

## Pastoral Letter

Dear Friends,

Our Services of Remembrance this year were particularly poignant, with it being 100 years from the end of WW1. I was impressed how both church and community came together in a united show of respect for those who had lost their lives and been injured in wars since 1914. The poppies and other displays in and around the Church and town of Kidwelly really made this Remembrance Sunday feel special. Now the poppies have been tidied away and the Christmas preparations are beginning. This does not trivialize our memories of those lost in wars, but it does remind us that they gave their lives so that we could live and so live on we must.

Advent is a time of thoughtful preparation. A time to remember the amazing gift God gave the world in the form of his son Jesus Christ and it is also a time to prepare for what God may be about to do next in the world, or just with us as individuals.

The English word *advent* comes from the Latin *adventus*, which means "coming" or "arrival." For some Christians, this familiar term might as well mean "the time before Christmas when we shop for gifts and go to parties." But as fun as gift shopping or Christmas festivities might be, it's worth exploring what Advent has to do with the arrival of Christ.

Advent also links us to God's followers in the first century. The people in the Gospels—including Zechariah—were waiting for a Messiah to be born. They had been waiting for thousands of years, waiting as their land and kingdom had been handed off from one conquering empire to another. When the Gospels open, the newest conquerors, the Romans, had a civil religion that demanded allegiance over and above an allegiance to the Jewish God. Their collective worship at the temple took place in the shadow of a Roman fortress, a constant reminder that their faith and hope were under siege. People of faith were waiting for a deliverer who would restore hope, justice, and fulfil the promises of God.

That's not a very hard stance to empathize with in 2018. It seems there are all kinds of reasons to lose hope—if the news isn't filled with bad economic forecasts, there are reports of wars, genocide, injustice, and cruelty. It makes waiting difficult. Hope seems impossible and justice seems far off. The doubts and anxieties of the ancient faithful begin to sound a lot less frustrating and much more relatable. With the psalmist, or with the prophet Habbukuk, or with the prophet Isaiah, or with any of the other desperate voices of the Old Testament, we cry out: "How long, O Lord?"

As many of you know, Davina and I are awaiting the arrival of our next grandchild, our daughter Ruth was due to have the baby on Remembrance Sunday, but the day came and went and still there was no sign. Ruth wants to have the baby naturally, so as I write this we are still waiting.

We are very aware of how special the arrival of a new baby is to the family! This Christmas we celebrate again God's gift of Jesus: *'Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!'* (2 Corinthians 9:15). With the birth of Jesus, what had been unthinkable came into being. God entered the world in human form and not only that but as a helpless infant! The eternal, creator God enters the world of time and space, both fully human and fully divine. This divine baby can bring hope to our messy world, because He has fully become part of it. He doesn't stand apart but demonstrates a commitment to be with us and on our side in the midst of sin and suffering. By becoming human like us, Jesus fully engaged with the jungle of human experience. By His cross and resurrection, He can release us from the power of wrong, hurt and shame to secure for us a life of love, peace and forgiveness. Remember, the crib and cross were made of the same material: wood!

In the coming of Jesus, God doesn't draw us simply into a cosmic event, but into a relationship. Just as I can hold and hug a new baby, so we have a God who wants to be intimately involved in our lives as Emmanuel, *'God is with us'* (Matt 1:23). Therefore, the question is: Are we with Him? Are we ready to make space for Him at the centre of our Christmas Celebrations this year? 'At Christmas time, when we receive presents that we don't really need, God offers us a gift we cannot do without.'

So this year our family has double the task of watching and waiting first for the new baby in our family and also for the Christ Child in the hope that we will be accepted into his greater family of divine love and heavenly blessings. Although we can never be fully ready, we can do our best to prepare ourselves as best we can, for none of us can know the day or time of the Lord's return, but sometimes I wish it would be soon. I leave you with this Prayer

We praise you, O loving God,  
who gave your very self in human form,  
your majesty born into our poverty,  
your love lying in an out-house.  
We thank you that, amidst Bethlehem's noisy rush,  
we find in you

a focus for our activity,  
a hope for your humanity,  
a love for all eternity.

But we confess that  
Christ's birth has gone unnoticed.  
Now, as then, we have not made room  
in our day to day lives.  
Now, as then, we have mislaid  
your message of reconciling love.  
Now, as then, we have ignored  
the stillness of your presence.  
Gift-giving God, forgive us.  
Free us from our self-centredness.  
Help us to accept your love so freely given  
that we may live  
as you have called us to live. **Amen.**

May you and your loved ones have a joyous, love embracing Christmas and  
may the angels of heaven herald good things for you in the coming year ahead.

With love, prayers and blessings at this special time of the year,

Your Priest-in-Charge,

Trevor

PS. Our daughter, Ruth, gave birth to a healthy baby boy on 17<sup>th</sup> November.  
Mother and baby are both doing well. Thank you for all your prayers and good  
wishes.

Which Christmas carol is most popular with new parents? Silent Night!

**Christmas Angels.** We will be decorating St. Mary's with the angels again this  
year. If you would like to dedicate a message for someone, please sign the list at  
the back of church, together with a donation of £3.

**Advent Bible Study** at St. Mary's Parish Room will continue on Friday Dec 7<sup>th</sup>  
and 14<sup>th</sup> at 10am.

## **MEETING OF THE PCC WEDNESDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER**

### **MAIN POINTS**

**FINANCES** – Our church finances are not in a good position, as our expenditure exceeds our income. Planned giving is down and only the Gift Aid we have claimed back has improved the current position.

The envelope system is labour intensive with counting, baking and claiming Gift Aid. If people can move to the “Gift Direct” Scheme (explanatory notes and forms available) all the work is done for the church by this system.

If this system is not used, new Gift Aid declarations will be needed. Church finances are now on-line.

When envelopes are used, Sidespersons are required to count the collection after each service checking and logging the amount on a sheet ready for banking. Forms are available to complete and sign.

Money from St Teilo’s Harvest and the Carol Service will go to the Parish Room fund. Mr. Edwin Atkinson was thanked for his former valuable assistance in counting, collecting and banking for St Mary and St Teilo’s Churches.

### **PARISH ROOM**

We have unfortunately failed to secure the Co-op Community grant which was very disappointing. Since this application, the Vicar has met with the local Community Development officer and she has promised to provide assistance in finding other grant funding for the Parish Room project, but these days funding avenues close quickly as there is a great demand for limited resources. The need is to have a plan of fundraising events and a small committee appointed for this was discussed and agreed. The next event will be the Christmas concert given by the Morfa Madrigals in St Mary’s Church on December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

The planning application is still with CADW.

### **ST. TEILO**

Upgrading work on the electrics is to be done at St Teilo’s in order for the church to pass the necessary test certificate.

### **VICAR’S COMMENTS**

William Lambert and Heidi de-Gruchy will be licensed on November 14<sup>th</sup> November at St Thomas Church Ferryside. We are very grateful for them joining us in this shared ministry in the churches of the new LMA.

Messy Church attendance is steady but not shooting up. The half term craft fun that was planned to make items to sell at the Christmas Fair (Gwenllian Hall, November 17<sup>th</sup>) was very successful. Our last Messy Church of the year will be on November 25<sup>th</sup> and it will be an “Angels and Shepherds Party”, as part of the Advent celebrations leading up to Christmas.

Christmas services were discussed and will be detailed elsewhere in the magazine.

## **LMA MATTERS**

The Vicar read a letter from Marianne Osborne (Transition Minister) giving dates for establishing LMA of Bro Cydweli and the lead-up meeting dates. Meeting dates April 9<sup>th</sup>, May 15<sup>th</sup>, June 19<sup>th</sup>, and July 24<sup>th</sup>. Then the Date for establishing the LMA of Bro Cydweli is currently set for 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

## **AOB**

The need to replace Parish Room Heaters was discussed. Prices for electrical panel heaters and contractors to fit them will be explored.

## **Christmas Services**

02.12.18	St. Teilo's, Mynyddgarreg	7pm Community Carol Service
	*	
09.12.18	St. Maelog's, Llandyfaelog	7.30pm CFfi Carol Service
	*	
10.12.18	St. Mary's, Kidwelly	6pm Ysgol y Castell Carol Service
	*	
12.12.18	St. Mary's, Kidwelly	7pm Mothers' Union Carol Service
	*	
13.12.18	St. Mary's, Kidwelly	7pm Civic carol Service
	*	
16.12.18	St. Maelog's, Llandyfaelog	11.15 am Carol Service
	*	
23.12.18	St. Mary's, Kidwelly	5pm Christingle Service
	*	
24.12.18	St. Teilo's, Mynyddgarreg	6pm Christmas Eucharist
24.12.18	St. Maelog's, Llandyfaelog	8pm Christmas Eucharist
24.12.18	St. Mary's, Kidwelly	11.30pm Christmas Eucharist
	*	
25.12.18	St. Mary's, Kidwelly	9.30am Christmas Eucharist
	*	
30.12.18	St. Mary's, Kidwelly	10.30am United LMA Service

## St. Mary's News

Sidespersons 9:30 am  
December/January -Feb 2019

02/12/18	Ken Denman & George Davies
09/12/18	Brian & Liz Lewis
16//12/18	Eileen Bryant & Pearl Rowland
23/12/18	Ieuan Hughes & Maureen James
30/12/18	Mandy Jones & Lynne Davies (United Service 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday)
06/01/19	Christine Hughes & Liz Antoniazzi & John Farr-Davies
13/01/19	Harvey Jones & Kath Nicholas
20/01/19	Ken Denman & Geoff Davies
27/01/19	Brian & Liz Lewis
03//02/19	Eileen Bryant & Pearl Rowland

Readers 9:30am

02/12/18	Kath Nicholas
09/12/18	Maureen James (Welsh Service) Christine Hughes
16//12/18	Edwin Atkinson
23/12/18	Jean Giess
30/12/18	Mary Atkinson United Service 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday
06/01/19	Harvey Jones
13/01/19	Brian Lewis (Welsh Service) Peggy Davies
20/01/19	Pearl Rowland
27/01/19	Simon White
03//02/19	Kath Nicholas

If anyone would like to volunteer as a Reader or Sideperson please see Church Wardens or Pearl.

### **St. Mary's Flower List**

	<b>Altar</b>	<b>Pulpit</b>	<b>Lady Chapel</b>
December/January	Christine Hughes	Clare Walters	Brenda Evans
Feb 3/10	June Lloyd		Ceris Harries

## Plant Dewi

Thanks to everyone who donated towards the total £269.95 in the Plant Dewi Yellow Box collection this year. The money goes to help fund the work of Plant Dewi in the Diocese. If you would like to support Plant Dewi's work by taking a box please ask Alice or Brenda. Xx

## Christingle

We will be decorating and making Christingles in the Parish Room on Saturday 22nd December from 10.00am. Do come along and help.

## **St Mary's Church Floodlighting**

We thank all our sponsors

- 14/11/18 Loving birthday memories of my devoted husband, David.  
Forever in my thoughts and heart, your loving wife, Terri. x.
- 05/12/18 So wish you could be with us to celebrate your 70<sup>th</sup> birthday.  
Missing you so much, sweet dreams my love. xx.
- 10/12/18 Loving birthday memories of our wonderful sister, Gill  
(Gilly Jolly) Love and miss you every single day, Lala, Jackie  
and all your nieces and nephews.
- 10/12/18 Birthday memories xx
- 10/12/18 Remembering a good man, friend and neighbour on this, his  
birthday.
- 13/12/18 Remembering our Mum on the 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her death.
- 19/12/18 In loving memory of my darling husband, Roy, on what  
would have been your 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Missing you, gets worse  
every year. Love you for ever, Pauline. x.
- 19/12/18 Warmest congratulations Jackie (good Samaritan) on your  
special birthday, from former St. Mary's Choristers and  
Sunday School friends.
- 24/12/18 Treasured memories of my dear parents, Joan and Sid Cray at  
Christmas time. Love always, Avril. xx.
- 24/12/18 Dyddiad nad a yn angof. xx.
- 25/12/18 In memory of my best friend, Derek, who loved the season of  
Christmas. Christmas time will be desperately sad without  
your cheerful presence. God Bless, your devoted friend,  
Ieuan.

- 25/12/18 Er cof annwyl am Monica, mam a thad, Anti Mary, Jean, Janice ac Anti Dec. Gweld eich eisiau yn fawr yn arbennig a'r wyl y Nadolig. Cariad mawr Ieuan.
- 25/12/18 Thinking of you Mair, Ken and John at Christmas time and always. Love Linda and Amy.
- 25/12/18 Loving and cherished memories at Christmas time of my very dear mother and father. Forever in my thoughts, much love as always, Enid.
- 25/12/18 Treasured memories at Christmas time of a much loved brother and uncle. Forever in our thoughts, much love as always, Enid, Denise and Jason.
- 25/12/18 Treasured memories of John, Verina and Derrick Kilvert at Christmas time. Forever in our thoughts, Brian, Jean, Richard and Jonathan.
- 26/12/18 Cherished memories of our dearly loved son, Martin, who passed away on the 26<sup>th</sup> December 2014. Missed far more than words can say. Mam, Dad, Robert and family.
- 03/01/19 In memory of my dear friend, Derek Dalton, on what would have been his birthday. The void you have left Derek is enormous. Always in my thoughts and prayers, God Bless. Your devoted friend, Ieuan.
- 06/01/19 Loving memories today, Glyn, a year gone. God Bless xx
- 08/01/19 Remembering our Dad on the anniversary of his death.
- 20/01/19 Treasured memories of my dearest mother, Rose Smith, on the anniversary of her death. Always in my thoughts, Love Sheila. xx.
- 22/01/19 Loving birthday memories of Verina Kilvert, a dear mother, mother-in-law and mamgu. Brian, Jean, Richard and Jonathan.
- 23/01/19 Cherished birthday memories of Derrick, a dear brother, brother-in-law and uncle. Brian, Jean, Richard and Jonathan.
- 27/01/19 Loving and cherished birthday memories of my much loved mother, Amy Hawkins. Love Jan. xx.
- 28/01/19 Er cof am fam a thad annwyl a chariadus, sef Emrys Hughes a fu farw ar yr 28ain o Ionawr 1985, ac Effie Hughes bu farw ar yr 28ain o Ionawr 1993. Gweld eich eisiau yn fawr, Cariad, Ieuan.xx.

## **Christmas Greetings**

I should like to wish all friends and neighbours a Happy Christmas and Healthy New Year. God bless, love, Brenda xx

In view of the sad loss of my dear friend, Derek Dalton, I will not be sending Christmas cards this year. However, I wish all my friends and neighbours a blessed peaceful Christmas time, and a happy healthy New Year. Ieuan.

Wishing friends and neighbours and fellow parishioners a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. From Sheila Nash.

A merry Christmas and a happy New Year to you all. Best wishes for 2019. Vanessa Grasso.

Season's Greetings to all our family, friends, and neighbours. With Love and God's Blessings, Christine and Garry.

## **Trevor's Cracker Jokes**

### **Honest Prayer:**

A little girl was asked to say grace before Christmas dinner. The family members bowed their heads in expectation. She began her prayer, thanking God for all her friends, naming them one by one. Then she thanked God for Mummy, Daddy, brother, sister, Grandma, Grandpa, and all her aunts and uncles. Then she began to thank God for the food. She gave thanks for the turkey, the dressing, the fruit salad, the cranberry sauce, the pies, the cakes, even the ice cream.

Then she paused, and everyone waited--and waited. After a long silence she looked up at her mother and asked, "If I thank God for the broccoli, won't he know that I'm lying?"

**Praying with intent:** A little boy was kneeling beside his bed with his mother and grandmother and softly saying his prayers, "Dear God, please bless Mummy and Daddy and all the family and please give me a good night's sleep." Suddenly he looked up and shouted, "And please let me have a new bicycle for Christmas!!"

"There is no need to shout," said his mother. "God can always hear us, he even knows our thoughts."

"I know," said the little boy, "but Grandma doesn't hear so well."

## **Heavenly Pets:**

A newly discovered chapter in the Book of Genesis has provided the answer to "Where do pets come from?" Adam said, "Lord, when I was in the garden, you walked with me every day. Now I do not see you anymore. I am lonesome here and it is difficult for me to remember how much you love me."

And God said, "No problem! I will create a companion for you that will be with you forever and who will be a reflection of my love for you, so that you will love me even when you cannot see me. Regardless of how selfish or childish or unlovable you may be, this new companion will accept you as you are and will love you as I do, in spite of yourself."

And God created a new animal to be a companion for Adam. And it was a good animal. And God was pleased. And the new animal was pleased to be with Adam and he wagged his tail. And Adam said, "Lord, I have already named all the animals in the Kingdom and I cannot think of a name for this new animal."

And God said, "No problem! Because I have created this new animal to be a reflection of my love for you, his name will be a reflection of my own name, and you will call him DOG."

And Dog lived with Adam and was a companion to him and loved him. And Adam was comforted. And God was pleased. And Dog was content and wagged his tail.

After a while, it came to pass that Adam's guardian angel came to the Lord and said, "Lord, Adam has become filled with pride. He seems to believe he is worthy of adoration. Dog has indeed taught him that he is loved, but perhaps too well."

And the Lord said, "No problem! I will create for him a companion who will be with him forever and who will see him as he is. The companion will remind him of his limitations, so he will know that he is not always worthy of adoration."

So, God created CAT to be a companion to Adam. And Cat would not obey Adam. And when Adam gazed into Cat's eyes, he was reminded that he was not a supreme being.

And Adam learned humility.

And God was pleased.

And Adam was greatly improved.

And Dog was happy.

And the Cat didn't give a hoot one way or the other.

St. Mary's Church, Cydweli

# CHRISTMAS CONCERT

DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> 2018

7pm

MORFA MADRIGALS AND FRIENDS

An evening of Christmas music and  
readings

Tickets £5.00

All proceeds to the restoration fund of  
the Parish Room

Coffee and mince pie included in price.

### Messy Church and Sunday School.



October Messy Church was based on Ezekiel and the Valley of Dry Bones. All the activities had a bony theme, including making bone-strengthening fruit smoothies and culminating in quiet reflective music while each person brought forward their prayers, written on Bonio biscuits, and buried them in sand.

November Messy Church was an Angels and Shepherds Party. We explored and celebrated the birth of Jesus, pinned Nativity characters on a stable poster, made a Christmas tree from cut out hands, decorated star-shaped cards and created angel decorations.

All finished off with Christmas dinner in a bun!



The next Messy Church is January 27th  
But don't miss out! Come & join us at the Christingle service  
Sunday 23rd December @ 5pm St. Mary's Church, Kidwelly

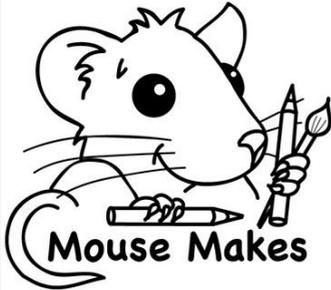
### The Christmas Elves came to help.

During half term 19 children and 14 adults turned up to make Christmas Crafts to be sold at the Christmas Craft Fair in Princess Gwenllian Hall on Saturday 17th November. We had great fun making the crafts and had a lovely assortment to take to the fair. I'm delighted to tell you that we raised more than £150 to help with our Messy Church and Sunday School. Thank you to everyone that helped at the Elf Workshop and at the Fair.

### Remembrance Day



During the service on 11.11.18 the younger children talked about who we were remembering and why, painted poppies made from pop bottles, joined the parade and laid a poppy with the wreaths to commemorate the centenary of the end of WWI.



**Remember** the words Jesus said:  
*"It is more blessed to give than to receive."*  
 Colossians 3:25

**Remember**  
 all the  
 commandments  
 of the Lord  
 and obey them

*Colossians 3:25*

Jesus took bread,  
 gave thanks,  
 broke it and said,  
*"This is my body  
 which I am giving  
 for you, do this to  
 remember me."*

*Luke 22:19*

Jesus said:  
*"No one can have  
 greater love than  
 to give his life for  
 his friends."*

*John 15:13*

**Remember** to keep  
 the Sabbath day Holy

*Exodus 20:8*

**Remember** what you are taught,  
 and listen carefully to words  
 of knowledge.

*Proverbs 23:12*

Cut out, colour and keep these cards to help you to remember God's words to us.



**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families

## **Introduction: 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign 2018**

16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an international campaign. It takes place each year from **25 November** (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) until **10 December** (International Human Rights Day).

Throughout the campaign, Mothers' Union joins with many others, globally, to raise awareness of, and call for an end to gender-based violence in *all* forms and in *all* societies.

Mothers' Union has produced a set of resources specifically for its members and friends, which you are welcome to use and to encourage others to use. We hope this helps to support our members and friends to engage with this important campaign.

The information provided can be used to share knowledge and increase awareness of this important issue. It can be distributed (for example, during meetings) or reproduced (for example, in church leaflets or as content for your own resources). Additional resources will be added as the 16 days draw closer – so keep checking back on the Mothers' Union website.

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence Campaign is an extension of the day-to-day grassroots work of Mothers' Union. We work alongside communities to help end gender-based violence and to support those affected by it, every day of the year.

### **Global Act of Solidarity - Prayer globe**

Our globe will be in St. Mary's church so please add your prayers until the 10<sup>th</sup> December– for all those working to end gender-based violence, and all those impacted by gender-based violence. On the final Sunday of 16 Days, prayers will be offered as part of the intercessions.

**This is a community exercise not just for MU members**

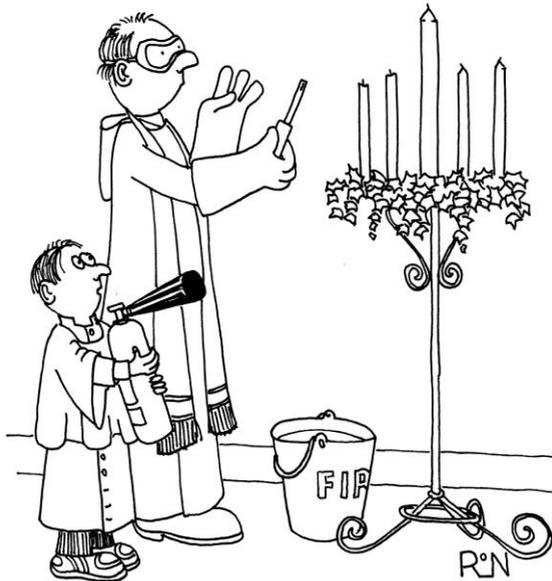
**We offer up these prayers as a sign of our solidarity with all who are affected by gender-based violence and as a sign of our unity with all who campaign for justice across the world.  
Lord, hear our prayers for an end to all forms of violence and abuse. Amen**

**Branch news**

Our meeting on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December will be our Annual branch Carol service at 7.00pm followed by festive refreshments in the Parish Room. A warm welcome is extended to all.

There will be no meeting in January.

Subscriptions for 2019 will stay the same at £19. There has been an increase to the part of the subs that go to our headquarters in Mary Sumner House, but our Trustees in the Diocese have agreed to absorb this cost for next year out of the General Fund.



*After the first candle fiasco, Brian took no chances*

## **Kidwelly News and Diary Events**

### **“Ail Gyfle” Second Chance Cancer Appeal**

The Christmas fundraising coffee morning which was held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at the Rugby Club, Kidwelly was a great success and raised a total of £900.00. The event was opened by Mrs Angharad Williams, a farmer’s wife from Llangyndeyrn, who herself has battled breast cancer undergoing the demanding treatments associated with the diagnosis. As a result Angharad has been active in organising various fundraising events, culminating in a grand total of £64,000.00 for breast cancer treatment and research. What an achievement.

The Ail Gyfle committee wish to express their sincere appreciation to everyone who supported our event, for the generous monetary donations, the raffle prizes, the contributions to the cake stall, and to the ladies who helped in the kitchen and served the refreshments. Diolch i bawb am eich cefnogaeth i lwyddiant y bore coffi.

Ieuan Hughes  
Cadeirydd, Chairman.

### **Welfare Coffee Mornings**

Held in the Rugby Club at 10.30.

Please note: December 11th will be a Christmas event.

**Kidwelly Tea Dance Club** wishes to invite you to join us for an afternoon of music and dancing at The Gwenllian Centre in Hillfield Villas, Kidwelly. SA17 4UZ on Tuesday December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018, then Tuesday January 15<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019 2.00pm-4.00pm.

- \* Admission £3.00 to include refreshments
- \* Easy parking and easy access
- \* A raffle for local charities

New members will be given a warm welcome.

The Kidwelly Tea Dance Club Committee would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a very healthy, peaceful and happy New Year.

## **Kidwelly Senior Citizens**

Sadly we have heard of the death of another one of our members, Dorothy Evans. Dorothy & Ron were stalwarts of the club when healthy and enjoyed joining us on the trips. We offer our condolences to her family. We offer our best wishes to any members in poor health and to those who are celebrating birthdays this month and next. A special mention of our Treasurer, Jackie Russell, who will be 70. Our trip to Cardiff was enjoyed by all and again fair weather prevailed. This was our last trip for this year, but we have our Christmas 'Do' at the Red Lion on the 13<sup>th</sup> December to look forward to. Our next meeting will be on 5<sup>th</sup> December, but no meeting in January, so we'll meet again on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019. From us all at Senior Citizens can we wish everyone a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and Best Wishes for a New Year which brings everything you want it to.

## **Shoe Boxes**

Each year we have supported the Appeal made by Link to Hope to send shoe boxes to Eastern Europe.

It is with pleasure that Trinity Methodist Church in Kidwelly have contributed to this Appeal again and, although overall our total is not as great as last year, we were able to send 266 boxes. Trinity is a collection point and the 266 boxes include some from Pembroke, but 168 were made up from Trinity, plus 44 more from friends: Ysgol y Castell, Kidwelly Old Age Club, Wesley Methodist Church and Cae Ffair Nursery.

We thank the Mayor, Councillor Phil Thompson, and his consort, Lisa Williams for coming to see the collection of the boxes, and for their help in loading the van provided by Castell Howell, driven by Richard, accompanied by Karen. Very many thanks are given to all kind people who gave gifts and helped, especially the two ladies who made several journeys to collect empty shoe boxes from Hotter.

From photographs sent to us, we know the boxes are received with joy. We have a busy time packing and wrapping boxes but would like to feel that our gifts give pleasure to those less fortunate than ourselves. May God bless those who give the boxes as well as those who receive them.

Thank you everyone for your support.  
Joan Osborne.

**Public Surgeries** County Councillor Jeanette Gilasbey will be holding public surgeries for all the community to come and speak to her with any issues that need addressing on: **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2018 at 10-30am, in Neuadd Mynyddgarreg, Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at 10-30am, in Kidwelly Rugby Club.** If you would prefer to email or ring her, you are most welcome. Email address is: - [jgilasbey@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:jgilasbey@carmarthenshire.gov.uk)  
Telephone number:- 01554 892729.



**REMEMBER THE WAR –TY GOLAU TEAM AT ANTIOCH 25/10/2018**



### **Ty-Golau update**

**3rd October.** Ty-Golau gave a presentation on the work of Ty-Golau to the Senior Citizens group at Mynydd-y-Garreg and as a result one of the members is now attending our sessions on a weekly basis. We are grateful to the members of the group for inviting us to speak.

**4<sup>th</sup> October (Llanelli)** We received a visit from the Assistant Psychologist from Hywel Dda Health Board who was very interested in our work.

**16<sup>th</sup> October** saw us giving a presentation to the Salvation Army Ladies Group at Llanelli which was very well received. One of the members who attended is now a regular service user at our Llanelli (afternoon) sessions.

**25<sup>th</sup> October** was a great day as we celebrated the war years at Antioch, Llanelli (see photograph). Part of our session was filmed and featured in Llanelli Online. 60 school children (all dressed as evacuees) joined us for the day as well as many invited guests.

**13<sup>th</sup> November.** Jan Lewis and Mary Standfield delivered a teaching session to staff at DELTA Wellbeing in Llanelli with a view to them sending referrals to Ty-Golau.

**15<sup>th</sup> November.** We had a visit from Katy Hughes a member of the team of the Older Commissioner for Wales at our Llanelli session. She is to visit us again in Mynydd-y-Garreg on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November.

Our last session before the Christmas break will be **Wed. 5<sup>th</sup> Dec. (Kidwelly) and Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> Dec. (Llanelli)**. This will include our free Christmas buffet (to thank all our service users and carers for attending so faithfully throughout the year). During the morning, service users and carers will be bringing musical contributions, poems etc. to the session, there will be carol singing and a Christmas quiz. Not to be missed will be the sketch given by volunteers (one of whom will be wearing a tutu and bright pink tights!) Not a pretty sight I can assure you. Look out for a photo in the February magazine.

We resume after the Christmas break **Wed. 9<sup>th</sup> January (Kidwelly) and Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January (Llanelli)**.

Everyone at Ty-Golau, wishes you all a very happy Christmas and peaceful and blessed 2019.

Jan Lewis (Manager)

### **Newyddion St. Teilo Mynyddygarreg News**

**Over 50's Club** Our last meeting of the year was well attended, when members learned that our group "The Mynyddygarreg Senior Citizens Association" has been successful in being nominated as one of three causes to receive a share from the co-op local community fund for the coming year. The number of votes for our club from co-op members will be vital to ensure we gain a share of the grant. Tel. no 0800 023 4708 to nominate us. The members and past members are grateful to the officials who put the work into securing this grant, which will enable the club to enjoy more social activities.

Diolch yn fawr iawn i chi am hyn, ac am rhedeg y clwb mor gyson.

Our afternoon was filled with a very interesting talk on "Penllergaer Valley Woods" Swansea, by Mr. Brian Richards. Tea hostesses were Jean Fox and Marion Lewis.

**Eglwys Sant Teilo** will be holding a Gymanfa Ganu Carolau Nadolig on Sunday 2nd December at 7.00pm. Leading the Carols will be Mr Ioan Hefin. A collection will be taken in aid of the Parish Room refurbishment project. Following the service, Mince Pies and Mulled Wine will be served .  
Dewch bawb i ymuno mewn noson o ganu a hwyl. A very warm welcome to all to this popular event.

**Sant Teilo Harvest Thanksgiving** donation of food was gratefully accepted by the food bank at Llanelli. We succeeded in collecting a vast amount of a variety of foods and it was a pleasure delivering the goods to Myrtle Terrace and the Trussell Trust to see what an asset the place is. The Cafe is a modern fresh area and here local people can enjoy a snack or meal, with play facilities for small children, and the food bank building is a very well- run unit with friendly staff. Any contributions would be most welcome, particularly at the coming Christmas season which can be a difficult time for many families. Cofiwch y sawl sy llai ffodus na ni, enwedig yn ystod adeg y Nadolig.

**Neuadd Mynyddgarreg's Annual Fireworks Display** undoubtedly went off with a Big Bang this year. A larger than ever crowd were enthralled by a fantastic display, the playful antics of the 'Men in Lights', the music and the BBQ. Well done Neuadd committee along with friends who volunteered their services on the night to create a truly magnificent event and they in turn give a big thank you for the tremendous and positive support to all who came along this year once again. Diolch bawb am eich cefnogaeth bob amser.

**The Annual Halloween party** was a huge success with young and old in amazing fancy dress costumes and the Mayor, Councillor Phil Thompson had the unenviable task of selecting the best on display. The children were entertained with games and competitions by the plucky Andrea Gower and the evening was very much a fun and enjoyable one.

**A Community service of Carols and Readings** will take place at the Neuadd on Friday 7th December at 7.00pm. We hope Sion Corn will pay a visit and join us in Mince Pies and Mulled Wine. No entrance fee but, a small donation can be made to a charity. This year the Town Council will be putting the first ever Christmas Tree in the village at the entrance to the Park, and it is hoped villagers can assemble there at 6.30pm for the lighting ceremony and take a candlelight procession up to the Neuadd for the Service.

**The village was saddened** to hear of the sudden death of Mr Gareth Griffiths, Y Nyth, formerly our very respected Chemist in Kidwelly, who served our community tirelessly and faithfully over many, many years. So many of us sought his advice and help, his quiet and warm nature so reassuring at all times. Our very deepest condolences go to his wife, Joy, along with Rhydian, Angharad, his grandchildren and all his family. The funeral was held at Capel y Morfa.

**Ysgol Mynyddygarreg held their Remembrance service** at the Neuadd when pupils sang and read prayers for the fallen. Representatives of the local branch of the Royal British Legion took part and laid the wreath on the memorial tablet in the foyer. Rev. Copeland addressed the children and read a poem.

**A sincere thank you** is expressed by Kath, John and Robert, Heol Llangadog, for all tokens of sympathy they received on the passing of Mrs Millie Roberts. They very much appreciate the support of friends and family and the tender care Millie was given by the staff of Affalon Nursing Home ( formerly Cae Ffair ), Llanelli, who made Millie's stay there a happy and comfortable one. Diolch yn fawr iawn i bawb.

**Ysgol Mynyddygarreg's Christmas Concert** will take place at the Neuadd on Thursday 6th December, doors open 6.00pm

**The Mayor of Kidwelly and Mynyddygarreg's** annual service of Lessons and Carols will take place at St Mary's Church on Thursday 13th December at 7.00pm.

**Christmas Eucharist at Sant Teilo** will be celebrated on Christmas Eve at 6.00pm. with Rev. Copeland officiating.

**Capel Horeb** will celebrate ' Y Plygain ' on Christmas Eve at 7.00pm. The guest Preacher will be the Rev. Eirian Wyn. The service is one of Carols, Address and Eucharist. A very warm welcome to all to join in worship and to listen to Rev. Eirian Wyn who is a Baptist Minister in Morriston, Chaplain to Swansea City AFC Academy and in November published his autobiography, whilst also being the father of the world famous opera singer Fflur Wyn.

**All at Sant Teilo** wish our Ficer, along with his wife and family, a joyous Christmas and a healthy and happy year to come amongst us. Our greetings also to those in office who take great care of our Churches, to fellow friends and worshippers in all our Churches, not forgetting our good friends Rev. Roger and Diane. Ein dymuniadau gorau i chi gyd am Nadolig llawen a blwyddyn da ag iach i ddilyn.

**At Clwb Cinio Bro Gwenllian's** November meeting at the Llew Coch, the guest speaker was Jenny Jones, Pantycrug, who showed illustrations and gave her account of her cycling trip to Cambodia and Vietnam in memory of her late father, Mr Neville Jones, (Jones the Vet ). Jenny, supported by her family, gave the members a wonderful and graphic insight into her journey and all she encountered. Diolch Jenny am rhannu mor ddiddorol, y daith a'r profiad gyda ni. Ble nesa?

**A splendid new Notice Board**, sponsored by the past Mynyddygarreg Silver Prize band and located in the area known as Sgwar y Post on the old Band room road, was unveiled by our Mayor. Pupils of the school attended and took part. Thank you to those members who undertook the winding down of the estate of the Band and its finances, for this last act of generosity, following the financial donations so many have benefited from already.

Diolch yn fawr am gadw enw'r Band yn fyw yn y pentre.

**The Book launch of Yr Utgorn Olaf / The Last Trumpet**, written by Mansel Thomas, Tygwyn, Meinciau Road fittingly took place yn Lolfar Band, the lounge of Neuadd Mynyddygarreg, which now houses much memorabilia from the past Mynyddygarreg Silver Prize Band. When the band disbanded, a home was needed for the precious items to be preserved for future reference.

Originally the Tinworks museum kept them, but thanks to the insight of Huw Morris and his determination to see the display return to the village for all to enjoy, today the display proudly sits at the Neuadd in a room dedicated to the Band's name. At the launch the Author described his book as a collection of memories of key members, and those present were fascinated by stories told by Mansel, Ioan Hefin and Geraint Davies, Old Shop. Present were the Mayor, our County Councillor and our ever-faithful village representative Councillors. Refreshments were provided by the Neuadd. The book is a delightful, well-written trip down memory lane and is priced at £5, which includes a CD of band music from the archives. Well worth the price. You can purchase your copy from Mansel, telephone number 890172, and after printing costs are covered, any profit will go to Ysgol Mynyddygarreg. As a community, our deepest and sincerest thanks must go to Mansel for compiling such a book and, as he says, this is the final record to go to print from the stalwarts of the Band. It is indeed "The Last Trumpet".

#### Readers

2nd Dec -- No service ( Carolau )  
 16th December Christine Evans  
 24th December Churchwardens  
 6th January Dorian Reeve  
 20th January Peggy Davies  
 3rd February Christine Evans

#### Flowers

2nd /16th Dec Advent No Flowers  
 Christmas service Dorian Reeve  
 January Elin Davies  
 February Avril Morris

## Ysgol Mynyddygarreg News

Extracts from last term's Newsletter.

The Foundation Phase welcomed two new children this term and the term topic was Me, which meant learning about each other, and facts relating to the body. They took walks and learnt to observe all things around them, and used the Little Red Riding Hood story as role play, creating Grandmother's House. The KS2 pupils took the Blitz as their theme within WW2. They did this exercise through written and mathematical tasks analysing all sorts of examples of life and objects in war time, i.e. military vehicles, rationing, official roles, mapping and an exercise on the Anderson shelter.

The Junior pupils had a talk by the Police and Fire Brigade on keeping safe during Bonfire Night and Halloween. The title of the discussion was 'The Big Bang'.

Activities included a Swimming Gala when three pupils took part in the Urdd Gala at Llanelli Leisure Centre, well done to you all. Two pupils of Year 6 attended a Bronze Ambassadors training course at Llanelli Leisure Centre which provided them with the knowledge and understanding of how to be a good sports leader for the school. Many children visited Llandyfaelog Show and were successful in competitions. Well done to you all. The school took part in a Superhero Fun Run at Trimsaran, and a thank you to everyone for collecting money for this sponsored event. Year 2 and 3 pupils received a hockey session with the Urdd and had a great time. The Foundation Phase pupils had a wonderful time watching the show 'Slip Stones ' by the company Arad Goch at Trimsaran School. The school's visit to Sant Teilo for the Thanksgiving Service was a lovely afternoon, the children always happy to take the walk down the hill. The collection of £82 goes to the school's Luhimba Project. Year 3 held a Coffee Morning to raise money for Macmillan and took £85.50. Da iawn bawb.

The Annual Parents Meeting saw pupils come back to school in their pyjamas for a film, games and storytelling which then gave the parents an opportunity to share ideas and ask questions.

The chosen theme for the current term is Africa and the value of November month is **HEDDWCH / PEACE**. Amongst their learning around War and Peace was of course their delightful service of Remembrance at the Neuadd. As the new Headmaster, Mr Steffan Jones, settles into Mynyddygarreg, we offer him our best wishes in leading our lovely village school onwards from strength to strength. **DR.**

## Newyddion St. Maelog News

### **Newyddion St Maelog**

A special thank you to Captain Edwin Atkinson for all his hard work in completing the war memorial plaque by Remembrance Sunday. It now hangs in the church so that everyone can see and commemorate the soldiers from Llandyfaelog who lost their lives; now they will never be forgotten. Thank you to Merys and Neil for ringing the church bells on Remembrance Day.

### **YFC News**

Congratulations to Carys Thomason becoming County Chairman for Carmarthenshire Federation Young Farmers Club. It is a great honour for Carys and St Ishmaels YFC. Llongyfarchiadau Carys, mwynhewch eich flwyddyn. Please support Carys at the YFC Carol service in St Maelog's church on 9th December ar 7:30 pm.

### **Clwb Gwawr Maelog**

Mis Tachwedd ymweliad i'r Lyric i weld drama "Nyrsys", a hithau'n flwyddyn pan fo'r gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol yn 70 oed. Mis Rhagfyr ymweliad i Cywion fach yn Idole sydd yn agor cyn bo hir.

Llandyfaelog Christmas tree lights will be switched on by Mr. Paul Temple on 3rd December at 7 pm. Ysgol y fro schoolchildren will be singing carols; there will also be a visit by Father Christmas.

Thank you to Mr. Brian Beynon and Cefn Sidan Rotary Club members for their kind donation of a Christmas tree to St Maelog's church once again.

St Maelog's Church Christmas Whist Drive and raffle will take place on Thursday 13th December at 7:30 pm at Llandyfaelog Hall. Raffle tickets available from church members; room raffle on the night. Please support.

December 23rd. Christingle and Carol service at St. Maelog's at 11:15am.

December 24th Christmas Eve service at 8 pm.

December 30th United service in St Mary's at 10.30am

Wishing all readers a Merry Christmas. Nadolig llawen i bawb

January 2019

Blwyddyn newydd dda. Happy New Year.

Readers.		Sidespersons
Dec 2nd.	Sarah Walters.	Sarah Walters and Alan Jones
Dec 16.	Dyfrig Jones.	Dyfrig Jones and Kath Williams
Dec 24.		Rheinallt Jones and Sarah Walters
Jan 6.	Phyllis Hughes.	David Hughes and David Thomas
Jan 20	Mary Atkinson.	Edwin Atkinson and Richard Thomas
Feb 3.	Helen Davies.	Helen Davies and Rheinallt Jones

*A Story about a story for you at Christmas by Canon David Winter.*

### **The Conversion of Ebenezer Scrooge**

We think of the traditional British Christmas as a few days off work, a family get-together and a big meal. In fact, that only goes back to Victorian times. Before that it was a religious event, with church services and carols, but not a great community event. Among important influences on the change was a single story by Charles Dickens, '*A Christmas Carol*', first published 175 years ago this December. It is in effect a morality fable, with a memorable anti-hero, Scrooge, and a splendid happy ending.

Ebenezer Scrooge ran his business with single-minded dedication to profit. His former partner, Marley, had died, and now in sole charge he decided to impose a more rigorous regime. There would be no Christmas Day off for his assistant Bob Cratchit, which ruled out the family's hopes of a celebration meal together. Bob's wife Martha was shocked, but Bob valued his job and said nothing. Scrooge, who regarded all such fanciful stuff as 'humbug' remained immovable, despite pleas to the contrary. That was, until Christmas Eve. That night he had a series of dream-like visions. The first was of his late partner, Marley, begging him to reconsider his attitude. There then followed three ghosts. The 'Ghost of Christmas Past' was a vision of his own unhappy childhood. Then came the 'Ghost of Christmas Present' about the disappointment and tears his decision had brought to the Cratchit family. The third was the most powerful – the 'Ghost of Christmas Future', in which he saw his own grave. Was this how he wanted to be remembered? When he awoke on Christmas morning, Ebenezer Scrooge was a changed man. Bob need not work on Christmas day, and Scrooge himself would furnish a sumptuous meal for them all. The whole day was transformed – tears of joy (Dickens knew all about tears) and finally the junior of the family, Tiny Tim rounded off the whole experience with a cry of 'Merry Christmas, everybody.' The story captured not only the public mood but also the public's heart. This was the sort of Christmas they wanted. And gradually it began to take shape – holidays for workers, charity for the poor, warmth and love in the family. Eventually the law and the work of trade unions gave the new tradition a feeling of permanence, but there's no doubt Dickens' '*Christmas Carol*' story started it all.

## **Parish Readings for December**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> December 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**Eucharist/Morning Prayer** Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25: 1-10

1 Thessalonians 3.9-13; Luke 21.25-36

**Readers: St Mary's - Kath Nicholas St Maelog's - Sarah Walters**

**St Teilo - Carolau**

**Evensong** Psalm 9:1-8; Joel 3.9-21 ; Revelation 14. 13-15.4

**Reader - Jenny Jones**

### **9<sup>th</sup> December 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**Eucharist/Morning Prayer** Baruch 5.1-9, or Malachi 3.1-4; **CANTICLE** –

Luke 1.68-79 (Benedictus)

Philippians 1.3-11; Luke 3.1-6

**Readers: St Mary's -Maureen James (Welsh Service - Christine Hughes)**

**Evensong** Psalm 75[76]; Isaiah 40:1-11; Luke 1.1-25

**Reader - Olga Sheen**

### **16<sup>th</sup> December 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**Eucharist /Morning Prayer** Zephaniah 3:14-20; **CANTICLE** Isaiah12.2-6

Philippians 4.4-7; Luke 3.7-18

**Readers: St Mary's - Edwin Atkinson St Maelog's – Dyfrig Jones**

**St Teilo's - Christine Evans**

**Evensong** Psalm 50.1-6; [62]; Isaiah 35; Luke 1.57-66[67-80]

**Reader - Ted Rowlands**

### **23<sup>rd</sup> December 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**Eucharist/Morning Prayer** Micah 5:2-5a; Psalm 80.1-7 or **CANTICLE** –

Luke 1.46b-55

Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1.39-45,[46-55]

**Readers: St Mary's - Jean Giess**

**Evensong** Psalm 72.1-7; Daniel 5; John 6:1-15

**Reader - Catherine Dorn**

### **24<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Eve Eucharist**

**Readers: St Mary's – Simon White St Maelog's – Rheinallt Jones**

**St Teilo's - Churchwardens**

Isaiah 52.7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1.1-4[5-12]; John 1.1-14

### **25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day Eucharist**

Isaiah 52.7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1.1-4[5-12]; John 1.1-14

**Reader:– Kath Nicholas**

### **30<sup>th</sup> December 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas (United LMA Service)**

1 Samuel 2.18-20.26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3.12-17; Luke 2.41-52

**Reader:– Mary Atkinson**

January readings to be confirmed and sent to readers in December.