

**G**rapevine



**w**

**i**

**n**

**w**

**y**

**d**

**d**

**e**

**n**



**2023**

**Rhagfyr**

**December**



# 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](http://www.frennichurches.org.uk)**

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

**Clydau:** Mrs Elizabeth Law 01239 698607 clydaufm@frennichurches.org.uk  
**Llanfyrnach:** Mrs Eunice Batchelor JP 01239 831556 llanfyrnachfm@frennichurches.org.uk  
**Llanwinio:** Philip Higginson 01994 48449 philhigginson5@btinternet.com  
**Llanglydwen:** Mrs Judy Webb 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

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

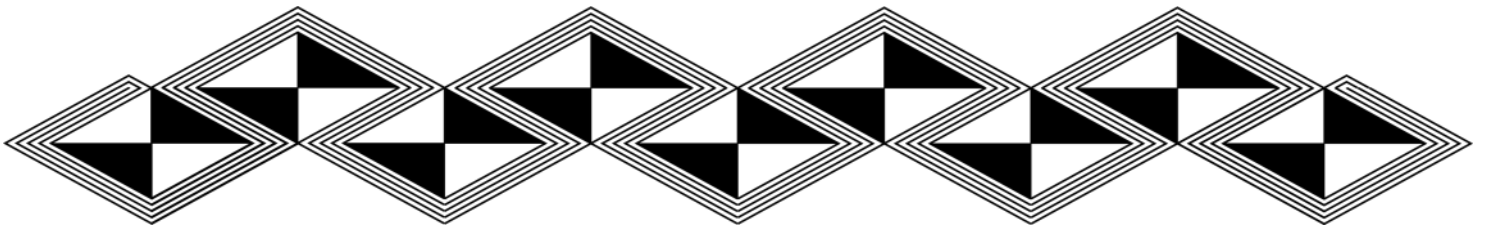
Editor: Ms Kathie Dubben, Myrtle Hill, Gellywen, SA33 6DS 01994 484404 kdubben@hotmail.com

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

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

**Below is a link to our facebook page. Please take a look and 'like' it!**

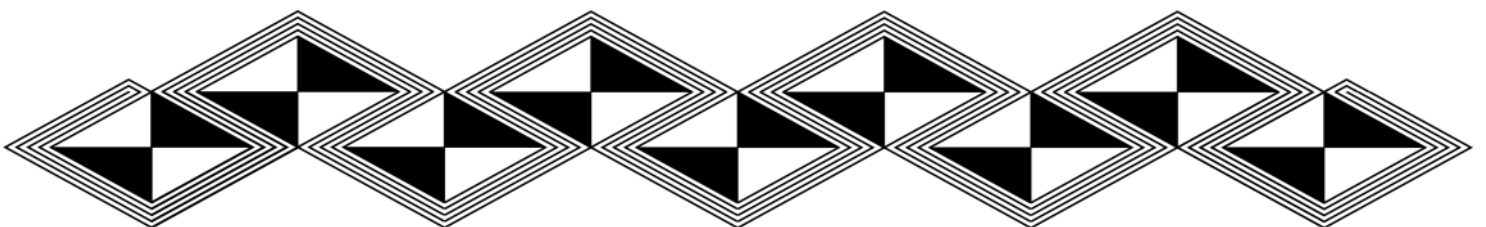
**<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61551092890330>**



**It's that time of year again, folks!! I hope you have enjoyed reading The Grapevine over the past year. It is now time to sign up for 2024, and if one person per church could collect the subscriptions and pass them on to our Treasurer, Richard Law, it would be an enormous help. We are now a very small team! We have also reluctantly decided to put up the price to £1.20 per copy, or £12.00 per annum. Similarly, would Advertisers please pay Richard Law for another year which is £45.00 for a quarter page ad., £75.00 for a half page ad. and £135.00 for a full page ad.**

**Thank you very much for your co-operation.**

**Kathie, Editor**



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

## Services for December 2023

### 3rd December – The First Sunday of Advent (purple)

PLACE	TIME	SERVICE	
Llanglydwen	9.30	Holy Eucharist	CC/JW
Llanwinio	9.30	Boreol Weddi	PH
Llanfyrnach	11.15	Holy Eucharist	CC/EB

**6th December – Holy Eucharist (with Carols) Bro Preseli 10.30**  
**Everyone Welcome (St Nicholas)**

### 10<sup>th</sup> December – The Second Sunday of Advent (purple)

Llanwinio	9.30	Holy Eucharist	CC/PH
Clydau	11.15	Holy Eucharist	CC/EL

**14<sup>th</sup> December St. Clydai Carols at Bwlchgroes Hall 6pm**  
**Everyone welcome refreshments provided**

### 17<sup>th</sup> December – The Third Sunday of Advent (purple)

Llanwinio	9.30	Boreol Weddi	PH
Mynachlogddu	6.00pm	Concert	
Llanwinio	7.00pm	Community Carol Service	

### 24<sup>th</sup> December - The Four Sunday of Advent (purple)

Llanwinio	9.30	Holy Eucharist	CC/PH
Clydau	11.15	Holy Eucharist	CC/EL
Llanglydwen	6.30	Holy Eucharist	CC/JW/ EL

**Christmas Day – 10.00 Llanfyrnach – Holy Eucharist – CC/EB/EL**

**31<sup>st</sup> December – Mynachlogddu – Holy Eucharist 10.30 (JP/JW) (white)**

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

## Services for January 2024

PLACE	TIME	SERVICE	
Llanglydwen	9.30	Holy Eucharist	JP/JW
Llanwinio	9.30	Boreol Weddi	PH
Llanfyrnach	11.15	Holy Eucharist	JP/EB
<b>14<sup>th</sup> January – The Second Sunday of Epiphany (white)</b>			
Llanwinio	9.30	Holy Eucharist	JP/PH
Llanfyrnach	11.15	Holy Eucharist	JP/EL
<b>21<sup>st</sup> January – The Third Sunday of Epiphany (white)</b>			
Llanwinio	9.30	Boreol Weddi	PH
Mynachlogddu	11.15	Holy Eucharist	CC/JW
<b>28<sup>th</sup> January – The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany (white)</b>			
Llanwinio	9.30	Holy Eucharist	CC/PH
Llanfyrnach	11.15	Holy Eucharist	CC/EB
Clydey	11.15	Morning Prayer	EL

**3rd January – Holy Eucharist - Bro Preseli 10.30 am**

**Everyone welcome**

**7<sup>th</sup> January – the first Sunday of Epiphany (white)**



***Above: Celebration of Holy Communion for All Saints Day at Bro Preseli. Remembering especially our own St Cledwyn and St Clydai, 5th century Saints and son and daughter of Brychan Brecheiniog."***



# Editorial

## Decluttering

**T**his morning when I was reading the Bible, this verse stood out for me and this is why I decided I needed to write this post. "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions" (Luke 12:15). I don't think I am someone who buys things just for the heck of it, but still I thought maybe it's time that I look into all the things that I have at home and get rid of stuff that we never use, so that someone else can benefit especially now with all the hike in prices such as gas, electricity and even food and clothing. It was only this week, my husband Julian and I decided we need to do a good clear out of all the stuff we had in our house which we didn't need or never use. We were surprised as we were able to give stuff that we don't use to people who we knew would benefit from it. We even gave a lot of toys that my son had outgrown to a charity that helps families in need. Every time I have got rid of stuff, I have no need for I have felt a relief, but then I have also regretted that I have not listened to my husband who always used to say me to 'do you really need it?' when I was initially buying it. The freedom of getting rid of stuff that I did not require or need or even use made me happy and also realise how much of my life I had to declutter. I found that my life was filled with diary appointments and commitments at work and everywhere else except my house.

## **C J INDUSTRIES**

**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](mailto:sales@cjindustries.co.uk) [www.cjindustries.co.uk](http://www.cjindustries.co.uk)**

---

# **HEDD RHYS**

## **YNNI HEATING LTD**

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

07786 628703

heddhg@hotmail.co.uk

**Cross House, Cwm Bach, Whitland, SA34 0DS**

---



I thought back to all the time during this summer which I have missed with my son and husband only because my diary was cluttered with meetings and appointments. I decided I needed to make a change and really get on with the work-life balance as I felt I was at the moment not doing it. I can say with honesty that I have now made sure my diary is not cluttered and that I do have time to spend with my family.

I once read in a book that, "Clutter is postponed decisions." I think that is so true as we always buy and leave things in cupboards and drawers, and forget about them. Well if we really needed them, we would have been using them instead of stuffing them into a cupboard. Basically, we need to realise the only place that thing belongs to is either the bin or in a charity shop as we have no need whatsoever for it. So, we need to get rid of it.

The art of cluttering is something that we all seem to be good at and easy in doing. I found however decluttering was the most difficult task but learnt that if I put my heart and soul in it, I could be merciless and get rid of a lot of things which were not needed.

I also learnt decluttering was similar to us holding a lot of negativity and negative thoughts and baggage's and carry them in our life. It is easy to get rid of them if we put our ultimate trust in Christ who will guide us and help us and show us the path to true happiness.

Cluttering is almost like a disease, as we need to learn how to let go of it. Decluttering is hard but we need to learn how to do it and get on with it, for the sake of our own happiness and joy.



Ultimately while we are all surrounded with things that make us happy and good, we need to remember that things are just things. The Bible says: “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for ourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:19-21.

*Revd. Shirley Murphy*

---

## **Bwlch y Groes**

On Sunday 19th of November, a Harvest Supper was held at Bwlch y Groes Community Hall where a three course meal, including roast dinner main, was served. Fantastic facilities and beautiful food! Congratulations and thanks to the ladies who prepared and served the wonderful food.





# Ladds

'Modern solutions with Old Fashioned Values'

[www.laddsclynderwen.co.uk](http://www.laddsclynderwen.co.uk)

01437 563217



ALL  
WELCOME  
TO OUR

## COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE

and HIGH-TEA REFRESHMENTS  
THURSDAY 14<sup>th</sup> December

REFRESHMENTS from 5.30 pm

CAROLS from 6.00 pm

And we'll take a break around 6.45pm  
to finish off any remaining cakes

## Clydau

The Crymych Group of Churches met at the market hall in Crymych on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> of November for the annual Remembrance service where passing the hats around raised £189.85 for the Haig Fund.

Our Crymych war memorial lists fifty-one casualties of the Great War. Only two signed up locally. They were both Irishmen who came to Pembrokeshire before the war for work. The others had all left the area pre-war, and were either regulars before the war started or signed up where they were, and only one joined the Welsh Guards – David James, who achieved the rank of Lance Corporal and was awarded the Military Medal. He was one of thirty-three Welsh Guardsmen killed on the 16<sup>th</sup> of September 1916, none of whom has a marked grave. They are all to be found together on the Thiepval Memorial on the Somme.

I was reminded of him when visiting the Welsh Guards museum collection at Park Hall Farm near Oswestry in October.



Not the official Welsh Guards museum - there isn't one - but an excellent collection by two 20<sup>th</sup> century officers of the regiment. The core of the collection is that which the founders accumulated – uniforms and some other memorabilia. The Welsh Guards are the most junior guards' regiment; formed in 1915, a decade and a half after the Irish Guards, who in turn were formed more than three centuries after the rest of the brigade.



***Harvest Supper held at Bwlch y Groes Community Hall on the 19th of November***




Oswestry is the logical home for this collection. The officers who formed the First Battalion in 1915 were Lt. Gen. Sir Francis Lloyd GCMG, KCB, DSO of Aston Hall Oswestry and the regiment's first Colonel was Lord Harlech of Brogyntyn Hall, Oswestry. The Park Hall site was an army camp for the Royal Artillery in both wars and was later used by the Guards Infantry Junior Leaders before becoming the Park Hall Countryside Experience that you must pay to get into, but once in, access to the museum is free. The farm is dedicated to introducing small people



to tame animals and provide lots of fun things to do; adventure playground stuff, interactive exhibits, rides and walk throughs. When we went, the whole thing was geared to Halloween, so we played spot the scarecrows, carved a pumpkin and enjoyed spiced pumpkin soup in the reasonably priced canteen.

And then we sneaked off to check out the museum.

Within months of being formed, the Welsh Guards had taken a turn outside Buckingham Palace (and for some inexplicable reason still have the



# Jerry Williams & Sons

---


## CLOTH HALL, LLANBOIDY

Tel: (01994) 448221

Spar Stores & Post Office

Coal & Calor Gas

Wines & Spirits, Newsagents



Ungoed-Thomas & King Solicitors • Cyfreithwyr

# 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](mailto:mail@utk.co.uk)

**[www.utk.co.uk](http://www.utk.co.uk)**

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

**Lexcel**  
Practice Management Standard  
Law Society Accredited



**WELSH GUARDS**

**RECRUITS**

Are now wanted for the above Regiment.

QUALIFICATIONS.

WELSH parentage on one side at least or domiciled in Wales or Monmouth or men with Welsh surnames. Good Character

Height: 5ft. 7ins. and upwards. Age: 18 to 25 years.

TERMS OF SERVICE: 3 YRS. WITH COLOURS & 9 YRS. IN RESERVE OR FOR THE PERIOD OF THE WAR

Apply to the nearest Recruiting Officer or Barracks, and say you want to join the WELSH GUARDS.

**GOD SAVE THE KING**

**GWYR IEUAINC**

o gymeriad da i wasanaethu yn y Gatrawd uchod.

rhieni Cymraeg gwyr ei cartrefi yn Cymru neu enwau (surnames) Cymraeg

Oedran: 18 i 25 mlynedd, ag uchder 5ft. 7ins. a drossodd

Telerau' gwasanaeth nou'r ymrwymiad yw 3 mlynedd gyda'r fyddin a 9 mlynedd fel Neilduwyr (Reserves).

**GELLIR YMRWYMO HYD DIWEDD Y RHYFEL**

**DUW GADW'R BRENIN.**

GOOD PAY

EXCELLENT TRAINING

GOOD COMBATSHIP

ceremonial handover key in this collection) and won the first battle honour for their flag – at Loos. A recruitment poster invites men over five foot seven with at least one Welsh parent or a permanent address in the Principality and no criminal record to apply.

Only David James did. In the scramble to recruit Kitchener's army, recruiting sergeants in English depots probably didn't think of it and the chances are it was not much publicized outside Wales. And by the time the regiment started making a name for itself in action, so were the rest of the army. The men named on our war memorial were put up by relatives they left behind

here; probably their parents. It seems to always be the case that a lot of people born in this area move away in young adulthood for work while we that are left grow old.

Men signed up where they were. Eight joined the Welsh Regiment, four were South Wales Borderers and two in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. Some outfits

# 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

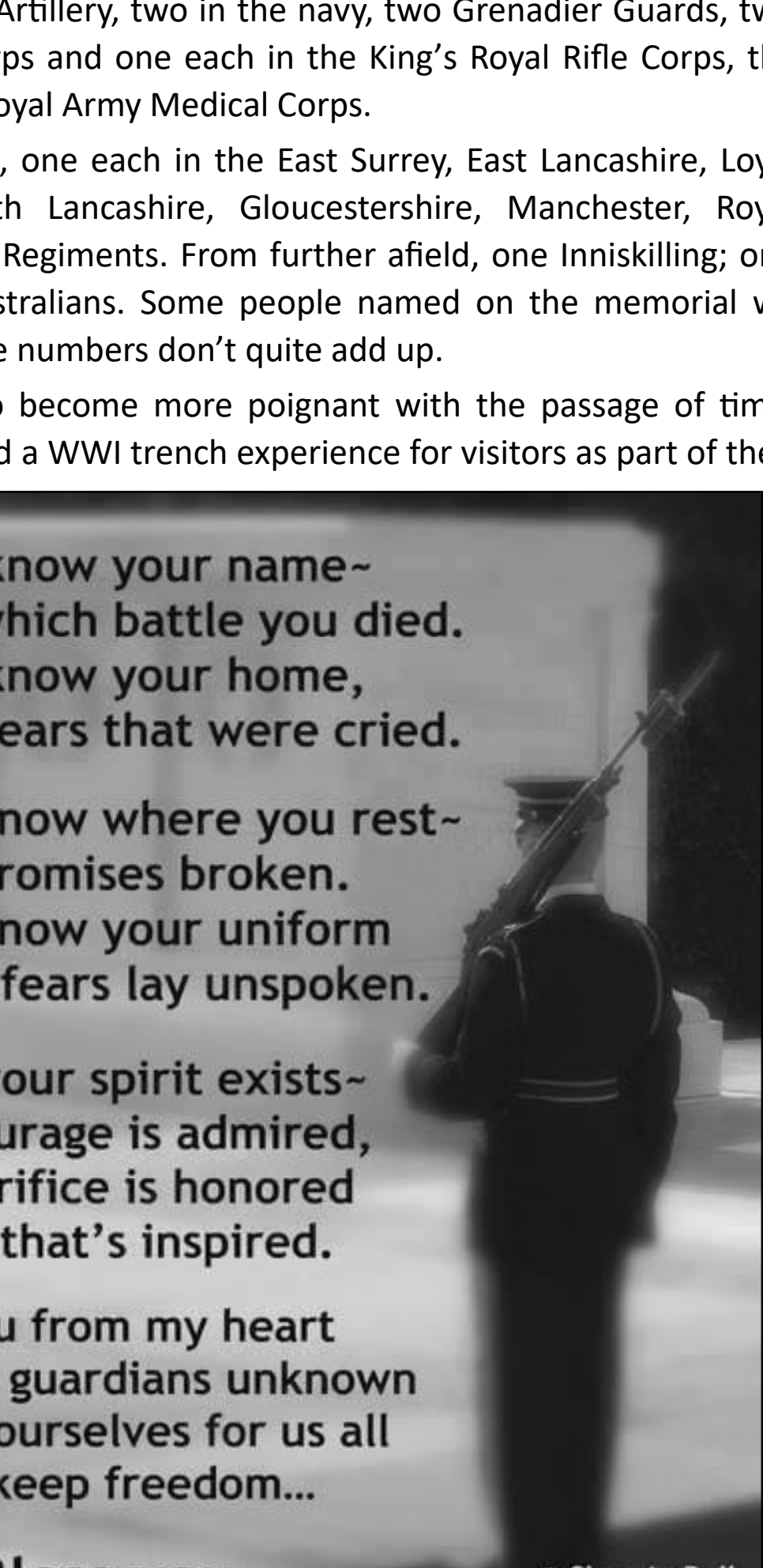
Pentre Road, St. Clears, Carmarthenshire



offer no clue as to where the men came from; we had six Royal Engineers, three in the Royal Field Artillery, two in the navy, two Grenadier Guards, two in the Machine Gun Corps and one each in the King's Royal Rifle Corps, the Royal Fusiliers and the Royal Army Medical Corps.

In the county regiments, one each in the East Surrey, East Lancashire, Loyal North Lancashire, South Lancashire, Gloucestershire, Manchester, Royal Berkshire, and Cheshire Regiments. From further afield, one Inniskilling; one Canadian and three Australians. Some people named on the memorial we can't now identify, so the numbers don't quite add up.

Remembrance seems to become more poignant with the passage of time. Park Hall Farm developed a WWI trench experience for visitors as part of their



I do not know your name~  
Nor for which battle you died.  
I do not know your home,  
Nor the tears that were cried.

I do not know where you rest~  
Nor the promises broken.  
I do not know your uniform  
And your fears lay unspoken.

But, I know your spirit exists~  
That your courage is admired,  
And your sacrifice is honored  
By each soul that's inspired.

And I offer you from my heart  
Thank you, to guardians unknown  
For offering yourselves for us all  
That we may keep freedom...  
Our home.

**Bless you**

© Sherrie Ball



centenary effort. Distance through time gives us the luxury of perspective, just as physical distance from the current conflicts in the Ukraine and Gaza, to name but two, has the same sanitizing effect.

Gaza was, in Biblical times, Philistia. The tribe of Goliath. Worshippers of the fish god Dagon. We get Palestine from them, that being one of the names the area that is currently Israel has been known by. The name appears 286 times in the Bible, over half of them in 1 Samuel and flicking through our shiny new and just arrived 2023-24 Lectionary, I see that we we start getting lessons from 1 Samuel in the Daily Eucharist services from the 8<sup>th</sup> of January onwards. Roll on more Biblical literacy.

No sooner had I mentioned how long it was since Jonah featured in our readings than he popped back up. Jonah 3, verse 10 through chapter 4 to verse 11 came up on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September. Having answered God's call to go to Nineveh by running off in the opposite direction and had his attitude to doing God's will adjusted by a sojourn in the belly of a fish, in this lesson he has saved Nineveh from destruction and is upset at 'his' success, arguing with God that the city should have been destroyed. God demonstrates that his compassion extends to reigning in the wayward to worshipping him again, rather than destroying them and their animals.

***Richard Law***

---

**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



# Whitland, Cyffig, Llanboidy

## Llandysilio, Clunderwen

The Reverend Kingsley G Taylor, BD MA 01994 240494 LMA Dean  
ktaylor559@aol.com

Reverend Shirley Murphy Priest in charge of St Mary's Whitland,  
Cyffig Church, Cyffig, St Tysilio Llandissilo,  
St David's Clunderwen & St Brynach Llanboidy

Reverend Carol Court – Priest in charge of St Clydai, Clydey,  
St Brynach, Llanfyrnach, St Cledwyn, Llanglydwen, St Dogmael,  
Mynachlogddu & St Gwynio, Llanwinio

Reverend Sharon Edge — Assistant Curate in LMA of East Landsker  
Dr Canon Jeni Parsons — Active Retired Priest in St Brynach Llanboidy

Lay Worship Leader — Mr. Nathan Jenkin

### Services In December

#### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>

#### Advent 1

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
2.00 pm	WI carol service	St Tysilio	

#### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>

#### Advent 2

8.00 am	Holy Communion	St Mary	SM
11.00 am	Nine lessons and carols	St Mary	KT
11.00 am	Holy Communion	St David	SE
2.30 pm	Lessons and carols	Cyffig	KT

#### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>

#### Advent 3

9.00 am	Holy Communion	St Tysilio	KT
11.00 am	United Carol Service	St Mary	KT & others
11.00 am	Morning Prayer	St David	NJ
11.00 am	Holy Communion	St Brynach	SM

#### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>

#### Advent 4/Christmas Eve

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	Holy Communion	Cyffig	SM
9.00 pm	Holy Communion	St Brynach	JP
9.00 pm	Holy Communion	St Tysilio	SE
11.30 pm	Holy Communion	St Mary	KT

**NB Christmas Eve being a Sunday some of the above may change.**

**Please listen to the announcements.**

## Christmas

In one way it doesn't seem like a whole year since last Christmas, yet so much has happened it seems like ages. With so much of the world at war it is hard to pray for peace at Christmas, but pray we must, more than ever.

## Remembrance

Thanks to everyone who attended our remembrance services in Whitland Memorial Hall and St Mary's, there was a good crowd and it was good to see so many.

*Kingsley*

## ~~PLEASE LEAVE YOUR VALUES AT THE FRONT DESK~~

**T**hat was the advice greeting you as you entered the lift in a certain Paris hotel.

So in this third and final leg of our journey through the jungle of Biblical translation, let's leave our preconceptions at the front desk, go on safari and plunge into some really thick undergrowth to see if we can make a clearing.

Since the end of the first century AD, most Christians (and Muslims) have believed that Jesus was born miraculously while his mother Mary was still a virgin. However, modern Biblical scholarship has questioned the factual accuracy of this assertion.

Here, we must remain focused on the issues of translation which have been

central to the debate; but to understand them we must put them in context, however sketchily.

The basis of the Doctrine of the Virgin Birth rests on passages in the Gospels of both Matthew and Luke. The former says that before Joseph and Mary were married, Mary found that she was pregnant 'by the Holy Spirit', and also that [Joseph] had no intercourse with [Mary] until her son was born.' In Luke, the angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she is to bear a son. Mary is puzzled, and protests that she is still a virgin; but Gabriel explains: 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you.'

So far, so simple. God can do anything, even produce a child without a human father. In biology, this is called parthenogenesis, and occurs in a large number of species from microscopic rotifers to huge Komodo dragons. However, it is unknown among humans (except, perhaps, for the one instance in question here). With homo sapiens it normally takes two to tango.

But doubts about the Virgin Birth of Jesus rest on more than a Victor Meldrew-type 'I do not be-LIEVE it'.

For starters, the Holy Spirit of God was always thought to be part of making a child. There was an old Jewish saying: 'In any conception there are three partners: the father, the mother and the Holy Spirit.' So the involvement of the Holy Spirit would not, in Jewish thought, preclude the idea of a human father; rather, it would be taken for granted.

Secondly, as we all know from chasing Saint Paul round the Mediterranean at school or Sunday School, he was at the forefront of spreading the Good News of Jesus to non-Jews. Now people immersed in Greek culture expected their gods and goddesses to have miraculous origins – like Athena, Goddess of Wisdom and War, who gave her name to Athens: she sprang fully armed from the head of her father, Zeus (bet he needed some paracetamol after that). So there were times when it would have suited Paul's purpose down to the ground to claim that the birth of Jesus, too, was miraculous: and yet he never even mentions the possibility – despite being a great mate of Luke's, one of the people pushing the idea.

Then there are the family trees of Jesus in both Matthew and Luke showing

he was a true descendant of the great King David. Matthew's starts with Abraham, while Luke's goes backwards all the way to Adam, and then God. But there's a couple of odd things. After the genealogy which kicks off Matthew's account, the next section (starting 'This is the story of the birth of the Messiah') looks suspiciously like a fresh start. Was it the original beginning?

There was once a mother who moved to a new town with her six sons and registered with a new GP, who was astonished to hear that all six children were called 'John'.

'Doesn't that make life rather complicated?' asked the medic.

'Not at all,' replied the mother. 'When it's supper time, I simply go outside and call: "John! Supper!"'

'But what happens if you want just one of them to come in?' persisted the doctor.

'Oh, that's easy. I just add his father's surname.'

Jewish custom at the time, like our own until very recently, was to trace descent through the male line. And so it is with Matthew and Luke: both family trees trace the ancestry of Jesus through the male line. But that means that they end up not with Mary but with Joseph: so they have to er... er... do a sort of doh-si-doh like: '[Jesus was] the son, as people thought, of Joseph...'. And if Joseph was not the father of Jesus (scholars have asked), what was the point of that family tree?

Notes on the text of Matthew at the relevant point break out into a rash. You'll remember that before the invention of printing everything had to be copied by hand, and copyists often got tired and left bits out, or wrote something twice, or inserted things they thought their predecessors must have omitted by mistake, and so on. Over the centuries, this process resulted in a wide variety of manuscripts of the whole of the Bible. Often, the differences are insignificant or easily explained; but if you look at Matthew 1.16 in a copy of the Greek New Testament you'll see a great splurge of various 'readings' from different manuscript traditions, including: '... Joseph, the husband of Mary, who gave birth to Jesus called Messiah;' and '... Joseph, to whom was betrothed Mary, a virgin, who gave birth to Jesus called Messiah.'

But one document reads: '... Joseph, to whom Mary, a virgin, was betrothed,

was the father of Jesus called Messiah.'

So where did this idea of the Virgin Birth of Jesus come from? The answer lies in translation.

It's Matthew who gives the game away. Chapter 1 verse 22 baldly states: 'All this happened in order to fulfil what the Lord declared through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and bear a son, and he shall be called Emmanuel, a name which means God is with us.'

That's a quotation from Isaiah 7.14 – well, almost. The Hebrew of that verse actually reads: 'The young woman pregnant and she will bear a son and will call his name "With-us God".'

Note that the lady in question is called a 'young woman' – in Hebrew *almah*, a young female of marriageable age. Hebrew has a perfectly good word for a virgin – *bethulah* - but it's not the one used here.

Note, too, that there is no shall conceive (in the future); in fact, there is no verb at all.

Moreover, Isaiah goes on to say: 'When the lad does not yet know to reject bad and choose good, the land whose two kings you dread shall be abandoned.'

He's talking to Ahaz, King of Judah from 732 to 716 BC, who is shaking in his shoes (he was only 20 at the time) because King Pekah of Israel and King Rezin of Syria want him to join forces with them against the mighty King Tiglath-Pileser III of Assyria (different country from Syria). Isaiah is urging Ahaz to trust God to protect him: 'See that pregnant woman over there?' he says; 'Before her child is old enough to know right from wrong; the lands ruled by the kings you're worried about will be dust.'



*King of Judah, Ahaz*

Giving children names reflecting current circumstances or hopes is not confined to 8th-century Judah. A modern tribesman's child once asked his father: 'Is it true we name our children by the first thing we see after they're born?'

‘Yes it is,’ replied the dad. ‘Why do you ask, Pile of Old Car Tyres?’

More soberly, the prophet Hosea gave his children some really rubbish names (eg. ‘Not-my-people’) to emphasise his prophetic message. So calling a child ‘With-us-God’ in the foreseeable future is a really powerful signal.

But we’re talking about translation, and the real point is that Isaiah uses the word *almah*, and without a future verb.

The trouble started when they translated the Hebrew of Isaiah into Greek, which doesn’t dispense with verbs as readily as Hebrew. So the Septuagint translators settled on ‘a parthenos will have [a baby] in her womb.’

There are two things to notice here: first, the future tense in the Greek is absent in the original Hebrew, where however the context implies the present rather than the future; and secondly, the Hebrew word for ‘young woman’ does not necessarily imply technical virginity.

So what happened?

You’ll notice that in my quotation from the Septuagint I have left the word *parthenos* untranslated. This is because the Greek *parthenos* - like the Hebrew *almah* - still means ‘a young woman’, but with more emphasis on her technical virginity. Since the Septuagint was the version of the ‘Old Testament’ which both Matthew and Luke used (though Luke more than Matthew), the word came to them with this extra weighting.

Taking it a couple of stages further, the Latin for *parthenos* is *virgo*, which again can mean just ‘a young woman’ but has even more emphasis on virginity. Translate that into the English *virgin* and there’s not a lot of wriggle-room left.

But we don’t have to go that far. The Nicene Creed (begun in AD 325 and finalised by 381) reads: ‘He was enfleshed out of Holy Spirit and Mary the *parthenos*; and the Apostles’ Creed (written in France in the 5th century AD, so nothing to do with the Apostles, really) has: ‘... who was conceived from Holy Spirit, born of Mary *virgine* (a form of *virgo*)’ - though interestingly, the version known to the 4th/5th-century commentator Rufinus doesn’t contain the words ‘conceived from’.

‘Whoah - enough!’ I hear you cry. (Actually I hear a kind of snoring noise, but I’ll give you the benefit of the proverbial.)

To sum up, translating the Bible is a complex affair, from deciding what the original author(s) actually wrote, through what they actually meant (taking into account literary references, symbolism and idiom) to turning the result into appropriate contemporary language – it's a wonder the Good Book is translated at all, let alone into 724 tongues (and parts into more than 3,500).

Confused? Just be thankful you're not a customer entering a Copenhagen airline ticket office and spotting the notice: 'We take your bags and send them in all directions.'

*Jonathan Copus*

---

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

**Ysgol Bro Brynach held their Thanksgiving Service in St Brynach's Church** in October with the Reverend Shirley Murphy enthusiastically leading the service to a Church packed to the door with standing room only!!

The theme was thanksgiving for all that we had with special emphasis on Sport (World Rugby featuring strong at this time).

It was very moving to see and hear the school children individually speaking so confidently about all they were thankful for and to experience the Church so full of the children's energetic and happy singing.

The children performed so well, giving us a fine example of all the hard work, care and understanding of the staff at Bro Brynach .

The Reverend Shirley communicated vibrantly and warmly with the children encouraging them to speak about their views and thoughts and to become a very active part of the service.

Thank you everyone for a very poignant service.

November has been another busy month for the village which has been fun for us .....

Remembrance Concert on 11th November was held in Dyffryn Taf School with Whitland and District Male Voice Choir giving an outstanding performance along with the Fishguard and Goodwick Brass Band providing very stirring music.





***Carmarthen Ukeleles performing at  
Llanboidy Market Hall***



The audience particularly enjoyed singing along with the old marching songs from the WWI. Thanks to Whitland & Llanboidy Ex-Servicemen for organising this very poignant evening.

Laying of Poppy Wreaths at Llanboidy Cenotaph on Sunday the 12th November was well attended by villagers with Huw George and Dr Canon Jeni Parsons conducting the ceremony , Malcolm Williams bearing the standard and Ken Kendall finished the ceremony by poignantly speaking the Exhortation

Llanboidy Market Hall resounded recently to the fantastic music of Carmarthen Ukeles reminding us of all the good old songs we know so well and had us singing along and up on our feet dancing the night away - also a good fund raiser for our Hall Refurbishment Fund.



Llanboidy WI - next meeting 11th January at 2.30 pm in Llanboidy Market Hall - speaker is Val Dixon talking about Pewter Work and promises to be fascinating. All welcome to come along and see what the Ladies get up to! Meet every 2nd Thursday of the month in Llanboidy Market Hall - time varies with the season.

Llanboidy Market Hall drop-in sessions have now finished – they were skilfully organised by Cyril and Bev Thompson and their volunteers with lunches provided as well.

The sessions have been much appreciated by our local community providing a wide range of activities from Pilates , yoga and jazz to craft work, beginners Welsh and Tai Chi - also after school activities for youngsters

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY –**

Saturday December 2nd - Switching on of Christmas Lights in Llanboidy - 5.30 pm outside the Spar Shop Come along and bring the family for carols, mulled wine and mince pies AND of course visit of SANTA for the little ones.

Friday December 8th - Christmas Fayre – Llanboidy Market Hall – 7.00 pm – children of Ysgol Bro Brynach performing – also raffle, cakes, bottle stall, crafts, bran tub, hot dogs, mens’ stand...and lots more .

Children free – adults £3 - fundraising for Refurbishment of the Market Hall

**All for now - keep healthy and happy – Nadolig Llawen!      Sue Jones**

## Ciffig

Nothing much changes!

We were very happy to welcome Rev. Shirley Murphy to Cyffig on 22nd October when she assisted Rev Kingsley and preached the sermon which we all appreciated.

Best wishes to all members and friends.

From someone whose name has been in the news recently:  
here's a piece from William Shakespeare's As You Like It,

### **"Blow, blow, thou Winter Wind."**

Blow, blow, thou winter wind,  
Thou art not so unkind  
As man's ingratitude;  
Thy tooth is not so keen,  
Because thou art not seen  
Although thy breath be rude.

Heigh ho! sing, heigh ho! unto the green holly:  
Most friendship is feigning, most loving mere folly:  
Then heigh ho, the holly!  
This life is most jolly.

Freeze, freeze, thou bitter sky,  
That dost not bite so nigh  
As benefits forgot:  
Though thou the waters warp,  
Thy sting is not so sharp  
As friend remember'd not.

Heigh ho! sing heigh ho! unto the green holly:  
Most friendship is feigning, most loving mere folly:  
Then heigh ho, the holly!  
his life is most jolly.

***William Shakespeare (1564-1616)***

***Submitted by Lynn Werett***

---

## **The Hidden Meaning of the Gifts in “12 Days of Christmas”**

"The Twelve Days of Christmas" (or "12 Days of Christmas") is a holiday classic — and while it may not be as catchy as some of our other favourite Christmas songs, ask anyone what their true love gave them on the first day of Christmas, and they'd probably be able to sing right back, "A partridge in a pear tree!"

After hearing the song all season whilst decorating your Christmas tree, planning your most original holiday party, and baking the most delicious Christmas cookies — you may start to wonder, what does this mean?

Truthfully, not much of the song makes sense from a modern perspective. Why are there so many gifts? What do they mean? Who wants eight maids-a-milking, and what would you even do with them? Like many old stories, we have to understand the time it was first written to understand what it means. Let's take a look at the true story.

Though some scholars believe that the song is French in origin, the first print appearance of the song was in the English children's book *Mirth Without Mischief*. If you haven't heard of it, that's probably because it was published in 1780. You can ask the person who shelled out \$23,750 at a Sotheby's auction for a first edition to borrow their copy, but you may not recognise the lyrics. In this version, the "four calling birds" were actually "four colly birds." The term "colly" is Old English slang meaning birds dark as coal, a.k.a. blackbirds. In other old versions of the song, the partridge we know and loved is replaced with a "very pretty peacock upon a pear tree." If you think that's weird, consider a Scottish version that gifts "an Arabian baboon." In 1909,

British composer Frederic Austin penned the version we are all familiar with today.

Most historians believe that the song started out a "memory-and-forfeit" game in 1800's England. These types of games were played by British school children, and the rules were simple. When it's your turn, you repeat all the previously sung lyrics, and add the next one. If you can't remember a verse, you owe your opponent a "forfeit," which was usually a kiss or piece of candy.

You may have seen this theory floating around via chain emails and message boards. In a nutshell, the theory claims that during a time when Christians were punished for worshiping openly, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" song was used to secretly pass on the ideology of Christianity. In this theory, each gift symbolizes a different aspect of the faith:

The Partridge in the Pear Tree is Jesus Christ.

The 2 Turtle Doves are The Old and New Testaments.

The 3 French hens are Faith, Hope, and Charity, the theological virtues.

The 4 Calling Birds are the four gospels and/or the four evangelists.

The 5 Golden Rings are the first five books of the Old Testament.

The 6 Geese A-laying are the six days of creation.

The 7 Swans A-swimming are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments.

The 8 Maids A-milking are the eight beatitudes.

The 9 Ladies Dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit.

The 10 Lords A-leaping are the ten commandments.

The 11 Pipers Piping are the eleven faithful apostles.

The 12 Drummers Drumming are the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed.

And the "partridge in a pear tree"? Jesus Christ as symbolically represented by a mother partridge protecting her helpless nestlings. Luke 13:34 recounts the words of Christ: *O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, killing the prophets and stoning those who are sent to you! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not!*

If something helps a Christian learn and understand the Faith and does no harm to dogma and worship, it only benefits the believer. So, have at it: if the Twelve Days of Christmas helps you and your children learn about Jesus and the Bible, then the merrier you will be if you judiciously use these "hidden meanings."

That being said, one thing historians can agree on is that the twelve days over which the song takes place *is* a reference to Christianity. "The Twelve Days of Christmas" historically did not reference the days leading up to Christmas, but the twelve days following it. The period begins with birth of Christ on December 25th, Christmas Day, and ends with the coming of the Three Wise Men on January 6th, the Epiphany or Three Kings Day.

Sources:

<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/holidays/christmas-ideas/a29212592/12-days-of-christmas-meaning-facts/>

**Shirley Murphy**




**CLWB CINIO CLYDAU LUNCH CLUB  
2023**

Please join us in Canolfan Clydau in Tegryn, on the  
**4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday every month  
at 12.30.**

**The cost will be £6 for a home cooked lunch, pudding and tea  
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**  
**Ebril 25 April**  
**Mai 23 May**  
**Mehefin 27 June**  
**Gorffennaf 25 July**  
**Medi 25 September**  
**Hydref 24 October**  
**Tachwedd 28 November**



**£2**

**Te am 2 Tea at 2 - 2023**

**2il Dydd Sadwrn bob mis 2.00 pm**  
**2nd Saturday every month 2.00 pm**  
**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**



**Welsh Guards Museum  
Entrance**

**Left:**

**It comes to something when  
Yoric is better looking than  
Hamlet!**

**Below:**

**Welsh Guards museum  
helmet. Being a guardsman  
he was wearing it on his  
belt.**



...AL ISSUE TUNIC  
...AR USED BY ALL REGIMENTS  
...WAR WITH THE EXCEPTION OF  
...GMENTS WHERE THE SKIRT WAS  
...NT

The owner of this helmet was wounded  
In the knee when the bullet went through  
His helmet.(A good Guardsman he had it  
Strapped to his belt!!!)

BEVILLS,  
BURES,  
SUFFOLK.  
  
In the 3rd of March 1915 -  
Mrs Probert met at the home

## THE PRINCE OF PEACE

When the angelic choir joined the announcing angel and sang, "Glory to God in the highest and on Earth peace, goodwill toward men," it did not mean that the peace of God is given indiscriminately. Peace is not God's gift to anybody and everybody, but is a special bestowal upon those who accept the Gift of His Son. It is the heritage of those who respond to God's loving offer of salvation by accepting Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord.

That is what the prophet Isaiah proclaimed about Him 700 years before He came into the world. He said, "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6) To those who accept Him as "Prince of Peace" He bestows the gift of peace.

The angel at Bethlehem did not reveal how this gift of peace would come to people, except the beginning of it. The baby in the manger would grow up, living without sin, and lay down His holy life on the cross for our sins before the blessing of peace with God would become the permanent possession of people. When He cried on that cross, "It is finished!" and died, the peace and forgiveness of God became possible for every believer in Christ. Someone once said that "Every other religion picture's people reaching up to God. Only the Christian faith pictures God reaching down to people. This faith is not an achievement of ours, but an acceptance of a gift from the hand of God." This is what makes it glorious. God is not glorified in the person who tries to achieve salvation without the grace of God. He is not glorified in those who doubt His Gift or hedge about its uniqueness. He is glorified in those who come to Him with nothing but repentance and faith, and receive everything from Him. Let us accept God's glorious gift in the simple, humble, trusting and faithful way that the Bethlehem shepherds accepted it in the first century. Open your troubled heart to the Prince of Peace, and He will give you the peace of God, which is something you cannot achieve for yourself, and which the world can never give you.



# Let me commend to you.

With a continuing and growing assault on our Christian heritage, never was there a greater need to get to grips with the truth of the Bible text: “No man ever spoke like this man” (*John 7: 46*) which was the response of amazed men who heard Christ. What truths explain their astonishment?

## 1. NO MAN EVER SPOKE LIKE JESUS CHRIST

And why? He was no ordinary man. He was perfect and sinless. He is the ‘God-man’ (*Matthew 1: 23*); ‘God manifest in the flesh’ (*1 Timothy 3: 16*); the Eternal ‘Word made flesh’ (*John 1: 14*), ever to be worshipped in the unity of the Triune God, Father Son and Holy Spirit.

Thus, He spoke words of truth, purity, love, kindness and compassion. He spoke with divine unction, grace and authority. No one else, before or since, ever spoke like Him. He is Creator, King, and Lord of the Universe.

## 2. NO MAN EVER LIVED LIKE JESUS CHRIST

His life backed up His words. In lip and life, He was perfectly consistent. He brought blessing, healing, comfort and joy to people. His many miracles confirmed His deity.

### 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**



His tender touch declared the compassion of God. He liberated women from the abusive treatment of selfish men. He rejected violence as a method of spreading His message. No life has ever been lived to match the life of Jesus Christ.

### **3. NO MAN EVER DIED LIKE JESUS CHRIST**

While His life and preaching angered the religious establishment of His day, nothing could justify the hatred directed at Him. He was guilty of no sin. Expressing God's mercy to us hell-deserving sinners, Jesus, Saviour of the world, died as the Lamb of God for our sins. In his dying he prayed "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." He loved his torturing neighbours like his tortured self. He died, 'the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God' (1 Peter 3: 18). In His agonizing crucifixion, He breathed nothing but love and kindness to His enemies. Such dying! Such love!

# *W. J. Kenneth Davies & Sons*

## FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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

Tel: Clunderwen (01437) 563319



#### 4. NO MAN EVER BLESSED THE HUMAN RACE LIKE JESUS CHRIST

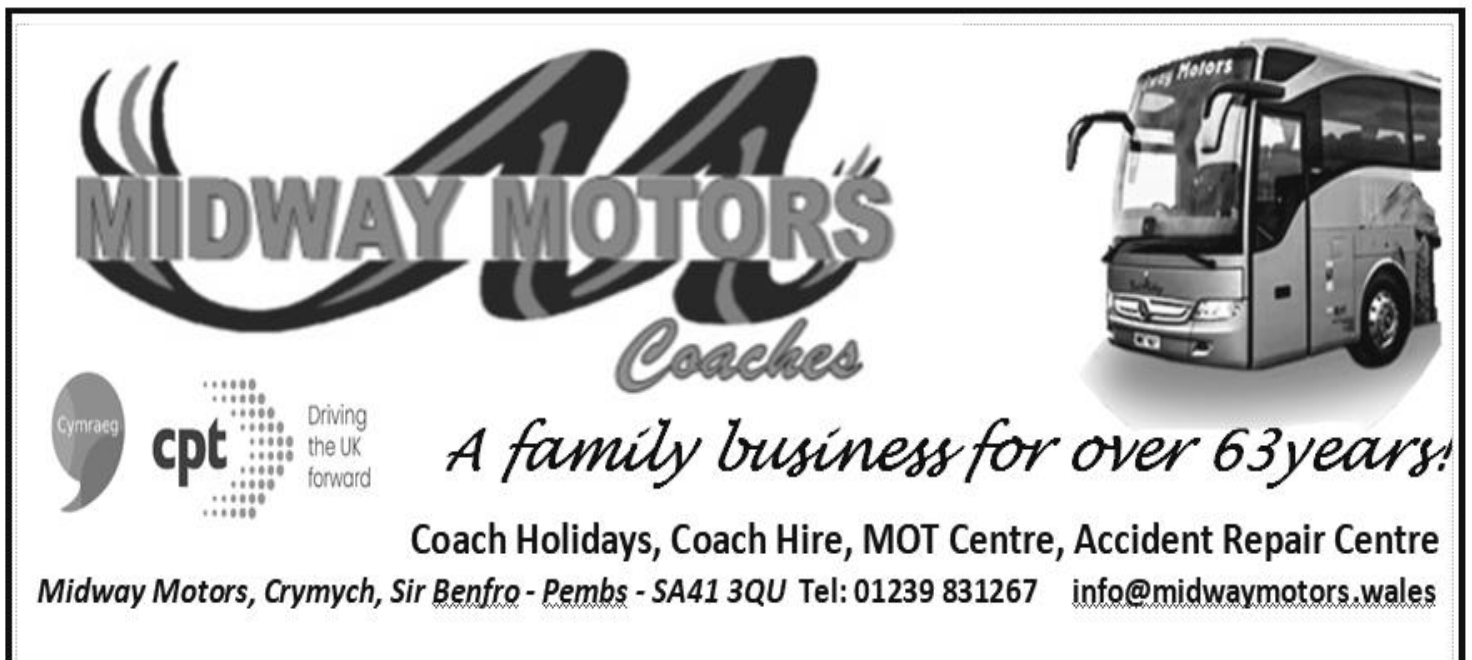
His impact on history is not just the effect of a perpetuation of His memory. Jesus rose from the dead! He lives! The Gospel is the greatest blessing the world has ever known! It has brought forgiveness, love, joy and peace. Christ has mended broken hearts and lives. He has given hope to those in despair. Through Him, the light of heaven has dispelled the darkness of death.

He has liberated individuals and nations. The Gospel has delivered people from ignorance, slavery, poverty and degradation. All that is truly good, noble, pure and beautiful comes from Him. Christ's resurrection influence continues still where He is accepted, trusted and served.

In conclusion, the case for Christ is compelling in every respect. Assessed by every test that may be devised, there is simply no competition when confronted with every other religious leader. Do you respond as did the men who were overwhelmed by his uniqueness? May everyone reading these musings acknowledge, believe, trust, love and surrender to the incomparable Christ. May we all rejoice in Him, and seek to make Him known throughout the world. While opportunity remains, come to Christ! I invite all of reading this to trust and serve Him with me.

*Chris Rees, Minister, Bethesda Baptist Church, Narberth*

*We would like to wish all our readers a very  
Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year!*



**MIDWAY MOTORS**  
*Coaches*

*A family business for over 63 years!*

Coach Holidays, Coach Hire, MOT Centre, Accident Repair Centre  
Midway Motors, Crymych, Sir Benfro - Pembs - SA41 3QU Tel: 01239 831267 [info@midwaymotors.wales](mailto:info@midwaymotors.wales)

# 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](mailto:info@plumbwoodchip.co.uk) Website: [plumbwoodchip.co.uk](http://plumbwoodchip.co.uk)

Blaenffynnonau Farm, Redstone Road, Narberth, SA67 7ES