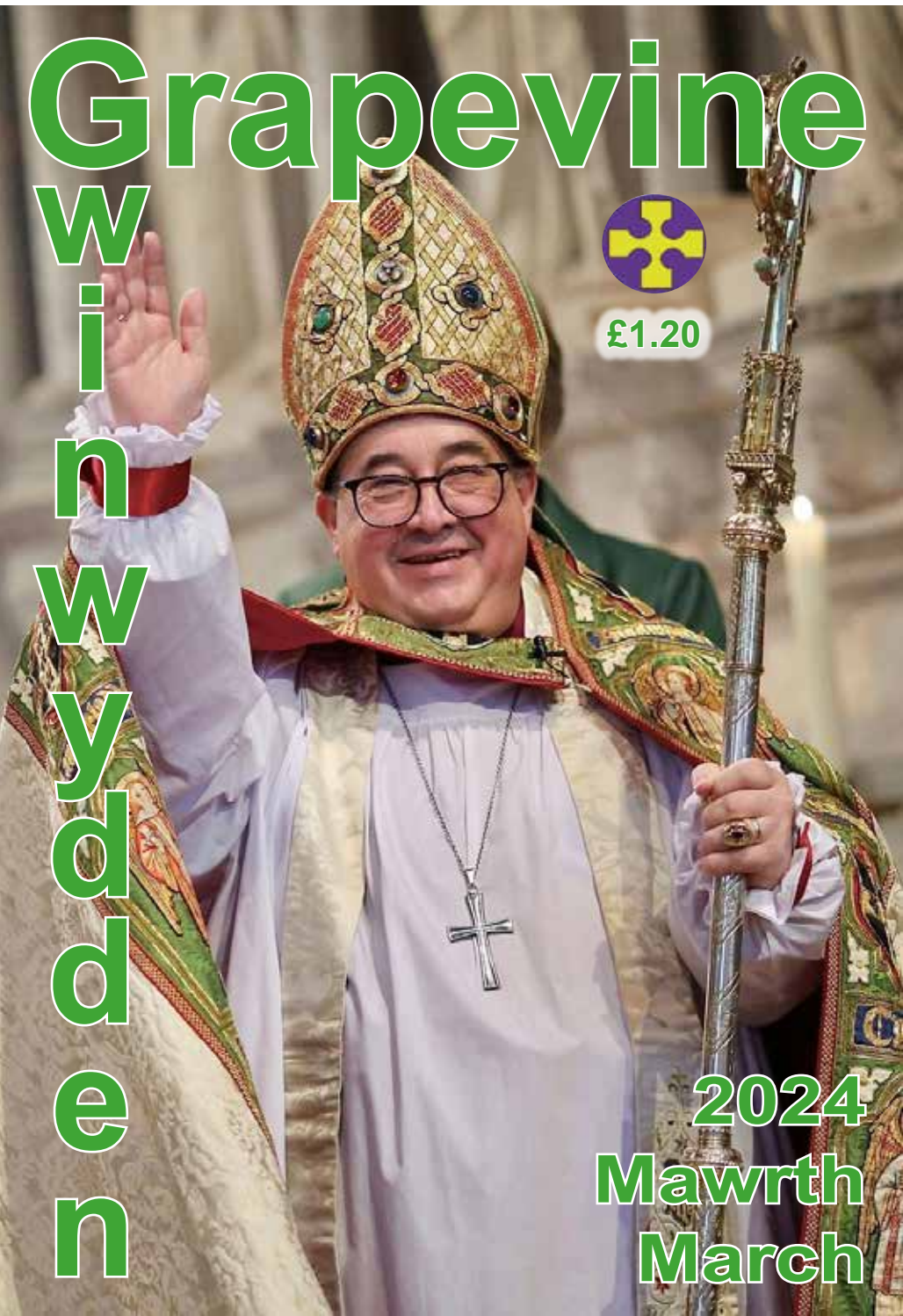


Grapevine

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£1.20



2024
Mawrth
March



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

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 10th of the preceding month

<u>Editor:</u>	Miss Sarah Eynon	sarah@serendesignandprint.co.uk
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<u>Treasurer:</u>	Mr. Richard Law	01239 698607	richardlaw600@gmail.com
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Below is a link to our facebook page. Please take a look and 'like' it!

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

Cylch y Frenni Circle of Churches Clydau, Llanglydwen, Llanfyrnach, Llanwinio and Mynachlogddu

Services for March 2024

**1st March (St David's Day) – Holy Eucharist - Clydau 10.30 –
followed by cawl Everyone welcome**

3rd March – the third Sunday of Lent (purple)

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

6th March- Holy Eucharist - Bro Preseli -10.30 Everyone welcome

10th March –Lent 4 (purple) Mothering Sunday

Llanwinio	9.30	Holy Eucharist	CC/PH
Clydau	11.15	Holy Eucharist	CC/EL
Llanfyrnach	11.15	Morning Prayer	HJ

17th March – The fifth Sunday of Lent/Passion Sunday (purple)

Llanwinio	9.30	Boreol Weddi	PH
Mynachlogddu	10.00	Holy Eucharist	CC/JW

24th March – The sixth Sunday of Lent/Palm Sunday (red)

Llanwinio	9.30	Holy Eucharist	CC/PH
Llanfyrnach	11.15	Holy Eucharist	CC/EB/HJ
Clydau	11.15	Morning Prayer	EL

29th March - Good Friday– Llanwinio 2pm PH/CC

31st March Easter Day- Holy Eucharist – Clydau 10.30 CC/EL

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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 Jenkins

Services in March

Sunday 3rd Lent 3

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	SM

Sunday 10th Lent 4 / Mothering Sunday

9.00 am	Holy Communion	St Mary	SM
11.00 am	Matins	St Mary	KT
11.00 am	Holy Communion	St David	SE
2.30 pm	Holy Communion	Cyffig	KT

Sunday 17th Passion Sunday

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 24th Palm Sunday

9.00 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

Thursday 28th Maundy Thursday

7.00 pm Holy Communion St Mary KT

Friday 29th Good Friday

11.00 am Meditation St Tysilio KT

2.00 pm Meditation St Mary KT

Sunday 31st Easter Day

10.30 am Holy Communion St Tysilio SE

11.00 am Holy Communion St Mary KT

11.00 am Holy Communion St Brynach SM

2.30 pm Holy Communion Cyffig KT

Easter

Easter heralds new life, new hope, the Son of God has died for our sins and has risen from the dead having broken the chains of hell. Simply accept what he has done and we have a fresh start, all that is wrong in our lives is taken away. Our message as Christians is joy let us be joyful, it is hope so let us instil hope everywhere we go, it is life so let us live life to the full.

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Narberth Baptist Fellowship are organizing a
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For three mornings: 10.30 -1.30pm March 4, 5 & 6 2024

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Exploring the Jewish roots of Jesus' teaching on the Parables.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER: Dr.R. Steven Notley was Professor of New Testament & Christian Origins, New York City campus of Alliance University (2001-2003) His Ph.D. is from the Hebrew University.

In collaboration with other scholars his publications include: *The Sacred Bridge: Carta's Atlas of the Biblical World* (2005), *Eusebius, Onomasticon: Notes and Commentary* (2005), and a pioneering collection and translation of the earliest rabbinic parables providing the literary and religious context for the parables of Jesus, *The Parables of the Sages* (2011).

Since 2016 he has served as the Academic Director of the El Araj Excavation Project in its search for first-century Bethsaida-Julias, the lost city of the Apostles. View the photos of his excavation on Instagram.

Light refreshments available
from 10.15 am onwards

There is no charge for the Bible school.

Donations welcome to cover costs
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EDITORIAL

Brave New Grapevine

Kathie signed off as our editor after completing the February edition so we asked Sarah Eynon to put this edition together. That may speed things up a bit as Sarah is also the printer, whereas Kathie outsourced the print run and then had to collect the result and distribute them.

I put 'invitations' in the GV for readers to become postal subscribers and quite a few of you took me up on it. We have had grants, which enabled us to keep the subscription price to £12, despite the cover price having gone up a bit, and to cover the postage. A lot of the distribution works well, such as through the Post office in Llanboidy, but where they get left in locked churches or leaky noticeboards you don't get what you have paid for until you go to church and with many of us only getting one service a fortnight, that's a bit slow – especially with the deadline to write for the next one being the 10th of the month.

This month we have stretched it a bit as we wanted to report on the Ash Wednesday services – and Llanboidy's pancake fest – in March rather than April – and we still hope you get this edition by the 1st of March, thus to know which churches are holding special services for our patron saint, St. Clydau, with cawl after and that's the only St. David service in the LMA. All welcome. And Easter Sunday, as that falls on the 31st...

After that you have ten days to send in your contributions for publication – straight to Sarah marked for the Grapevine – and then we'll see her choice of front cover. Bishop Dorrien got this one, having had his coronation on the 6th – the pictures in last month's issue were an earlier event up north.

If you don't get your copy from Llanboidy Post Office and if you're not a postal subscriber yet and would like to be, let me know. If you have already paid your subs I just need your address and to know which church you paid to, thus to send it straight to you instead of to your church.

Richard Law



We had a lovely LMA Team breakfast meeting at the Roadhouse this morning, 12th February.

It was lovely to catch up and share ideas and thoughts of future work to be done in the LMA. Next one, 15th April. Clergy, church wardens and Grapevine contributors welcome.

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BISHOP DORRIEN'S ENTHRONEMENT



130th Bishop

Rt Revd Dorien Davies has been enthroned as 130th Bishop of St Davids. In a packed Cathedral we were treated to a spectacle that only the Cathedral can do, the organist giving us a concert, the choir beautifully singing, the congregational singing of the hymns filling the vast building. The enthronement of a Bishop is always a time for hope, expectancy and joy. Bishop Dorien is so well known in the Diocese, having served in many parishes, beginning as a curate in Llanelli and latterly as Archdeacon of Carmarthen, but can he surprise us with his vision for the future as he begins his Episcopacy? Bishop Dorien was supported by his family and friends, so many well-wishers, ministers of other denominations and faiths, a vast array of clergy from the diocese and beyond, stipendary, non stipendary, retired and lay readers, and representatives from the LMA's. We pray for him as he begins his new role.

THE STORY OF THE PRAYING HANDS PAINTING



The Praying Hands by Albrecht Dürer

In the early 16th century, Albrecht Dürer created the pen and ink drawing we know of as Praying Hands, or *Betende Hände* in German. The drawing is on blue paper that Dürer made himself. It was believed for many centuries to have been a preparatory drawing for part of an altarpiece known as the Heller Altar that was a commission by Jakob Heller.

Back in the fifteenth century, in a tiny village near Nuremberg, lived a family with eighteen children. Eighteen!

In order merely to keep food on the table for this mob, the father and head of the household, a goldsmith by profession, worked almost eighteen hours a day at his trade and any other paying chore he could find in the neighbourhood.

Despite their seemingly hopeless condition, two of the elder children, Albrecht and Albert, had a dream. They both wanted to pursue their talent

for art, but they knew full well that their father would never be financially able to send either of them to Nuremberg to study at the Academy.

After many long discussions at night in their crowded bed, the two boys finally worked out a pact. They would toss a coin. The loser would go down into the nearby mines and, with his earnings, support his brother while he attended the academy. Then, when that brother who won the toss completed his studies, in four years, he would support the other brother at the academy, either with sales of his artwork or, if necessary, also by labouring in the mines.

They tossed a coin on a Sunday morning after church. Albrecht Durer won the toss and went off to Nuremberg.

Albert went down into the dangerous mines and, for the next four years, financed his brother, whose work at the academy was almost an immediate sensation. Albrecht's etchings, his woodcuts, and his oils were far better than those of most of his professors, and by the time he graduated, he was beginning to earn considerable fees for his commissioned works.

When the young artist returned to his village, the Durer family held a festive dinner on their lawn to celebrate Albrecht's triumphant homecoming. After a long and memorable meal, punctuated with music and laughter, Albrecht rose from his honoured position at the head of the table to drink a toast to his beloved brother for the years of sacrifice that had enabled Albrecht to fulfill his ambition. His closing words were, "And now, Albert, blessed brother of mine, now it is your turn. Now you can go to Nuremberg to pursue your dream, and I will take care of you."

All heads turned in eager expectation to the far end of the table where Albert sat, tears streaming down his pale face, shaking his lowered head from side to side while he sobbed and repeated, over and over, “No... no... no... no.”

Finally, Albert rose and wiped the tears from his cheeks. He glanced down the long table at the faces he loved, and then, holding his hands close to his right cheek, he said softly, “No, brother. I cannot go to Nuremberg. It is too late for me. Look... Look what four years in the mines have done to my hands! The bones in every finger have been smashed at least once, and lately I have been suffering from arthritis so badly in my right hand that I cannot even hold a glass to return your toast, much less make delicate lines on parchment or canvas with a pen or a brush. No, brother... for me it is too late.”

More than 500 years have passed. By now, Albrecht Durer’s hundreds of masterful portraits, pen and silver-point sketches, water colours, charcoals, woodcuts, and copper engravings hang in every great museum in the world, but the odds are great that you, like most people, are familiar with only one of Albrecht Durer’s works. More than merely being familiar with it, you very well may have a reproduction hanging in your home or office.

One day, to pay homage to Albert for all that he had sacrificed, Albrecht Durer painstakingly drew his brother’s abused hands with palms together and thin fingers stretched skyward. He called his powerful drawing simply “Hands,” but the entire world almost immediately opened their hearts to his great masterpiece and renamed his tribute of love “The Praying Hands.” The next time you see a copy of that touching creation, take a second look. Let it be your reminder, that no one - no one - ever makes it alone!

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PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE – Author Unknown

In our search for a suitable pastor, the following scratch sheet was developed for your perusal. Of the candidates investigated by the committee, only one was found to have the necessary qualities. The list contains the names of the candidates and comments on each, should you be interested in investigating them further for future pastoral placements.

Noah: He has 120 years of preaching experience, but no converts.

Abraham: He took off to Egypt during hard times. We heard that he got into trouble with the authorities and then tried to lie his way out.

Moses: He stutters; and his former congregation says he loses his temper over trivial things.

David: He is an unacceptable moral character. He might have been considered for minister of music had he not 'fallen.'

Solomon: He has a reputation for wisdom but fails to practice what he preaches.

Elijah: He proved to be inconsistent and is known to fold under pressure.

Hosea: His family life is in a shambles. Divorced, and remarried to a prostitute.

Jeremiah: He is too emotional, alarmist; some say a real 'pain in the neck.'

Amos: Comes from a farming background. Better off picking figs.

John: He says he is a Baptist but lacks tact and dresses like a hippie. Would not feel comfortable at a church potluck supper.

Peter: Has a bad temper and was heard to have even denied Christ publicly.

Paul: We found him to lack tact. He is too harsh, His appearance is contemptible, and he preaches far too long.

Timothy: He has potential but is much too young for the position.

Jesus: He tends to offend church members with his preaching, especially Bible scholars. He is also too controversial. He even offended the search committee with his pointed questions.

Judas: He seemed to be very practical, co-operative, good with money, cares for the poor, and dresses well. We all agreed that he is just the man we are looking for to fill the vacancy as our Senior Pastor.

Thank you for all you have done in assisting us with our pastoral search.

Sincerely, The Pastoral Search Committee.

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- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

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THE BOY SCOUT MOVEMENT



Following on from mention of scouts and guides admitting atheists in February's Grapevine (pages 33/34) I thought to outline the movement's origins, having been in it for twenty-two years 1961-83.

Founder Robert Baden-Powell was a British army cavalry officer who achieved fame in the Boer War (1899-1902) for his defence of Mafeking while it was under siege and his subsequent book 'Scouting for Boys' published in 1908.

As a cavalryman Baden Powell was influenced by the account of the 1st United States Volunteer Cavalry Regiment – Teddy Roosevelt's 'Rough Riders' – formed in 1898 to fight in Cuba. Its volunteers came from the two sides of Roosevelt's life – the well-to-do polo players, dubbed the Park Avenue Cavalry and men from the wild west; lawmen, cowboys and some villains. Formed as a cavalry unit, they became known as 'Wood's Weary Walkers', as they did not take their horses to Cuba. Colonel Leonard Wood commanded; Roosevelt was his 2IC until Col. Wood was promoted leaving Teddy in charge of the men who rallied to his call.

In Britain, our places of worship were very much the social fabric of Victorian society. The churches organised Sunday League football – there were Catholic and Protestant leagues, which is why to this day large conurbations have two football teams. Manchester City and Manchester United, for example. City was the Protestant team; founded in 1880 as St Mark's (West Gorton) they became Ardwick Association Football Club in 1887 and Manchester City in 1894. Two worshippers at Clydai had ancestors who played in that Sunday league team.

The Boys Brigade started in 1883 and every brigade was attached to a place of worship. Churches had church halls for a reason – it's the social side of

the community that knits it together and the ministers at our places of worship were actively creating these social structures for their parishioners.

Baden Powell became a Vice President of the Boys Brigade movement in 1903 and his 'experimental' camp on Brownsea Island, Dorset was intended to mix boys from different strata of society. He rounded up ten boys from public schools, who all belonged to friends of his at the National Liberal Club, and ten boys from Bournemouth Boys Brigade units. His original intent was to fit scouting into the Boys Brigade but publication of his book caused the spontaneous formation of scout troops, almost all of which were formed in church halls by clergymen or retired army officers.

It is a generalisation, but Boys Brigade units tended to be attached to non-conformist chapels and scout troops forming – then Girl Guides, wolf cubs, brownies – tended to be church of England based. To start with; Catholic and Jewish troops formed early on, more usually attached to faith schools. Eton College had its own scout troop by 1914. Baden Powell's ambition of mixing the social strata was achieved in the scout movement when they got together for district and county competitions and mass camps – 'scout-outs' and jamborees.

The scout movement was thus becoming a fundamental part of the social structure of English parishes. Church parade on Sundays, a scout meeting one evening in the week, some weekend camps and other outdoor activities. Football professionalized and moved on while the youth organisations never would have the resources to be independent of their parent churches or schools until much later, after the Second World War.

Where it gets interesting is when we look at the way the scout movement developed for adults; not the founders, but those who grew up in the movement. Originally, scouting was directed at the 11-15 age group, when the school leaving age was thirteen. Fifteen stretched to eighteen, at which point young men became Rover Scouts and usually also the leaders of the younger sections. Baden Powell's scouting can be seen as religious in 'the

pathfinder' by Ernest Stafford Carlos. And masonic, with the 'secret' left hand shake and lapel badges for wearing on civilian clothes. In British armed forces, only issued badges may be worn on the uniform, so my learned Uncle Peter wore a deep sea scouts bracelet on a watch strap that his status as a scout could be recognised by those he served with in the Royal Navy during the war.



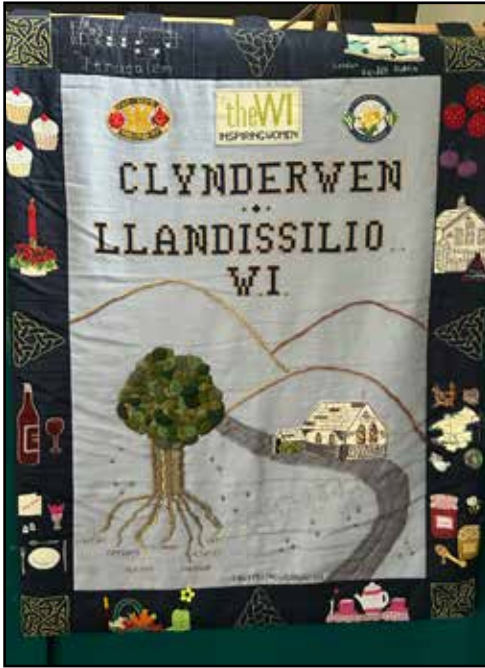
Scouts and ex-scouts got together to form Rover Scout Crews on land, at sea and on RAF bases, which my uncle did not join in as his Royal Navy service was largely spent on a remote Scottish island listening to what the German U Boats were saying. Frank Ball, my Dad's best friend in the scouts, served jointly in the Home Guard and scouts before his call-up and in Rover Crews on a British aerodrome and later on the island formerly known as Ceylon. RAF Kankesanturai. We had to stand up and salute when he mentioned it, after which he told an anecdote about that posting. He said they met twice a week to keep their scout training fresh, to tell yarns and to pray.

The scout movement comes across as quite English, a bit too establishment, quite religious, and very much a fellowship of young people comfortable in that mould. Only one boy in nine fitted the mould. Two other points of interest: the wolf cub association, formed for younger boys aged 8-11, centred its imagery on the Jungle Book by atheist Rudyard Kipling and all the development of youth groups except for Sunday School were disciplined and uniformed organisations. That's counting football as disciplined and uniformed.

Richard Law

Members of Clunderwen and Llandisilio WI celebrated their Centenary on Saturday 10th February





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More Information
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Ai hyn yw chi?

- Ydi chi'n cefnogi aelod o'r teulu?
- Rhedeg o gampus ar gyfer amryng apwyntiadau ysbty a meddygol?
- Ydi'r dydd yn diflanu heb munud i chi'ch hunan?
- Bydded'r ddau ohonoch yn ddiwl wrddd â phobol leol?

Eich Gwasanaeth
Tuedd a phrofi newydd
Ymlacio a thrio rhywbeth newydd
Cinio Bwffe
Newid o'r arfer dyddiol.

AM DDIM a trafniadaeth ar gael os y dymunir

Mwy o Wybodaeth
Rydym wedi sicrhau araf i gefnogi bobol leol, i rannu amser gyda'u gydd a mynychau gweithgareddau i ymlacio. Byddan yn cwrdd ar fore **Dydd Mawrth o 11yb-2yb** @ Canolfan Hermon a Y Sileddo yn dechrau o'r 23ed o Ionawr 2024
Cysylltwch i drafod eich angherion penodol a sicrhau lle.
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Dechreuwch gyda sgors anhffiol!

Do You Know Your Hymns?

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

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

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

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

Computer Users Prayer

Dear Lord,

Every single evening
As I'm lying here in bed
This tiny little prayer
Keeps running through my head.

God bless all my family
Wherever they may be,
Keep them warm and safe from
harm
For they're so close to me.

And God, there is one more thing
I wish that you could do.
Hope you don't mind me asking,
Bless my computer too.

Now I know that it's not normal
To bless a mother board,
But listen just a second
While I explain to you 'My Lord.'

You see that little metal box
Holds more than odds & ends
Inside those small compartments
Rest so many of my FRIENDS.

I know so much about them
By the kindness that they give
And this little scrap of metal
Takes me in to where they live.

By faith is how I know them
Much the same as you
We share in what life brings us
And from that our friendship grew.

Please, take an extra minute
From your duties up above
To bless those in my address book
That's filled with so much love!

Wherever else this prayer may reach
To each and every friend,
bless each e-mail Inbox
And the person who hits Send.

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prayer
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Amen.

G. Williams

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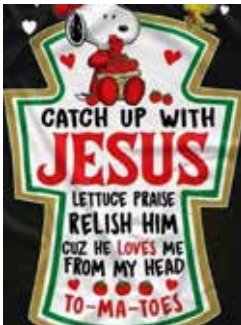
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LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR.**
HE KNEW YOUR NEIGHBOR WOULD
ACT, LOOK, BELIEVE AND LOVE
DIFFERENTLY THAN YOU.
IT'S KIND OF THE WHOLE POINT.

-JOY MAC / SPEAK LIFE

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.” Psalm 23:4

It is with deep sorrow that I announce the death of my father S. John Selwyn which occurred at 5.39am Indian time this morning 17th Feb at India (00.09 UK time). Beloved husband of Sheila, father of Dayan and Shirley, father-in-law to Kavin and Julian and much-loved grandfather of Jerusha, Jessica, and Dylan.

I am flying out to India and will not be reachable until 18th Feb 06.45 am Indian time (1.15 am UK time) Once I reach India, I will keep you all informed regarding the funeral details.

In the meantime, please contact my cousin Vinod Paul on +91 85263 34567 or on my UK number.

Please do uphold my mother Sheila, my brother Dayan and me and our families in your prayers during this difficult time.

Reverend Shirley Murphy



2il Dydd Sadwrn bob mis
2nd Saturday every month

2pm £2

Te am 2 Tea at 2 - 2024

Canolfan Clydau, Tegryn

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

Dear God, I want to
Thank You for all of
those things You do that
I never see. Helping me
get through each day
safely, making sure my
Family is protected and
all Your other countless
blessings. Amen!

Kelly's Treehouse

ASH WEDNESDAY

Today upon our brow you see, a cross, as black as sin,
A sign upon this Holy day of the sin that lies within.
The cross you see will wash away and in the morning's light,
Only we will know the sin within, hidden from your sight.

Soap and water cheap enough, to wash the ash away
But will not cleanse the sins not seen, in light of day
The small and trivial little sins that stain the souls of **Man**
Sins never meant to flourish in God's, Divine plan.

And there are sins which mar our world with misery and strife
The savagery of war and want, and cruelty in might.
The Devil is always waiting, to lead mankind astray
And that is why we wear this cross upon our brow today.

No power within ourselves, can save us from our sins
Only the love of Jesus Christ who died to conquer sin.
His Blood bought our salvation, the price we could never pay
Yes, that is why, upon our brow, we wear a cross today.

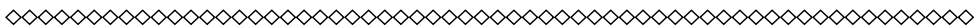
As now we enter Lententide, may we repent and pray
That God's Holy Spirit will guide us on our way
Then in true repentance, and sorrow for our sins,
Our hearts be cleansed and fit again to welcome Christ within.

That on that very Holy Day, when Easter morning breaks
We may with love and thankful hearts full of praise awake
Our Priests cry "He is Risen", "Risen Indeed" our hearts reply
Then our Praise and Alleluias ascend in love, to heaven on high.

Jeanette W Hooper 9th February 2024



Pancake night at Llanboidy



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The name "Shrove Tuesday" comes from the word 'shrive', which means to confess one's sins and receive absolution from a priest. It's a day for Christians to prepare their hearts and souls for the penitential season of Lent. The tradition of making pancakes on this day is believed to have originated in medieval England as a way to use up ingredients like eggs, milk and sugar before Lenten fasting began.

Shrove Tuesday, often referred to as Pancake Day, is a Christian tradition that marks the day before the start of Lent. It's a day of preparation and feasting leading up to Easter. On this day, many people indulge in pancakes as a way to use up rich and indulgent ingredients like eggs, milk and sugar before the fasting period begins.

Shrove Tuesday falls on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, which varies from year to year. The date changes each year based on the date of Easter, which is determined by the lunar calendar.

Shrove Tuesday, known as Pancake Day in many parts of the world, is a delightful occasion to gather with loved ones, savor delicious pancakes, and embrace the spirit of celebration before the solemnity of Lent. Whether you're flipping pancakes in a race or savoring a stack at home, Shrove Tuesday is a day to indulge in this tasty tradition.

Today, Shrove Tuesday has become a secular celebration enjoyed by people of all backgrounds, with a primary focus on the joy of pancake indulgence.

~Phil Higginson +44 7833 616962

The Welsh word for Lent, "y Grawys", comes from the Latin "quadragesima", meaning a period of 40 days. Until the 18th/19th century, Advent was known as "y grawys bach" - the little Lent.

14:13

40 DAYS - 40 ITEMS

Instead of giving up something for Lent this year, why not try the 40 days - 40 items challenge?

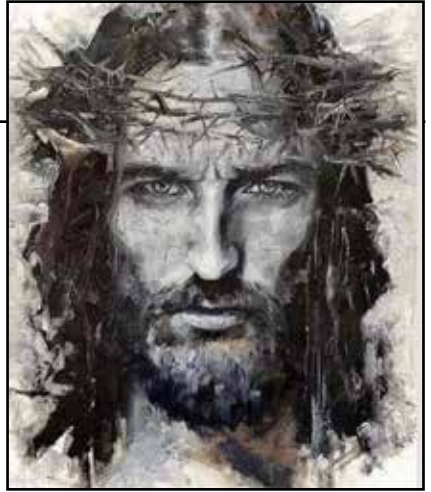
Each day of Lent, remove one item from your house, which you don't use or wear anymore and place it in a bag. At the end of Lent, donate these items to a charity shop or to a homeless shelter.

They'll be shared with those who really need them!

#40Days40Items

THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD

“He received 39 stripes because 40 was known to kill a man. They wanted him alive. They held handfuls of his beard, and hair and pulled it out by the roots. They wanted him alive. They kicked, punched, and spit on him for hours. Until there wasn’t a single spot on his body not covered in blood. They wanted him alive.



They shoved a crown of thorns down on his head so harshly it stuck in his skin. They wanted him alive. After hours of being beaten, mocked, whipped, flogged, and tortured they made him walk with a cross. They made him carry it. A rough piece of wood with splinters digging into fresh wounds. They wanted him alive. They wanted him to feel every ounce of pain they could bring. He had to feel it in order to heal us. Crucifixion was historically one of the cruelest most tortured deaths a human could face. Hours upon hours of torture. Torture most of us can not mentally think of because the cruelty isn’t normal. It isn’t something our minds can comprehend. We celebrate Easter with pastel colors, happy children hunting eggs, and chocolate. Truth is there was absolutely nothing happy about the day Jesus died. It was cruel, bloody, and nasty.

He could have stopped all of it. He could have called every angel in heaven to demolish every person standing and shouting “Crucify Him!” He didn’t. He knew in order to have a Sunday you have to have a Friday. He knew in order to have joy you have to carry your cross. He felt everything that day. He felt how your heart broke wide open when you had to watch your baby die. He felt how heavy your life was when you were staring down the barrel of a gun wondering if the man you called husband was going to shoot you. He carried the weight of the burden you have felt since your spouse

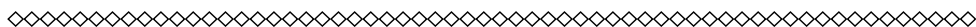
died and life just doesn't seem right since. On that cross he held the rapist and murderers, the sinner and the saint. He leveled every playing field and said ALL of you are worth it. He knew he had to carry the cross. He never promised the cross you carry in this life would not be heavy. His wasn't. His promise is that Sunday is coming.

No matter how heavy Friday is. Financially, emotionally, mentally, or physically. Friday is heavy. That cross is weighing you down and you are about to crumble under its weight. His promise was simply this. He won't make you carry it alone. What kind of king would step down from his throne for this?

Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God did. For you.

He did every bit of it for you and me. Oh yes it is heavy. So heavy sometimes you do not think you can take one more step. But look up, because Sunday is coming."

Reverend Shirley Murphy



ON PRAYER BOOKS AND THE CONSEQUENCE OF CHANGE

My brother, who is a clerk in Holy Orders in Essex – which entitles him to a white collar (clergy) and white socks (Essex) – visited me recently and discussion turned to the Prayer Book. Earlier in the day he had visited Trinity St. David's in Lampeter where his son Isaac is studying archaeology and they attended a service together held by archdeacon Monez in his capacity as acting chaplain to the university. And they use a different prayer book to the one Simon uses.

We have the same 'problem' here. There are umpteen forms of service from which the clergy take their pick. The group of churches formerly known as Cylch Y Frenni use the 2004 forms of service and the A, B, C, church lectionary. That means printing pew sheets for every service with the collect, psalm and lessons thereon. Llanboidy, Elizabeth discovered when called upon to assist Shirley at a service there only to find she had gone to India and left Jenni Parsons in charge, use 1984.

Traditionalists will mention 1662, from which familiar words, such as "Our father, which art in heaven" remain popular in English. It was the culmination of more than a century of politics kicked off by King Henry VIII separating Britain from Rome. More accurately, he stopped sending the Pope the "Peter's Pence" revenue and made himself head of the church.

The fallout from that landed on his senior churchmen while the infant Edward VI was king. The Act of Uniformity 1549 'settled' the book of common prayer, until 1551. The throne changed hands several times and the country changed religions as the clergy 'created' the protestant religion while Edward VI was in school, only to have to emigrate quickly or die horribly after Edward died and his big sister, the Catholic Mary became queen. Edward's mum was Jane Seymour. Mary's mum was the Spanish Catherine of Aragon and she was thus brought up a Catholic – the same as everybody else at the time. Edward was too young to have an opinion of his own, the lack of which was made up for in spades by his bishops and church commissioners.

Mary's death brought her younger sister Elizabeth (daughter of Anne Boleyn) to the throne (just; Lady Jane Grey and King Phillip of Spain were

the alternative claimants) and under her reign an Act of Uniformity and an Act of Settlement sort of stabilized the ground rules for worship, the prayer book and the Bible in English. Nothing stands still and the osmoses of refining protestant doctrine and translating earlier texts from Latin, Greek or Hebrew got the powers that be to the official 1662 prayer book.

The 1662 Book of Common Prayer has not remained utterly constant over the years. Besides the forty-seven obvious changes in the prayers for the King or Queen and their families, a dozen other small changes have been made. Rubrics have been changed, some services were dropped, the lectionary revised, and even the title was changed for a time. The changes are interesting not only in themselves, but also because they can serve to help date a Prayer Book which has no printed date of publication; Books of Common Prayer printed since about 1860 are undated, while in secular publishing the reverse is the case and the invention of ISBN numbers has made cataloguing books a bit simpler.

Our conversation turned to prayers for the monarch because Simon said that King Charles had issued a Royal Warrant to change the style of his wife's title. I looked it up and here it is:

1. On 3 May 2023 the King directed by Royal Warrant that the prayers for or referring to members of the Royal Family should be altered, and the amended forms used thereafter. The Warrant indicates that, with effect from 6 May 2023, in every prayer for the Royal Family contained in any form of service authorized for use in the Church of England, instead of the words 'Camilla the Queen Consort' the words 'Queen Camilla' should be inserted.

2. From Coronation Day onward, the Prayer for the Royal Family in the Book of Common Prayer will therefore read:

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness, we humbly beseech thee to bless Queen Camilla, William Prince of Wales, the Princess of Wales, and all the Royal Family: Endue them with thy Holy Spirit; enrich them with thy heavenly grace; prosper them with all happiness; and bring them to thine everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

3. In a further Warrant the King directed that the forms of service for Accession Day be re-promulgated with the necessary amendments.

This amendment to the prayer book in respect of prayers for the Royal family (47th on my count) caused a problem for the Cambridge University Press as they had already reprinted the prayer book with 'Camilla the Queen Consort' in it, Charles not having made the announcement above until his coronation gave him the power to do so. And since he didn't tip them off beforehand, the Cambridge University Press has an unknown quantity of prayer books into which they have had to insert an erratum and they won't print any new ones until that lot have found homes.

Simon is sending me one as a souvenir in case they become collectable. Certain Bibles with errors in them are sought after – such as the vinegar Bible – while others, such as the wicked Bible, were withdrawn and destroyed. That one says 'thou shalt commit adultery' in the Ten Commandments and we suspect the Royal Family have a copy of that one as authority for how they behave.

The point Simon came to is the prayers for the Royal Family in our prayer books. He said that they became optional in 1980 and all the Royal family tribulations post-date that withdrawal of obligatory support. Which they do, sort of. Charles and Anne divorced in 1992, Andrew in 1996, the same year as Diana died and Princess Margaret died prematurely in 2002. Enough disruption for a cynical BBC commentator to refer to them as Britain's favourite dysfunctional family.

The Royal family have had tribulations while the Anglican church was praying for them every Sunday, but rarely did those happenings become public knowledge. We're not old enough to have personal knowledge of King Edward VIII abdicating to marry an American Divorcee in 1936, (Hark the Herald angels sing, Mrs Simpson stole our King) but we reflected on his losing the throne to that relationship in the way that Prince Harry's marriage to Meghan Markle cost him his position on the civil list and downgraded them from Sussex Royal to 'Ginge and Whinge'. Not to mention the parallels: Americans Meghan Markle and Wallis Simpson were both American divorcees who dragged their second husbands down the social ladder they were aspiring to climb.

In days of old the Royal family kept their private lives private. Bits of gossip leaked out – King Edward VII had mistresses including Lillie Langtree and Alice Keppel, whom he made sure got seats in Westminster Abbey for his coronation and the seats for those (and his other mistresses) became known as “the king’s loose box” – which he found hilarious and the public knew nothing of until decades later. His son King George V had a ‘secret’ son in the epileptic Prince John (1905-19) who wasn’t a secret when he was small but disappeared from public view as his illness developed. He lived out his short life in Sandringham and is buried in the graveyard of the church the Royal family attend when in Norfolk.

St. Mary Magdalene, Sandringham. Dedicated to one of the most misunderstood women in the Bible; maligned by the Roman Catholic church as a prostitute, she was the only person said to have been present at both Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection only to be side-lined by later Christian writers who instead built-up St. Peter for denying knowing Jesus three times and St. Paul for persecuting Christians to the point of being present when St. Stephen was stoned.

Ever faithful to Jesus, with the courage it took to be at the cross guarded by armed Roman soldiers and to walk through the graveyard to his tomb, known to have an armed guard on it, in the dark, she stands head and shoulders above the men whom Christian writers place in their writings as more significant than she.

That brought us back to the Royal Family. One woman stands out in that same mould as St Mary Magdalene. Prince Andrew had an affair with Koo Stark, which straddled the Falklands war in which he grew up. Said to have impressed HM Queen Elizabeth, her Majesty eventually knocked the relationship on the head as inappropriate: after praying for the Royal family became optional, as the Falklands campaign was in 1982. Ms Stark had three things going against her: like Wallis Simpson before her and Meghan Markle after her she was (a) American and (b) pre-loved. The third problem was her name. ‘Camilla’ is Italian/Roman in origin and means ‘helper to the priest’. ‘Koo’ can mean ‘in the know’, but can also mean ‘old, decrepit or unpretentious’, which has yet to apply to her...

Richard Law

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