



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



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

#### www.frennichurches.org.uk

The Revd. Kingsley Taylor, BD MA 01994 240494 LMA Dean:

ktaylor559@aol.com

Ministry Team Leader: The Revd. Carol Ann Court, Priest in Charge carolcourt21@gmail.com

**Assistant Curate:** The Revd. Sharon Edge 01437 532681 sharonedge@cinw.org.uk

**Focal Ministers** 

Mrs Elizabeth Law Clydau:

01239 698607

clydaufm@frennichurches.org.uk

Llanfyrnach:

Mrs Eunice Batchelor JP 01239 831556

01994 48449

llanfyrnachfm@frennichurches.org.uk

Llanwinio:

Philip Higginson Mrs Judy Webb

philhigginson5@btinternet.com

Llanglydwen:

01239 698405

judy.webb@btinternet.com

Mynachlog-ddu: mynachlogddufm@frennichurches.org.uk

#### **Pastoral Eucharistic Assistants**

The Focal Ministers

Mr David Carter 01239 831103 llanfyrnachwardens@frennichurches.org.uk

**PCC Secretaries** 

Clydau: Mrs Elizabeth Law 01239 698607

Elizabethlaw70@yahoo.co.uk

Llanfyrnach:

Mrs Hazel Jones

01239 831595

llanfyrnachsecretary@frennichurches.org.uk

Llanglydwen:

Philippa Scannell

01994 419243

philippa@flippingit.co.uk

Llanwinio:

Mr. Philip Higginson 01994 484498

philhigginson5@btinternet.com

Mynachlog-ddu:

Mr Alex Velky

01994 419849

mynachlogddusec@frennichurches.org.uk

**Publicity Officer** 

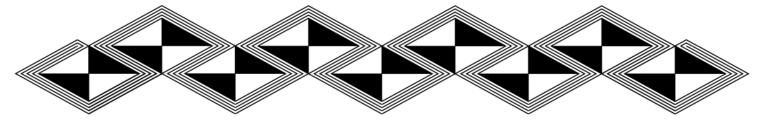
Mrs Sharon Edge 01437 532 681 publicity@frennichurches.org.uk

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

Editor: Ms Kathie Dubben, Myrtle Hill, Gellywen, SA33 6DS 01994 484404 kdubben@hotmail.com

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

Treasurer: Mr. Richard Law 01239 698607 gvtreas@frennichurches.org.uk



## Cylch y Frenni Circle of Churches Clydau, Llanglydwen, Llanfyrnach, Llanwinio and Mynachlog-ddu

#### **Services for November 2023**

1st November - Holy Eucharist Bro Preseli 10.30.am **Everyone Welcome - All Saints Day/Feast of St Cledwyn** 5<sup>th</sup> November – The First Sunday of the Kingdom (red)

PLACE	TIME	SERVICE	
Llanglydwen	9.30	Holy Eucharist	CC/JW
Llanwinio	9.30	Boreol Weddi	PH
Llanfyrnach	11.15	Holy Eucharist	CC/EB
12 <sup>th</sup> November – Remembrance Service 10.45 at the Memorial Hall			

## Crymych followed by laying of wreaths

(no other services in the group on that day)

Llanwinio	9.30	Boreol Weddi	PH
Mynachlog-ddu	10.00	Holy Eucharist	CC/EL/ JW)

#### 19<sup>th</sup> Nov St Clydai harvest lunch at Bwlchygroes Hall 12.30-1.00pm (donations of £5 appreciated) Everyone welcome

26<sup>th</sup> November – Christ The King (white)

Llanwinio	9.30	Holy Eucharist	CC
Clydau	11.15	Morning Prayer	JW
Llanfyrnach	11.15	Holy Eucharist	CC/EB

#### 30<sup>th</sup> November (Thurs) – Andrew, Patron Saint of Scotland (red)

Clydau	10.30	Holy Eucharist	CC/EL
--------	-------	----------------	-------

**n a mother's womb were two babies.** The first baby asked the other: "Do you believe in life after delivery?"

The second baby replied, "Why, of course. There has to be something after delivery. Maybe we are here to prepare ourselves for what we will be later."

"Nonsense," said the first. "There is no life after delivery. What would that life be?"

"I don't know, but there will be more light than here. Maybe we will walk with our legs and eat with our mouths."

The doubting baby laughed. "This is absurd! Walking is impossible. And eat with our mouths? Ridiculous. The umbilical cord supplies nutrition. Life after delivery is to be excluded. The umbilical cord is too short."

The second baby held his ground. "I think there is something and maybe it's different than it is here."

The first baby replied, "No one has ever come back from there. Delivery is the end of life, and in the after-delivery it is nothing but darkness and anxiety and it takes us nowhere."

"Well, I don't know," said the twin, "but certainly we will see mother and she will take care of us."

"Mother?" The first baby guffawed. "You believe in mother? Where is she now?"

The second baby calmly and patiently tried to explain. "She is all around us. It is in her that we live. Without her there would not be this world."

"Ha. I don't see her, so it's only logical that she doesn't exist."

To which the other replied, "Sometimes when you're in silence you can hear her, you can perceive her. I believe there is a reality after delivery and we are here to prepare ourselves for that reality when it comes...."

**Author unknown** 

Submitted by Minister C.P. Rees Bethesda Narberth

#### **Appointments**

The Archdeacon of Carmarthen, Dorrien Davies, has been elected to be the new Bishop of St Davids.

Bishop-elect Dorrien has served his entire ministry in the Diocese of St Davids. Born in 1964 and ordained in 1989, he served initially as a curate in Llanelli before





moving to Ystrad Aeron and then to St Dogmael's. He then served as Canon Residentiary at St Davids Cathedral before being appointed Archdeacon of Carmarthen in 2018.

The Electoral College reached its decision after a two-day meeting behind locked doors in St Davids Cathedral, at which the successful candidate required a two-thirds majority of the 46 College members to be elected.

Dorrien Bishop-elect will the 130th Bishop of St Davids. He succeeds Bishop Joanna Penberthy, who retired because of ill-health in July after six years in the role. He now has 28 days to formally accept the post after which a Sacred Synod will confirm the appointment. A service

of consecration will follow in Bangor Cathedral in January, after which the new Bishop will be enthroned in St Davids.

Announcing the decision, the Archbishop of Wales, Andrew John, said he was delighted. "His experience of this place and his deep wisdom and skills will all be deployed in both leading the diocese forward and bringing it together in faith and love. In his care, this diocese, as St David himself did, will be joyful, do the small things and keep the faith."

Bishop-elect Dorrien said: "It means a great deal to me and I look forward to leading this diocese to things both wonderful and new."

#### Welcome to Revd. Shirley Murphy, Whitland Group

A short biography from Shirley

e live in a multicultural society that is enriched by a diversity of faiths, cultures, philosophies, and divergent political opinions. This is what makes the world interesting to me.

I trained to be a Stipendiary Vicar in the Church in Wales St David's Diocese and was ordained as a Deacon in June 2018 in St Davids Cathedral, Pembrokeshire, Wales. I was the first Indian woman to have been ordained in the Church in Wales.



We will Remember Them







I was born and brought up in Chennai, India and am now married to a Welsh boy, Julian, and we have a 10-year-old boy Dylan. We have been living in the UK since 2005. I moved to Wales in 2010 and before that I worked in EL AL Israel Airlines in London and in India.

I was brought up in a very pious Christian family and have been involved in church and church outreach programs all my life and enjoy doing them. I appeared in an ITV Wales TV show called Welsh Lives which was premiered in April 2021 which was about my journey from India to Wales, and my ministry and family life as I was the first Indian woman to have been ordained into the Church in Wales.

My particular passion is to help churches to be at the heart of the community and to be seen to make a difference in people's lives. I am very interested in developing youth ministry and attracting more young families and children to the church.

I helped as a volunteer to visit the Mother Theresa Old Age Home and Orphanage every year during the Gift Sunday week (which is 2 weeks before Christmas) from when I was 10 years old until I left India in September 2005 by visiting the sick, elderly and the children and helping them by singing to them, feeding them, cleaning them, teaching them to read the bible, telling them stories from the bible and also giving them gifts.

I have also volunteered in a lot of outreach programs arranged by our churches in India such as visiting the children and the elderly who are sick in hospitals, prisons, helping to raise funds by actively participating in competitions held by various churches, visiting leprosy and TB patients, helping widows, families affected by floods, famines, and other natural calamities.



BRONDESBURY PARK
GARDEN CENTRE

Aberystwyth Road, Cardigan, SA43 1NA.

Opening hours: Monday to Saturday

8.30 am - 4.00 pm



Garden equipment and machinery; seeds; plants; pots and much, much more!!!

Tel: 01239 615300 Email: sales@cjindustries.co.uk www.cjindustries.co.uk

## HEDD RHYS YNNI HEATING LTD

Natural Gas, LPG and Oil Boilers, Fires and Cookers All Aspects of Plumbing

<sup>07786</sup> 628703

heddhg@hotmail.co.uk

Cross House, Cwm Bach, Whitland, SA34 ODS



I also volunteered in raising funds for the Royal Army, London during the Chelsea Flower show in 2006.

I have been a volunteer helping and assisting from when I was a teenager in the church activities in India, and also worked as a volunteer to help clean and educate slum children when I was still back in higher secondary school in India.

I worked as an Interpreter and Linguist to translate Tamil language into English for asylum seekers and refugees from different parts of the world such as India,



Sri Lanka, Singapore, Malaysia etc. I taught Sri Lankan refugees and asylum seekers and their families, especially their children, all subjects to assist them and help them to survive in UK as they were far away from home. I help the elderly/vulnerable and those that have no help around the village with their shopping and their dog walking.

My husband Julian and I love helping people and in April 2022 we started our own food bank from our garage to help people who are struggling, which has now expanded as the need has increased and we now run it from Christ Church in Carmarthen. Besides that we have been helping people who are in need since 2010 and we help the homeless and also cook and provide meals to whoever needs it and are struggling to make ends meet.

I enjoy music especially, being married to Julian who himself is a singer, songwriter, music producer, YouTube channel presenter and author. I enjoy walking in the countryside—especially with my Siberian husky Jake - cooking, baking, reading, singing, writing, volunteering, and enjoying spending time with my family. I blog: www.revshirleymurphy.co.uk started my own during lockdown which has spiritually fed and reached many people all over the world. I continue reaching people and evangelising with this important tool. Other ways I continue reaching and supporting people with their spiritual needs is through my daily reflections and prayers which I post on Facebook, through my video chats and WhatsApp calls of prayers times and also the videos which I do which have been ways that has helped reach many un-churched people which I will continue as I know I will always make time to do what I am passionate about as these make a difference in people's lives.

My husband and I will also continue our many charitable work such as running the food bank and helping the homeless wherever we are. These are things we are both passionate about and will not stop due to our personal drive to help people whatever our circumstances.

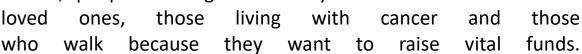
#### **Shirley Murphy**

I signed up to walk 30 miles in September for Cancer Research in memory of a dear friend Iris Morris who died on 28th September.

There are also other friends and family who went through a



similar cancer journey with some still going through unpleasant and painful treatment for this life-threatening condition. There were so many different stories, people walking in memory of



My aim was to walk as many miles on a daily basis in September to fund future research to combat this dreadful disease. I was joined on several occasions by family and friends who were also remembering loved ones who had died through cancer.

A huge thank you to everyone - family and friends - who generously donated to my Walk 30 Miles challenge in September for Cancer Research UK. I raised a total of £1,675 including gift aid with an overall total of everyone that took part in the walk challenge across the UK of £1,072,029.46 including Gift Aid.



#### **Cancer Research UK**

HOW your SUPPORT can make A DIFFERENCE, every pound raised is helping make a difference to the lives of those affected by cancer.

£10 can fund our Cancer Chat forum for 30 minutes, where 40,000 members of the chat can freely talk about the disease.

£20 can buy a digital PCR assay, which scans a piece of genetic material to find cancer -causing mutations.

£50 can fund one of our cancer information nurses for two hours, offering confidential support to people affected by cancer.

£100 can pay for a patient's cancer biopsy, where a tiny amount of tumour is removed with a needle to be studied in the lab.

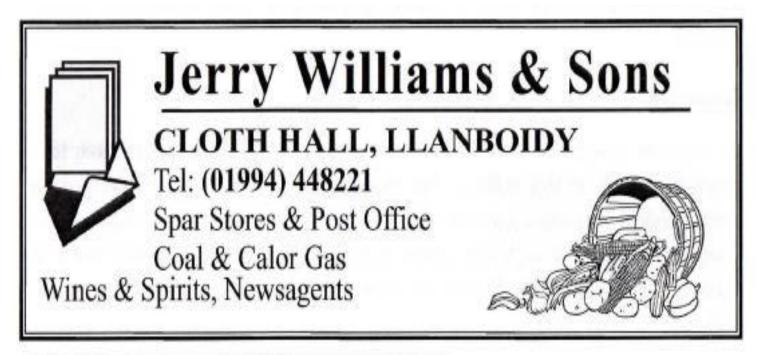
#### We can beat this together!

Jane Legg

#### Clydau



We heard the announcement of Carmarthenshire's Archdeacon Dorrien Davies having been elected Bishop of St Davids on the 17th of October at our Harvest Festival service, the announcement having been made by Archbishop Andrew John earlier that day. Dorrien is one of those senior churchmen who is always there. A quick flick back through my photographs found him at Shirley's licensing and Sharon's ordination but I remember him in particular for hosting Mr. and Mrs Ghallia's visit.





Mr. Ghallia was a minister in the Ugandan Church, known to us through the Revd. Howells who studied with Katwesigye when George training for the priesthood. Ann led a mission to Uganda in 2006 (by which time George Bishop) which, among was attended others, was by

Clydai's Elizabeth Law and Llanfyrnach's Hazel Jones. The group raised money for the church in Uganda and the mission was to deliver it, to worship and to party with them.

Mr. and Mrs. Ghallia visited the UK in 2014 and we took them to visit St Davids Cathedral – and to see the Irish Sea, which is what passes for being an ocean locally. Uganda is land-locked, so the sea is a novelty. Dorrien was our guide. The visit started with a good lunch followed by a guided tour of the cathedral – during which I got the picture of the carving on the underside of the Clydai Canon's seat for Clydai's Church History.

Dorrien showed Mrs Ghallia to a seat, before telling her that she was sitting on Queen Elizabeth's throne; the one she occupied when she attended services in the cathedral. Mrs Ghallia will remember that forever! What I remember from that visit was just how much time Dorrien had for our Ugandan visitors. Unhurried, taking his time to show them everything. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for them and if Dorrien had given that tour hundreds of times, he did not give that away.

## Weatherman Walking, Derek Brockway, opens the Crymych Arms as a community pub/hub on the 29th of September











He reminded me of the Revd. Canon Kenneth Druitt — who baptised me and married Elizabeth and I. He read the wedding service from the book, delivering it as though for the first time — which it was for us. I know he had done it before, having sung at over a thousand weddings he officiated at, but those couples each got his undivided attention and the time for the words of the service to sink in. Even on the day when we did seventeen weddings ...

Like the late Canon Druitt, Dorrien has the same unhurried and duly diligent presentation – and presence. We look forward to his enthronement.

The harvest service seemed a muted affair; we had opted for cash donations rather than food gifts and it wasn't the same as lugging a bag of carrots or tinned goods up to the altar rail. We raised over £100 via the collection which will be forwarded to the Patch charity.

Tradition at Clydai is to have a guest speaker and this year we were delighted to invite Revd. Beth Davies (Llanon) who played a word game from the pulpit. How many words can you make out of HARVEST? Relevant words, such as feast and earth; or thrave – two dozen sheafs of corn. The internet anagram service offers fifty words

using the letters of HARVEST, but no cheating and don't use irrelevant words like rave.

We had the traditional bun fight afterwards at which Tom reminded me about which side he's on in the eating (or not) in church debate until that conversation was overtaken



by the need to discuss a harvest supper.

Another traditional way of us getting together socially as a community, and since we have two community halls in the parish we planned on booking the one with a well-structured kitchen. The thinking was (obviously) book the hall first; the next question was when for – do we go for an evening and see who will turn out in the dark, or a lunchtime bash?

Our barbecues were well attended despite the indifferent weather over the summer. We can be more certain of the weather in November so the other question is how to gauge who will come? We don't want to sell tickets; the voluntary donations at the

# Ungoed-Thomas & Solicitors · Cyfreithw

## Understanding trust Knowledge

Ungoed-Thomas & King is a long established, trusted, West Wales practice.

We are committed to providing the highest standards of quality care through expert knowledge, advice and legal services.

Please contact us at:

Ungoed-Thomas & King Limited, The Quay,

Carmarthen,

Carmarthenshire SA31 3LN.

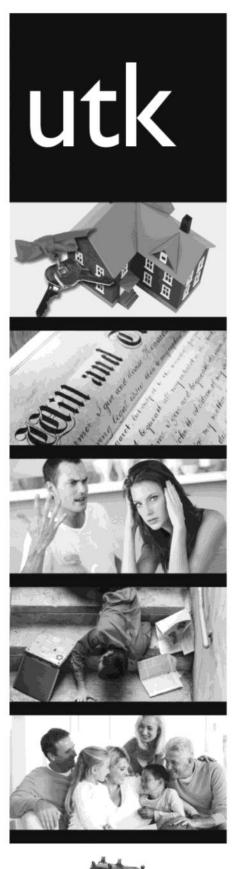
Telephone: 01267 237441 Facsimile: 01267 238317

e-mail: mail@utk.co.uk

www.utk.co.uk

Authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority no.: 471940 Ungoed-Thomas & King Limited. Company registered in Wales no.: 2755783.







barbecues covered the costs, so harvest supper will probably be a phone-in-a-booking deal and by the time you read this the grown-ups will have sorted it out and it will feature elsewhere in this issue.

**STOP PRESS**: 19th November, 12.30 for 1.00 pm at Bwlchygroes Community Hall – everyone welcome and if you're coming straight from services at Llanwinio or Mynachlogddu, you can get into the hall early as the catering crew (Elizabeth & Gaynor) will be in there watching the meat cook and having elevenses. Suggested donation of £5 each – we're not selling tickets but do need to know who is coming for how many potatoes to tell the machine to peel and we can nod to our distant relatives in the USA as their 'harvest supper' is Thanksgiving on the 23rd of November.

**Richard Law** 

#### Crymych



Our very own Welsh Weatherman, Derek Brockway, paid a visit to Crymych on Friday the 29th of October. He had been walking through the Preselis as part of the Weatherman Walking series on the BBC. He chose exactly the right time to visit as he arrived just in time to pull the first pint and re-open the Crymych Arms as a Community pub/hub. As you can see from the pictures on page 12, several other famous people were there too!!

# G. Williams Monumental Masons

Established 1875

- \* Over 60 Memorials on display
- \* All types of monumental work undertaken
  - \* Renovations and re-gilding
  - \* Sawing service available
  - \* House name plates supplied

ST. CLEARS - Tel: 01994 231390

Fax: 01994 231297

Pentre Road, St. Clears, Carmarthenshire



## 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 November**

Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 22		
10.30 am	Holy Communion	St Tysilio	SE
11.00 am	Matins	St David	NJ
11.00 am	Holy Communion	St Mary	KT
11.00 am	Holy Communion	St Brynach	JP/SM
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 23		
8.00 am	Holy Communion	St Mary	SM
10.00 am	Remembrance	Memorial Hall	KT
10.55 am	Remembrance	St Mary	KT
11.00 am	Holy Communion	St David	SE
2.30 pm	Holy Communion	Cyffig	KT
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 24		
9.00 am	Holy Communion	St Tysilio	KT
11.00 am	Matins	St Mary	KT
11.00 am	Morning Prayer	St David	NJ
11.00 am	Holy Communion	St Brynach	SM
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday before Advent		
8.00 am	Holy Communion	ST Mary	SM
11.00 am	Holy Communion	St Mary	KT
11.00 am	Holy Communion	St David	SE
2.30 pm	Evensong	Cyffig	KT

#### **Interesting times**

Recently Joanne and I were invited to a Requiem Mass at Holy Cross Abbey, although we were unable to have communion I felt privileged to be there. It was a very dignified and moving service, much of the chanting was in Latin. The burial took place in a small plot behind the Abbey where all the sisters who have died are buried, a nice secluded little glade.

The other service of note was the Pet Service. 7 Dogs attended and they were so well behaved (better than some humans!), and what I found particularly touching, when putting my hand on their heads to bless them, which can be a bit risky with dogs, they all licked my wrist.

#### In Memoriam

Our sympathy to the family and friends of Sister Stephanie Eileen Mary Roberts OCSO who passed away on 6<sup>th</sup> September and whose Requiem Mass took place at Holy Cross Abbey on 21<sup>st</sup> September.

Also to the family and friends of Madeline Edna Phillips who passed away on 10<sup>th</sup> September, the funeral took place at St Mary's and Parc Gwyn on 4<sup>th</sup> October.

And to the family and friends of Olive Ann Davies who passed away on 24<sup>th</sup> September, her funeral took place at Parc Gwyn on 6<sup>th</sup> October.

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

Another busy month for the village which has been fun for us.....



Llanboidy WI went on a trip to the National Botanic garden of Wales - which is set in the beautiful 18c parkland of the former Middleton Hall.

We enjoyed time exploring the Great Glasshouse which is the world's largest single span glasshouse with plant

species from Mediterranean areas around the world set around rock faces, ravines, streams and waterfalls.

We also enjoyed a guided tour and historical details of the remains of the old Middleton Hall, stables and 19c double walled garden – plus



interesting background into William Paxton and his vast profits acquired from the East India Company which enabled him to develop the estate and its superb Regency period landscapes with its amazing lakes and water features.

The WI meet in Llanboidy Market Hall on the 2nd Thursday of the month — winter time is 2.30 pm — next meeting is on 9th November - pop along and see what they have planned and enjoy a cuppa and a chat .



Ysgol Bro Brynach hosted a very successful coffee morning recently - we were greeted at the door by a friendly and confident group of pupils. We then enjoyed coffee and cakes, which were kindly provided and served by some of the Staff, in the Hall in the old part of the School.

It was so lovely to sit and chat with friends and villagers and to be able to purchase beautiful lavender bags kindly made and donated by Merle – there was also a raffle and, everything included, a total of £40.00

raised for MacMillan Cancer support.

#### Da iawn Plant Ysgol Bro Brynach ar Staff Athrawon!

Harvest Thanksgiving at St Brynach's Church was on the 8th October taking the form of Evensong with Dr Canon Jeni Parsons officiating in her lively way, and Reverend Kingsley Taylor giving an interesting and thought provoking sermon.

The Church looked warm and welcoming after lots of hard work by the ladies of the Church and beautiful autumnal floral decorations by Kathie Lee .

It was also very pleasing to be greeted by the rich sounds of our organ being played by Idwal Jones, from Llanddewi Velfrey, who had kindly agreed to play for us.

There was a laden table of tins, jars, packets of foods, toiletries etc, all given generously by our parishioners plus, the evening collection for the Church, which was all to be taken to our local food bank.

Whitland and District Male Voice Choir went away to Cheltenham for their annual weekend away, which was the 1st for 4 years because of Covid.

The highlight of which was singing in St Philips and St James Church on the 30th September along with soloist Chloe Underwood (who has family connections with Whitland and is presently studying at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama). They were ably conducted by Mrs Hefina Jones and accompanied on piano and organ by the very talented Owain Lewis.



They performed to a packed Church who were very appreciative of the quality of the singing and discipline of the choir - proceeds were in aid of the Church and the Martin Schellenberg Music Trust.

They also spent a day in Cheltenham and time at Bristol Docks exploring the history, and some choristers visited the steamship SS Great Britain.

Background notes on Whitland and District Male Voice Choir:

The Choir began in 1895 in Tabernacle Chapel, Whitland.

Known generally as the Whitland and District Male Choir its members are drawn not only from Whitland, but also surrounding areas.

At a time when choral singing is said to be in decline, the Choir is proud that its membership remains above 50.

Successfully competing over the years in many competitions, including the National Eisteddfod of Wales, and Cardigan Festival Eisteddfod, the Choir has sung in Eire, Northern Ireland, France, Holland and Austria, and in venues such as The Royal Albert Hall, London, St David's Hall, Cardiff and the M.E.N. Arena in Manchester.

In the past 6 years the Choir has raised over £38,000 for Charity including almost £19,000 for Breast Care Wales.

Llanboidy Market Hall is holding drop-in sessions each Tuesday from 10.30 am to 3.00 pm and children's activities, games and crafts from 3.15 pm to 5.00 pm - these will run weekly from 10th October to 28th November.

During the day there are taster sessions as detailed below and a chance to socialise and play games such as dominos, cards, board games etc., plus time to chat and

relax or use the wifi - refreshments and lunch are all free.

Or, if you are just intrigued ,come along and find out !!

Children need to be accompanied by a responsible adult please

Below are some of the November activities planned - but please also look out for extra activities not yet allocated a date, such as Teresa's Arts & Crafts, Alan's Computers, Helen & Peter 'Age Aware', and the Elderleys Group - also any changes will be on facebook Llanboidy Group and Llanboidy Sell and Swap — also village notice boards and Spar Shop .

7th November – Dea Neile Hopton – willow work – 11.00 am to 1.00 pm

14th November – Kate Richards – pilates – 11.00 am to 12 noon

Jan Halle – beginners Welsh – 12 noon to 1.00 pm

21st November – Deepika Sally Saina – Yoga- 11.00 to 12 noon

28th November – Teeena Gould – Tai Chai – 11.00 to 12 noon

Clara Markwick – Christmas hand chimes – 12 noon to 1.00 pm

**DATE FOR YOUR DIARY** – Carmarthen Ukeleles are playing in Llanboidy Market Hall - Saturday November 18th – this is a fundraiser for the Hall and promises to be a great evening of fun and laughter – singalong or dance to all our favourite oldies,

More details and tickets from Hall committee or Rodney's Spa Shop

All for now - keep healthy and happy!

Sue Jones

#### Ciffig

What is happening to the world?

Not only are there natural disasters to cope with, from wild fires and floods to earthquakes, but we have bitter conflict in Ukraine and now Israel and Gaza.

Life isn't plain sailing any more. Can it all be blamed on climate change?

Meanwhile, we are very glad that Mrs Muriel Beynon is making steady (if slow) progress from a broken ankle. Also Mrs Mary Richards is recovering from her mishap in the Churchyard. Thanks to Delyth for her timely intervention.

We are all sad to hear that Mrs Evelyn Cole from Marros has died.

Mrs Cole was a stalwart of St Lawrence's Church until its closure, when several small items were donated to Cyffig. We send our sympathy to her family.

20

To any members or friends of Cyffig who are not feeling so well as they'd like, we send our best wishes.

Lynn Werett

Here's a poem by William Henry Davies (1871-1940) It's a repeat!

#### Leisure

What is this life if, full of care,
we have no time to stand and stare?
no time to stand beneath the boughs,
and stare as long as sheep and cows:
no time to see in woods we pass,
where squirrels hide their nuts in grass:
no time to see, in broad daylight,
streams full of stars, like skies at night:
no time to turn at Beauty's glance,
and watch her feet, how they can dance:
no time to wait till her mouth can
enrich that smile her eyes began?
A poor life this if, full of care,
we have no time to stand and stare.

A Thought. A quotation from Pascal in a past Grapevine.

Men never do evil so completely and cheerfully as when they do it from Religious Conviction."

#### **REMEMBERING**

With Remembrance Sunday bearing down upon us and the centenaries of the Great War – start to finish – behind us, remembering the dead whom none of us knew in the first place is, if anything, more important than ever.

I did wonder, back in 2014, whether the centenary's passing would somehow draw a line under it all, but it didn't: it refreshed the whole thing and the signs are all about us of the impact the Great War had and the long shadows it cast. I first noticed those shadows as a church choirboy in London in the early 1960s. As we took our places in the chancel, the congregation faced us and it was noticeable how many older single women there were: some two dozen Great War 'widows', then in their sixties and seventies, came to church every week. I only remember one by name: Miss Davies was my second year-in-the-infant's teacher; one of only two Daily Telegraph readers

on my newspaper round and one of only two subscribers to the Church Times to patronise the newsagent I delivered papers for.

That was more than forty years after the great war ended and more than sixty years ago now. Now we no longer have the people who remember – almost. My mum's big brother followed their Dad into the army and is buried at Hermanville-Sur-Mere, not far from Sword Beach where he landed on D Day and in that casualty clearing station cemetery, he is the sole representative of the Royal Norfolk Regiment to have died on the 8th of June.

My brother took our Mum to see the grave in the 1990s and said that there were fresh flowers on it when he visited, but no clue on the floral tribute, nor in the cemetery visitors' book, as to who had visited him.

I visited his grave a decade or so later and had the same experience: fresh cut flowers on the grave and no clue as to who remembered him alone among the thousand or so graves in that cemetery. We assume he became special to someone local in the two days he was there. Perhaps that person was with him when he died.

The impact of British armed forces losses in the wars vary place to place. We visited Jonathan Copus in his 'Bates Motel' in Llandrindod Wells for a guided tour of the sites, which included the church opposite his new home. That church is stiff with remembrance; stained glass windows — the big west end one commemorating colonial troops and a small Second World War one, a side chapel and a memorial to parishioners lost in conflicts. The town's war memorial is nearby and has a lot more names on it.





In 1914, Lord Kitchener fronted the campaign to raise a citizen army to fight

the war the government had gotten Britain into. The volunteers became Pals' Battalions – the promise being 'join together, serve together' and for many that turned into 'die together' due to the way in which the war was fought. That left some communities with a lot of names to put on memorials, while others were left untouched.

Every Great War Memorial in towns, villages and places of work was funded by local donations, largely from the families who put the names forwards. The government's money went on memorials on the battlefields, the war graves cemeteries and a bronze death plaque for the next of kin of every serviceman killed. Crymych's modest memorial on the village hall reflects how the two World Wars affected our

community. Fifty men are named for the Great War and seventeen for WW2. The fifty were all either regulars before the war started or volunteers responding to Kitchener's call. Only two signed up locally and they were both Irishmen who had come into Pembrokeshire for work. Everyone else signed up where they were, reflecting that natural diaspora from this area — so many people leave to pursue careers elsewhere. The names were probably put forwards by their parents.

The same was the case in WW2; of the seventeen, Eiler Rees was the only one to have signed up locally and of the sixty-seven names, he was the only conscript. Son of the headmaster of Ysgol Bwlchygroes, he served in the Royal Navy and was lost in the Battle of the Atlantic. He is also commemorated on a plaque in the school, as is Benjamin Nicholas, who is remembered at his Alma Mata — Ysgol Tegryn. Most casualties feature on more than one memorial. Major Colby is on at least two locally — Crymych and Newcastle Emlyn — and perhaps further afield as he was heir to the Ffynone estate with property through Wales and Ireland. He is also on his regiment's official memorial and the one at his school.

The 20th Century wars impacted on everyone one way or another and in remembering the dead we seem to have lost sight of the living. 95% of those who fought under British colours in those wars survived, living out their lives with the scars, physical and mental, of that experience before answering the call of that last trumpet.

**Richard Law** 

#### **TOP: DRIVE SIDEWAYS**

o reads a diversion sign in Japan, the sort of 'you-know-what-they-mean-BUT' translation into English which led us in the last issue to look at the hidden intricacies involved in translating the Bible. We touched on the languages involved: Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek, Latin and English. We didn't mention the other, less well-known versions which are sometimes just as important to scholars: most notably Syriac, a form of Aramaic, which is itself a dialect of Hebrew; and Coptic, a family of Egyptian languages into which both Testaments were translated at varying times.

I promised you that I would go on to give you two really important questions of translation, which will either switch a light on in your head or make you tear up Grapevine in disgust. But before that, something a bit less contentious.

In Psalm 42 the Book of Common Prayer always used to baffle me as a young curate with its assertion: One deep calleth another: because of the noise of the water-pipes. So I was relieved to read the more modern and much more poetic translation: 'Deep





calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls.'

That's largely because the old version reminded me irresistibly of the rich merchant banker who was kept awake all Friday night/Saturday morning by continuous water-hammer. So he called a

plumber over the weekend. The plumber fixed the problem in 15 minutes and charged £250.

'£250?' exploded the merchant banker. 'That's £1,000 an hour! Even I couldn't make £1,000 an hour!'

**Jonathan Copus** 

#### **Christ's Work of peace**

e are living in a world that is in serious trouble. Terrible wars are taking place before our eyes we see man's inhumanity to man. Its brutal atrocities are without mercy. The only mercy you will find in this world is from God but people point the finger at Him saying, "Where is God in all this?" "If there is a God why does He not do something?" "How can you say there is a God who is sovereign and in control of this world? Why doesn't He do something?" It may challenge your faith but stop before you blame God. God has done something. He has acted in the most powerful and amazing and loving way. He sent His only begotten Son Jesus Christ into this world and through His blood on the cross, He made peace for us with God.

Through Jesus Christ, God provided the solution. With His own blood, He has made peace and has given us the answer to our great need. It is not God's fault that human beings have rejected the peace which He has provided through His blood. The Bible does not tell us what Jesus came into the world to try and do but what He actually achieved. His death was not a mistake. It was not a failure. It was one that established peace. This is what people really need to know. People need peace but they need to know that no one can achieve it by their own efforts. There is no peace in people's hearts or homes or communities or in this world. We all need to know what Jesus Christ has done.

When you become a Christian you begin to realise that Jesus Christ is very special. He was not just a good man or a great man or the most God conscious man or teacher or miracle worker or prophet. He was more. He was not only sinless but He had all the attributes that God possesses because He is God. Jesus did not just point the way to God and talk about God but He Himself is God, Jesus was God manifest in the flesh.

#### Llanboidy WI out and about at the Botanic Gardens





Jesus was full of the Father's love and joy and peace. God was pleased with Him. "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." God was not disappointed with Him in any way. When things go wrong in our lives we tend to think that God is not pleased with us. When we look at the life of Jesus and His death, it is hard for us to understand that it pleased God that He should die on the cross. It pleased the Father because it is through Christ's death on the cross that we can have peace with God. Jesus was fully God and fully man, and in Jesus Christ God and man were united.

Although God was pleased to come as a man and live amongst us, Jesus our Immanuel, you need to know what He came to do and what God was doing through Him. Jesus did not come to make God loving. He came because God was loving and loved this world and wanted to reconcile all things to Himself. There was only one way this could be done, through the blood of Jesus Christ on the cross.

Sadly, however, when Jesus came into this world His own did not receive Him. They rejected Him. He came stretching out His arms to people but mankind took those hands and nailed them to the cross. They took those feet that walked towards them and nailed them to the tree. Mankind is not friends with Him but is against Him. When Jesus did this great work stretching out His hands, He was joining heaven and earth together. Yet these is lack of peace in this world. There is no peace in ourselves but in Jesus Christ, God has come with the answer. People think that if they say sorry to God then everything will be alright because God is a God who forgives. However, for us to know peace with God, Christ's blood had to be shed.

Jesus came to make peace and to reconcile all things to God. Even while we were still enemies of God, we were reconciled through His death. The big problem that we have is that the world is not at peace with Him. The world tries to ignore Him, unaware of their sin, people are constantly breaking His laws. The real reason why there is no peace in people's lives is because they are not at peace with God. However, this is what Jesus Christ came to do. Peace negotiations between nations to resolve disputes are notoriously difficult to achieve. How much more difficult is it to make peace with God? God did not send His Son into the world because we are at peace with Him or thinking that we would welcome Him. No. God sent His Son to pay the punishment for our sins, so that by believing in Him, we might be forgiven and have peace with God.

In spite of all the rejection that Jesus faced, God did something amazing. Through Christ's suffering and death, He made peace with God. He provided forgiveness of sins. The penalty was paid and He fulfilled all the requirements. Now, through the blood of Jesus Christ, there is peace with God today. Jesus came to reconcile all things and He has the solution.

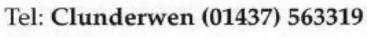
There is a reconciliation for all and a peace that He achieved on the cross, even for the mess that we see today in Gaza. Throughout the world there is conflict between Jew and Gentile. There is terrible hostility. Mankind has no answer but Jesus does. (Eph 2:13-16) Did you know that there are Christians in Gaza? There are three groups of people there, Jews, Muslims and Christians. They are real born again and blood washed Christians from Jewish and Arab backgrounds who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. They have been brought together. They love each other and worship God together. How can that be? It is a miracle. It is by Christ's blood. They come together in Christ Jesus. He is the answer and the solution. God is a God of peace and what He has done for others, He can do for you, not only regarding your relationship with God but also with others who you have fallen out with. Do not think that the problem is out there in the Middle East. It is here, in our homes and communities and you have no answer. Jesus Christ is the only One who has the answer and can bring everyone together.

The truth is that we are not at peace with ourselves. We carry burdens of anxiety, bitterness, guilt, fears and hatred. Jesus spoke to His disciples about these things and forthcoming wars and uncertainties but He reminded them, "I am with you always. I will never leave you or forsake you." When you come to Jesus Christ His blood brings us peace. It is peace with God and also the peace of God which passes

## W. J. Kenneth Davies & Sons

#### FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Private Chapel of Rest, Capel Gorffwys Preifat, Blaenwern, Clynderwen









all understanding. Christ's blood takes away our sin and gives us a peaceful conscience. Our sins deserved the penalty of death but that has been dealt with. For those who believe in Him, there is life and the Holy Spirit comes into our hearts. In town I met a stressed and anxious young woman. She was experiencing many pressures and difficulties. I told her what she needed was something from outside to come inside her to strengthen her. The answer for peace is not from within us. It will not come from some mind set or way of living.

You need Jesus to come to you. He can give you peace. You need Him to come into your life. You may not fully realise who He is but you need Him. Open your heart to Him. What you need is His blood. We have a message the world is crying out for. It is the answer to the great need in our hearts, our homes and in this world. This needs to be proclaimed throughout the world.

Chris Rees, Minister, Bethesda Baptist Church, Narberth

#### **Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi (Prayer for Peace)**

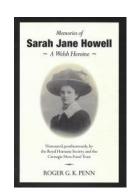
Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.
O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life

#### Ken Davies A'i Fab

#### **Family Butchers**

High Quality Catering Butchers London House, Crymych, SA41 3QE 01239 831978

Quality Retail and Catering Family Butchers selling high quality locally sourced meat and meat products



# Memories of Sarah Jane Howell a Welsh Heroine Chapter 8



#### A A Fashionable Young Lady

Poor Uncle Jenkin had become out-numbered at Abergarw farm by a growing army of young ladies. This was all totally agreeable but these girls were a lively bunch, and one or two of them were dare-devils, too. Beatrice led the way, fearless throughout life, while Mattie, by now a seven year old, was not far behind. They were the type to jump onto a stray pony, riding it bare-back, and without falling-off. Meanwhile, Katie, closer to Sarah Jane in mild manners, temperament and age, was becoming an accomplished musician. Pianoforte lessons up the road at Bryncethin Fawr farm were shaping her for a new career, as members of Betharan recognised that in Katie they had found a long-term organist for the chapel.

During school holidays, Katie liked to spend time staying with her grandmother's family at Cefn Cribwr, a village only a few miles to the south-west of Brynmenyn. This set the precedent for Margot who was by far the quietest of the girls so far, despite Marjorie, still only four, capable of changing this. Margot looked forward to her own summer vacation, when she disappeared for spells to Bettws, the next village, where her hostess, Jennet's sister, Catherine, had been renamed *Aunty Bettws* by the girls. It is there on the higher ground, between the Llynfi and Garw rivers, that Margot explored a different stretch of wildlife, taking note of all she found for her own teaching career in later life.

Jennet and George were amused to see the girls dividing themselves into three separate pairings according to their ages and, with there being no shortage of hot tempers amongst them, Sarah Jane was respected for her lady-like qualities. But this did not stop her leading the way when there was farm work to be done, hair tied-back, standing tall, ready to make her presence felt. Of course, farmers' daughters are not usually shy of work and this was true of Jennet's girls who, during the hot summer months, spread themselves around the fields turning the hay with wooden rakes so that it dried in the overhead sun. And, when it was time to carry the crop away, they would be alongside Uncle Jenkin as the gambo wobbled back down the hill.

To the world, Sarah Jane looked a typical member of the later Woman's Land Army, all kitted out in dungarees; yet, whenever she changed into her costumes, she was

every inch a fashionable young lady. Of course, she knew that ladies were under the spotlight now, for the women's suffragette movement had arrived and was strong, driven by leading members who were fighting for voting rights. But, faced with cabinet ministers who neither listened nor budged, frustrations mounted; and this was to lead to riots and arrests and acts of public disorder.

But as for the girls of Abergarw farm, they preferred to do what women love most, delighting themselves with all that adorned the fashionable shop windows. During school holidays, Sarah Jane wasted no time in jumping aboard one of the Bridgend-bound railway carriages, where *London House* offered a full range of clothes and accessories and was, according to *The Glamorgan Gazette*, 'replete with the latest novelties' and exactly 'what the well-dressed Edwardian lady was wearing in 1907.' No doubt they also supplied a selection of flannelettes, fibres, cashmeres and merino dresses which were all well-advertised, and silk umbrellas as sold up the road by *Cockbill's* for a few shillings or more.

Cowbridge offered another shopping outlet despite there being no easy rail route from Bridgend. As a medieval town of charm, its South Gate known as Porth Y Felin dates back hundreds of years and occupies a quiet corner alongside the former





#### Remembrance images from Holy Trinity Church, Llandrindod Wells, where Jonathan Copus now resides









Cowbridge Grammar School for Boys. This school had, since 1608, been a forerunner of education in Wales, and today's bell tower and umpteen chimney-stacks share a secret from those earlier times. As for Sarah Jane, the building was synonymous with learning, and its peaceful setting in this quiet corner of Cowbridge was a source of inspiration for anyone making progress in the teaching world.

Sarah Jane wasted little time in becoming established at her new school in Llangeinor, after reporting for duty on Monday, August 27<sup>th</sup> 1906. The seven minute journey on the old steam train that puffed and panted its way up the steep gradient could not have been more convenient for her, joining the mining workmen heading up the valley. Indeed, by the time she had settled in her seat, she would see Tynyrheol School getting closer, situated on a flood-free shelf that backed onto Llangeinor Mountain. This was serious equestrian territory, where huntsmen rode in black hats, smart jackets and jodhpurs, beating the bounds followed by packs of excitable hounds. Well known to Richard Price of Tynton, preacher and philosopher, this was also Grandfather Evan's, home ground where he ventured to the two famous landmarks near the top. Occasionally, it was to attend weddings and funerals at St Cein's Church, a place of worship with the feel of 'an old rugged cross on a hill far away' — although its next-door neighbour held greater appeal, beyond the cemetery wall.

This was the Llangeinor Arms: then a typical farmer's inn, where it is said that country folk steered their horse and carts many miles to enjoy its mix of fresh air and fine ale. Evan had sat in front of the big open fire on many a winter's night, whilst the timbers spat noisily, filling the hearth with a roaring glow. Playing two-a-side 'tip-it' or table quoits or discussing the efficiency of thrashing machines, steam engines and Henry Bamford's latest mowers – they all shared the undeniable sense of conquering the world, having reached this distant halt by overcoming one of its steep and winding lanes. Many great stories have been shared about this location, where on a fine day the view stretches to the open sea. The following words from *The Glamorgan Gazette* of January 29<sup>th</sup> 1897 say so much about the great mystique of this elevated landscape:

It is Prince of the Hills of Glamorgan, and once you get to his breezy crest, all is well with you.

It took Sarah Jane no more than a few minutes to walk to the red brick school where large windows still brighten the classroom mood during dark days and where teachers and pupils glance from the front playground onto a rich green valley towards Bettws across the hills. This strong Welsh speaking establishment, that was not spared scarlet fever soon after she arrived, was geared to a varied time-table that included weaving and clay-modelling. According to the Log Book, the children

## CRYMYCH'S FAMOUS FISH AND CHIP SHOP Y BADELL FFRIO

Open Tuesday to Saturday for take-aways only, 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm Special dish every Wednesday!

Telephone orders welcome 01239 831755

Cash and cards welcome



enjoyed pageants and singing the anthems and folk songs, whilst St David's day was celebrated with leeks, if not daffodils also. The children were conscientious in work and play, although lessons came to an abrupt end when the local ploughing match took place or when Pontycymmer carnival was held on a hot summer's day.

Sarah Jane arrived at Llangeinor before the onset of autumn, which was a season well-known to her after studying why trees shut down for the winter months. In an extract from another of her written exercises, she explains that by the end of summer, a tree's main function in preparing its seed had been completed, a period when 'fruiting time is over.' Generally, this stage heralds a period of rest throughout the winter when trees effectively enter a sleeping stage. By now, fruits have been dispersed: eaten by birds, gathered-in by people, or blown away by the wind. As the days shorten and darkness spreads, the wind and rain cause leaves to fall, birds to fly away, insects to go in search of warmth and squirrels to make their nests. All of this is covered in her words, and here is a brief extract::

#### **Tree Life in Autumn**

A tree is fed with sap from the roots. After working during the summer, the roots want rest. Their work for the tree is done.

#### Why Leaves Fall:

They would hinder the tree – snow storms would increase weight and the branches would break.

#### How they Fall:

Attached to [a] branch by [a] small stalk – [with the] flutter of wind, they are gone. When leaves are on the ground, they act as a quilt for seeds and small plants, e.g. violet and dandelion.

Sarah Jane's notes again indicate understanding and knowledge. In truth, at Tynyrheol School she was lengthening her stride, reaching forward to fulfil her potential, whilst keeping an eye on the next round of written tests during the busy Christmas term:

#### December 16<sup>th</sup> 1908

## Miss S.J. Howell is away today at Tondu Centre, preparing for her examination in the next two days.

For the Howell family there was something mildly uplifting about Sarah Jane's placement at Llangeinor. It was as if she was extending Abergarw's boundaries just a little further beyond the top fields – surely Jenkin's dream – and it was not difficult for her father, George, accompanied by Margot and Mattie to meet her from the train. George, often seen around the village on his bicycle – trousers clipped tightly, and short white hair ruffled in the breeze – was now part of the management of the Bryncethin brickworks, where the clay pits of the lower land were turned into essential building materials for the community. As a valuable natural resource, each piece of clay was shaped, baked and hardened, before appearing in full glory in the modern red-brick houses of the day.

Just over the hill at Brynmenyn Common, the village had also been enjoying its own brickworks, where the large crushing houses and kilns produced golden coloured specimens of equal status and, so it is said, were as hard as nails. But, having worked for years alongside the local coal mine, there was now speculation about the colliery's closure despite the positive influence of a man named Solomon Andrews. Mr Andrews, who was well respected in the mining industry, was, however, advancing in years and the end of Brynmenyn colliery in 1908 followed his death. This was sad news in the village and resulted in the coal trucks and traction engines grinding to a halt and ending much purposeful activity. During its lifespan, the local miners had conveniently walked to work, but now they were packing up their bags and taking their skills and tools elsewhere.

#### To be continued ...

#### The Principles of the World.

Lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, the pride of life, are all from the world. But they are doomed and all who enjoy them, for they would be miserable without them! For so the world passes away and the lust as well, but he who is faithful to the will of God lives forever!

And as mankind has been bound by the threefold rope around him, put there by the first Adam; so, it is broken when one becomes spiritually united to the last Adam, and from that moment a believer is not of the world, neither of what is in it!

Through Christ, we can overcome the god of this world, and sin. So let us then pray that we may stand complete, in the will of our God. Let everyone that has hope, purify themselves and purge out the old leaven, for when He shall appear we shall be like Him. Amen.

Lyn Bettinson 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023

"What is the magic of an autumn day?
I do not know, I cannot say
But does a woodland set aglow
Not stir the longings of the soul?

What is the magic of a winter now?
I cannot say, I do not know.
But does a landscape dressed in frill
Not speak of something greater still?"



Laura Jaworski



# M&J Plumb

## Mini Tractor with Mini Hedge-cutter and Topper

Ideal for gardens, caravan parks and orchards

# Tree Surgery and Mobile Wood-chipping Service

# Seasoned Logs, Chipped Bark & Wood Chip Sales

Delivered to your door

Contact Mike - 01834 860 538 or 07711 821 663

E-mail: info@plumbwoodchip.co.uk Website: plumbwoodchip.co.uk Blaenffynnonau Farm, Redstone Road, Narberth, SA67 7ES