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*Blwyddyn Newydd
Dda!*



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*Happy
New Year!*

2025
Ionawr
January



EAST LANDSKER LOCAL MINISTRY AREA

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**CHURCH SERVICES THIS MONTH ARE
ANNOUNCED ON PAGES 5, 12, 19 AND 26**

EDITORIAL

2025 AND ALL THAT



Happy new year! Blwyddyn newydd dda!

Bonne année! Feliz año nuevo! Καλή Χρονιά!

However you say it, the wish is the same. This is the time of year when most of us say goodbye to our hangovers and 2024, and hope that the new year will be a distinct improvement on the old. And let's face it, that's not a particularly high bar.

New Year is the oldest of all holidays – although its timing has varied throughout the ages and from place to place. The ancient Babylonians (Iraqis) can probably claim the first historical example some 4,000 years ago, when they celebrated the first day of spring. Like us, they made new year resolutions – though whether they actually kept them is not recorded.

In ancient Egypt the big annual event was the flooding of the Nile in the autumn, so they started their new year then. The old Celtic New Year Festival was also an autumn event: it took place at the end of October and was intended to mark the end of summer. The Jewish New Year still does begin in

Today's Morning Prayer 1st January

The Naming of Jesus

Psalm 103 (or 150)

Genesis 17. 1-13

Romans 2. 17-29

autumn: Rosh Hashanah ('Head of the Year') reckons to be the anniversary of the creation of Adam and Eve. We're currently in the year 5785, which began with festivities from 2nd-4th October, 2024. The Chinese New Year starts on 29th January 2025, when the Year of the Dragon gives way to the Year of the Wood Snake.

Muslims use a lunar calendar and celebrate their new year in March. That's also the month when medieval England started each new year – on March 25th or 'Lady Day', when we remember the angel telling Mary she was pregnant with Jesus. But in September 1752 the English calendar was reformed, and 11 days were 'lost' (don't ask). That shifted the beginning of the year to 6th April – still the start of the dreaded tax year. At the same time the start of the civil year was moved to 1st January – the date used by Julius Caesar when he introduced his version of the calendar in 46 BCE.

The calendar the ancient Romans used was reckoned 'AUC' – *Ab Urbe Condita*, from the foundation of the City of Rome, supposedly by Romulus in what we would reckon as 753 BCE. It started in March (named

Today's Morning Prayer 2nd January
Psalm 18. 1-30

Isaiah 60. 1-12

John 1. 35-42

after the God of War, *Martius* or Mars) and had only ten months covering 304 days: the other 61 days during the winter were monthless, poor things, until in about 713 BCE January and February were added. That explains why in today's Western calendar month no. 9 is called September, a name derived from the Latin *septem*, or seven. Similarly, the 10th month, October, comes from the Latin *octo* (eight), November from *novem* (nine) and the 12th month from the Latin for 'ten' (*decem*). Who needs Douglas Adams to explain why the universe is awry?

The next major revision after Julius Caesar (who gave his name to July, with August being named after his heir, Augustus) came in 1582 when on 15th October Pope Gregory XIII gave birth to the Gregorian Calendar. Or was it 5th October? That's when those infamous 11 days were 'lost', because the day before was certainly 4th October. Yes, I can count; I know that omitting 5th-14th October only adds up to 10 days, but the confusion is because different countries adopted the new reckoning at different times, some in 1582 and some later, with Britain and its American colonies not joining the club until 1752 – and Russia not until 1918. I did tell you not to ask.

Today's Morning Prayer 3rd January
Psalm 127

Isaiah 60. 13-22

John 1. 43-50

But why all this messing around with dates? I like to think of it as some sort of divine joke, an astronomical Tower of Babel. ‘They think they’re so clever,’ says the Creator; ‘I know, let’s give them a lunar cycle of 28 days and a solar year of 365.24219 days’ (365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes and 45 seconds). ‘Oh, and for a bit more hilarity, let’s wobble the Earth a bit so that the ‘tropical’ year isn’t *quite* the same as the ‘sidereal’ year, aligning the Earth’s orbit with fixed stars. Let’s make that, ooh, what? Let’s make that 365.25636 days. That’ll keep ‘em from getting too smug.’ And it has, leaving us hopping and skipping through the centuries. Perhaps that’s what a ‘leap’ year really means, when we have to add an extra day onto the end of February because we like to make our year an exact 365 days when it’s actually nearer 365.25.

And don’t get me started on solar calendars vs lunar calendars vs lunisolar calendars, these last being used by the Chinese and many Indian cultures, who every so often pop in an extra month or two in a process known as *intercalation*. Don’t know about you, but my brain ‘urts.

By the way, if thinking about the Creator having a

Today’s Morning Prayer 4th January
Psalm 89

Isaiah 61

John 1. 1-12

laugh tickles your blasphemy detectors, don't let it. According to the Gospels, Jesus often used humour to get his message across. And one of the many miracles I have personally witnessed was totally hilarious. But that's for another time, perhaps.

Talking of Jesus (yes, I know this is a church publication, but still), you may have noticed I used the term 'BCE' (Before Common Era) as opposed to the more traditional 'BC' (Before Christ). When I first met this I rejected it with disgust as yet another secular devaluation of Christian values. True, it's more 'inclusive' in the sense that it embraces people of all faiths and none, as the saying goes; but all the same ... And then I got to thinking about it. What does 'Before Christ' mean in the light of John 1.1, for example ('In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word *was* God')?


**EAST LANDSKER LOCAL MINISTRY AREA
SERVICES THIS SUNDAY**

The Second Sunday of Christmas

5TH JANUARY

09.30	Llanwinio	Boreol Weddi	(PH)
09.30	Llangedwen	Holy Eucharist	(CC)
10.30	St Tysilio's	Llandissilio Holy Communion	(SE)
11am	St David's	Clynderwen Matins	(NJ)
11am	St Mary's	Whitland Holy Communion	(KT)
11am	St Brynach's	Llanboidy Holy Communion	(SM)
11.15	Llanfyrnach	Holy Eucharist	(CC)

NEWSFLASH: Cegin 24, formerly Y Badell Ffrio Grand opening on 1st January

<p>CRYMYCH'S FAMOUS FISH AND CHIP SHOP Y BADELL FFRIO HAS CEASED TRADING BUT WILL REOPEN SHORTLY AS A FISH AND CHIP SHOP CALLED CEGIN 24</p>	
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We should follow John 1.14 and insist not on 'BC' but on 'BTWWMF' – 'Before The Word Was Made Flesh'. Seriously, though, despite all the natural disasters and the wars and rumours of wars that are already marring 2025, surely we shouldn't get too hung up on dates, but resolve to renew our trust in 'the One who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty' (Revelation 1.8). So yes – happy new year.

Jonathan Copus



Today's Morning Prayer 6th January

The Epiphany of our Lord

Psalm 113

Jeremiah 31. 7-14

John 1. 29-34

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In the Wake of the Storm - Darragh

We all lost some time courtesy of the storm and losing electricity. You might have been lucky and had a short gap like the Revd Carol Court in St. Clears or unlucky like Revd. Shirley Murphy in Meidrim who had a long gap and fallen trees in her garden. In East Landsker's northern border, Clydai and Llanfyrnach churches had no electricity the day after the storm, nor did the community halls. Our editor and printer Sarah Eynon fared the worst and didn't have the internet back until the 17th of December.

Darragh is an Irish name that means "oak" and is derived from the Old Irish word daire. It is often used as a masculine name in Ireland but can also be used

Today's Morning Prayer 7th January
Psalm 99

Isaiah 63. 7-19

1 John 3

as a surname or feminine name. Darragh is a popular name in Ireland due to its strong meaning and connection to Irish mythology and is now carved into East Landsker's landscape as the storm of the 6th to 8th of December 2024.

Every parish will have tales to tell about Darragh. In Clydau, the electricity went off around 0230 on the Saturday morning and stayed off for five days, taking out the telephones and internet as well as the lights. Llwyndrain resident Richard Griffiths went to Whitland on Friday and couldn't get back. On the Saturday, we had to write off Elizabeth's 70th birthday party in Bwlchygroes Community Hall and instead had a muted version in Newcastle Emlyn with her relatives on the Sunday afternoon, where they had electricity but no internet.

Everyone has trees down, rickety trees, electrical and internet disruption, loose slates, roof damage – and we all lived to tell the tale. It made this Grapevine late. The 'normal' pattern for a monthly magazine is to be published two weeks before the date on the cover. With Christmas and New Year shutting a lot of business down, proper magazines may seek to be even earlier.

Today's Morning Prayer 8th January
Psalm 46

Isaiah 64

1 John 4. 7-21

Since we're not a proper magazine, our 'target' has always been to have printed copies in time to hand them out at fourth Sunday of the month services. St Clydai's PCC opted for postal subscriptions years ago because Kathie never made that deadline after Revd. Jonathan Copus retired and our drive to encourage postal subs has been for the same reason – getting the news of what's on next month out before it's half over.



And courtesy of Storm Darragh, we didn't quite make it this time, or did we? Writing is supposed to finish on the tenth of the month, which in December 2024 was a candlelight vigil for Sarah – and me; except I was ordered to Bryngwyn where my daughter had electricity and could keep an eye on us. Hopefully next month will be better.... (Richard Law)



Elizabeth's 70th Birthday party

Today's Morning Prayer 9th January
Psalm 148 (or Psalm 2)

Isaiah 65. 1-16

1 John 5. 1-12

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DANIEL AND THE REVELATION

Through November and into December, our morning prayer lessons were from the Book of Daniel in the Old Testament and the Book of Revelation in the new. These two books are full of images much used by artists – Daniel in the Lion’s den, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego thrown into the fiery furnace without getting scorched; their Hebrew names anybody? (Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah)

I knew how to pronounce them from the Sunday School song but there’s more music about them than

Today’s Morning Prayer 10th January
Psalm 149 (or Psalm 97)
Isaiah 65. 17-25
1 John 5. 13-21

just that: ‘Shadrach’ written by Robert MacGimsey in the 1930s and covered by Louis Armstrong among others. There’s a hip hop version by the Beastie Boys, and Johnny Cash’s ‘fourth man in the fire’ - ***“They wouldn’t bend, they wouldn’t bow, they wouldn’t burn.”***



And no shortage of art. The same can be said of Revelation – so many images while the baseline is advice to the seven churches. One difference I noticed was that there is no image from the Book of Revelation in the Sistine chapel. Daniel is depicted reading a book, so the most famous images from his book were not used in any fresco.

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Today’s Morning Prayer 11th January
Psalm 150

Isaiah 66. 1-11

2 John

Daniel, like Joseph so many years before him, has the God-given gift to interpret dreams. He and his friends were deported to Babylon (there's another song: "Rivers of Babylon" is a Rastafari song written and recorded by Brent Dowe and Trevor McNaughton of the Jamaican reggae group The Melodians in 1970) during the Babylonian exile of 605-538BC to serve king Nebuchadnezzar there, to whom word eventually reaches of Daniel's gift and he gets to explain the statue dream. And that's another gift to the art world – a statue with a head of gold, torso of silver, loins of brass, legs of iron and feet – of iron and clay, which is what brings it down. Daniel records these early events in his book in the third

**EAST LANDSKER LOCAL MINISTRY AREA
SERVICES THIS SUNDAY**

The First Sunday of Epiphany

12TH JANUARY

09.30	Llanwinio	Holy Eucharist	(CC/PH)
10.00	Mynachlogddu	Morning Prayer	(JW)
11am	St David's Clynderwen	Holy Communion	(SE)
11am	St Mary's Whitland	Matins	(KT)
11am	St Brynach's Llanboidy	Holy Communion	(SM)
11.15	St Clydai Star	Holy Eucharist	(CC)
14.30	Cyffig Church	Cyffig Holy Communion	(KT)



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person, as though watching himself and then switches to “I, Daniel” later in the book

The book of Revelation as ‘apocalyptic literature’ is full of such disclosures from Jesus Christ after his ascension into Heaven to St John as Jesus reveals to John how God will judge evil and reward his saints. This is the book that reveals Jesus as the Alpha and the Omega, which is Jesus echoing God’s word to Isaiah (ch44 v6) **“I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God”**.

The detail of things which must shortly come to pass are specifically related to the seven churches, but Jesus is revealing these from Heaven where “a

Today’s Morning Prayer 13th January
Psalm 2

Amos 1

1 Corinthians 1. 1-17



Daniel in the Sistine Chapel - reading



The Revelation stained glass window in the York Minster

thousand years in your sight are like a

day that has just gone by..." (Psalm 90 v4). While these things may shortly come to pass, they may not have yet. The message to the churches in Revelation chapter two is of encouragement, to be ready for the Lord's second coming. Of that we are told in 1 Thessalonians 5, "for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night." And not for the first time. In 1 Kings 19 we read of Elijah's experience; "the Lord is about to pass by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains

Today's Morning Prayer 14th January
Psalm 9

Amos 2

1 Corinthians 1. 18-31

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apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake.¹² After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.

Many years earlier God revealed himself similarly to Moses, who was directed to wait in a cleft in the rock. As God passed by, he covered Moses with his hand until he had passed then “I will remove my hand, and you will see my back, but my face must not be seen.” (Exodus 33 v23.). Moses had met God earlier as a burning bush (Exodus 3, 1-10).

Today's Morning Prayer 15th January
Psalm 20

Amos 3

1 Corinthians 2

In our age, we await the second coming of our Lord, not knowing how that will be revealed to us – except that when it is, it will be a revelation because it will seem less a hard-won achievement than a surprising gift. The second coming is God's gift to us. It may humble or elate us; it might disturb or even shock us. We must be listening, as past revelations have not come with a loud bang, but softly such that only those ready for it might notice. But it could be so dramatic that it will make us change the way we see the world and the way we live our lives.

Faith is a matter of personal trust in obedience to God. It brings saving knowledge that bears decisively on the meaning of wholeness and of fulfilment of our life in relationships to God and others. (9. Isaiah 55:9) As the heavens are higher than the earth, so in many ways it is higher than our ways and the way we think.

Elizabeth Law

Elizabeth is focal minister
at St Clydai



Today's Morning Prayer 16th January
Psalm 21

Amos 4

1 Corinthians 3

Kim Henedde

KIM O HENFEDDE YN PORTREADU BETTY O DRE-BIWT



Translated from the Clebran Magazine.(By Joyce Williams)

Kimberley Abodunrin was born in Cardiff and when she was adopted at two years old moved to Henedde.

She attended Clydau school in Tegryn and being fluent in Welsh went onto Preseli School. Now she is

Today's Morning Prayer 17th January
Psalm 67 (Deus Misereatur)

Amos 5. 1-17

1 Corinthians 4

first black headmistress. Her Welsh is so polished that she plays the lead role “Betty from Bute” Bute is the docklands in Cardiff where the school Ysgol Cymraeg Hamedryad is.

Kim and her parents were constant worshippers at Llanfyrnach whilst living here. We saw her on the television on “Am Dro and Yr Actor or Eicon, both televised on S4C recently.

(Joyce Williams is a worship leader at Llanfyrnach)



Today's Morning Prayer 18th January
Psalm 33

Amos 5. 18-27

1 Corinthians 5

When Bishop Joanna resigned due to ill health her departure set in train the process of selecting her successor, which in the Church in Wales is a matter for the Church in Wales to sort out and the Rt Revd. Dorrien Davies became our 130th Bishop of St. David's.

Other top jobs seem to have more convoluted routes by which the candidate is selected. I am told that a Home Office rule prevents a police officer becoming chief constable of the constabulary through which he rose to the more senior ranks, from which one might assume a successor is to be found. But no, they must move around in order to demonstrate the wider breadth of experience that a stepping stone career might demonstrate. Traditionally, commissioners for the Metropolitan Police always seem to have an academic background,

EAST LANDSKER LOCAL MINISTRY AREA

SERVICES THIS SUNDAY

The Second Sunday of Epiphany

19TH JANUARY

09.00 St Tysilio's Llandissilio Holy Communion (KT)

09.30 Llanwinio Boreol Weddi (PH)

10.00 Mynachlogddu Holy Eucharist (CC/JW)

11am St David's Clynderwen Morning Prayer (NJ)

11am St Mary's Whitland Matins (KT)

11am St Brynach's Llanboidy Holy Communion (SM)

having had a tour of duty as head of a police college.

Another top job, currently vacant, is for the Archbishop of Canterbury. That is ultimately a at a theological college. The recently resigned Justin Welby, who came into the church from industry was an exception in that the only time he spent in theological college was as a student.

The process for appointing another Archbishop of Canterbury involves a series of bureaucratic steps, first of which is that 10 Downing Street appoint a Crown Nominations Commission. This CNC is made up of members from the Diocese of Canterbury, the House of Bishops, and the General Synod. The Prime Minister appoints the layperson Chair of the CNC.

The CNC reviews background material, discusses challenges, and considers the qualities needed for the role. They then interview a few of the shortlisted candidates before they put forward two names to the Prime Minister, who can choose one or ask for more.

Assuming he chooses one, the King issues a letter naming the person to be elected and grants a license to the Canterbury College of Canons to elect the bishop. Then a ceremony takes place at St Paul's Cathedral to confirm the election.

Today's Morning Prayer 20th January
Psalm 146

Amos 6

1 Corinthians 6. 1-11



Bishop Dorrien



***Archbishop
Justin Welby***



Bishop Wyn

Justin Welby's career path went through St. John's College Durham to being a curate at Chilvers Coton and St Mary the Virgin, Astley (Nuneaton) from 1992 to 1995. Then he was rector of St James' Church, Southam, and St Michael and All Angels, Ufton from 1995 to 2002 before moving to Coventry Cathedral as a canon and later subdean until 2007. Then four years as Dean of Liverpool Cathedral and eighteen months as Bishop of Durham before the call to Canterbury came.

The next Archbishop of Canterbury will likely be one of the forty-two current Diocesan Bishops of England although the net can be cast wider to Bishops in sees outside England.

Today's Morning Prayer 21st January
Psalm 132

Amos 7

1 Corinthians 6. 12-20

In contrast to Archbishops and chief constables, Dorrien has always been in St. David's Diocese, since his ordination in 1988. Of his predecessors, Bishop Joanna had a wide-ranging career in the church, serving in a lot more places, while Bishop Wyn was always 'around' St David's diocese and had a tour of duty as chaplain at Trinity College in Carmarthen. Bishop Carl was also Wales-oriented and unlike filling national roles like the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, what works best in St David's is home-grown leaders.

Richard Law

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Today's Morning Prayer 22nd January
Psalm 81

Amos 8

1 Corinthians 7. 1-24

On the subject of the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, recently debated in the House of Commons, my brother Simon, who is a clerk in holy orders in Essex, wrote to the Church Times:

From the Revd Simon Law

Madam – as an Anglican, I have always accepted that our faith is based upon Scripture, Tradition and Reason – in that order!

Therefore, with reference to the *Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill*, I offer three comments for Christians to consider:

- **Scripture:** “... do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.” (I Corinthians 6: 19-20)

- **Tradition:** “Forasmuch as it hath pleased Almighty God of his great mercy to take unto himself the soul of our dear brother here departed:” (THE ORDER FOR THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD, The Book of Common Prayer, 1662)

- **Reason:** Do not support this bill.

Rev. Simon Law

Rector: Pitsea St. Gabriel with Nevendon St. Peter

The Church Times didn't print his letter, so we can with his kind permission. The bill has a long way to go, having only passed stage one – the second reading in the House of Commons. It remains to be seen whether Parliamentary time will be afforded it for its progress, as without government backing, most private members' bills fail.

Today's Morning Prayer 23rd January
Psalm 76

Amos 9

1 Corinthians 7. 25-40

Cyffig



Today's Morning Prayer 24th January
Psalm 27

Hosea 1. 1-2.1

1 Corinthians 8



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Everyone is welcome, but **please phone beforehand** so we know
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Hydref 28 October

Tachwedd 25 November



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**Today's Morning Prayer 25th January
Psalm 66**

Ezekiel 3. 22-27

Philippians 3. 1-14



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EAST LANDSKER LOCAL MINISTRY AREA SERVICES THIS SUNDAY

The Third Sunday of Epiphany

26TH JANUARY

09.30	Llanwinio	Holy Eucharist	(CC/PH)
11am	St David's Clynderwen	Holy Communion	(SE)
11am	St Mary's Whitland	Holy Communion	(KT)
11am	St Brynach's Llanboidy	Holy Communion	(SM)
11.15	Llanfyrnach	Holy Eucharist	(CC)
11.15	St Clydai	Star Morning Prayer	(EL)
14.30	Cyffig Church	Cyffig Evensong	(KT)

THE CHRISTMAS LEGEND OF CRYMYCH

Long ago, in the Preseli Hills, a wicked man named Modred cast a terrible curse:

"Let this land be cold, wet, and miserable forever!"

The hills became icy and lonely, and most people left—until Merlin heard the tale just before Christmas Eve. Merlin, who loved Christmas and the joy it brought, couldn't bear the thought of such sadness. So, he climbed the frozen hills, meeting a shivering farmer wrapped in oxhide.

"It's Modred's curse," the farmer explained. "The land is too cold and wet for Christmas cheer."

Merlin frowned. "Not even Christmas joy? This won't do!"

He raised his staff and declared, "This curse ends NOW, just in time for Christmas!"

Inspired by the farmer's shivering oxen, Merlin named the place Crym yr Uch—Welsh for "The Shivering Ox." With a mighty THUD, he split the skies, bringing sunlight and warmth to the land.

But Merlin wasn't finished. To protect the land, he called upon the Red Dragon of Wales, asking it to guard the hills. The dragon roared, "I will protect this land, so its people may always enjoy Christmas cheer!"

Today's Morning Prayer 27th January

Holocaust Memorial Day

Psalm 108

Hosea 2.18 -3.5

1 Corinthians 10.14 – 11.1

From that day on, Crymych thrived. And when the mist rolls over the hills during Christmastime, it's not just clouds—it's the dragon's breath, keeping Modred's curse at bay.

And every Christmas Eve, the old farmers tip their hats and whisper, "Dwi yma o hyd – We are still here!"

So remember, as you see the Preseli Hills in winter, behind the mist lies magic, bravery, and the spirit of Christmas, with the Red Dragon of Wales protecting the land and its people.



Today's Morning Prayer 28th January
Psalm 36

Hosea 4.1-16

1 Corinthians 10. 1-13

Cegin 24
Crymych's Famous
fish and chip shop
Grand opening
1st January 2025



Today's Morning Prayer 29th January
Psalm 46

Hosea 5. 1-7

1 Corinthians 10. 14-11.1

LATE START FOR CHRISTMAS

In all the excitement of getting over Storm Darragh, preparations for Christmas didn't happen. Our frozen food stashes at the community hall and Clydai church defrosted during the week-long electrical blackout and we couldn't print posters and fliers announcing events.

Nevertheless, we got together for a traditional service of nine lessons and carols at the Bwlchygroes community hall on Friday 20th December – the first Christmas event – with mulled wine, mince pies and Meilyr Tomos on the keyboard to play ten carols. Few in number, most people heard of it via word of mouth and as so many events had already been cancelled, venturing out into the darkness of the longest night of the year was not for the feint hearted.

Audience members took it in turn to read the nine lessons. There are variations in what the nine lessons are and we don't remember where these were received from, but the ones we did were:

1. Genesis 3, 8-19 – Original sin – eve and the apple
2. Genesis 22. 15-18 God's promise to make a great nation of Abraham's descendants
3. Isaiah 9, 2, 6&7 'Unto us a child is born
4. Isaiah 11. 1-9 foretells the greatness of the descendants of Jesse – Jesus.

Today's Morning Prayer 30th January
Psalm 47

Hosea 5.8-6.6

1 Corinthians 11. 2-16

5. Luke 1. 26-35+38 The angel tells Mary of her pregnancy
6. Luke 2. 1+3-7 The nativity.
7. Luke 2 8-16 The heavenly host alerting the shepherds
8. Matthew 2. 1-12 The three wise men arriving via Herod's court.
9. John 1. 1-14 In the beginning was the word

All powerful scenes that have inspired no end of art – and some music. The words of the third lesson are used in Handel's Messiah. The eighth lesson inspired Sandro Botticelli's 1475 masterpiece of the Magi – with everyone dressed for 1475. The enigmatic ninth lesson doesn't inspire great art, but we liked this little illustration for the word made flesh.

What more we have for Christmas remains to be seen. While writing this we learned that Llanwinio's community carol service has been cancelled and the weather promises to get no better for Christmas week with wet being the norm.

It was ever thus. It snowed in Bethlehem in 2013
And sometimes in the other Bethlehem near Llandeilo.
In 2024 wind and rain dominated our events.
We can always hope for a better 2025

Today's Morning Prayer 31st January
Psalm 68

Hosea 8

1 Corinthians 12. 1-11



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