

Cylchgrawn Plwyfi Cydweli A Llandyfaelog

Kidwelly & Llandyfaelog Parish Magazine



Y SANTES FAIR CYDWELI - ST. MARY'S KIDWELLY



SANT MAELOG LLANDYFAELOG - ST. MAELOG'S LLANDYFAELOG



"SAN" TEILO MYNYDDGARREG-ST. TEILO'S MYNYDDGARREG

December 2024/ January 2025

WHO'S WHO

Priest-in-Charge: Father Jim Flanagan

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Kidwelly Carmarthenshire SA17 5EF

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Pastoral Letter

Dear Friends,

It seems a little odd to be writing this letter to cover a two-month period that encompasses three seasons of the church's year, Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. If you include the time when I am writing it you can add a fourth, the Kingdom season as well. Some of the seasons of the church's year are fairly easy to understand. We all know about Christmas, most people understand that Advent is the weeks that lead up to Christmas even if they don't understand the reflective, solemn and penitential nature of Advent itself.

But what of Epiphany? If any of you are familiar with the Adrian Mole books by Sue Townsend, you may recall the passage when the 13 ³/₄ year old protagonist wondered why the word Epiphany appeared printed in his diary. When he discovered what it meant he wrote an entry which read, "Something to do with the three wise men – big deal"...

As it happens Epiphany is a 'big deal'. Whilst I won't go into the deeper theological thought behind it, the visit of the wise men to the infant Jesus is the point that his divinity is revealed to people outside of his circle and outside of his religion. Jesus was a Jew, and the Jewish people had been waiting for a messiah to come for them for thousands of years, they thought that the Messiah was just for them. The arrival of the wise men and their realisation that Jesus was the son of God, the Messiah and saviour of the whole of humankind and not just a small part of it was an earth-shattering revelation.

In Advent we prepare, we look at ourselves with all our faults. We might even consider that we are not worthy of the love of the coming Christ child. At Christmas we celebrate His great arrival, not with pomp and splendour, but humbly. With Epiphany we can realise what it is that we have really received. We are not worthy of Christ's love, but he freely gives it to us none the less.

In the midst of all the busyness, we need to make time for ourselves and spend time in the presence of our maker. It will do us all a lot of good. There is plenty happening in your churches, including a special service for people who find this time of year hard. Please don't forget, Christ came for all, St. Mary's, St. Teilo's and St. Maelog's are there for all, whether you come every week or haven't darkened the doors for 60 years.

I wish you all a peaceful Advent, a Joyful Christmas, and a revealing Epiphany, full of Christ's love and grace.

Blessings
Fr. Jim

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St. Mary's News

Advent course

Further dates and locations for the Advent course are as follows

Wed 4th Dec – St Teilo's Church, Mynyddygarreg

Wed 11th Dec – All Saints' Church, Llansaint

Wed 18th Dec – St. Mary's Church, Kidwelly

They will all start at 7pm and the service will be said Compline with prayers and reflections.

Blue Christmas

For the first time we will be holding a 'Blue Christmas' service in St. Mary's at 3.00pm on Sunday 15th December. Blue Christmas is a quiet service for anyone who finds it hard to buy into the forced merriment of Christmas, for anyone who wants space, a quiet place of reflection and for anyone for whom this might be a difficult time of year. It's a very simple service which acknowledges pain and emptiness alongside Christian hope. A warm welcome is extended to all.

100 Club -The monthly draw took place on Wednesday 6th November following the 9.30am Eucharist service.

Winning numbers were: 36, 47, 70. The next draws takes place on Wednesday 4th December and Wednesday 1st January 2025.

Application forms are available at the back of St. Mary's if you would still like to join.

Angel Tree

Maureen will be putting up the Angel Tree again this year. If you would like to put a message of remembrance or thanksgiving, then please see the list at the back of St. Mary's. Messages are £3 each and money raised will be for church funds.

Plant Dewi

Thanks to those who brought their yellow boxes in. We raised £211.55 which will be sent to Plant Dewi for their valuable work in the Diocese.



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Below is a list of what we always need to support our baby bundle bank project:

- New and excellent quality second hand clothes for babies 0-12 months
- Cots/Moses Baskets Prams/Pushchairs
- Blankets Toiletries

There is a more extensive list on the notice board in St. Mary's.

Between July and September, 79 baby bundles were issued in the Carmarthen/Llanelli area. Thank you for your continued support of this project. This year we also have Plant Dewi Christmas cards for sale at the back of St. Mary's. They are £3.50 per pack.

Flower arranging –. We will meet on Thursday 12th December at 7.00pm in the Parish Room. The theme will be 'A Christmas Cracker'.

Looking ahead, we will be arranging a Flower Festival around the time of our Patronal Festival which is August 15th. More details to follow next year.

Decorating for Christmas

We will be decorating church for Christmas on Monday 23rd December if you would like to come and join us.

Flower List Altar Flowers

Advent No flowers

Christmas Day

Altar

Christine Hughes

19th January 2025

Brenda Evans

2nd February 2025

June Lloyd

Lady Chapel

Brenda Evans

Pulpit

Clare & Lorna

Christingles

Our service this year will be on Sunday 1st December. We meet in the Parish Room on Saturday 30th November at 10.00am to make the Christingles. Do come along and help us.

From St. Mary's Registers

Burial of Ashes

23rd October Stephen Martin Beynon Thomas

6th November Steve Backhouse Memorial Service

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St. Mary's Readers and Sidespeople for 9.30am

Readers

Sidespersons

December

1st Kath Nicholas		1st Deirdre
8th Deirdre Horsler	Cymraeg Anna Brown	8th Heather and Ken
15th Edwin Atkinson		15th Mandy and Lynne
22 nd Gavin Witt		22nd Maureen and Angela
29 th Maureen James		29th Kath and Alec

January

Readers

5th Angela Tonge		5th Deirdre
12th Brenda Evans	Cymraeg Jayne Roberts	12th Heather and Ken
19th Mary Atkinson		19th Mandy and Lynne
26th Kath Nicholas		26th Maureen and Angela

February

Readers

2nd Deirdre Horsler	2nd Kath and Alec
---------------------	-------------------

If you would like to be added to the readers' list or sidespersons' list, please speak to Gareth.

Wednesday readers for St. Mary's 9.30am service -readings as Sundays unless stated otherwise.

04/12/24 Maureen James	11/12/24 Brenda Evans
18/12/24 Kath Nicholas	

01/01/25 Deirdre Horsler	08/01/25 Maureen James
15/01/25 Brenda Evans	22/01/25 Kath Nicholas
29/01/25 Deirdre Hosler	

05/02/25 Maureen James

Advance notice:

Sunday February 9th There will be only one morning service in our group today.

11.15am in St. Teilo's Patronal Festival

6.00pm Evening Prayer in St. Mary's as usual



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Floodlights

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- 10/12/14 Remembering Glyn on his birthday. Love always.
- 14/12/24 Atgofion annwyl am Muriel, mam a mamgu arbennig iawn. Methu credu bod blwyddyn ers i ti'n gadael. Yn meddwl amdanat ac yn dy golli pob dydd. Cariad mawr - Sandra, Christine, Huw, Llinos, Lowri a Rhys. xx
- 24/12/24 Treasured memories of my dear parents, Joan and Sid Cray at Christmastime. Love always Avril.xx
- 24/12/24 Atgofion annwyl. Xx.
- 25/12/24 Er cof annwyl am Monica, Mam a Dad, Auntie Mary, Derek, Jean, Janice, Auntie Dec a Vida a'r wyl y Nadolig. Mae y gwacter ar hiraeth yn parhau, ond mae llawer o atgofion hapus yn helpu godi'r ysbryd. Cariad Ieuan, Julian a Juliette. Xxx.
- 25/12/24 Mr. John Evans, thinking of you at Christmas and the New Year. Missing you as always, Carol and Julian.
- 25/12/24 Thinking of you, John, at this time of the year, missed every day, Love Kath, Robert and Ann Marie.
- 25/12/24 Meddwl yn gariadus am fy holl deulu a ffrindiau ar adeg y Nadolig, ynghyd ag atgofion melys amdanoch yn ddyddiol. Cariad Shan. Xx.
- 26/12/24 Treasured memories of a dear son and brother, Martin, who passed away on this day in 2014. Mam, Robert and family.
- 03/01/25 In memory of my great friend Derek Dalton on what would have been his 78th Birthday. Never a day passes without thinking of the humour and enormous happiness that Derek exuberated. He was a very special person. Your devoted friend, Ieuan.
- 06/01/25 In Loving memory of Glyn, who died today 7 years ago. Much missed. x
- 11/01/25 With Loving Memories of Mam and Dad. Still miss you, Elaine. Xx.
- 14/01/25 Happy Birthday, John., Always in our thoughts. Love Kath, Robert and Ann Marie.
- 20/01/25 In loving memory of my dear mother, Rose Smith, on the anniversary of her death. Love always, Sheila xx
- 27/01/25 Loving and Cherished Birthday memories of my much-loved mother, Amy Hawkins. Love always, Jan. Xx.
- 28/01/25 Er cof am Dad a Mam gariadus. William 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 iawn. Cariad Ieuan. Xx.

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Season's Greetings

Ann Coslett wishes every blessing to all her friends and neighbours for a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year. Xx.

Carol and Julian Evans would like to wish friends and neighbours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Wishing all our friends and parishioners a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful, Healthy New

Year. Sincere prayers for those who are unwell, and have family unwell, and those who have lost loved ones. Sheila Nash and Vanessa. God Bless. Xx.

Christine and Garry Hughes sending every blessing to our families, friends and neighbours for a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.xx

Brenda Evans wishes all family, friends and neighbours a peaceful Christmas and healthy, happy New Year. Donation sent to Macmillan Cancer.x

In view of what happened to Charley suddenly losing his sight in May, instead of sending Christmas cards we are making a donation to the R.N.I.B. They have been extremely supportive to us both. We wish all our friends in Kidwelly and Mynyddgarreg a peaceful and joyous Christmas. Pearl and Charley.

Wishing friends and neighbours in Kidwelly and friends in Mynyddgarreg peace, joy and happiness at Christmas and good health in the New Year. I will not be sending Christmas cards but will donate to the following charities which I support throughout the year: Blind Veterans Association; Gurkha Welfare Trust; Marie Curie Cancer; Salvation Army and Stroke Association. Ieuan Hughes.

Please get any items for February's magazine to me no later than 16th January 2025 please. *Editor*



Adverts - Disclaimer

Whilst every effort has been made to make sure the accuracy of the content of the advertisements contained in this magazine, St Mary's Church Committee cannot accept any liability for errors or omissions contained in any of the advertisements provided by an advertiser. St Mary's Church Committee does not accept any liability for any information or claims made by the advertisement or by the advertisers. Any advertising contained in this magazine should not be taken as an endorsement by St Mary's Church Committee.



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What's On in our Group of Churches

Advent & Christmas Events 2024 – put them in your diary now!



Sunday 1st December—Christingle Service in St Mary's 5:00pm

Thursday 5th December -Advent Taize service in St Mary's 7:00pm

Sunday 8th Community Carols in St. Teilo's at 7:00pm

Tuesday 10th December Carol singing around Llandyfaelog 6pm

Friday 13th December – Concert in St. Mary's 7.00pm

Sunday 15th December - Blue Christmas service in St. Mary's at 3.00pm

Thursday 19th December -Carol singing around Kidwelly 6pm.

Friday 20th December Mince Pies and Mulled wine at the Vicarage

Sunday 22nd December—9 lessons and carols in St Mary's 5:00pm

Christmas Eve – St Teilo Service 7.00pm

Christmas Eve - St Maelog's, Llandyfaelog Christmas service 7:00 pm

Christmas Eve -Midnight Mass in St Mary's, Kidwelly 11:30pm

Christmas Day -Christmas Eucharist in St Mary's 9:30am


Do keep an eye on our Facebook page for updated news.

Friday January 3rd Epiphany party in the Red Lion Llandyfaelog
TBC please contact Gareth Harries for more information



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Christmas message from Cllr Carl Peters-Bond, Mayor of Kidwelly:

Christmas is a time of giving and spending time with friends and loved ones. That is something that the people of Kidwelly do so well all year-round. As your town mayor it has been so rewarding to be a small part of the many volunteer groups who are the beating heart of the town.

It has been a tremendous year for events in Kidwelly and Mynyddgarreg – from the spectacular Christmas light switch on and summer carnival organised by the Welfare Committee, to Mynyddgarreg Hall's beer festival, concerts and Eisteddfod. Our town's award-winning monthly market continues to go from strength to strength held on the first Saturday of each month at Glan yr Afon in the Summer and in the Princess Gwenllian Centre during the winter months.

The new trustees of the Princess Gwenllian Centre are growing the centre's use, with the hall now a fantastic community hub as well as a well-used gym and sports hall hosting groups as diverse as kickboxing, bowls, archery and even a radio control car club. The hall also hosts Clwb Brecinio, which provides not only brunch meals during the school holidays but also a meeting place and support centre for parents. A fantastic cause that I am fundraising for during my mayoral year.

Our town's sports teams have also had a wonderful year – particularly the bowls team who won every single one of their matches throughout the entire season.

Kidwelly has so many groups and organisations that continue to provide us with so much over the year. A heartfelt thank you to all of you from me. Here's looking forward to a wonderful Christmas and a prosperous and healthy new year.

Where did Christmas stockings come from?

No one is really sure, but a story is told of St Nicholas, a bishop who lived in the 4th century, who may have started the custom by accident. St Nicholas was of a wealthy family, and of a generous heart. As Christmas approached one year, he wanted to help a poor family whom he knew, but he did not want them to know it was him. So he climbed up on their roof on Christmas Eve and dropped some coins down the chimney.

The next morning the coins, to the great surprise of the family, were found in the stockings of the ladies, who had hung them to dry by the fire the night before. Every year after that they put their stockings out, in the hope that some more money would fall into them. They told the story of this amazing appearance to their friends and neighbours, and the custom caught on.

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Branch News –

December 2nd – Jesse Tree Service in Abergwili Church at 2.00pm.

If you need a lift, please ask.

Our December meeting will be on Wednesday December 11th at 2.00pm and will be a Eucharist with Advent Carols. Refreshments in the Parish Room afterwards. All welcome.

Subs for 2025 will be £29.50.

A Place for Them – The Red Chair Project

Each year, during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, Restored supporters get involved with the Red Chair Project. The campaign aims to raise awareness of the many women and girls who are killed through Gender Based violence, by designating a chair in a public space (churches are often used!), alongside a poster with information about violence against women.

Take time to pray for victims of abuse and survivors by our Red Chair in St. Mary's.

White and purple ribbon for No More 1 in 3

For MU's 16 Days of Activism which began on 25th November and ends on the 10th December, we are asking members to create and wear ribbons with white and purple ribbon.

If you get a thick white ribbon and a thinner purple ribbon and cross them over there will be three parts: two white and one purple, to represent the 1 in 3 women who will suffer from some form of abuse throughout her life.

Hopefully your ribbon will spark conversations where you can talk about Mothers' Union and our stance on domestic abuse.

You can leave your ribbons in public places, such as on park benches or in churches and attach a [label](#) explaining our campaign. Please do take a photo of the ribbon and label and share it on social media with the following tags: #NoMore1in3, @MothersUnion #16DaysofActivism

We are asking for a donation for the ribbons which will go to the Women's Refuge funds.

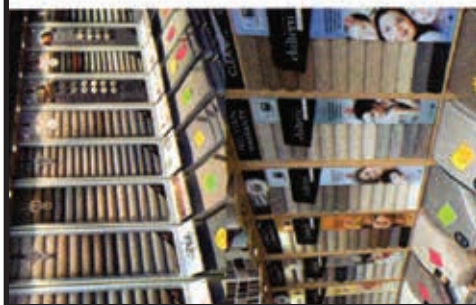


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Christmas gifts

Grandfather was talking to his grand daughter, "When I was a child all we got for Christmas was an apple and an orange." The little girl clapped her hands in joy. "Brilliant! I'd love a new computer and a mobile!"

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Town News

I should like to thank all advertisers, distributors and subscribers of the magazine for your support again this year. It is much appreciated and brings in much needed revenue for the churches in our group. I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and Happy New Year. (Editor)

Royal British Legion

On the morning of Remembrance Sunday, our branch Chairman, Trevor Elliot and Town Mayor and Consort met the 6.30am train at Kidwelly Station to pass on our wreaths which would be taken to Paddington Station.

Thank you to Great Western Railway for collecting our wreaths to take up to the display in London Paddington station. WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



Our next branch meeting is on Thursday 5th December at 7.30pm in Kidwelly Rugby Club.

We should like to thank everyone who contributed to this year's Poppy Appeal.. The collection at St. Mary's on Remembrance Day amounted to £426.11. At the time of going to print, we don't have a final appeal total; we'll announce it in February.



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We had a successful trip to the Vincent Davies store in Haverfordwest. The shop was beautifully dressed for Christmas and encouraged some of us to buy presents for others, and some to treat ourselves. On the way back we stopped at The Snooty Fox in Narberth and enjoyed our pre-booked meals. That was our last trip of the year, and, I must say, we have been very lucky with the weather this year.

Our next meeting will be on 4th December, 2pm, at the Rugby Club.

Our Christmas 'Do' will be at the Three Rivers, in Ferryside, on 11th December. Bus pick up from 12.30pm. Our November meeting finished with a game of bingo. Making her debut as caller was Janet Malcolm, who clearly needs a lot more practice!

Well, our next catch up will be in February, after our first meeting of the New Year on the 5th.

We wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a New Year that brings you Good Health and everything you wish for. Nadolig Llawen a blwyddyn newydd dda.

Bereavement

It is with sadness that we report the news of the death of Dylan Morris (Dylan y Cig) who died on 25th October at Thames Hospice, near Slough, two days before his 78th birthday.

Dylan was well-known in Kidwelly, the son of Mr. Jack Morris and Mrs. Frances Morris, Meat Purveyors, Henblas, Bridge Street, Kidwelly.

Following a period at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School for Boys, Carmarthen, he pursued a course in Physical Education at Cardiff Teacher Training College.

Having completed of his Higher Education Course, he became a teacher in South Bucks. and remained therefore most of his teaching career.

Prior to his retirement he taught Business Studies and Technical Drawing.

In his early twenties he played rugby with Kidwelly Rugby Club which involved him travelling home at weekends to play in rugby matches.

He was proud of his being a Kidwelly boy and always keen to keep up with local history.

Several times a year he would telephone Ieuan to get updates of local news and events.

Sadly, Dylan was diagnosed with Hepatic Cancer 15 months ago and his health rapidly deteriorated in past months despite having undergone several treatments. Ultimately, Dylan was admitted for palliative care in Thames Hospice, Slough, where he died on Friday 25th October.

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Sincere condolences are extended to his wife, Jane, daughters, Ceryl and Errin, also, to his brother, John, in Ruislip and his sister, Delyth in Derby.

For those of us who attended Morfa Sunday School, Dylan will be remembered for his great sense of humour and naughty but innocent pranks.

Atgofion melyn am yr amser oedden yn Ysgol Sul y Morfa. Ieuan Hughes(Old Friend)

Welsh Conversation class

If you have some knowledge of Welsh and would like to improve your conversation, then do come along to the Parish Room on Monday evenings between 6.30pm-7.30pm. A warm welcome awaits you.

Smile Line:

What would you like for Christmas?

A little girl visited Father Christmas in the local garden centre grotto. He welcomed her with a smile and asked what she would like for Christmas. She gasped and stared at him in horror. "Didn't you get my email?!"

What do you get Dad?

December is the month when the family begins to discuss what to get Dad for Christmas. Some argue for a shirt; others hold out for a pair of socks. But the argument usually ends in a tie.

4th December Osmond – an immigrant before Brexit

Osmond is the saint for you if you regret Brexit and believe that immigrants can bring good to Britain. Osmond came to England from France back in the days before EU regulations. It was shortly after 1066, and he was a Norman, following William the Conqueror.

Osmond himself was no soldier, but a gifted and godly man, with a great talent for administration. He became royal chaplain, and then chancellor in 1072, producing numerous royal letters and charters for the king. In 1078 he was made bishop of Salisbury. As such, he completed and consecrated the cathedral, and formed such an outstanding chapter and constitution that it later became a model for other English cathedrals.

Osmond took part in the preparation of the Domesday Book and was present when it was presented to William in April 1086. He died in 1099, well-respected for his purity and learning, and his lack of avarice and ambition.



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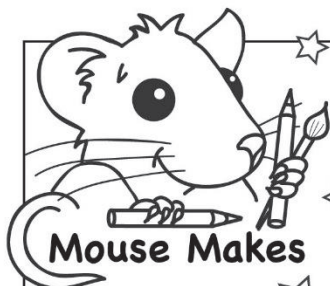
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"The child to be born
will be called
H _____, the
_____ of _____"
Luke 1:35

★ ★ ★
THE GREATEST GIFT ★
"She will bear a son,
and shall call his name

for he will save his
people from their sins."
Matthew 1:21

★ "Jesus said,
I am the _____ Y
and the _____ U _____
and the _____ I _____.
No one comes to the Father
except through me."
John 14:6

★ "For unto you is born
this day a
S _____
_____ who is
_____ R _____
the _____ R _____"
Luke 2:11

★ ★
"Jesus said,
I am the

and the life."
John 11:25

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Newyddion St. Teilo News

As we read this, we have entered the period of Advent and are preparing ourselves for the Christmas season and indeed a new year. Christmastime brings a whole mixture of thoughts and emotions to us older people, it stirs up memories, happy and painful and, in this day age with so much commercialism associated, some anxiety but, in the lead up to the big day, we can use the time as Advent intends, preparation. And with so many Services, Concerts, and lovely things out there for us to join in, we can make this a special time as is deserved.

Over 50's Club - We concluded our year at the Neuadd Mynyddgarreg Hall on the 6th November 2024. The meeting took its usual form with discussions on the items to be sorted. We reflected on all the pleasurable outings that were arranged by Aeres and Barbara, many thanks to both. Gratitude also to Gina and Carl for serving the refreshments and for treating us with lovely mince pies, fittingly our birthday boy for November was Carl to whom we sang and wished him happy days. Caroline our minutes secretary was on holiday, we appreciate her contribution throughout the year. We convey our kind regards and best wishes to Avril Morris, a long-time member who is unwell at present. Final arrangements done for our Christmas lunch on the 4th of December at the Three Rivers Hotel Ferryside. The Bingo was won by Joan who regretted missing our fabulous afternoon tea at the Plough Inn Llandeilo due to being unwell. Our Christmas shopping trip is on the 11th of December to Pontypridd's market day, seats available for anyone to join us, ring Aeres on 07531430096. Members were reminded that deposits are due now for the away days to Llandudno in February 2025 . We will resume our monthly meetings of the new year on Wednesday 5th of February 2025 at the Neuadd Mynyddgarreg Hall. A warm welcome to join us. We finalized with sending our Seasonal Greetings to all members past and present wishing you every blessing for a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year. X

As a result of a very successful Concert in the Neuadd in October when the group 'Mynediad am Ddim ' entertained a capacity crowd, money raised for the Charity 'Breast Cancer Prince Philip Hospital' amounted to £2500. People generously donated Refreshments, Raffle prizes, Auction items and made money donations. The evening was organized by Helen John, Crud yr Awel who, wishes to thank everyone for their kindness and support, particularly to the crew of Menter y Mynydd for their help in the background. And a big thanks once again to the Neuadd for their help, a great venue for our community events.

Sant Teilo's Harvest Thanksgiving along with Ysgol Mynyddgarreg saw a generous amount of foodstuff collected and very much appreciated on delivery by the Foodbank at Myrtle House, Llanelli, a very worthwhile organization that

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we have supported for many years. They wish to sincerely thank everyone for their kindness and support. Also, we are very pleased to say that the sum of £740.00 was raised for church funds from our Harvest Supper. A sincere thanks to everyone for their support; to members for food items and a special thanks to Peggy for collecting sponsorship to host the evening. Diolch yn fowr i bawb am eu rhodd i Peggy ar gyfer Eglwys Sant Teilo.

Ac yn flin iawn Mrs Christine Evans am y camgymeriad wnes yn Cylchgrawn mîs diwetha' !

Birthday greetings and congratulations to Cai Reeve, Meinciau Road, on his 21st Birthday in December. The very best of wishes from all your family x

Huge congratulations to Mrs Frances Kaisin on her 100th Birthday on December 13th. Now a resident at Towy Castle Care Home, she enjoys her daily visits from Emma and Peter and is always keen to hear the latest community news. We send our love and very best wishes.

Llongyfarchiadau mowr to Gareth and Hannah Jones of Nantgaredig, on the birth of their new daughter Gwenno Nel, little sister to Nansi. Proud grandparents are Nevin and Elin Davies, Gelliwerdd. Ein dymuniadau da i chi gyd fel teulu.

We at Sant Teilo were saddened at the passing of Mrs Beryl Williams, Hillcrest, recently. Beryl has been a wonderful friend and neighbour, always looking out for us, indeed she enjoyed an enviable view of the Church and grounds. A faithful member of Capel Horeb throughout her lifetime, she will be missed. Our deepest condolences go to her daughter Rebecca and her many family members.

The funeral took place in November at Llanelli Crematorium. Ma pawb yn yr Eglwys fach yn estyn Cydymdeimlad dwys i ti Rebecca.

Sympathy and Condolences are extended to the family of the late Brian Evans, Meinciau Road, a familiar face in the village, who passed away suddenly recently. We remember in our prayers his wife Meiriona, daughter Nia, grandchildren and extended family, also sister Wendy Henry and Martin, Ymdrech Deg, in their loss. The Funeral was held at Llanelli Crematorium.

Neuadd Mynyddygareg hosted recently a play entitled CARWYN which was a one man play on the life of Carwyn James, Cefneithin, Welsh International Rugby player and esteemed and well-respected Coach. Actor Simon Nehan gave a spectacular performance which held the audience spellbound and it was an evening which will be long remembered. Talented writer was Owen Thomas.

Sincere Birthday Wishes go to Mrs Elizabeth Smith on her big birthday in November. Your friends at the Eglwys Fach and community wish you good health and all the very best Liz. 1-Llongyfarchiadau mawr Liz.

Capel Horeb hold their Christmas Communion on Wednesday 24th December at 5.00 pm with the Parchedig Eirian Wyn taking the service. Croeso i bawb.

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Eglwys Sant Teilo will hold their annual Community Carol Singing on Sunday 8th December at 7.00pm. Mince Pies and Mulled Wine will be served, and a Collection will be taken for Church Funds. The Christmas Eucharist will be held on Christmas Eve at 7.00pm and we welcome pupils and staff from Ysgol Mynyddgarreg when they hold their Christingle Service on Friday 20th December at 2.00pm.

FLOWER ROTA

December	Advent / Dorian Reeve	January	Elin Davies
February	Avril Morris		

READER ROTA

1st December	Nicola Reeve	15th December	Peggy Davies
24th December	Churchwardens		
5th January	Jayne Roberts	19th January	Dorian Reeve
6th February	Christine Evans		

Hedgehog extinction fears grow as population plummets

The status of hedgehogs in western Europe has recently been downgraded to “near threatened”, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.

If European numbers decline any farther, hedgehogs will be listed as being at risk of extinction. Numbers have shrunk in more than half the countries where hedgehogs live – including the UK, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany and Austria. Some national declines have been as much as 33 per cent.

Our rural population of hedgehogs here in the UK has fallen by up to 75 per cent since 2000, although city-dwelling hedgehogs are doing a bit better.

But the combined pressures of intensive agriculture, domestic pesticides, garden strimmers, busy roads and urban development have taken their toll. An eighth of all hedgehogs in the UK die every year just as roadkill.

Now a national hedgehog conservation strategy has been launched by the People’s Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) and the British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS).

Have you seen any hedgehogs? How can we help them to survive the winter?



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Newyddion Sant Maelog News

Flowers

Christmas Day – Shan Rees

5-12 January 2025 Pam Jones 19-26 January Bridget Owen

2-9 February Marjorie Thomas

December Door

1 December Sarah Walters 8 December Shan Rees

15 December Rheinallt Jones 22 December Shan Rees

24 December Shan and Rheinallt 29th December combined service in
Kidwelly

January Door

5 January Shan Rees 12 January Helen Davies 19 January Shan Rees

26 January Kath Williams

February Door

2 February Sarah Walters

December readers

1 December Sarah Walters 8 December Philllys Hughes

15 December Rheinallt Jones 22 December Llinos ac Ela

24 December Plant y Cymuned

January readers

5 January Shan Rees 12 January Helen Davies

19 January Dyfrig Jones 26 January Mary & Gwenllian

February readers

2 February Sarah Walters

Thanks

Curry Night

Thank you to everyone who supported the curry night in November. The hall was full, and food was lovely at the Red Lion. A profit of £500 was made for the church and special thanks to Owen Jones for the donation of 2 items for the auction.

An evening service of Advent reflections and prayer was held in St Maelog's on the 20 November

Thanks to everyone that supported this event.



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Congratulations to Wyn and Liz Smith who celebrated their 60th wedding Anniversary on November the 3rd. Also, Happy Birthday to Liz Smith who was 80 in November.

What's on

Llandyfaelog tree lighting at the village hall with special guests- 2nd December
There will be food, mulled wine and stalls and music from Croesyceiliog band and the children of the community.

Christmas carols around the village on Tuesday 10th of December. Everyone welcome to join in the singing!

Christmas Eve - service starts at 7pm and the children of the community will be taking part.

January

On January 24th Llandyfaelog Hall committee will be holding a 'This is your Life' evening with refreshments.

Eisteddfod Gadeiriol Llandyfaelog

Fe fydd Swper Eisteddfod Gadeiriol Llandyfaelog ar nos Fawrth 14 o Ionawr. Eisteddfod supper this year is on the 14th of January at the Red Lion.

The new date for Eisteddfod Gadeiriol Llandyfaelog will be on Saturday 8 February

Cadwch llygaid i maes am rhagor o fanylion.

February

Llandyfaelog show – The annual dinner will be held on Friday 21 February.

25th December – Why does Christmas begin at midnight?

The hour was first chosen at Rome in the fifth century to symbolise the idea that Christ was born at midnight – a mystical idea in no way hindered by historical evidence! No one knows the hour of His birth.

Certainly in recent times, Holy Communion at midnight on Christmas morning has proved popular with modern families. One British writer pointed out its "domestic convenience" in 1947: "for where there are children and no servants, husband and wife may be unable to communicate at any other time." (So things don't change, then!)

Jason Williams Removals

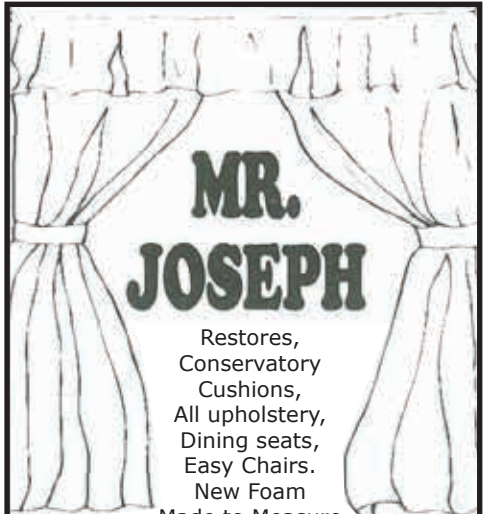
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Parish Readings for December 2024 and January 2025

Red Lectionary pages in []

Sunday 1st December 1st Sunday of Advent Liturgical Colour: Purple

Eucharist: Jeremiah 33.14-16; Psalm 25.1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3.9-13; Luke 21.25-36 [p755]

No Evening Prayer as it's the Christingle service at 5.00pm

Sunday 8th December 2nd Sunday of Advent Liturgical Colour: Purple

Eucharist: Baruch 5.1-9 or Malachi 2.1-4; Canticle: Benedictus (Luke 1.68-79); Philippians 1.3-11; Luke 1-6 [p758]

Evening Prayer: Psalm 75;[76]; Isaiah 40.1-11; Luke 1.1-25

Reader: Jenny Jones

Sunday 15th December 3rd Sunday of Advent Liturgical Colour: Purple

Eucharist: Zephaniah 3.14-20; Canticle: Isaiah 12.2-6; or Psalm 146.5-10; Philippians 4.4-7; Luke 3.7-18 [p762]

Evening Prayer: Psalm 50.1-6; [62]; Isaiah 35; Luke 1.57-66, [67-80]

Reader: Kath Nicholas

Sunday 22nd December 4th Sunday of Advent Liturgical Colour: Purple

Eucharist: Micah 5.2-5a; Canticle (Luke 1.47-55) or Psalm 80.1-7; Hebrews 10.5-10; Luke 1.39-45,[46-55] [p765]

Evening Prayer: Psalm 123;[131]; Isaiah 10.33-11.10; Matthew 1.28-25

Reader: Brenda Evans

Sunday 29th December 1st Sunday of Christmas Liturgical Colour: White

5th Sunday – United service

Eucharist: 1 Samuel 2. 18-20,26; Psalm 148 or 148.7-14; Colossians 3.12-17; Luke 2.41-52 [p769]

No Evening Prayer

January 2025

Sunday 5th January 2nd Sunday of Christmas *translated to Epiphany of our Lord* Liturgical Colour: White

Eucharist: Isaiah 60.1-6; Psalm 72. [1-9,] 10-15; Ephesians 3.1-12; Matthew 2.1-12 [p38]

Evening Prayer: Psalm 135; 1 Samuel 1.20-28; 1 John 4.7-16

Reader: Ted Rowlands

Sunday 12th January The Baptism of Christ – 1st Sunday of Epiphany

Liturgical Colour: White

Eucharist: Isaiah 43.1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8.14-17; Luke 3.15-17,21-22 [p773]

Evening Prayer: Psalm 46;47; Isaiah 55.1-11; Romans 6.1-11

Reader: Jenny Jones

18-15 January Week of Prayers for Christian Unity

Sunday 19th January 2nd Sunday of Epiphany Liturgical Colour: White

Eucharist: Isaiah 62.1-5; Psalm 36.5-10; 1 Corinthians 12.1-11; John 2.1-11 [p776]

Evening Prayer: Psalm 96; 1 Samuel 3.1-20; Ephesians 4.1-16

Reader: Kath Nicholas

Sunday 26th January 3rd Sunday of Epiphany Liturgical Colour: White

Eucharist: Nehemiah 8.1-3,5-6,8-10; Psalm 19 or 19.1-6; 1 Corinthians 12.12-31a; Luke 4.14-21 [p779]

Evening Prayer: Psalm 33; Numbers 9.15-23; 1 Corinthians 7.17-24

Reader: Brenda Evans

February

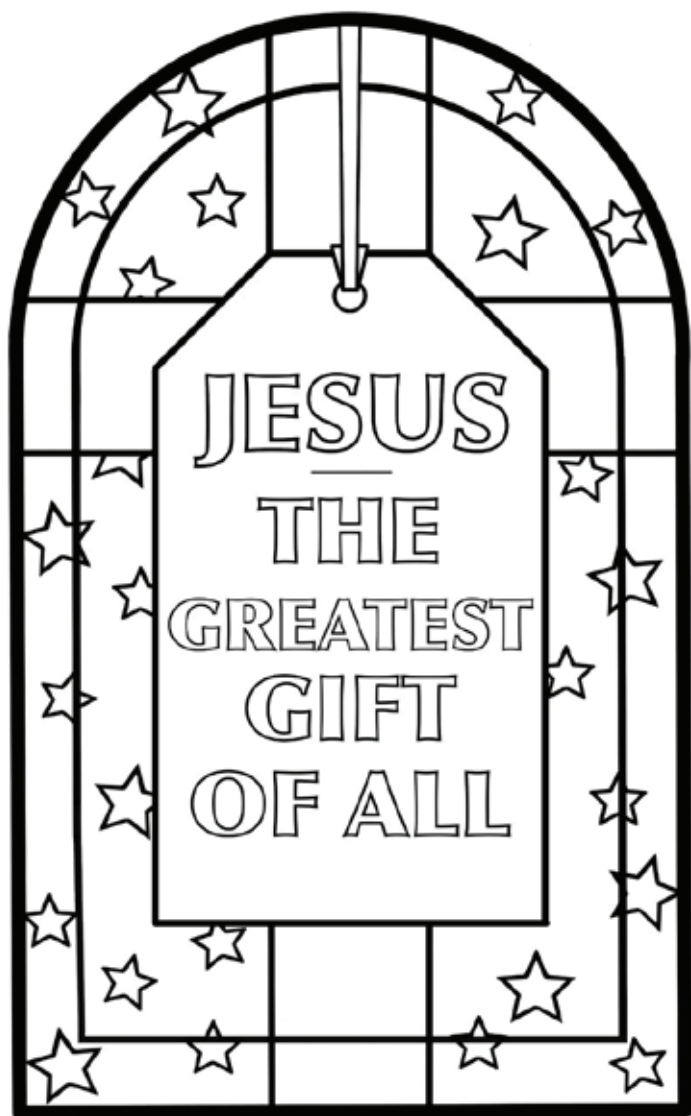
Sunday 2nd February The Presentation of Christ (Candlemas) Liturgical Colour: White

Eucharist: Malachi 3.1-5; Psalm 24.[1-6,]7-10; Hebrews 2.14-18; Luke 2.22-40 [p60]

Evening Prayer: Psalm 122;132; Haggai 2.1-9; John 2.18-22

Reader: Ted Rowlands

Relax and Colour in (Deborah Noble)



Restoring Welsh Rivers Summit

The crisis facing Wales' rivers was the focus of a recent national summit hosted by the Church in Wales.

More than 70 people from across the UK, including scientists, farmers, environmentalists and water industry representatives discussed the challenges facing watercourses in Wales and to look at ways of improving water quality. The Restoring Welsh Rivers summit, chaired by the Archbishop of Wales, took place in Cardiff, just before the UN Climate Change Conference (COP29) and Wales Climate Week.

Key themes included an overview of the latest scientific data, the state of water quality, the impact of sewage, soil and agriculture on rivers, the effect on the food chain and the possibility of nature-based solutions.

The Archbishop, Andrew John, said, "Our rivers in Wales are dying because they are being polluted. Wildlife is declining and many of our own water-based activities, such as swimming, fishing and surfing, are increasingly unsafe. We need to respond urgently and that is why the Church in Wales has brought together key people with expertise or interest in the issue."

James Wallace, CEO of River Action UK, said, "We are delighted to see leadership from a key figure in Wales, the Archbishop. It is essential that we work together to agree a plan for the most effective and rapid ways of healing Welsh rivers, while ensuring the provision of essential services like sewage and water, and the livelihoods of farmers." (Parish Pump)

The story of Mince pies

Did you know that mince pies have been traditional English Christmas fare since the Middle Ages, when meat was a key ingredient? The addition of spices, suet and alcohol to meat came about because it was an alternative to salting and smoking in order to preserve the food.

Mince pies used to be a different shape – cradle-shaped with a pastry baby Jesus on top.

DEC Middle East humanitarian appeal

Over the past year, war in the Middle East has devastated millions of people's lives across the region, destroying their families, homes, schools, hospitals and businesses.

This Christmas, millions of people across Gaza, Lebanon and the wider region are in urgent need of food, shelter and medical care.

The DEC brings together 15 leading UK aid charities to raise funds quickly and efficiently at times of humanitarian crisis overseas. Its member charities are all leading aid charities and include: Action Against Hunger, ActionAid, Age International, British Red Cross, CAFOD, CARE, Christian Aid, Concern Worldwide, International Rescue Committee, OXFAM, Save the Children, TearFund, and World Vision.

To look at but two of these: **How Tearfund is responding**

Tearfund is currently working with local churches and its partners across the Middle East.

It reports:

“In Gaza, our International Health Partners are providing life-saving medicine and desperately needed healthcare.

“In Lebanon, we are working through local churches to provide food, mattresses and other essentials to people forced from their homes by the fighting.

“In the West Bank, we are working with the Diocese of Jerusalem, which is providing healthcare and education to those affected.”

You can help by going to: <https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/middle-east-emergency-appeal>

How World Vision is responding

“We’re working most specifically in Lebanon and West Bank. We’re seeking to help vulnerable children, families and communities impacted by this crisis. Donations will be channelled into the areas of greatest need that we can access together with our partners.

Since the crisis began last year, we have provided assistance to over 350,000 people.

“In Lebanon we’re uniquely positioned to respond to this crisis as one of only three organisations already active in southern Lebanon. We have staff and supplies in place meeting people’s needs each day. Your donation will help operations in temporary shelters, ensuring families receive hot meals, blankets and hygiene kits on arrival. You’ll also be helping to set up safe spaces for children to play and continue their education with so many schools now being used as temporary shelters.

In the West Bank, we're providing emergency relief supplies to families that have lost everything. Your donation could increase the psychosocial support that we're offering to children, helping them deal with the emotions they're experiencing. You could also help to build and refurbish safe community spaces so that people can come together to lean on each other and find some support amidst the chaos. Your donation can deliver the lifesaving support children need to survive – before it's too late. Go to: <https://www.worldvision.org.uk/emergencies/middle-east-appeal/>

DEC Ukraine humanitarian appeal

This DEC appeal has raised over £438 million and helped an estimated 8.2 million people affected by the conflict. This appeal will close for donations at the end of 2024, but donations will continue to be spent next year.

From delivering essential supplies and services to communities in Ukraine, to helping refugees settle into a new country, your donations have made a huge difference to millions of people affected by the conflict in Ukraine.

The DEC humanitarian response work will continue in 2025, thanks to the incredible amount raised. Go to: <https://www.dec.org.uk>

As well as the escalating war in Ukraine and the Middle East, we have had unprecedented wildfires, storms and floods across the world. Millions are displaced, millions are homeless and hungry. Meanwhile, the cost-of-living crisis continues, and food banks in the UK look set to be overwhelmed. Many of us now are facing a hard winter, with seemingly little to be cheerful about.

Christmas message: And yet, and yet – the message of Christmas is just as real for us today as it was 2000 years ago, and it can still bring us hope and joy for our long-term future. Emmanuel has come, the Prince of Peace, the Son of Righteousness. God IS with us. And HIS kingdom will have no end.

Our church community can still witness to that in our neighbourhood this Christmas. Perhaps you can do so through showing the compassion of Foodbanks, or perhaps through outdoors Christmas carol singing. You can still witness to the love of God, even by simply showing some kindness and love to your neighbours.

We offer our prayers for those who are unwell or mourning the loss of a loved one in our communities just now.

We rejoice in the love of a God who sends His only Son to be our Saviour. Peace on earth, goodwill towards men!

Brenda (Editor)

Vestry Cupboard that hid ‘precious’ Welsh Bible (*Parish Pump*)

A Bible printed in 1620, one of the very first to be produced in Welsh, has been discovered by chance in a vestry cupboard in St Martin and St Enfail’s Church in Merthyr.

Mari James, Library Development Officer at St David’s Cathedral, described the 400-year-old Bible as “quite a treasure” and “a precious part of Wales’ history of Christian worship”.

A former Merthyr churchwarden, Huw Evans, found the Bible forgotten and unrecognised among candles, communion wine and linen in the back of the cupboard.

Copies of the Bible, known as the Bishop Parry version, were distributed to all churches in Wales to comply with Queen Elizabeth I’s instruction that everyone should be able to read the Scriptures in their own language. This was the main Reformation project in Wales, intended to consolidate Protestantism.

The volume was based on the 1588 translation by Bishop William Morgan. The Old Testament was translated directly from the original Hebrew, and the New Testament from Greek. Some of the work was carried out in St David’s.

A Welsh Book of Common Prayer, dating from 1710 in the reign of Queen Anne, was also found languishing – in the same vestry cupboard.

Editor: – who has the oldest Bible in our church?

January 6th – What about the gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh?

The story of the coming of the Magi grew in the telling. By the 6th century they had acquired names: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. By medieval times they were considered to be kings. Whoever they were, we do know from Matthew that they brought three gifts to Jesus.

What about their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh? While we cannot know for sure what was in the minds of first century Magi, one Victorian scholar has offered a possible explanation as to the significance of their gifts. He was the Rev John Henry Hopkins, an American Episcopalian minister, who in 1857 wrote his much-loved Christmas carol, 'We Three Kings of Orient Are'.

Gold, said John Henry Hopkins, was a gift that would have been given to a king. Frankincense had traditionally been brought by priests as they worshipped God in the Temple. Myrrh was a spice that the ancients used in preparing bodies for burial.

If that is true, then you could say that the Wise Men, in choosing their gifts for this infant, honoured Jesus with gold because He was King of the Jews, with frankincense because He was to be worshipped as divine, and with myrrh, because He would also become a sacrifice and die for His people.

The Wise Men were the very first gentiles ever to worship Jesus. What faith they had! They travelled for months over difficult terrain, they never saw any evidence of Jesus' kingship, His divinity or His sacrificial death. They worshipped Him through faith in God's promises about Him. Isaiah foresaw this response to Jesus: 'Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.' The Magi's eyes of faith saw clearly and far into the future.

Compare that with the High Priest and religious leaders whom the Wise Men saw in Jerusalem when they first arrived. These head priests knew all about the prophecies of their own coming Messiah, but NOT ONE Jewish religious leader travelled to look for Him in Bethlehem. And it is only six miles down the road!

Some Useful Phone Numbers

Churches & Chapels

Capel y Morfa: Mr. Gwyndaf Jones
01554 753868

Our Lady and St. Cadog:-
01554 832520

Trinity Methodist: Mr. Peter Burt
01554 890 605

Health

Kidwelly Health Visitor 01554 890560

Minafon Surgery 01554 890234

Chemist 01554 890279

West Wales General Hospital,
Carmarthen 01267 235151

Prince Philip Hospital, Llanelli
01554 756567

Local Authority

Kidwelly Town Council 01554 890203

Llandyfaelog Community Council
01267 267647

Carmarthenshire County Council
01267 234567

Halls

Princess Gwenllian Centre, Kidwelly
01554 891801

Llandyfaelog Welfare Hall
Arfon Davies

llandyfaelog@btinternet.com
Mynydd-y-Garreg Welfare Hall:
Andrea Gower 01554 890670

Schools

Ysgol-y-Castell 01554 890762

Ysgol Gwenllian 01554 890523

Ysgol Mynydd-y-Garreg 01554 810670

Glan-y-Mor Comprehensive School,
Burry Port 01554 832507

Youth

1st Kidwelly Scouts - Shan Cheesman
01267 267620 or 07790117904

Youth Council – Jeanette Gilasbey
01554 892729

Senior Citizens

Llandyfaelog Senior Citizen Association

Mrs. Maureen Howells 0127 223768
Mynydd-y-Garreg Senior Citizens Jean
Fox 01554 891344

Kidwelly Senior Citizens Association:

Mrs. Bobbie Hope, 01554 890520
Kidwelly Welfare Committee: Mrs.
Helene Cresser 01554 890550

Other Organisations

Country Cars: Mrs. E. Nicholson
01554 890188

Kidwelly Local History Society: Mr.
Malcolm MacDonald 891090

Police: 0845 3302000

Mothers' Union: Mrs. Pearl Rowland
01554 890578

Royal British Legion: Trevor Eliot
07807710699

Ty Golau: Janet Lewis 01554 890896
WI President: Nannette Jones 01554
890206

December 2024/ January 2025

St. Mary's Kidwelly

1st December 1st Sunday of Advent

9.30am Choral Eucharist
5.00pm Christingle Service

5th December 7.00pm Advent Taize service

8th December 2nd Sunday of Advent

9.30am Holy Eucharist
11.00am Cymun Bendigaïd

6.00pm Evening Prayer

11th December 2.00pm MU Advent service

13th December 7.00pm Concert

15th December 3rd Sunday of Advent

11.15am Holy Eucharist
3.00pm Blue Christmas service
6.00pm Evening Prayer

22nd December 4th Sunday of Advent

9.30am Family Eucharist
5.00pm 9 Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

9.30am Christmas Eucharist

29th December 1st Sunday of Christmas

9.30am United Eucharist for our group and the group of St. Ishmael's churches

5th January 2025 2nd Sunday of Christmas/ The Epiphany of our Lord

9.30am Holy Eucharist
6.00pm Evening Prayer

12th January Baptism of Christ /Epiphany 1

9.30am Holy Eucharist
11.00am Cymun Bendigaïd
6.00pm Evening Prayer

19th January Epiphany 2

9.30am Holy Eucharist
6.00pm Evening Prayer

26th January Epiphany 3

9.30am Holy Eucharist
6.00pm Evening Prayer

2nd February Candlemas

9.30am Holy Eucharist
6.00pm Evening Prayer

9th February 4th Sunday before Lent 11.15am Patronal Service in St. Teilo

Services

December 2024 January 2025

St Maeiog's, Llandyfaelog

1st December 1st Sunday of Advent

11.15am Bilingual Mattins

8th December 2nd Sunday of Advent

11.15am Biligual Eucharist

15th December 3rd Sunday of Advent

11.15am Bilingual Eucharist

22nd December 4th Sunday of Advent

11.15am Bilingual Family Eucharist

Christmas Eve

7.00pm Christmas service

29th December 9.30am United Service in St. Mary's

5th January 2025 2nd Sunday of Christmas/ The Epiphany of our Lord

11.15am Bilingual Mattins

12th January Baptism of Christ/ Epiphany 1

11.15am Bilingual Eucharist

19th January Epiphany 2

11.15am Bilingual Eucharist

26th January Epiphany 3

11.15am Bilingual Family Eucharist

2nd February Candlemas

11.15am Bilingual Mattins

St Teilo's, Mynyddgarreg

1st December 1st Sunday of Advent

11.15am Bilingual Eucharist

4th December 7.00pm Advent Course and Compline

8th December 7.00pm Community Carols

15th December 3rd Sunday of Advent

11.15am Bilingual Eucharist

Christmas Eve 7.00pm Eucharist

29th December United Service in St. Mary's

5th January 2025 2nd Sunday of

Christmas 11.15am Bilingual Eucharist

19th January Epiphany 2

11.15am Bilingual Eucharist

2nd February Candlemas

11.15am Bilingual Eucharist

9th Feb 11.15am Patronal festival