

Grapevine

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£1.70



October 2023  
Hydref 2023



# 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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**£135 per full page ad      £75 per half page ad      £45 per quarter page ad**

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## Front cover:

Revd. Shirley Murphy at her licensing ceremony at St. Mary's  
Whitland on the 14th of September

# Cylch y Frenni Circle of Churches

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

### Services for October 2023

<b>SUNDAY 1<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER – SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY <i>after</i> TRINITY</b>			<b>(green)</b>
Llanglydwen	Holy Eucharist	<b>9.30 am</b>	(CC/JW)
Llanfyrnach	Holy Eucharist	<b>11.15 am</b>	(CC/ EB)
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER</b>			
Bro Preseli	Holy Eucharist	<b>10.30am</b>	
<b>SUNDAY 8<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY <i>after</i> TRINITY</b>			<b>(green)</b>
Llanwinio	Holy Eucharist	<b>09.30 am</b>	(CC/PH)
Clydai	Holy Eucharist	<b>1.15 am</b>	(CC/EL)
Llanfyrnach	Welsh Harvest Festival	<b>6.00 (4.00 pm)</b>	
<b>SUNDAY 15<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER – NINETEENTH SUNDAY <i>after</i> TRINITY</b>			<b>(green)</b>
Llanwinio	Boreol Weddi	<b>09.30 am</b>	(PH)
Mynachlog-ddu	Holy Eucharist	<b>10.00 am</b>	(CC, JW,EL)
<b>TUESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER</b>			
Clydai	Harvest Festival	<b>7.00 pm</b>	Guest speaker
<b>SUNDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> OCTOBER – TWENTIETH SUNDAY <i>after</i> TRINITY</b>			<b>(green)</b>
Llanwinio	Holy Eucharist	<b>09.30 am</b>	(CC/PH)
Clydai	Morning Prayer	<b>11.15 am</b>	(EL)
Llanfyrnach	Holy Eucharist	<b>11.15 am</b>	( CC/JW)
<b>SUNDAY 29<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER – THE LAST SUNDAY <i>after</i> TRINITY or BIBLE SUNDAY (green)</b>			
Maenchlogoch 5 <sup>th</sup>	Joint LMA Service	<b>11.00 am</b>	(Adrian)

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## THE ANCHOR OF HOPE

The storm was more violent and lasted longer than anyone on the ship had ever experienced. It raged for two weeks, and the only way to keep the little ship afloat

was to throw the cargo overboard and fasten lines around the hull. Finally, Dr. Luke wrote, "All hope that we would be saved was then taken away." (Acts 27:20) But one man on the ship never gave up hope. That man was Paul.

He was a praying man, a man who trusted God totally, and on a dark morning he told the others on the ship of his source of hope. An angel of God had appeared to him during the night with a message from God that no life would be lost on that ship. "So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told," he said to them. (Acts 27:25) And it was. The ship wrecked, but every man of the 275 aboard was saved from loss.

What wings are to a bird, hope is to man. It is such a great virtue and source of power that the Bible speaks of God as the "God of all hope," and the apostle Paul declares that hope is one of the eternal things of life. When we lose hope we are defenceless. But no Christian ought to lose hope. The Bible reminds us that "We have this hope as an anchor of the soul, sure and steadfast." (Hebrews 6:19) We may lose friends, family, health, job, and many other things, but God never abandons His children. Therefore, we should never give up hope.

Ancient Christians carved the figure of an anchor, the symbol of hope, in the catacombs where they sought refuge in times of persecution. The Psalmist <sup>asked</sup> the question of himself: "And now, Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in Thee!" John Vance Chaney expressed it thus:

"Not in times of pleasure hope doth set her bow;  
But in the sky of sorrow, over the vale of woe.

Through the gloom and shadow look we on beyond the years;  
The soul would have no rainbow, had the eyes no tears."

*Chris Rees, Minister, Bethania Baptist Chapel, Narberth*

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## **Sitting by the fire**

Winter or summer coals spat in the grate,  
the hissing kettle threatening to shriek  
and me too close, oh much too close! -  
the only daring thing I ever did -  
reading, always reading, or slyly listening in  
to all those freighted words that adults speak.

By the side bread oven past the hearth,  
considered modern - it was in '35 -  
a pot-holder, hand-knitted, scorched and beaked  
a woollen bird, too tiny for its task,  
a robin remnant, not even a glove, a dearth !  
dangled its dangerous dare above the smoke.

Umpteen times a day my grandma grabbed it,  
gingerly removed the boiling boisterous beast -  
the only daring thing I saw her do -  
lifting it deftly from the shifty coals  
with dire predictions aimed in my direction,  
then tottered to the scullery to make a brew.

All day I ignored the background clucks of warning,  
took comfort in their cosy crooned concern  
until a sudden squawk broke through my reverie,  
"Move child! You're surely going to scald!  
Can't someone tell that child she's going to burn?"  
Succoured by scolding, unmoved and unappalled,

only when a shuddering shunt of glowing coals  
threatening a volcanic avalanche  
gave substance to those seeded inner fears  
of being roasted, steamed, branded, baked alive -  
a blessed martyr or a blackened sinner  
hell-bound - startled me ... then I moved.

Quickly drawing back my reddening, mottled legs  
I stared through flames and smoke ... still mesmerised...  
then inch by inch I shuffled back again.





***Licensing of Rev. Shirley Murphy at St. Mary's, Whitland, on the 14th of September.***

***Welcome, Shirley!!***

## Clydau

**T**he Revd. Carol Court brought us together at Clydai on the 15th of August for a Holy Eucharist on the feast of St Mary, the Mother of God - as Adrian Dunbar often referred to her (under his breath) in 'Line of Duty'.

Mary has various titles, used in other denominations. In the Church of England the 15th of August is the non-specific feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary In the Scottish Episcopal Church she is simply "Mary the Virgin", and in the US-based Episcopal Church it is observed as the feast of "Saint Mary the Virgin: Mother of Our Lord Jesus Christ".

St. Mary is the most popular saint for British churches to be dedicated to with 2,231 using one or other of her titles in England and 155 in Wales. St. Clydai is among the least popular with just one church dedicated to her.

In France, the celebration of Assumption Day is a public holiday for which everything shuts down. It is the day that Catholics have long celebrated what is called the Dormition (falling asleep) or Assumption of the Virgin Mary. The Feast of the Assumption celebrates both the happy departure of Mary from this life by her natural death, and her assumption bodily into heaven.

Many French cathedrals and churches are under the patronage of the Assumption of Mary. It used to be a three-day public holiday, but 20th century secular governments have reorganised the church calendar there, as here. The main change here was

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locking Whitsun to the last Monday in May instead of it floating. Traditionally, the Sunday of Pentecost is the fiftieth day after Easter Sunday. It still is in the church calendar, but the bank holiday is now fixed.

Carol's next special Holy Eucharist for a saint's day will have passed by the time you read this – the feast of St Matthew, Apostle on the 21st of September at Llanfyrnach, closely followed by our last barbecue of the season at Clydai on the 24th.

## **Ordination**

Having been recruited by Jonathan Copus, along with Sharon Edge, Phil Higginson, Judy Webb and Eunice Batchelor JP to be a focal minister, Elizabeth Law, has now committed to following in Sharon's footsteps by seeking ordination. It is a big step up that begins by filling in a form and seeing the form for the first time was an eye-opener as to just how big a step it is.

Before that, Elizabeth had vague concerns about the essay writing. Sharon mentioned having to write a 5,000-word essay about the book of Jonah, which is shorter than her essay by about 4,000 words. The whole book is a five-minutes-ish read.

I remembered Jonah from Sunday School as the reluctant prophet who, on being commanded by God to take His word to Nineveh that the people there might repent and not suffer a Sodom and Gomorrah style fate, took big steps in the opposite direction and that got him three days in the belly of a large fish, which adjusted his attitude to doing God's will. A lesson that has stayed with me ever since. I re-read the book and had a go at the essay, which I sent to our editor Kathy who said, "It's a bit long". She used it as a filler in November 2020.



Jonah rates a brief, indirect mention in St Clydai's church history in the context of Bible translators - "Jerome fell foul of his audience for changing a word in Jonah 4. 6, replacing the familiar 'gourd' with 'ivy' the better to describe what was written; the Geneva (Bible) uses 'gourd' and just for a change, makes no footnote."

We cited Jonah in May 2023's Grapevine in the context of Jonathan's semi-retirement; "Jonah's famous experience of resisting God's purpose is the biblical authority for not doing so and we all know how dangerous retirement can be. You only have to remember how short it was for Nicholas Parsons – barely four months – or Alistair Cooke – barely four weeks – to understand why serving God's purpose and keeping going are the stuff of life – as demonstrated by Her Majesty the Queen."

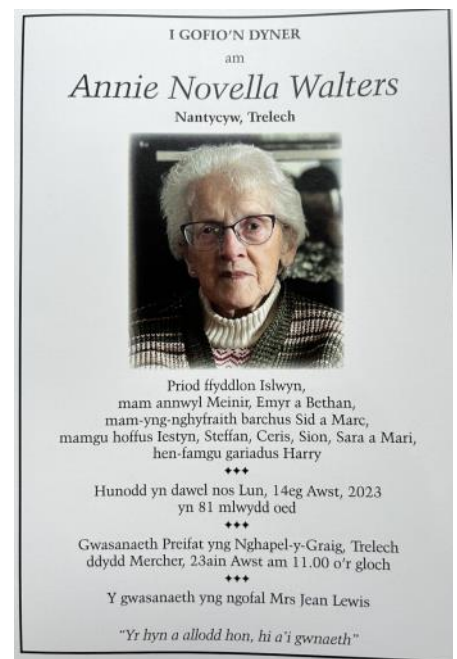
Jonah is not mainstream Bible study. The Venerable Paul Mackness, in one of his landmark sermons while he was serving in the Crymych group, highlighted that large chunks of the Bible do not get studied through our lessons. The most recent lesson from Jonah in our pew sheets was on the 15th Sunday after Trinity in 2021, in which a bush rates a mention and the fish doesn't, so the training Elizabeth is stepping up to will cover that which church lessons might not.

That's after filling in the form, which is ten essays by the look of it, and we pray for her perseverance and ultimate success in this quest. The difference before and after ordination is dramatic in what a person can do. We saw the Revd Shirley Murphy licensed in September to the East Landsker LMA. That is a licence to preach and more.

Parch Peter Williams, translator of the Bible into Welsh that was published in 1770 – and we have a lectern copy thereof at Clydai - was refused such a licence by the Bishop in the 1740s and dismissed as a curate for his Calvinistic Methodist tendencies.

Every split in Christianity has some doctrinal or political basis whereupon there may be some break in the continuity of the ordination process and thus some break in the chain of command from God through Jesus Christ to his apostles and in the Roman Catholic tradition from Peter to Linus, the first Bishop of Rome and on.

Henry VIII's split from Rome and his daughter Queen Elizabeth I restructuring the Church of England with her as its head, holding on to the Catholic calendar while adopting Lutheran doctrine, sort of bridged the gap, as all her Bishops had been





ordained in the Catholic church. Her serving then and subsequent Bishops ordaining priests is a continuation of the continuity.

The difference between an ordained person and the rest of us was articulated in the reformation thus: the traditional way to heaven was through a 'covenant of works' – following the teachings of the church and doing all holy rites.

Protestantism developed a theology of a 'covenant of grace'; a belief that salvation is within God's gift through our Lord Jesus Christ. In that case, people do not need adherence to religious services to prepare them, nor the intercessions of the priesthood. More particularly the renegade Protestants who had fled to Switzerland to avoid the extreme consequences of challenging Papal authority took the view that they had achieved that state of grace with God, which is why they could translate the Bible into their vernacular languages.

Jesus himself epitomised the covenant of grace. First Century Judaism was a ritualistic religion dominated by a hereditary priesthood. Jesus was an outsider, showing people that there was a way to salvation that bypassed the Temple cult. What was unique about early Christianity was that, unlike all the other religions, it had no governmental role.

That came later - after Constantine adopted Christianity as the state religion of the Roman Empire and moving on through history the church developed specialist holy orders whose tasks we would recognize today as having been succeeded by local government. Libraries and schools, hospitals, alms-houses, soup kitchens etc.

Queen Elizabeth I recognised what had been lost in the dissolution of the monasteries and reorganised the parishes as her local government in which the social control of her priesthood was an amalgamation of the two covenants - that everyone could achieve a state of grace with our Lord by following the discipline of



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the church and through the forgiveness for sins that only ordained priests can deliver at our services.

This position put our sovereign at the centre of the Christian spectrum, so on the one side Catholics went closet and on the other wing, nonconformist theologies took shape. Elizabeth I seems not to have minded about the Puritanical rumblings too much while they respected the covenant of works by putting money in the collection. Those who could not play the game picked their toys up and moved to Holland. It boiled over into the most extreme types sailing off to the New World in the early years of her successor King James's rule.

The Pilgrim Fathers, as they became known, had rejected the shackles of organised religion in favour of what they thought the earliest Christians had done – meeting in each other's houses, but once they became established in the Massachusetts Bay area of New England, they needed the organisational structure of a government and since their leaders were all ministers of religion, it fell to them to be that government – working through their churches.

At which point we meet Anne Hutchinson. In the 1630s she and her husband had followed in the footsteps of the Pilgrim Fathers, making the crossing to America for the religious freedom the new colony purported to offer. When she got there, she rapidly took advantage of that freedom, hosting meetings in her own house, which are said to have attracted up to eighty people at a time.

She made it clear that she regarded only two ministers in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as walking in a covenant of grace – John Cotton, to whom she deferred as the source of her opinions, rather to his embarrassment, and a more recent immigrant than her, John Wheelwright. She had been in Cotton's church and





***Fashion Show at Llanboidy Market Hall in September***





his decision to move to the New World had prompted her and her husband to do the same.

Having left Britain in the belief that they did not need the Anglican Communion and its priests to achieve the covenant of grace with God, and then having found the need to 'become' those priests in a governmental role, the developing powers that were at the time – John Winthrop and his contemporaries - regarded Anne Hutchinson as a disruptive influence, believing as she did and telling everyone who would listen that they were all free to negotiate their way to a covenant of grace with God without the burden of the discipline of their local church.

Her refusal to worship in the church, a position adopted by many of her followers, is cited by Kai T Erikson in his book 'Wayward Pilgrims' as America's first crimewave. The joy for sociologists of this and the next two American crimewaves is the tremendous amount of information recorded by John Winthrop in his journals and by others. We do not have Anne

Hutchinson's words, but studying what others said about her takes me to the view that her problem probably started when she got to America and found her local priest, the Revd. Wilson was not the live wire evangelical intellectual the Revd. Cotton was.

Ultimately, every time someone does an Anne Hutchinson, they miss the point. Her issue was not that so much that she believed she could reach a state of grace with the Lord without the intercession of a priest – she had already done that under John Cotton's guidance – her problem was that the Revd. Wilson was insufficiently evangelical to mentor her faith in the New World. What her deviant behaviour achieved was to highlight the flaws in her society and that had the effect of pulling the social order of the Massachusetts Bay communities together and strengthening them.

It takes a lot of training, thought, prayer and experience to become a clerk in holy orders, to be one Anne Hutchinson could follow. And in stepping onto that steep and rocky road, we pray that Elizabeth has the helping hands above her to lead her up that learning curve.

**D**avid and Tina Hay (pictured) from Denver, Colorado, paid a visit to the area 21st-24th September in search of distant relatives - and found some. We have asked him to write up his adventure for a future Grapevine but for



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now the brief facts are that his ancestors John Thomas, of Cwm Hir, Tegryn and Phebe James of Moor Farm, Hermon married at Llanfyrnach on 26 February 1839. They moved to the USA in 1848. The marriage certificate is interesting, being the last one in the 1813 pattern book - in 1839. What it looks like is that when the vicar got the new book, he re-wrote the marriage certificates that should have been in the new book into it; probably all at once, which is why the ink didn't dry before he turned the page to do the next one. The signatures look original - so he got everyone to sign the new book and then all was well. However, when David contacted the authorities for a copy of the marriage certificate, they sent him the one from the old 1813 book. The difference with the 1837 book is that a column was added for the bride and groom's addresses, which gave David Moor Farm for the first time. And when we asked around at Llanfyrnach for where it might be (the name is not longer in use) Betty told us straight away, as she lived there from age five until 44 years ago. We'll let David tell it from here.

*Richard Law*

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## Llanwinio

## St Gwinio

**I**t is, I think, some two years since Kingsley, our LMA Dean led us in a series of walks from Clydai, our northernmost church, to Pendine, in the deepest south. It was an inspirational idea, reminding us of both proximity and distance, and engendering a sense of camaraderie amongst the walkers.

It has been suggested in subsequent deanery meetings that we could find ways of celebrating the lives of the saints to whom our churches are dedicated. Perhaps I could start the ball rolling by writing about St Gwinio.

Work carried out by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust in the 1970s shows that the church stands in the centre of the innermost ring of an Iron Age hillfort, which now marks the perimeter of the graveyard. That it must have been a place of some significance in pre- and early Christian time is confirmed by the Ogham stone that was found buried under the altar when the church was rebuilt in the 1840s.

This bears the Latin inscription BIVAD FILI BODIBEVE – in English, (the monument or grave of) Biva(i)du son of Bodibeva. This can now be seen in the Carmarthen Museum. After examining it on June 20th 1912, inspectors from the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments in Wales and Monmouthshire wrote as follows:

It is seen as a good example of the Christianising of what was probably regarded as (and may well have been) the memorial stone of a heathen. It had been uprooted and a cross inscribed on the end that had been buried in the ground.

Of St Gwinio (also spelt as Gwynio) himself little is known, and he has often been confused with St Gwynno, one of the five saints of Llanpumsaint, and Llanwynno in the Rhondda. Baring-Gould cites sources that place him firmly in this parish of Llanwinio: “Gwinio of Llanwinio was killed by the Irish whilst going to Cilsant, and Ffynnon Winio sprang up where his head fell.” He is also referred to as “Gwinio wyn” or “Blessed Gwinio”, by Lewis Glyn Cothi, the 15th century poet. Interestingly, the Browne Willis manuscript in Bangor gives two dates for his feastday, on March 2nd and May 2nd.

What can we make of the little that we do know of our saint? We know from the work of scholars like Dr Anne Ross that there was in the pre-Christian Celtic religion a cult of the severed human head that was associated with wells; perhaps this story, together with the presence of the BIVAD stone under the altar, and the remarkable location of the church in a fortified hill fort, tell us something of the faith and courage of a Christian evangelist in the chaotic and violent world of the 4th, 5th and 6th centuries.

Until last month we had no record of how the church looked before its rebuilding in the 1840s. We were therefore very excited when Caroline James, the Consultant Architect who is leading our repair and restoration project, managed to locate the ground plans made by JL Collard, which are now kept in the Lambeth Palace archives. She has also established that the BIVA stone had been buried six feet under the altar, raising that there might well have been a crypt under the earlier building. How extraordinary!

Clint and Judith Henry have also drawn my attention to a fascinating study of archaeological finds from the 4th – 7th centuries, *Buried*, by Professor Alice Roberts, which was published in 2022. She points out that “the circular churchyards at Jeffreyston and Llandysilio, and at Eglwys Gymyn, Llangynog, and Llanwinio may have started out as ditched Iron Age enclosures” – three churches from our Deanery!

We will, almost certainly, discover more about the early history of our parishes thanks to archaeological and palaeographical research, but most of it will remain a closed book, to use a not wholly inappropriate metaphor. This should be an inspiration to those of us who worship in our ancient churches in this part of West Wales. We kneel on the same ground that was knelt on by Gwinio, Tysilio, Brynach, Clydai and our other saints 1,500 years ago, and their courage in evangelising in a violent and pagan world should inspire us as we face the challenges of being Christians in the 21st century.

I have often thought about Gwinio, his violent death, and the fact that the church built in his name still stands. Here is a hymn that I wrote some 30 years ago, when



some 70 of us walked some three and a half miles from the site of Capel Gwinio at Cilsant (in English, “the Saint’s retreat”) to the church for a service of remembrance and thanks. We were led by Bishop Ivor and Bishop Wyn – a wonderful day.

If you would like to sing it yourself, it is set to the tune Repton, originally written by Hubert Parry for his oratorio Judith – ironically, another story about a beheading.

## **Gwinio Sant**

Cofiwn, Arglwydd am Winio Sant  
fu’n rhodio’n herwau ni,  
o’r eglwys hon hyd lannau’r nant  
nes gyrraedd llethrau glân Cilsant  
Gan dystio i’th Enw Di.

Fe godai ef fagwrydd  
Mewn oes mor llwm a thrist,  
gan fyw a marw dros ein ffydd,  
herio’r drwg a chario’r dydd  
Yn enw Iesu Grist.

Fe dystiai ef i’th deyrnas  
a brynwyd gan Dy Waed;  
ni ofnai arfau rheibwyr cas  
ond ymddiriedai yn dy rês;  
dilynwn ôl ei draed.

Boed i ninnau fel Gwinio  
Dy ganfod yn ein tir,  
a gweld dy deyrnas yn ein bro;  
paratown ni am y tro  
pan welwn Di yn glir.

***Phil Higginson***



# Bwlch Y Groes

The annual Vintage Show was held on Saturday the 9th of September. It was opened by Rhiannon Andrews:



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### **Sue Jones from Llanboidy writes:**

Quite a few fun social events here recently!

**St Brynach's Church hosted an Afternoon Tea** and what a great success this was too - Mr Ken Kendall opened the afternoon tea and gave us an interesting insight into the life of Squire WRH Powell of Maesgwynne Mansion and the works he initiated to improve the lives of the villagers. He also spoke about the statue of Grief commissioned in Powell's memory by his family and originally placed on the Powell vault in the Churchyard but relocated in 2011 into the Church to avoid further damage by weathering.

The Church glowed with sun streaming through the windows and enhanced by the beautiful floral decorations kindly made by Kathy Lee - the aisles were full of laden tables of goodies to eat, courtesy of the ladies of the Church PCC - the air was filled with songs and music from the 70s onwards by our very own Elderly Brothers AND, most importantly, the Church was heaving with around 100 folks all laughing and chatting and enjoying the afternoon tea - some were singing or humming away with the Elderlys and couple of us even had a little dance!

All in all a fantastic afternoon - Philip, our treasurer, said we haven't received all the money yet but the final total will be just North of £1,600.00! - there were some very generous donations to push us up to those dizzy heights !

But then Philip brings us down to earth as this figure just about covers the precept and insurance for one quarter!!

Well done everyone - helpers and donators of raffle prizes and food - and especially all those who attended.

# Do You Know Your Hymns?

Dentist's Hymn	. . .	Crown Him with Many Crowns.
Weatherman's Hymn	. . .	There Shall Be Showers of Blessings.
Contractor's Hymn	. . .	The Church's One Foundation.
Tailor's Hymn	. . .	Holy, Holy, Holy.
Golfer's Hymn	. . .	There's a Green Hill Far Away.
Politician's Hymn	. . .	Standing on the Promises!
Optometrist's Hymn.	. . .	Open My Eyes That I Might See.
IRS Agent's Hymn	. . .	I Surrender All.
Gossip's Hymn	. . .	Pass It On.
Electrician's Hymn	. . .	Send The Light..
Shopper's Hymn	. . .	Sweet Bye and Bye.
Realtor's Hymn	. . .	I've Got a Mansion, Just Over the Hilltop.
Massage Therapist's Hymn.		He Touched Me.

AND for those who speed on the highway - a few hymns:

55 mph	. . .	God Will Take Care of You
75 mph	. . .	Nearer My God To Thee
85 mph	. . .	This World Is Not My Home
95 mph	. . .	Lord, I'm Coming Home
100 mph	. . .	Precious Memories

Give me a sense of humor, Lord, Give me the grace to see a joke,  
To get some humor out of life, And pass it on to other folks.

Llanboidy WI had their annual outing in

**August instead of  
holding a meeting**

Jayne reports:  
Llanboidy WI  
members met for  
lunch at the Boars  
Head Templeton and

then went onto the Lovespoon Workshop in  
Kilgetty where they received a very  
enjoyable talk on the history of the  
Lovespoon and how Mr. Thomas made his





spoons from the 1970s to the present day . After his very interesting talk members could watch him carve, and purchase items of his work in the shop before making their way home. The next meeting of the WI is on Thursday, 12th October at 2.30 pm in the Llanboidy Market Hall - the speaker will be Kevin Trueman who will be talking about wine tasting and offering samples for you to taste.

Please note the new afternoon time for the Winter meetings. **Llanboidy Market Hall hosted a Fashion Show** in September - this was hosted by Mrs Margaret Hughes and Ladies & Gentlemen of the Hall Committee - and what a fantastic evening this was.

Mrs Hughes gave a fascinating commentary on her personal extensive collection of outfits starting with her Mother's bathing costume and her own Christening gown and progressing through her own Wedding dress and Laura Ashley clothes - mini, midi and maxi styles - and on up to this century.

The models were all local lasses and ladies and they did a brilliant job twirling and showing off the outfits, smiling and mingling with the audience - well done girls!

The Hall was beautifully decorated with floral arrangements kindly made and donated by Jess and Mary from Gardd Delyn Flowers near Llanboidy and the scrumptious buffet meal was prepared by Christine from Hywel Dda Centre in Whitland.

A great evening for us all in a superb setting and raising funds for a cause close to our hearts - the proceeds going to the Chemotherapy Units at Glangwili and Withybush Hospitals to help to provide more equipment and comfort for the patients .

Thank you everyone for your support and donations, time and effort and hard work for a really worthwhile cause.

**Date for your diaries - Saturday 18th November:**

Llanboidy Market Hall are planning a fund raiser event for the Hall - an evening with the Carmarthen Ukuleles playing our old favourites for us to sing and dance the night away.

*Sue Jones*

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## REFLECTIONS

### Autumn

Open the curtains!

Let me see Planet Earth -

that great ginger mop-head

filling my window,

nodding at me.

Open the curtains

on the bright Autumn tree!

## Lesson from my dog

While guarding small sticks  
we may lose big sticks:  
while drooling over trinkets  
our real treasure may be stolen.

---

## Lesson from the birds

Hope is like a bird –  
now you see it –  
now you don't.  
When you don't see it,  
think, 'Aha! Now it's roosting!'

---

## Let go

Let go! The universe will hold you up  
like a swimmer resting, quietly afloat.  
Let go! No need to struggle and gulp –  
gravity will hold you like a natural boat.  
Let go! Stop thrashing around,  
always trying to get somewhere.  
Stop relying on totems and charms.  
Be still. No, don't make a sound.  
Listen!...There's an inner voice of calm...  
And now you believe it –  
"Underneath are the everlasting arms!"  
at the estuary's edge  
A palimpsest of water, sand, and air,  
emerges from a backlit sky which scuds  
corrugated ridges in the sand.  
The strand is left behind in white salt suds.

These mingled elements still baffle us,  
dazzled in a world of shapes that shift  
isthmus to sea, sky into far horizon,  
dappling wits and eyesight as we drift...

Back in the room, I hear my father's breath,  
a sleep so gentle...in between two worlds...

Then rasping, pebbles are pulled back up the shore...

*JJ*

---

## A Prayer

When we think of Him, our very mind and heart should express a deep desire and love for our Saviour! Who becomes more precious to our very soul, day by day.

His lovely life grows on us, with a perfect peace that only He can provide; as we are lost in wonder and praise of Him! Our Lord Jesus is the express image of Our Father God. And may the image of the heavenly man be manifest in our mortal bodies. Whether it is in life or death. Heavenly Father as we give ourselves to You that we may prove Your perfect Will that our lives may conform to the image of Your Son Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Lyn Bettinson 25<sup>th</sup> August 2023*

# **G. Williams**

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# Whitland, Cyffig, Llanboidy

## Llandysilio, Clunderwen

The Reverend Kingsley G Taylor, BD MA 01994 240494

ktaylor559@aol.com

### Assistant Priests

Reverend Shirley Murphy

Reverend Sharon Edge

and Dr Canon Jeni Parsons

Lay Worship Leader Mr. Nathan Jenkin

### Services in October

#### Sunday 1st Trinity 17

9.00 am	Holy Communion	St David	KT
10.30 am	Holy Communion	St Tysilio	SE
11.00 am	Harvest	St Mary	KT
11.00 am	Holy Communion	St Brynach	JP

#### Sunday 8th Trinity 18

11.00 am	Pet Service	St Mary	KT
11.00 am	Matins	St David	NJ
2.30 pm	Holy Communion	Cyffig	KT
7.00 pm	Harvest	St Brynach	KT

#### Sunday 15th Trinity 19

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 22nd Trinity 20

11.00 am	Holy Communion	St Mary	KT
11.00 am	Holy Communion	St David	SE
2.30 pm	Evensong	Cyffig	KT

#### Sunday 29th Trinity 21

11.00 am	LMA service	Maenchlogoch	
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*Prize winners at the Afon Taf Gardening Club Show on the 3rd of September*



## Harvest

I like this time of the year. Normally it would be a nice settled and cooler period than summer, except we didn't have a proper summer apart from the odd week that was too hot. And I like harvest, I like coming into the churches and the smell of the produce and the flowers. After the pandemic we are slowly getting back to some sort of normal and harvest is a good time to be normal again.

## The Future Services

Now Shirley is with us there will be a couple of changes to next month's Grapevine (if I remember to do the changes and send it in in time). St Brynach will have 11.00 am Eucharist on the 1st and 3rd Sundays and St Mary's will have 8.00 am Eucharist on the 2nd and 4th Sundays

---

## Cyffig

At the time of writing, it's very grey and damp. I was complaining about it being too hot at times last week. It's true, "be careful what you wish for".

We look forward to the Licensing of Revd. Shirley Murphy in St. Mary's, Whitland, on September 14th at 7.00 pm. This is tinged with sadness by the realisation that the day when our much respected Vicar Kingsley will be expected to retire, is looming closer. Meanwhile, we send our very best wishes to Mrs. Muriel Beynon, who has unfortunately broken her ankle, and been confined to the house for weeks. Mrs Mary Richards recently fell in the Churchyard whilst tending the grave. Luckily, she was spotted by a passing neighbour and help was summoned. Nothing was broken, but poor Mary was badly shaken, we send best wishes to her too.

Our Harvest Festival Service is on September 24th at 2.30 pm, everyone welcome.

## HARVEST

*Harvest Festival Comes around,  
Bushes of blackberries, can be found.  
For some the school days have begun,  
The Summer holiday has been and gone.*

*September, October bring darker nights,  
A warmer coat to wrap up tight.  
The insects now seem far and few,  
The trees grow bare, the sky less blue.*

*First came Spring then, Summer Sun  
Now the Autumn has begun.*

**Anon**

## Afon Taf Gardening Club

**O**n the 3rd of September Afon Taf Gardening Club held its annual show in the Town Hall, Whitland. As usual there was a splendid display of fruit, vegetables and produce, and the ladies served up delicious teas afterwards.

It was good to be able to welcome some more new members.

The Judges were:

Produce: Lily Phillip  
Fruit and Veg: Michelle Thomas  
Flowers: Carole and Peter Whittaker

Prize Winners were:

Plate to exhibitor with the highest overall points	Beryl Gibbin
Probus Cup—Winner of the Flower Section	Mary Bowen
Ivy Webb Cup—Best Entry in the Flower Section	Mary Bowen
Mair Evans Cup—Best Pot Plant	Mary Bowen
Lilian Wilby Cup—Winner of the Vegetable Section	Beryl Gibbin

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David Davies Cup—Best runner beans  
Trophy for the best entry in the Vegetable Section  
Trophy for the best collection of fruit  
Trophy for the winner of the Produce Section  
Trophy for the best entry in the Produce Section

Beryl Gibbin  
David Jones  
Becca Arnold  
Beryl Gibbin  
Beryl Gibbin

*Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to set up the show.*

---

## **Thou Art The Everlasting Word; by Josiah Condor (1789-1855)**

Thou art the everlasting Word, The Fathers only Son; God manifest, God seen and heard, The heavens beloved One; Worthy, O lamb of God, art Thou,  
That every knee should bow!

In Thee, most perfect expressed, The Father's self doth shine; Fullness of Godhead, too: the Blest, Eternal Divine; Worthy, O Lamb of God, art thou.  
That every Knee should bow!

Image of the infinite Unseen, Whose being none can know; Brightness of light no eye hath seen, God's love revealed below; Worthy. O Lamb of God, art thou,  
That every knee should bow!

The higher mysteries of Thy fame, The creature's grasp transcend; The Father only Thy blest name, Of Son can comprehend. Worthy, O Lamb of God at Thou.  
That ever knee to Thee should bow!

Yet loving Thee, on whom His love ineffable doth rest, The worshippers. O Lord, above, as one with thee are blest; Worthy, O Lamb of God art thou,  
That every knee to Thee should bow

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Of the vast universe of bliss, The centre Thou and Sun; The eternal theme of praise is this, To Heaven's beloved One, Worthy, O Lamb of God, art Thou, That every knee should bow!

*We share much of our understanding, of our Christian identity, through prayer, praise and song, Amen.*

*Lyn Bettinson 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2023*

## Clydau BBQ

The last Clydai/Llanfyrnach barbecue of the season took place on the 24th September as the wind howled around the church. This was the third indoor barbecue - one has to wonder if it'll ever be nice enough to have an outdoor one again: but there's always next

year. Revd. Carol Court was prevented from leading the Holy Eucharist at Llanwinio this morning due to a fallen tree. That did not obstruct Phil from getting to church, as



he came from the opposite direction, but he did wonder why he was so lonely at the front of the church. Carol led the Eucharist service at Llanfyrnach and then led the congregation to Clydai, where we had our indoor barbecue, toasted absent friends with orange juice - Islwyn and Kathy - before packing the tables and chairs away until next year. Unless someone comes up with a winter event plan... **Richard Law**



**CLWB CINIO CLYDAU LUNCH CLUB  
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Please join us in Canolfan Clydau in Tegryn, on the  
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or coffee.**

Everyone is welcome, but **please phone beforehand** so we know  
how many people to expect.

Please phone Diana on 01239 612614 or Marie on 01239 698003.  
**VOLUNTEERS ALSO WELCOME!!**

- Ionawr 24 January 2023**
- Chwefror 28 February**
- Mawrth 28 March**
- Ebrill 25 April**
- Mai 23 May**
- Mehefin 27 June**
- Gorffennaf 25 July**
- Medi 25 September**
- Hydref 24 October**
- Tachwedd 28 November**



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Canolfan Clydau, Tegryn**

- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Ionawr 14 January    | Gorffennaf 8 July    |
| Chwefror 11 February | Awst 12 August       |
| Mawrth 11 March      | Medi 9 September     |
| Ebrill 8 April       | Hydref 14 October    |
| Mai 13 May           | Tachwedd 11 November |
| Mehefin 10 June      | Rhagfyr 9 December   |

**CROESO CYNNES I BAWB ALL WELCOME**  
Tel. Diana 01239 612614 or Marie 01239 698003



Welcome Revd. Shirley Murphy to the East Landsker LMA



Licensed at St Mary's Whitland on 14<sup>th</sup> September  
Her previous post was as Bishop's Chaplain



*Interior of St. Mary's Church, Whitland*



## HISTORY'S MOST SAVAGE INSULTS



His head was an hourglass; it could stow an idea, but it had to do it a grain at a time.

-Mark Twain

I never forget a face - but in your case I'll make an exception.

-Groucho Marx



He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends

-Oscar Wilde

His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork.

-Mae West



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St. Clears and District Walking Group

***Members of St. Clears and District Walking club enjoyed a lovely walk at Llansteffan recently.***



***Walks usually take place every other Wednesday, setting out at 10.00 am, and are usually of 3 or miles' duration. Places and points of interest are included, and a stop for refreshments at the end. For more information contact Kathie on 01994 484404.***

J.R.R. TOLKIEN



“All that is gold does not glitter,  
not all those who wander are lost; the old  
that is strong does not wither, deep roots  
are not reached by the frost. From the  
ashes a fire shall be woken, a light from  
the shadows shall spring; renewed shall  
be blade that was broken, the crownless  
again shall be king.”

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