because of what he did, all die. Thus, the natural man denies reality and lives a lie, for he cannot deny that evil and death exist. Indeed, he cannot deny his insatiable desire to rebel against God and that the bloody murder and sacrifice of Jesus Christ were necessary to redeem his fallen humanity. He refuses to believe that he requires the deliverance from an eternal death that he earned and deserves.



This imputation would be bad news if not for the gospel of Jesus Christ. Although the imputation of Adam's sin to all seems unfair, the gospel's message is that many are made righteous through one man's act. *'For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous'* (Romans 5:19). Therefore, the biblical understanding of the fall is vital for comprehending the blessed free grace of salvation.

The teaching of original sin should not be neglected. It lies at the foundation for why we need God's salvation. The neglect of this teaching can bring the Christian deep disappointment and frustration, failing to realise how deep sin has shaped and affected us as human beings. Sin reigns in the hearts of the unregenerate person but also remains in those who have become Christians. Thus, we should not be shocked or surprised by our failings. Sin is powerful and still present in the Christian experience. However, the believer is pardoned in Christ.

Consequently, sin continues to be mortified by the power of the Holy Spirit. Believers must recognise that sin has been dealt a death blow in the death of Jesus Christ. It no longer has dominion over them. A new principle of life now reigns in every believer. Though Christians may fail to live according to God's law, they can rest in Christ's finished work and find strength through the Holy Spirit's power to put the body's unholy deeds to death. Their ultimate victory over sin is as sure as the fall itself.

**How sore a plague is sin, to those by whom 'tis felt!**

**The Christian cries, Unclean! Unclean! E'en though released from guilt.**

**I'll bear the unequal strife, and wage the war within;**

*Chris Rees, Minister, of Bethesda Baptist Chapel, Narberth*

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## **News from Llanboidy**

**Congratulations** to Philip Morgan on the birth of his Granddaughter, Mali Elizabeth Lloyd, on the 7<sup>th</sup> July in the Heath Hospital, Cardiff. The proud parents are Dan and Amy Lloyd who now live in Cardiff. Wishing you all much fun and happiness with Mali.

**Ysgol St Brynach** - lots of fun activities this term – The Sports day, followed by a Summer Fayre and Duck race organised by the PTA to raise funds, was a great day and enjoyed by all. Children also enjoyed days out to the Botanic Gardens and Pendine Beach, and year 6 visited Cardiff - lots of outdoor School activities culminating in leaving ceremony for year 6 and PTA Disco in Llanboidy Market Hall.

We wish all of the Year 6 leavers the best of luck as they move onto the 'big school'

Report of the 731<sup>st</sup> meeting of **Llanboidy Women's Institute:**

Meeting held on June 9th, in the Market Hall, with President Denise Harris in the chair. The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted, and signed by Denise.

**Matters Arising:** County Quiz—Congratulations to our team, who came 4<sup>th</sup> out of a total of 55 teams, despite being only 3 members instead of 4, and the quiz being very difficult.

**Village Jubilee Picnic:** Denise thanked all who helped with setting up, made cakes, helped with tea or clearing up and feeding the choir.

**Correspondence:** Jan has received a letter from the Sports and Social Club saying that they plan to reinstate the Llanboidy Carnival this year. The date chosen is Saturday August 13<sup>th</sup>. There will be the usual stalls and floats, and the cost for entry is £5 - free if you dress up. Traditionally the WI host the tea and cake stall, and members were in favour of offering to do this again this year.

Members were asked to think of suggestions for our **summer outing**, possibly August or September, depending on the choice of venue or activity.

Our attention was also drawn to the special lunch being held on Wednesday Sept 14<sup>th</sup>, in St Peters Hall, Carmarthen, to celebrate 95 years as part of the NFWI.

**Zena's Memorial award** this year is for a short sketch, not more than 10 minutes and suitable for a group meeting. Entries to the office by Sept 29<sup>th</sup> please.

Our speaker for the evening was one of our own members, June Wells, who gave us a fascinating talk about the history of spinning. June has her own sheep, she spins their wool and sells it all over the country. We heard about the earliest sheep who shed their fleece without the need of shearing, giving rise to 'home spun' when folk gathered it from the hedgerows and took it home to be spun by the women, hence the origin of 'spinster'. Wool, linen, silk and flax can all be spun, and one of the best known spinning wheels was developed by a man called Walter Ashford. It could be sent flat-packed all over the world, and is still made today from their base in New Zealand. Wool garments are still much in demand today - they are climate friendly, sustainable and good value for money as they are so long lasting. We thank June for her most interesting and educational talk.

The meeting was then closed, with a reminder that the next one will be on Thursday July 14<sup>th</sup>, in the hall, when we will have a demonstration by Cathy Lee of flower arranging. She will make two arrangements, which can be raffled at the end of the evening. The competition is for a flower arrangement in a jug, not more than 12" high, and the tea hostess will be Brenda.

**Whitland Male Voice Choir** was invited to sing in Narberth on July 7th for a visit from the Prince of Wales. The weather was perfect, a large crowd had gathered and it was the perfect opportunity for the choir to demonstrate the talents of a traditional Welsh Male Voice Choir. They also presented the Prince with a choir tie as a memory.

**St Brynach's Church.** At a recent informal meeting of PCC Mrs Ann Windsor gave up being Vicar's Warden after many years of service and we thank her for all her hard work – enjoy your extra free time Ann, you will be missed!

We are delighted to say that Philp Morgan has agreed to take up the post of Vicar's Warden - welcome Philip.

There has been a lot of illness in our community recently and we wish all parishioners who are not very well, suffering from covid or any other adversity a rapid recovery.

### **Church Services:**

Sunday, August 7th at 11.00 am with Jenni officiating - Holy Communion.

Sunday, August 24th at 4.00 pm with Kingsley officiating - Holy Communion

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 we will certainly try and help you

That's all for now –

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.

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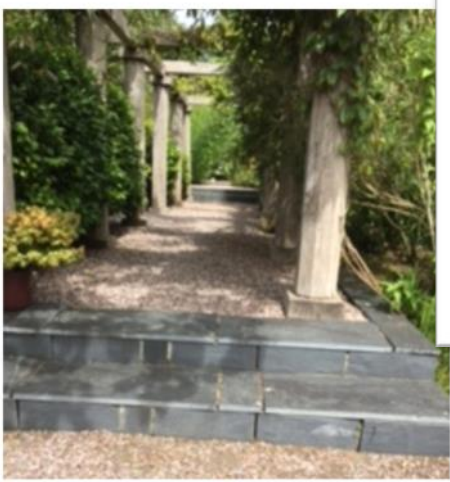
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**Above:**  
**Barbara and Arthur Howells, Blaendwr, opened their beautiful garden to the public on the 9th of July and donated the proceeds to Llanwinio Church.**

**Below:**  
**Llangynin Gardening Club's visit to Treffgarne Hall.**





# God's Eternal New Covenant.

In a world that is full of broken promises and uncertainties, believers can be comforted by the utter, unchanging certainty of the covenant of redemption made before time began, and revealed to us in His Word by the God who cannot lie (Titus 1.2). This tells us that the three persons of the Trinity entered into an eternal covenant, where God the Father covenanted with God the Son, and the Son with both the Father and with God the Holy Spirit. The purpose of this covenant was to save a fallen and lost humanity for Himself (2 Timothy 1.9). In His incomprehensible condescension to us He as sworn and confirmed this to us by an oath (Hebrews 6.17).

Following the breaking of God's law, in the midst of pronouncing the curse, this promise was revealed. In His grace, God promised that from the seed of the woman there would be one who would bruise the serpent's head. The promise was further revealed to Abraham, that through his seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed (Gen 12.3). The promise was confirmed to Abraham unconditionally without circumcision in (Gen 15). This was 430 years before the institution of the covenant of circumcision. This promise is nothing less than the new covenant retrospectively revealed and applied. It is the covenant prophesied by Jeremiah in which God speaks of providing His people with a new heart, the knowledge of Himself and the forgiveness of sin (Jeremiah 31.31-33). It is the eternal promise ratified and completed through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 22.20).

This is reassuring news to the lost and hopeless race of Adam which, because of the consequences of sin, is incapable of ever gaining acceptance with God through perfect obedience. But God in His unconditional grace promised freely to save all sinners who come to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the promised Saviour, giving them a willing heart and everlasting life (Hebrews 9.15)

Although God has made other covenants, for example, with Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses and David, each of these covenants, whilst being distinct and different from the new covenant, serve a subservient role. They are all conditional, typical covenants which promise temporal blessings upon obedience. In highlighting man's inability to secure earthly blessings through his own obedience, they serve lead sinners to the only covenant of which Jesus is the mediator – the new covenant - whereby they might be saved. This is because Jesus Himself has fulfilled all of the conditions necessary to secure peace with God.

While this new covenant was not formally inaugurated until Christ, it was still accessible prior to the incarnation through faith in the promise. The new covenant is nothing less than the application in time of the eternal covenant entered into by the three persons of the Trinity in eternity.

When the New Testament refers to this new covenant it compares and contrasts it to the old covenant of works.

Although all of God's covenants are of grace for it is only because of grace that God has any dealings with this world. The new covenant, however, is all of grace. It is not based on grace plus human good works but on His work alone which fulfils all the requirements and conditions. What God demands, Christ has secured, and it is the Holy Spirit who applies Christ's finished work to His people.

It is different to the other covenants (Ep 2.12.) They were only for time and have become obsolete, having served their purpose. As the writer puts it, "Now what is obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away" (Hebrews 8.13).

The old covenant was made on stones, but the new is written on tablets of flesh.

The old is of the letter, the new is of the Spirit of God. The old is of death and condemnation, the new is of life and righteousness, (2 Cor 3.).

Christians should be filled with assurance and with praise because God has sworn, confirmed and is applying such blessings to all those who believe. For those who do not yet believe, the command goes out to all the world - **"believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name** (John 20:31).

*With David's Lord and ours,  
A covenant once was made,  
Whose bonds are firm and sure,  
Whose glories never fade!  
Signed by the sacred Three in One  
In mutual love, ere time begun.*

***Chris Rees, Minister of Bethesda Baptist Chapel, Narberth***

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## St. Clears and District Walking Group

On a very hot day members and friends enjoyed a fabulous day trip to the Brecon area on the 6th of July where they had a long walk along the Brecon and Monmouth Canal and also paid a visit to Llanwenarth Baptist Church, Govilon, near Abergavenny. Built in 1695, it is one of the oldest Baptist Chapels in Wales. The minister came and gave a very interesting and



lively talk on the history of the chapel. The final destination was Crickhowell where we stopped for food before setting back home. Thank you to Liz and Nigel Bailey who spent a lot of time and effort organising the trip and were unable to go because of Covid!

*Kathie Dubben*



## **Llangynin Gardening and Nature Group:**

The Llangynin Gardening and Nature Group headed towards Fishguard to visit two NGS gardens on Wednesday July 6th. The morning visit was to Treffgarne Hall where there was a beautiful walled garden planted with a collection of borderline exotics. It was then on to Stable Cottage, a small cottage style garden, and a collection of bonsai trees.

## **Afon Taf Gardening Club**

Members met on the 15th of July at the National Botanic Gardens in Carmarthen.

We would like to wish Beryl Gibbin well who has been very ill with shingles of late.

There is to be an open Gardening Club Show on Sunday the 4th of September in Whitland Town Hall. If you would like to enter anything (flowers/vegetables/home-made produce) you would be very welcome. Please contact Jan Griffiths, Christine Robinson or Kathie Dubben for more information and a schedule. Most people set up the night before but there is plenty of time to do it in the morning.

The Club helped out Peter and Carole Whitaker of Glynbach Gardens, near Llangolman, with watering while they were exhibiting at the Tatton Flower Show during what turned out to be one of the hottest weeks ever!! Previous help did not go very well, apparently, so they called upon people who knew a bit about gardening to oblige! 5 members volunteered. We very much hope that we did know what we were doing! Peter and Carole host the national collection of Monarda (also known as bee balm, horsemint or bergamot) so it is very important that the collection is not lost. If you would like to join the Club, please contact Kathie Dubben.



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**Table of Love**

A few days away took me to London, Tewkesbury and Gloucester, and of the four main attractions I visited, only one had no reminder of Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. This is it, the 'Wild Table of Love' – a fantastic bronze tableaux in Paternoster Square next to St. Paul's Cathedral in London. A dog and a rabbit have invited seven of the world's most endangered mammals to dinner, leaving two empty chairs for visitors like me and George to sit on and interact with the sculpture.



***Richard Law***

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a roof for the rain  
a warm cup of tea by the fire  
laughter to cheer you  
those you love near you  
and all that your heart  
may desire.

- Irish Proverb

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