

Tafod Twrog

Rhif/No 72

January/Ionawr

February/Chwefror

March/Mawrth

2018



SAINT TWROG'S CHURCH
LLANDDAROG

Ficer/Vicar

Canon Bryan Witt B.D.

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Darllenydd Lleyg / Lay Reader

Mrs Jean Voyle Williams M.B.E., B.Ed.

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Annwyl Ffrindiau

Gobeithio eich bod wedi derbyn yr anrhegion yr oeddech yn ei ddisgwyl a hefyd y rhai oedd yn syndod i chi. Gobeithio hefyd eich bod yn ddiolchgar ac yn hapus wrth dderbyn eich hanrhegion, ac mor awyddus i'w dangos i'r teulu a'ch ffrindiau gan ddweud "edrychwch beth ydw i wedi ei gael y Nadolig yma". Dywediad yr ydym mor aml yn ei ddweud.

Gadewch i ni ddefnyddio yr un dywediad i anrheg mwyaf y Nadolig, sef yr anrheg o Iesu, fab Duw. Yr anrheg a addawyd i ni gan y proffwyd Eiseia "bachgen a aned i ni, mab a roed i ni"; a hyn wedi cael ei ail adrodd yn neges yr angel i'r bugeiliaid, "peidiwch ag ofni oherwydd wele, yr wyf yn cyhoeddi i chi y newydd da am lawenydd mawr a ddaw i'r holl bobl".

Symudwn o dderbyn yr anrheg, yr anrheg mwyaf a dderbyniwn, i ddangos i eraill beth yr ydym wedi ei dderbyn. Yng Nghalendr yr Eglwys galwn y tymor o ddangos yr anrheg yn dymor yr Ystwyll. Hwn yw y cyfnod pan mae Iesu yn cael ei ddangos, ei ddatguddio a chael ei rhannu gyda'r byd. Ein dyletswydd ni felly fel Cristnogion yw rhannu Iesu gydag eraill yr Ystwyll hwn. Rydym wedi ein galw i edrych ymlaen i bopeth mae Duw yn barod i wneud a ni a thrwyddo ni, yn ystod yr wythnosau sydd i ddod, pan fyddwn yn symud tuag at y Garawys ac yna i Frenhines y Gwyliau Y Pasg.

Mae gyda ni y gobaith i'n cynnal wrth i ni rhannu Iesu a dangos i eraill yr anrheg mwyaf gwerthfawr, fel y mae Sant Paul yn dweud "ac yr wyf yn sicr o hyn yma, y bydd i'r hwn a ddechreuodd waith da ynoch ei gwblhau erbyn Dydd Crist Iesu".

Yr hyn yr ydym yn ei ddangos yw y Mab Duw sydd ynom ni, a gwnawn hyn trwy y ffordd yr ydym yn byw o ddydd i ddydd. Yn ein gweithredoedd gall eraill ganfod yr anrheg o fab Duw.

Bydded i Dduw eich bendithio yn ystod tymhorau yr Ystwyll a'r Garawys, wrth i chwi wneud eich gorau i rhannu a dilyn Iesu ble bynnag y mae yn eich harwain.

Pob Bendith

Canon Bryan

Dear Friends

I hope you all received the gifts that you were expecting for Christmas, both the expected and the surprise unexpected gifts. I hope too that you were grateful and glad for those presents, and if you were, then I'm sure that some of the gifts you wanted to show other members of the family and friends – 'look what I had for Christmas' – an often used phrase.

Let's apply that same phrase to the greatest gift of Christmas – the gift of Jesus, God's own Son. The expected gift from God recorded by the prophet Isaiah was 'to us a child is born, to us a son is given'; and this was echoed in the message of the angel to the shepherds, 'Be not afraid, for behold I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people.

We move from receiving the gift, the greatest present, to showing what we have been given to other people. The showing of the gift we call the season of Epiphany in our church calendar. This is the season of Jesus Christ being shown, revealed and, of course, shared with the wider world. It is our responsibility as Christians to get involved in the sharing of Jesus this Epiphany. We are called to look forward to all that God will do with us and through us in the days to come as we move towards Lent and the great feast of Easter.

And we have a hope to sustain us as we share Jesus, show others that great present, for as St Paul writes, 'He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.'

It is God's Son in us that we are showing by the way we live which is the truth underlying everything.

May God bless you this Epiphany and Lent as you do your best to Share and Follow Jesus wherever he may lead you.

Every Blessing

Canon Bryan

Editorial

Lots to read in this edition, so many thanks to all our contributors. Its always so interesting to hear about people's experiences and to keep up with what has been happening in the Parish. Kate and Rob have been on their travels again and we have heard from Miriam and her family (Rosemary Tilley's granddaughter).

Tannau Twrog has again been practicing some new hymns which we hope to bring to you over the Christmas period. It has been good for us all to learn something new and despite some arthritic fingers on the strings we seem to manage pretty well! Thank you John James for such a great idea.

I'm hoping some of you will volunteer to help the Tafod Twrog team. More people are needed on the editorial and production team. Just see me in church or contact me on e-mail or phone.

Articles for the next edition by 10 March at the latest please.

Margaret Rees, Ty'r Llain
reesmargaret@outlook.com / 01267 275479

Bedydd/Baptism

Yn y cwarter diwethaf ni fuodd yna fedydd / No baptisms were held in the church in the last quarter

Priodas/Marriage

22 October 2017 David Blabey of Grove Court, Teddington and Hannah Witt of the Vicarage, Llanddarog

Angladd/Funeral

Yn y cwarter diwethaf ni fuodd angladdau yn yr eglwys/ No funerals were held in the church in the last quarter.

Cofiw'n yn gariadus am bawb a fu farw yn ddiweddar; ac am bawb y mae tymor eu coffhad yn syrthio yr adeg hon o'r flwyddyn. Bydded i'r ffyddloniaid ymadawedig orffwys mewn hedd a chyfodi mewn gogoniant. / We remember with love all those who have died recently and those whose anniversaries fall at this time of the year. May the faithful departed rest in peace and rise in glory.

Cleifion/The Sick

Gweddiwch dros bawb sy'n glaf mewn ysbryd corff neu feddwl, gartref neu mewn ysbyty. / Please pray for the sick in body, mind or spirit including: Joyce Davies, Elsie Evans, John James, Angela Knott, Margaret (Mags) Rees, Jean Smith, Jean Thomas, and Elfryn Williams. Please inform the wardens if someone falls ill or is in hospital. Home communion can be arranged.

Llongyfarchiadau/Congratulations

Ar Ionawr 7^{fed} bydd Omri Griffiths yn 90 oed. Mae Omri ar hyn o bryd yng nghartref Llys Newydd Capel Hendre.

Penblwydd Hapus 80 oed i Selwyn Evans Coedhirion yn dathlu ar Chwefror 14^{eg}, Wyn Evans Manor ar Mawrth 27^{ain} a Hugh Phillips Drefach ar Ebrill 8ed. And a Happy Birthday to Evelyn Ransome who will be 90 on 18 February.

Altar Flowers ~ Blodau Allor

Ionawr/January

14 & 21	Mrs. J. Davies	14, Brynhyfryd
28 & 4 Feb	Mrs. K. Davies	Fferm Penrhiw

Chwefror/February

11 & 18	Mrs. R. Davies	Ar y Bryn
25 & 4 Mar	Mrs. D. Evans	Coedhirion

Mawrth/March

11th	Mrs. G. Evans	Cwmcoch
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WYTHNOS WEDDI AM UNDEB CRISTNOGOL 2018
WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2018
Ionawr 22-26 January

Thema: Fel y bo pawb yn rhydd / Theme: That all may be free

Nos Lun, Ionawr 22 January, Monday
Capel Seion 7 pm

Dydd Mercher, Ionawr 24 January, Wednesday
Cymun St Twrog Communion 10 am

Dydd Iau, Ionawr 25 January, Thursday
Capel y Dolau, Llanarthne 10.30 am

Dydd Gwener, Ionawr 26 January, Friday
Capel Bethlehem, Porthyrhyd 10 am

Carmarthen Foodbank

A special thank you to all those who contributed to the Foodbank Christmas Appeal. The work of the Foodbank continues, so we will continue to ask people to donate items by placing them in the box at the back of the Church. As soon as we fill a box we will take it to the Foodbank.

The Foodbank say: *We don't think anyone in our community should have to face going hungry. That's why we provide three days nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people who are referred to us in crisis. We are part of a nationwide network of foodbanks, supported by The Trussell Trust, working to combat poverty and hunger across the UK.*

Their shopping list includes Milk (UHT or powdered), Fruit Juice (long life), Soup, Pasta Sauces, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Rice Pudding, Tinned Tomatoes, Biscuits or Snack Bars, Tea Bags, Instant Coffee, Instant Mash Potato.

And don't forget, you can help transform more lives with a financial donation too.

Nos Sul Medi 3^{ydd} / Sunday 3rd September

A special meeting of the PCC was held on 3 September 2017. There were 24 members present with Canon Bryan Witt in the Chair. The Vicar introduced the surveyor Steven Knott who proceeded to give an update on the Tower Restoration. There was an opportunity for members to ask questions and express their views. A site meeting was arranged on 5th or 6th September between Steven Knott and Keith Knott representing the PCC.

Nos Sul 17^{eg} Medi / Sunday 17th September

Cynhaliwyd cyfarfod o'r Cyngor Plwyf Eglwysig ar y 17^{eg} o Fedi. Roedd 20 o aelodau yn bresenol gyda Canon Bryan Witt yn a Gadair. Dechreuwyd y cyfarfod â gweddi.

Materion a drafodwyd / Matters discussed:

1. Church and Hall Field. There was need to draw up a formal agreement between the PCC and the Hall Committee. This will be dealt with by our Solicitor, Mr Edward Friend.
2. Financial Report (Nia Thomas). The collection for the Grenfell Tower Fund of £217.10 had been sent. An e-mail had been received from Geraint Ellis regarding the donation to Tŷ Miriam. Robert Jones, the new Treasurer, to take over in October. As this was Nia's last meeting as Treasurer, the Vicar expressed the PCC's appreciation of her work over the last 10 years.
3. Tower Update (Nia Thomas). An update was received and photographs distributed. The surveyor Steven Knott will visit the church on 20 September. Keith Knott, representing the PCC will also attend.
4. Ministry Areas. The Warden, Peter Rees, had attended a meeting with the Bishop. All of the diocese will be grouped into Local Ministry Areas to be completed by 2020. Llanddarog will be part of a LMA with Llanarthne, Llangyndeirne, Llandyfaelog, Kidwelly, Mynydd-y-garreg, Ferryside, Llansaint, St Ishmael and Cwmffrwd. There will be two full time priests in each LMA. The PCC decided to accept these proposals.
5. Harvest. Church to be decorated on Tuesday 26 September. A collection of goods to be made to Carmarthen Food Bank.
6. A trip to the Holy Land in Autumn 2018, 10 days costing approx. £1,250 is planned. Anyone interested to give their names to the Vicar.
7. Plant Dewi Coffee Morning. February 2018. Llanddarog and Llanarthne to have a joint stall – Accessories - start collecting jewellery, scarves, ties, handbags etc.
8. Next meeting will be arranged after receiving Steven Knott's report.

Diolchodd y Ficer i bawb am ei presenoldeb a therfynwyd y cyfarfod â gras.

**Cyfarfod Plwyf Eglwysig
Nos Sul 19^{eg} Tachwedd**

**Parochial Church Council Meeting
Sunday 19th November**

Cynhaliwyd cyfarfod o’r CPE ar y 19^{eg} o Dachwedd. Roedd 22 o aelodau yn bresenol gyda Canon Bryan Witt yn y gadair. Dechreuwyd y cyfarfod â gweddi.

Materion a drafodwyd / Matters discussed:

1. Church and Hall Field. A draft agreement between the hall and the church had been received from the solicitor. This was read and discussed.
2. Financial Report: Robert Jones presented his first report as Treasurer. Increase of 15% in the ministry share. The donation to Tŷ Miriam had been used to purchase 100 chickens to rear in order to provide meals for the pupils.
3. Tower update: Nia Thomas read all correspondence received from Steven Knott, our surveyor. Keith Knott reported on his meetings with the surveyor. A way forward was planned and accepted.
4. Diocesan Conference: Jean Voyle Williams gave a report of Bishop Joanna’s Presidential address regarding Local Ministry Areas. As reported previously Llanddarog will be a member of an LMA made up of 10 churches, each LMA will have at least two stipendiary priests, one Parochial Church Council, and two wardens. Individual churches will have a Church Council, Sub-Wardens and responsibility for their own finances. All LMAs will be in place by 2020, 30% by September 2018.
5. Cytun, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The Secretary, Vilna Thomas gave the dates for this week – January 22nd to January 26th 2018. The service in St Twrog’s on Wednesday January 24th at 10 am will be a bilingual Holy Communion. The new Chair of the committee is Parch Gwyn Elfyn.
6. There was need to provide a new row of slabs in the Ashes Corner, the Churchyard Crew to take care of this.
7. Daphne Evans informed the meeting that she was retiring as one of the leaders of Clwb Iau. The leaders now will be Helen Beynon, Sian Hancock and Maria Jones. The Vicar thanked Daphne for her hard work and dedication to Clwb Iau since its inception.

Diolchodd y Ficer i bawb am eu presenoldeb a therfynwyd y cyfarfod gyda’r gras.

**Mr Keith Knott has asked that it be made clear in this publication that he is not related to the surveyor responsible for the work on the Tower restoration,
Mr Steven Knott**

CLWB IAU NEWS

Clwb Iau continues to meet each month and we have been pleased to welcome two new families since September. We enjoyed our Annual Treasure Hunt in the Botanic Garden and each child had a gliding bird to return home with!

In October we were back in the Garden to spend time in the Butterfly House and the Bee Centre. Following this session we followed the story of the Rainbow Fish and prepared for the season of Advent with star biscuits and advent calendars. Once again Lucinda Tomlin prepared fifty or more oranges for our Christingle Service which was well attended with Clwb Iau members providing the readings. We thank Lucinda and Jean Voyle Williams for helping us. We are now preparing for our Annual Crib Service and we are very grateful to Myfanwy Rees for creating a Nativity play. Every child will play a part! We hope that you will all join us at 2pm on Christmas Eve.

Once again we are extremely grateful to Mair Rees for organising the Parish Trip to Bath and donating an amazing £100 to Clwb Iau funds. This will pay for materials and treats and we would like to thank everyone who went to Bath for helping us in this way.

On 13 January from 3pm until 4.30pm we shall hold the Clwb Iau party in Church. All members and their friends are welcome to attend when we will play party games and tuck into a delicious New Year's Tea! After the party, Clwb Iau will meet on February 11th, March 4th and March 11th (Mothers Day). Further details will be sent out in the New Year but in the meantime please put these dates in your diary and tell anyone with children from one to thirteen years old that we would love to welcome them to Clwb Iau.

From the beginning of January, after fifteen years or so, I am signing off as Joint Clwb Iau Coordinator and I am pleased to report that Sian Plimmer and Maria Jones have very kindly volunteered to help Helen Beynon with the coordinating and running of Clwb Iau. It is great to see younger people with new, up to date ideas offering to become more involved. Thank you both and every good wish for the future!

I should like to thank Helen for working with me over many years. It has been a pleasure to work alongside you and never a cross word!!

On behalf of all Clwb Iau members and volunteer helpers may I wish you all 'Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda!'

Daphne Evans

Undeb y Mamau ~ Mothers' Union

Members and friends had a tour of The White Hart Distillery for our October meeting. We had visited the Brewery some years ago, but this was quite different. We were shown the stainless steel machinery which the Coles had designed and had made specifically, so that they could make gin, rum, whisky and brandy in the same vat, with cleaning between. We enjoyed a meal together afterwards.

In November we were joined by some of the Llangunnor members to hear our MU Diocesan President Glenys Payne. She explained how GFS, Girls' Friendly Society, was very similar to Mothers' Union and with the aid of Powerpoint showed us her visit to Papua New Guinea when GFS President. She was warmly welcomed where ever she went despite the poor and primitive conditions in some of the villages, and joined in the singing and dancing.

Heather arranged a Jesse Tree Service on 16th November in Dafen where several members joined other Branches from the Archdeaconry.

On 25th November Kate and I attended the Diocesan Council meeting in Bronwydd. Glenys welcomed members, Chaplain Bryan Witt led the prayers, minutes of last meeting were accepted and Matters Arising included the moving service at the Cathedral and the £5,661 "talents" which had been sent to Mary Sumner House who had given it to the Sudan Appeal, UK Parenting courses and Guinea. Much correspondence had been received from MSH including a form to be signed by Glenys saying that the Trustees had fulfilled certain things such as safeguarding, food safety etc. Change is afoot at all levels of the organisation. Here the Units will be disbanded as they overlapped each other. Trustees will remain and work required will be planned during the year.

The guest speaker was Marianne Osborne who is responsible for the Diocesan Transition of Ministry Areas. The changes were due to finance. There would be stipendiary priests, Area Deans, Archdeacons and Bishops. At present there are 91.5 priests, which the Bishop hoped to reduce to 80. With the reorganisation there would be at least two paid priests in each Ministry Area and a local Ministry Council with Vicar or Dean in the chair. The process will take two years, with a monthly transition letter sent to Vicars and churchwardens. Churches can hold services without a cleric, let them know what worship your church wants. An assessment of buildings is being made. We the people are the body of Christ, not the building. These ways are new and

unknown, be positive. The MU has always been a support and is adaptable, we do not have to change areas.

- Jeanette Hooper led the midday prayers.
- The new prayer book with prayers submitted by members from all over the world is going to print on 7th January. Every Branch will receive a copy.
- AFIA gave nine holidays this year, Penally gave five. There is £4,500 in reserve, enough for four holidays. Heather Jenkins is still hoping someone will take over from her.
- Wendy hopes more members will Gift Aid their subscription, £19 this time. For every £1 MU receives 25p.
- The Wave of Prayer has been produced bilingually. The theme for next year is "Following in Mary Sumner's Footsteps, faith in the family." See Glenys' letter in Pobl Dewi. The General Meeting this year is coming close to home, The Brangwyn Hall on Tuesday 18th September.

On 4th December several members attended the Deanery Advent service in St. David's church, Abergwili. We look forward to hearing about Nia, Vilna and Wendy's trip to Canada with Llanddarog choir at our meeting on the 14th.

Dates for your Diary

11th January Annual dinner at The Falcon

8th February AGM:

Hostesses - Rosemary Tilley & Yvonne Lewis

12th February Deanery meeting 2.30pm in The Ivy Bush

25th February Wave of Prayer in church 12.30 – 12.55

8th March Recycling with Elizabeth Wills:

Hostesses - Vilna Thomas & Marion Little

12th March Quiet Evening at St Mary's Church, Kidwelly 6.30pm

Meetings at 7pm in church unless otherwise stated. New members always welcome, enquiries to Jean Voyle Williams 01267 275222

"God never gives someone a gift they are not capable of receiving. If he gives us the gift of Christmas, it is because we all have the ability to understand and receive it." *Pope Francis*

"Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any other." *Abraham Lincoln*

DYDDIADAU AR GYFER Y DYDDIADUR / DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
(am fanylion am batrwm misol y gwasanaethau, gwelwch y dudalen olaf)
(for details of the monthly pattern of services, please see the back page)

January

7 Sul/Sunday Ystwyll 1/Epiphany 1

9.30am Cymun Bendigaid (Cymraeg)

5.00pm Evensong (*English*)

9 Dydd Mawrth/Tuesday

10.00am Boreol Weddi/Morning Prayer (*Bilingual*)

10.30am Paned a Chlonc (*ar gyfer rhai sydd am ddysgu Cymraeg*)

11 Dydd Iau/Thursday

7.30pm Cinio Undeb y Mamau yng Ngwesty yr Hebog Caerfyrddin/
MU Dinner at the Falcon Hotel Carmarthen

13 Dydd Sadwrn/Saturday

3–4.30pm Parti Blwyddyn Newydd Clwb Iau/Clwb Iau New Year's Party

14 Sul/Sunday Ystwyll 2/Epiphany 2

9.30am Holy Communion (*English*)

5.00pm Gwasanaeth Y Plygain (*Cymraeg*)

21 Sul/ Sunday Ystwyll 3/Epiphany 3

9.30am Holy Communion (*English*)

2.30pm Service in the Botanic Garden (*Bilingual*)

22 Dydd Llun/Monday Wythnos Cytun/Week of Christian Unity

7.00pm Gwasanaeth Cytun yng Nghapel Seion/
Cytun Service at Capel Seion (*Bilingual*)

24 Dydd Mercher/Wednesday

10.00am Cytun-Cymun Bendigaid yn Eglwys Sant Twrog/
Holy Communion at St Twrog's Church (*Bilingual*)

25 Dydd Iau/Thursday

10.30am Cytun-Gwasanaeth yng Nghapel y Dolau Llanarthne/
Service at Capel y Dolau Llanarthne (*Bilingual*)

26 Dydd Gwener/ Friday

10.00am Cytun-Gwasanaeth ym Methlehem Porthyrhyd/
Service at Bethlehem Chapel Porthyrhyd (*Bilingual*)

28 Sul/Sunday Ystwyll 4/Epiphany 4

9.30am Cymun Bendigaid (*Cymraeg*)

11.00am Holy Communion (*English*)

Dim gwasaneth yn yr hwyr/No evening service

30 Dydd Mawrth/Tuesday

10.00am Boreol Weddi/Morning Prayer (*Bilingual*)

10.30am Paned a Chlonc (*ar gyfer rhai sydd am ddysgu Cymraeg*)

Chwefror / February

4 Sul/Sunday Ail Sul cyn y Garawys/Second Sunday before Lent

9.30am Cymun Bendigaid (*Cymraeg*)

5.00pm Evensong (*English*)

8 Dydd Iau/Thursday

7.00pm Undeb y Mamau Cyfarfod Cyffredinol/ MU AGM

11 Sul/Sunday Sul cyn y Garawys/Sunday before Lent

9.30am Boreol Weddi (*Cymraeg*)

11.00am Gweithgareddau Clwb Iau/Clwb Iau Activities

5.00pm Holy Communion (*English*)

13 Dydd Mawrth/Tuesday

10.00am Boreol Weddi/Morning Prayer (*Bilingual*)

10.30am Paned a Chlonc (*ar gyfer rhai sydd am ddysgu Cymraeg*)

14 Dydd Mercher/Wednesday Mercher y Lludw/Ash Wednesday

7.00pm Cymun Bendigaid/Holy Communion (*Bilingual*)

17 Dydd Sadwrn/Saturday

10.00am Bore Coffi Plant Dewi/Plant Dewi Coffee morning at
St Peter's Civic Hall, Carmarthen

18 Dydd Sul/Sunday Garawys 1/Lent 1

9.30am Holy Communion (*English*)

2.30pm Service in the Botanic Garden (*Bilingual*)

19 Dydd Llun/Monday

7.00pm Myfyrdod y Garawys/Lenten Meditation (*Bilingual*)

25 Dydd Sul/Sunday Garawys 2/Lent 2

9.30am Cymun Bendigaid (*Cymraeg*)

11.00am Holy Communion (*English*)

12.30 -12.55pm Mothers Union Wave of Prayer

Dim gwasanaeth yn yr hwyr/No evening service

26 Dydd Llun/Monday

7.00pm Myfyrdod y Garawys/Lenten Meditation (*Bilingual*)

27 Dydd Mawrth/Tuesday

10.00am Boreol Weddi/Morning Prayer (*Bilingual*)

10.30am Paned a Chlonc (*ar gyfer rhai sydd am ddysgu y Gymraeg*)

Mawrth/ March

2 Dydd Gwener/Friday

7.00pm Cwrdd Gweddi Byd Eang y Chwiorydd yng Nghapel Newydd

4 Dydd Sul/Sunday Garawys 3 Sul y Fam/Lent 3

9.30am Cymun Bendigaid (*Cymraeg*)

11.00am Gweithgareddau Clwb Iau/Clwb Iau Activities

5.00pm Evensong (*English*)

5 Dydd Llun/Monday

7.00pm Myfyrdod y Garawys/ Lenten Meditation (*Bilingual*)

8 Dydd Iau/Thursday

7.00pm Undeb y Mamau/Mothers' Union

A talk on Recycling by Mrs Elizabeth Wills

11 Dydd Sul/Sunday Garawys 4/Lent 4 Mothering Sunday

9.30am Gwasanaeth y Teulu/Family Service (*Bilingual*)

Dim gwasanaeth yn yr hwyr/No service in the evening.

12 Dydd Llun/Monday

6.30pm Mothers Union Quiet Evening at St Mary's Church Cydweli

13 Dydd Mawrth/Tuesday

10.00am Boreol Weddi/Morning Prayer (*Bilingual*)

10.30am Paned a Chlonc (*ar gyfer rhai sydd yn dysgu Cymraeg*)

18 Dydd Sul/Sunday Garawys 5/Lent 5 Passion Sunday

9.30am Holy Communion (*English*)

2.30pm Gwasanaeth arbennig yn yr Ardd Fotaneg/
Special service in the Botanic Garden.

19 Dydd Llun/Monday

7.00pm Myfyrdod y Garawys/Lenten Meditation (*Bilingual*)

25 Dydd Sul/Sunday Sul y Blodau/Palm Sunday

9.30am Cymun Bendigaid/Holy Communion (*Bilingual*)

Dim gwasanaeth arall yn ystod y dydd/No other service during the day

26 Dydd Llun/Monday

7.00pm Myfyrdod y Garawys/Lenten Meditation (*Bilingual*)

27 Dydd Mawrth/Tuesday

10.00am Boreol Weddi /Morning Prayer (*Bilingual*)

10.30am Paned a Chlonc (*ar gyfer rhai sydd am ddysgu Cymraeg*)

29 Dydd Iau Cablyd/Maundy Thursday

Glanhau Esgidiau tu allan i fusnesau lleol / Shoe Cleaning outside local businesses (9.00-2.30)

7.00pm Cymun Bendigaid/Holy Communion (*Bilingual*)

30 Dydd Gwener y Groglith/Good Friday

- 1.30pm Gwasanaeth byr yn Eglwys Llanarthne/
Short service at Llanarthne Church
- 2-3p.m Gorsafoedd y Groes Ardd Fotaneg/
Stations of the Cross Botanic Garden

Ebrill/April

1 Dydd Sul Pasg/Easter Sunday

- 6.00am Gwasanaeth Codiad Haul gyda brecwast yn dilyn yn yr eglwys/
(approx.) Sunrise Service to be followed by breakfast in the church
- 9.30am Cymun Bendigaid (*Cymraeg*)
- 11.00am Holy Communion (English)
- Dim gwasanaeth yn yr hwyr/No evening service

Where did that come from?

Sent to Coventry

During the English Civil War, Royalist prisoners were kept in Coventry by the Parliamentarians, but the prison wasn't large enough to hold them so they were allowed to walk around the town. However, the residents weren't allowed to speak to the prisoners – hence if you don't speak to someone you have "*sent them to Coventry*".

Raining Cats and Dogs

Thatch roofs are usually covered in netting today to keep out birds, rats, mice, etc. but in Shakespeare's day they didn't have netting so not only was the thatch a good place for little creatures to live in, it was a wonderful place for the cats and dogs to sleep – until the thatch got wet, then it became cold and uncomfortable. So, at the first sign of rain all the cats and dogs came leaping out of the thatch and that's where the saying "*it's raining cats and dogs*" came from!

On the breadline

This story comes from America and concerns a bakery run by the Fleischmann family in New York. The bakery was renowned for the freshness of its bread and anything not sold during the day would be given away in the evening. The queue of hungry people who stood outside the shop was known as "*the breadline*".

Thick and Thin

George 1 was our first German king, but initially he had a very big problem – he couldn't speak a word of English; but he had two mistresses who could. One was very thick and one was very thin. So.... if you wanted to communicate with George I you had to "*go through thick and thin*" to get what you wanted!

Rhestr y Darllenwyr / Readers Schedule			
Dyddiad / Date	Gwasanaethau / Services	Darllenwyr / Readers	Sides - persons
Ionawr 7 January	Ystwyll 1/Epiphany 1 9.30 am Cymun Bendigaid	Miss Vilna Thomas <i>(Taflen y Cymun)</i>	Wardens
	5.00 pm Evensong	Mrs Mags Rees <i>(Brynhyfryd)</i> <i>Isaiah 42¹⁻⁹</i> Mrs Yvonne Lewis <i>Ephesians 2</i> <i>1-10</i>	
Ionawr 14 January	Ystwyll 2/Epiphany 2 9.30 am Holy Communion	Mrs Barbara Quick <i>(Communion Sheet)</i>	Miss Vilna Thomas Mr Geoff Quick
	5.00 pm Gwasanaeth y Plygain		
Ionawr 21 January	Ystwyll 3/Epiphany 3 9.30 am Holy Communion	Mrs Marian Daniels <i>(Communion Sheet)</i>	Mr John Rees Mrs Barbara Quick
	2.30 pm Gwasanaeth Arbenning yn yr Ardd Fotaneg / Special Service in the Botanic Garden		
Ionawr 28 January	Ystwyll 4/Epiphany 4 9.30 am Cymun Bendigaid	Mrs Kim Davies <i>(Taflen y Cymun)</i>	Mrs Margaret Morris Mr Idris Daniels
	11.00 am Holy Communion	Mrs Jenny Youens <i>(Communion Sheet)</i>	
Dim Gwasanaeth yn yr Hwyr / No Evening Service			

Rhestr y Darllenwyr / Readers Schedule			
Dyddiad / Date	Gwasanaethau / Services	Darllenwyr / Readers	Sides - persons
Chwefror 4 February	Ail Sul cyn y Garawys / Second Sunday before Lent 9.30 am Cymun Bendigaid 5.00 pm Evensong	Mrs Eluned James <i>(Taflen y Cymun)</i> Mrs Lucinda Tomlin <i>Genesis 2^{4b-25}</i> Mrs Andrea Liggins <i>Luke 8²²⁻³⁵</i>	Wardens
Chwefror 11 February	Sul o Flaen y Garawys/ Sunday before Lent 9.30 am Boreol Weddi 5.00 pm Holy Communion	Mrs Carol Owen <i>1 Brenhinoedd 19¹⁻¹⁶</i> Mrs Julie Griffiths <i>2 Pedr 1¹⁶⁻²¹</i> Mrs Margaret Rees (Ty'r Llain) <i>(Communion Sheet)</i>	Mr Allan Davies Mrs Margaret Rees
Chwefror 18 February	Garawys 1/Lent 1 9.30am Holy Communion	Mrs Daphne Evans <i>(Communion Sheet)</i>	Mr Allan Gibbard Mrs Marion Little
	2.30 pm Gwasanaeth Arbenning yn yr Ardd Fotaneg / Special Service in the Botanic Garden		
Chwefror 25 February	Garawys 2/Lent 2 9.30am Cymun Bendigaid 11.00 am Holy Communion	Mrs Myfanwy Rees <i>(Taflen y Cymun)</i> Mrs Marion Little <i>(Communion Sheet)</i>	Mrs Gwenda Evans Mr Gordon Mason
	Dim Gwasanaeth yn y Hwyr/No Evening Service		

Rhestr y Darllenwyr / Readers Schedule			
Dyddiad / Date	Gwasanaethau / Services	Darllenwyr / Readers	Sides - persons
Mawrth 4 March	Garawys 3/Lent 3		
	9.30am Cymun Bendigaid	Mr John Evans <i>(Taflen y Cymun)</i>	Mr John Evans Mrs Olivia Gelder
	5.00pm Evensong	Mrs Kate Jones <i>Exodus 5¹ – 6¹</i> Mrs Elizabeth Wills <i>Matthew 10¹⁶⁻²²</i>	
Mawrth 11 March	Garawys 4/Lent 4 Sul y Fam/Mothering Sunday		
	9.30 am Gwasanaeth y Teulu <i>(Dwyieithog)</i> Family Service <i>(Bilingual)</i>		Gwenllian Owen Llyr Griffiths
	Dim Gwasanaeth yn yr Hwyr/No Evening Service		
Mawrth 18 March	Garawys 5/Lent 5 Passion Sunday		
	9.30am Holy Communion	Mrs Ann Davies <i>(Communion Sheet)</i>	Wardens
	2.30 pm Gwasanaeth Arbenning yn yr Ardd Fotaneg / Special Service in the Botanic Garden		
Mawrth 25 March	Garawys 6/Lent 6 Sul y Blodau/Palm Sunday		
	9.30 am Cymun Bendigaid <i>(Dwieithog)</i> / Holy Communion <i>(Bilingual)</i>	Mrs Gwenda Evans <i>(Taflen y Cymun)</i> Mr Selwyn Evans <i>(Communion Sheet)</i>	Mrs Marian Daniels Mr Meurig Rees
	Dim Gwasanaeth yn yr Hwyr / No Evening Service		

Newyddion Ysgol Llanddarog

Mae tymor cyntaf y flwyddyn ysgol wedi hedfan heibio ac wrth fwrw golwg yn ôl, dyma hanes ychydig o ddigwyddiadau mwyaf diweddar y disgyblion.

Cafwyd nifer o ymweliadau addysgiadol yn gysylltiedig â themau'r tymor. Bu'r Cyfnod Sylfaen i'r Ardd Fotaneg; Dosbarth 3 a 4 i Ffatri Wlân Drefach Felindre ac yna i Dŷ Newton, Parc Dinefwr, Llandeilo a Dosbarth 5 a 6 i Amgueddfa y 40au ger Abertawe ar gyfer eu thema yr Ail Ryfel Byd.

Cynhaliwyd amrywiaeth o weithgareddau codi arian, gan gynnwys bore coffi Macmillan yng nghantîn yr ysgol pan godwyd £505.65 ar gyfer yr elusen. Braf oedd gweld cymaint wedi dod i gefnogi a'r holl ddanteithion a chacennau hyfryd a dderbyniwyd i wneud y bore yn llwyddiant. Dathlwyd Diwrnod Plant Mewn Angen gyda staff a disgyblion yn gwisgo dillad smotiog i'r ysgol. Llwyddwyd i godi £315 wrth werthu bisgedi a bathodynau Pudsey a Blush.

Ar ddiwrnod ein Ffair Nadolig a gynhaliwyd ddydd Iau 30ain o Dachwedd, roedd amrywiaeth o siwmperi hyfryd, lliwgar i'w gweld wrth i ddisgyblion wisgo eu siwmperi Nadolig i'r ysgol. Agorwyd y ffair y noson honno gan Miss Nia Thomas a chyrrhaeddodd Sion Corn mewn steil eleni yn ei lori braf newydd cyn treulio noson brysur iawn yn ei groto. Diolch i aelodau'r Gymdeithas Cyfeillion a'r holl rieni am eu gwaith caled a'u brwdfrydedd at lwyddiant y noson ac i bawb a gefnogodd.

Gorffennodd y tymor yn sŵn bwrlwm dathliadau'r Nadolig. Cynhaliwyd gwasanaeth Nadolig ar ddydd Iau, 7fed o Ragfyr a braf oedd gweld Eglwys St Twrog yn llawn ar gyfer y ddau wasanaeth wrth i'r disgyblion gyflwyno stori'r geni, 'Hon yw ei Stori Ef' i'r gymuned. Diolch i'r Ficer a swyddogion yr Eglwys am eu croeso cynnes a hefyd i Miss Jenny Thomas, athrawes offerynnol y Sir am ei chefnogaeth ar y dydd. Rhannwyd y casgliad rhwng Banc Bwyd Caerfyrddin ac Elusen 'Childreach International.'

Marian Evans

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"If you haven't got any charity in your heart, you have the worst kind of heart trouble." *Bob Hope*

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PARTI PORTH-Y-RHYD

On Friday, 1st September the residents of Porth-y-rhyd and surrounding villages assembled to enjoy the Show in Y Neuadd Fach and to socialise on Cae'r Efail. The fine weather was a real bonus! Thanks to all who worked enthusiastically and contributed to ensure that this venture was a success. The Committee wish to give a special thank you to Rhinedd Williams, Aled Rhys and Dai Bryer (Adran y Neuadd Fach and Urdd Gobaith Cymru) for their help and co-operation and all those who joined in the fun and participated in the Parade which included the Fire Brigade and floats organised by the Short Mat Bowling Club, Adran Y Neuadd Fach, and Nia Thomas. Thanks also to Cross Hands police for ensuring the safety of the parade. Mr Wyn Edwards and Mr Huw Voyle-Williams ensured that the guests arrived in style and Porth-y-rhyd Welfare is most grateful to the Presidents – Mr Elgan Richards and Mrs Beryl Richards – for their support and generous donation. It was a pleasure to have their company at the event.

The hall was beautifully laid out with exhibits and the standard was truly excellent. The Welfare Committee thanks the judges Mrs Dawn Webb, Mrs Sylvia Thomas, Miss Vilna Thomas, Mr Jim Jones and Mr John Davies and all exhibitors who kindly supported the Show again this year. Mrs Gwenda Protheroe-Thomas won the Cookery Section Trophy, and the Trophy in Memory of Mrs Eirlys Davies was presented to Mrs Menna Jones who also received the Blue Ribbon for the Best Exhibit. Mrs Heather Witt won the Floral Section Cup again this year with Mrs Gill Lewis a very close second. The Blue Ribbon for the best exhibit in the Flower Section and Rose Bowl in memory of Mr Ron Evans was awarded to Mr Eirian Jones. Competition was very keen in the Craft Section and both Mrs Carol Davies and Sian Merlys had 15 points each. The Craft Trophy was presented to Mrs Carol Davies for the second year running and the Trophy in memory of Mrs Christine Thomas was presented to Sian Merlys for the Best Exhibit in the Section. Mr Eirian Jones is to be congratulated as he won all the trophies in the Gardening Section – the Garden Section Trophy, The Blue Ribbon and the Porth-y-rhyd - Milltown Twinning Trophy.

The results of the Children's Competitions are as follows:

KS1 – Harri Eynon; KS2 – Siencyn Rhys; KS3 – Marged Rhys

Fancy Dress Competitions: KS1 – Griff Georgiou; KS2 - Ffion Rees; KS3 – Marged Rhys; KS4 – Emyr Williams; Best Carnival Float – Adran y Neuadd Fach!

It would be impossible to hold such an event without the sponsorship of supporters. The Committee is indebted to J & J Motors for donating the main Raffle Prize and also for their generous donation towards costs. It was wonderful to see the Lada car parked on Cae'r Efail - reminding us of Mr and Mrs J Plimmer's business venture more than thirty years ago. Thanks to Mrs J Plimmer and family for their generosity. A special thanks to the following businesses for their support: Mr and Mrs R Thomas, Tumble Forge and Charles B Sams Electricals - and also to the following friends for their kind donations: Mr and Mrs Protheroe-Thomas, Mrs Nona Ungoes, Mr and Mrs Mark Griffiths, Councillor Ann Davies, Mr and Mrs S Abbasi and Mr and Mrs Greville.

A Raffle was organised and fantastic prizes were donated by Colin Owens, Oil4Wales, Castell Howell Foods Ltd, Porth y rhyd Shop and Post Office, Butchers Arms, Prince of Wales, Abadam Arms, White Hart, Joy Bowen, Mrs Menna Jones and Mr and Mrs Lazenby. Thanks to Mr and Mrs M Baker, Jordanna and Garrin (Llechi Cwm Gwendraeth) for organising the refreshments and it was great to see Garrin setting up his own Pop Corn and Sweets business! Two bands performed during the evening – First Inversion (a group of Maes Y Gwendraeth pupils) and Gwilym Bowen Rhys.

The Judo Club gave an excellent demonstration and the Committee thanks Mrs Myfanwy Jones and Mr Dai Bryer. Thanks also to Menter Cwm Gwendraeth for organising some activities to entertain the children. Practical help is also required to arrange and hold an event like this and the Committee thank Mr Charles Sams, Mr Lee Dunning, Mr Wyn Owens and many others for willingly volunteering to set up the show and for clearing up after the event. Thanks also to Gwyn Edwards and Robbie Hart for taking photographs of the event. However, the biggest "Thank-You" goes to the residents and community as a whole for turning up on the night to support, socialise and enjoy Parti Porth-y-rhyd. We look forward to 2018!

Mair Evans

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"I have always thought of Christmas time, when it has come round, as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable time; the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys." ~Charles Dickens

## Two Cathedrals and .....??

Rob and I have been travelling again, this time to visit our daughter Jenny, who has been teaching in Patagonia, on an eight month placement for the British Council. The length of our stay was determined by how long Rosie, who came with us, could be away from work, and so it was a case of doing as much as possible in the time available, starting with boarding the coach to Heathrow just a few hours after she finished her night shift at the hospital. We spent the first few days in Buenos Aires and during a slow ride from the airport to the hotel our private guide was delighted to hear that we were visiting from Wales. She told us that she had previously spent 20 years as a travel guide in Patagonia without ever meeting any Welsh tourists.

We were greeted by some sort of event taking place in the square by our hotel, complete with military band and flag waving. How did they know we were coming? We walked, bussed and subways our way around the city for three days. Apart from the obligatory tango evening and a visit to the huge cemetery where Eva Peron lies in her family vault, we saw places such as the re-developed waterfront (very like Swansea Marina, complete with old capstans and bollards made in Newport & Cardiff), Botanical Gardens, La Boca with its colourful corrugated buildings, Opera House and the cathedral where Pope Francis had been cardinal. When we visited the latter it was surrounded by armed police complete with water cannon, and we wondered if we were to be faced with angry mobs, but it was just an orderly procession of sixth form aged students, protesting about education cuts. Such over reaction reminded us of the young people who disappeared during the military regime, symbolised throughout the country by images of headscarves, as worn by their distraught mothers. One surprising thing in the cathedral was the presence of two soldiers in full dress uniform, complete with weaponry, standing guard outside a small chapel, which we think was dedicated to the nation, but as we found in most of the places we visited, there were no descriptions that we could understand. We were generally surprised by the lack of English used in the country, especially in tourist areas, but then we encountered very few other English speakers; the Americans seemed to be missing, as were the Orientals. On the last morning we fitted in a trip to Congress, and after a false start due to a misunderstanding about the timing of the only English tour of the week, we spent a fascinating time with an extremely knowledgeable young lady. Despite being a substitute guide she answered all our questions on a wide variety of topics with ease and fluency.

Then off to Trelew, in Chubut Province, Patagonia. We had to wait at the airport for Jenny to arrive as she had been working some distance away. She is living in Gaiman but her job involves not just teaching at the school there and the one in Trelew (a 30 minute bus ride away), but also leading conversation groups in Trelew

and Dolavon , which seem to be for the benefit of elderly ladies wishing to use their childhood language. She also helps with the Urdd, dances with a couple of groups, something she has never done before, and sings in several choirs. With all the bus travel Jenny is really missing her car. Welsh music and cultural activities seem to be alive and flourishing, although we were very disappointed by the use of the language. There is obviously a strong nucleus of Welsh speakers, and many parents pay to send their offspring to Welsh schools, but its use is not as widespread as we had imagined; even in the “Ty Bara” no-one could speak it so we had to resort to sign language to buy their excellent baked items. If you saw the Huw Edwards programme on Patagonia you will have seen some of the places we visited, as we were given tours of the first Welsh secondary school, which still flourishes, and a couple of primary ones, and of course we also had a ride on The Old Patgonian Express, a heritage steam train. We were invited to take tea with a former head of the secondary school, a formidable elderly lady who featured in the TV programme, who as well as telling us about local history, told us that she had visited Llanddarog two years ago. Her son is the curator of the museum in Gaiman, and was instructed by her to make sure he opened on time for our visit, as we were fitting it in before heading for a bus.

Jenny was given some time off so that we could all travel together over to the Andes, and we spent a few days taking in the breathtaking scenery, as well as the San Carlos cathedral in Bariloche, as far removed from the one in Buenos Aires in style and adornment as it was in distance (about 900 miles). After a quick trip back to Gaiman, we three travellers flew south to visit the National Glacier Park. As we travelled into El Calafate we could see a large shape in the lake which I thought looked like a white dredger; I felt a bit silly when told it was an iceberg! Our tour round the park was spectacular, and we joined the crowds (including the nationalities we'd missed in Buenos Aires) walking along the newly constructed walkways. These were built so as to offer spectacular views at every turn, and featured information boards on the local flora and fauna as well as the ice formations, with, wonder of wonders, assorted foreign translations, including English, but not Welsh. The reason for our visit to El Calafate was to see the huge Perito Moreno glacier. It was stunning and we were not disappointed. We returned to Jenny for the last weekend, and made the trip with her to Puerto Madryn, where the original Welsh settlers landed. On a beautifully sunny day we wandered round the bay, seeing the memorial erected to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the landing, and visiting the Welsh museum, where the curator was delighted to be able to chat with us. The area is well known as a place to go whale watching but we didn't have time for a boat trip, although we were reliably informed that the black lumps which appeared in the distance were whales, and some of them even came close enough for us to be able to identify them for ourselves.

Our last day was a Sunday, and earlier in our stay Rosie and I had been foolish enough to offer to cook a proper British Sunday dinner for Jenny and some of her expat friends, as they had all said it was one of the things they were missing the most. Finding an excellent beef joint was no problem, but perhaps we should have checked out the kitchen first. It is tiny, with a very small, ancient gas cooker, the oven of which has no temperature indication and only one shelf. We had no measuring equipment of any sort, and little in the way of baking equipment, pots and pans, but between us were able to produce a reasonable meal, although we somehow managed to make enough pear sponge to feed half the town, and our Yorkshire pudding could have been used as a paving slab!

When we went to do our shopping that morning, Jenny had taken us to see the stone circle of the Gorsedd of Chubut. We especially wanted to see it as we knew it would be of significance to us. At the end of October, on the day before the annual eisteddfod of Chubut, Jenny and one of her colleagues became members of the Gorsedd for their services to Welsh language and culture. We've seen some film, taken on a phone, of the ceremony and the day seemed more Welsh than Argentinian, windy with grey skies, but the bardic robes are definitely South American, resembling a long, blue poncho. We are extremely proud of her achieving this honour, and she is now known as Jenny, Merch Y Gwendraeth.

The journey home from Gaiman to Llanddarog took a little under 35 hours altogether and after nearly three weeks away we were certainly ready for bed by the time we got home.

So there we are: this trip – 2 cathedrals and not a Wetherspoons in sight!

*Rob and Kate Jones*

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## **WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?**

### **Getting the cold shoulder**

The family usually had roast meat, the poorest cut of meat being the shoulder. If a visitor was offered the "*cold shoulder*" instead of a tasty joint, he knew he wasn't very welcome.

### **T.I.P.S.**

In Victorian times errand boys would have a box on their bicycles or carts with "TIPS" written on it "*to insure prompt service*"

## *Update from China*

Almost four weeks ago a small number of Mobile Library Programme (MLP) team members stood outside a hospital in the last of the brilliant autumn sunshine. The children's hospital, a large shiny glass construction which from the outside looked brand new and ultra-modern was to be our destination for the afternoon. As we stepped into the building and into the busy reception hall we were greeted by huge glossy pictures on the walls of happy children with their families. It rather felt like we had entered into one of the children's photography studios that are so popular here. As we stepped out of the light and bright reception hall, we were standing in an outside courtyard where a number of grey concrete and rather dilapidated buildings sat. We didn't say a word but our guide for the day must have seen our confusion at the contrast between the hospitals outside and inside face. "Yes" he said, "only the outside of the hospital has been given a face lift!" A story that seems quite common in China.

Our guide for the day was Ethan, a local brother who runs a local Non-Government Organisation (NGO) called Little Fish. Little Fish work to provide education to marginalised and vulnerable children; they work in orphanages and provide after-school programmes for the children of migrant workers. Ethan had been asked to provide a programme for children with leukaemia who are receiving treatment at the hospital. A number of years ago a rich businessman from Shanghai, watched his young son fight through his own leukaemia treatment. He realised that not only did his son suffer from the effects of the treatment, but also from boredom as he spent many long hours in a hospital which had very little to keep a child occupied. His son is now well and the businessman has donated large sums of money, which have been matched by large corporations such as Bosch and others, to open classrooms in hospitals where children receiving treatment can go to learn and play. The classroom at this hospital only has one member of staff and desperately needs volunteers to facilitate learning and activities. Little Fish and MLP will partner together to provide regular sessions for the children.

We arrived outside the new classroom that had been built and met the full time worker called Miss Chen. As we were all shaking hands four excited children appeared. We had brought with us four large boxes packed full of board games and jigsaws. Miss Chen apologized to us and the children, the key to the classroom had temporarily gone missing! Nonetheless, with the clock ticking and the children's curiosity at the contents of the box at fever pitch we could

wait no longer, Miss Chen looked on in slight dismay as a game of Jenga started on the floor outside the purpose built classroom. By the time the key arrived the game of Jenga was at a crucial stage and could not be moved. When finally, the Jenga tower came down she was happy to show us into a beautiful classroom packed full of resources.

Our time sped by, we played board games, did jigsaws, read books and made a craft. It didn't feel like our first meeting or even that we were in a classroom, to me it felt like one of those long weekends where you get together with friends and just spend time together and play. We asked Miss Chen if the children knew each other as they seemed so comfortable and she told us they have a particularly close bond as their parents are currently living together. Each of their homes, despite being in the province, is hours and hours away by car. This hospital, like most in the city doesn't provide meals for patients. The parents of these four children have rented an apartment together near the hospital so they can be near their children and cook and care for them. Miss Chen shared with us that one member of each family will have had to give up work to care for their child and with the cost of treatment the financial burden for most families is crippling.

Miss Chen told us that the children we met are nearing the end of their treatment and have all responded very well, there is much hope that they will fully recover.

Friends, some sad news to report this month. As you know, we have felt the current climate in China tightening recently. Two weeks ago, The Lighthouse Centre (TLC) where we work and obtain our work visa from has come under unwanted scrutiny and is now under investigation by the education bureau.

As a result of the investigation, Adam and I have decided to seek an alternative visa provider. As Tilly can't reside in the UK permanently until her citizenship is obtained, it is probably a good idea that we don't take undue risks at the moment. Please join with us in the following items for prayer: -

- Please pray that both our family and TLC will be able to move forward in Faith and not Fear.
- Please pray that the officials at the education bureau will lose interest in looking into TLC any further.
- Pray for protection over the TLC staff, it's customers and our family.

- Please pray that Adam will be able to find a new safe and secure visa provider for our family to remain in China, he has two job offers on the table and a number of interviews lined up. Ask for wisdom as we decide what job will satisfy Adam professionally as well as work around our family and ministry.
- Please pray that Tilly’s application for British citizenship is approved quickly. We met with the adoption worker yesterday for Tilly’s one-year post-adoption review. She let us know that out of the ten British families she is working with at the moment, three have had their citizenship application declined and seven approved. Please pray that ours will go through with no difficulty.
- Please pray that even though we will look to make our relationship with TLC less formal we will still be able to find ways to volunteer and partner with TLC as we have done for the last 8 years.
- Please pray that all like-minded people and groups will have His wisdom and protection in these ‘tight’ times.

It seems to me that we have every reason to hope. The hospital looked so good from the outside, but on the inside we found the reality not so good. Hope and Faith often work the other way around. The situation can look quite terrible in the natural flesh world and yet we know that our hope and faith operate not on what the eye can see but what the word of God says is possible. We have hope for the future of the children we met at the hospital.

*Give thanks* that Little Fish and MLP can partner together in this way, *pray* for more opportunities to partner together to serve marginalised children.

*Give thanks* that Adam and Ethan have struck up a good friendship as has our family with Ethan’s. Adam has joined the Little Fish board of Directors, *pray* this partnership be fruitful.

*Give thanks* for the investor that sees the benefit of supporting children’s emotional and educational well-being through their time of treatment. *Pray* that the children continue to respond well to their treatment and ask that we have opportunity to share with them our reason for Hope. Pray for the parents as they support their children and each other.

Adam, Mim, Bella and Tilly

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“Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find you a better man.” *Benjamin Franklin*

## CALENDR YR ARDAL

## ROUND AND ABOUT

### Bowlio Dan Do Llanddarog Indoor Bowls

League games are played on Tuesdays with practice nights on Thursdays from 7 to 9pm in the Village Hall. New members welcome. Enquiries to Lewis Jones 275593.

### Clwb Cinio/Luncheon Club

Last Tuesday in the month. Yn fisol ar y dydd Mawrth olaf. 1pm Prince of Wales, Porthyrhyd.

### Knit and Natter

The knit and natter group sessions are hosted in different group members' houses on the first and third Thursday of each month. We have a lot of fun during our meetings and yet we are still very productive! If you are interested in coming along, contact Margaret Rees on 275479. Don't worry, if you need a lift, we can usually fit one or two more in!

We had made sufficient woollen articles to have a stall at the Trimsaran Christmas Craft Fair where we made an overall profit of £25, and as usual half the proceeds will go to St Twrog's and half to Mind Carmarthen. Unsold articles have now been donated to the Food Bank and Plant Dewi.

The hosts for this quarter are as follows:

|            |                 |             |                 |
|------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 4 January  | Jenny Youens    | 15 February | Elizabeth Wills |
| 18 January | Rosemary Tilley | 1 March     | Heather Witt    |
| 1 February | Margaret Rees   | 15 March    | Marian Daniels  |

### Merched y Wawr

Cafwyd noson Goffi i'w gofio ym mis Hydref gyda Alwyn Humphreys yn rhoi anerchiad hynod ddiddorol gyda dyfyniadau niferus o'i lyfr "Hunangofiant". Braf oedd gallu rhoi elw o £150 at elusen Gwasanaethau Cam-drin Domestig yng Nghaerfyrddin.

Ym mis Tachwedd cafwyd Noson Nadoligaidd a braf oedd cael aelod o'r gangen yn wraig wadd y noson sef Megan Williams, a fu'n ein diddori drwy ddangos ei gwaith llaw grefftus. Bu yn rhedeg busnes gwnïo a chwiltio llwyddiannus ac yn ffodus i ni mae Megan wedi symud o'r Gogledd ac yn byw yn Foelgastell. Ei bwriad yw dechrau Clwb Cwiltio Cwm Gwendraeth yn y Neuadd Fach, Porthyrhyd yn mis Ionawr.

Ym mis Rhagfyr byddwn yn mynd am ein cinio Nadolig ym Mwyty Gareth Richards, Llambod.

Cyhoeddwyd enillwyr y gystadleuaeth am Lyfr Lloffion Cangen, roedd 40 wedi cystadlu a chafwyd gwobr i Gangen Llanddarog gyda Thystysgrif Cymeradwyaeth Uchel.

Ym mis Ionawr 17<sup>eg</sup> bydd Dai Bryer yn rhoi cyflwyniad am ei waith gydag Urdd Gobaith Cymru.

21 Chwefror Dr Dylan Foster Evans, Caerdydd

6 Mawrth Ymuno â Changen Peniel

21 Mawrth Nos Caws a Gwin gyda Bethan Mair

Croeso cynnes iawn i'r aelodau presennol a hefyd i aelodau newydd.

Cysylltwch â Eirwen 275593 neu Megan 275461.

### **Neuadd y Pentre Llanddarog Village Hall**

Addas ar gyfer pob math o weithgareddau yn y Brif Neuadd, cegin hwylus, ystafell gefn ar gyfer gweithgareddau llai o faint maes parcio eang. / Looking for a place to hold an event, then Llanddarog Village Hall is the place with a main hall, a committee room, a spacious kitchen and a large car park. Cysylltwch/Contact: Mair Davies 275271/ 07527933331

### **Paned a Chlonc**

On the second and fourth Tuesday in school term time, following the usual 10 o'clock morning prayer service, we meet in the community area of the church at 10.30 to share coffee and chat so that Welsh learners have an opportunity to practise their Welsh. See Dates for your Diary here in Tafod Twrog. All are welcome.

### **Porthyrhyd & Llanddarog Pensioners Society**

In October we celebrated the Harvest with Rev. Aled Maskell, and made a collection for the Stroke Club Ammanford. From the 16th to 20th we stayed at Stratford upon Avon and enjoyed the delights of the town and the Cotswolds area. In November our speaker, Rev Mary Thorley, talked about the many Women of Carmarthen she had discovered during her research who had been almost written out of the history of Carmarthen, but who had contributed so much to the care of the people the town as well as to the wider world during the 18th and 19th centuries. From her profiles of over 200 women she selected among others Rachel Barrett, Dorethea Bate, Elizabeth Phillips Hughes and Alice Abadam who had left a legacy to be admired.

Having consumed our much enjoyed Christmas Luncheon at Neuadd Fach, thanks to the Prince of Wales catering team, we were entertained by some of our members. We have enjoyed the friendship offered during 2017 and look forward again to 2018.

We would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a healthy year ahead.

9 January Members Afternoon (Please note date)

TBC Pantomime, Tumble

6 February Speaker, Eldon Phillips

6 March Gŵyl Ddewi, Ysgol Llanddarog

New members are always welcome as we all enjoy the friendship and activities offered by the society. Meetings are held at Neuadd Fach, Porthyrhyd on the first Tuesday of the month unless otherwise stated and begin at 2pm. Enquiries to Marion Little 01267 275507.

### **Porthyrhyd, Y Neuadd Fach**

The Hire of The Hall and Cae'r Efail: The hall is an ideal venue for private parties, group meetings or conferences. If you wish to hire the Hall or Cae'r Efail please contact Mair Evans 01267 275411 or e-mail [mairevans@hotmail.com](mailto:mairevans@hotmail.com) or 01267 275730

Diolch i Gwyn Edwards am ei waith arbennig yn sicrhau bod offer achub bywyd ar gael bellach mewn sawl lleoliad yng Nghwm Gwendraeth gan gynnwys Y Neuadd Fach. Nos Fercher, Tachwedd 8fed cynhaliwyd sesiwn o hyfforddiant Achub Bywyd a defnyddio'r diffibriliwr gan Lis Evans. Braff gweld tyrfa dda wedi ymgynnull i fanteisio ar yr hyfforddiant.

Ffair Grefftau a Bwydydd: Er gwaethaf Storm Ophelia cynhaliwyd Ffair Grefftau a Bwydydd hynod lwyddiannus yn y Neuadd Fach a Chae 'r Efail ar Sadwrn a Sul, Hydref 21 ain a 'r 22ain. Agorwyd y Ffair gan Angharad Morgan Williams a hyfryd oedd gweld pobl wedi tyrru o bell ac agos i gefnogi. Roedd agos i hanner cant o stondinau gwahanol a digon o gyfle i brynu anrhegion Nadolig. Diolch arbennig i Sarah a Mark Baker a Christine a Richard Evans am drefnu'r digwyddiad.

### *Digwyddiadau:*

|                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Dydd Llun/Monday         | Gyrfa Chwist / am 7.30 o'r gloch.                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Dydd Mawrth/<br>Tuesdays | Adran Y Neuadd Fach am 6 o'r gloch.<br>Cymdeithas Pensiynwyr Porth-y-rhyd a Llanddarog<br>(dydd Mawrth cynta'r mis am ddau o'r gloch)<br>Porthyrhyd & Llanddarog Pensioners Society<br>(First Tuesday of the month at 2 o'clock) |
| Dydd Iau/Thursday        | Clwb Bowlio dan do/Bowls am 7 o'r gloch                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Dydd Sadwrn/<br>Saturday | Cymdeithas Cwiltio Cwm Gwendraeth<br>Bydd y cyfarfod cyntaf ar ddydd Sadwrn, Ionawr 27ain.                                                                                                                                       |

Mae'r Neuadd Fach ar gael i'w llogi ar gyfer cyfarfodydd, dosbarthiadau, partion ac ati. Ffoniwch 01267 275411 neu 01267 275730

### **Sioe Llanddarog Show**

At this year's Annual General Meeting Mr Emyr Williams, Laswern, Cwmisfael was elected Chairman for the forthcoming year with Mr and Mrs Eirwyn Williams,

Llwynonill Fawr as Presidents and Mr and Mrs Huw Rees, Pantllan as President Elect. Retiring chairman Emyr Williams, Cwmffrwd, outlined the success of this year's show and other events organised by the Committee and thanked everyone for their assistance. Treasurer Howard Davies presented a balance sheet for the year that highlighted the ever-increasing costs of running the Show and stated the importance of fundraising activities to maintain its financial stability. The Committee expressed their gratitude to Mr and Mrs Peter Rees, Ty'r Llain for their generous donation from funds raised during their Open Garden day.

Work is in hand in preparing the Schedule for next year's Show. The Annual Dinner will be held on Friday 19th. January at the Falcon Hotel, Carmarthen and the Grand National Event will be held on Saturday the 14th April.

For further information on the show visit our web-site [www.sioellanddarogshow.co.uk](http://www.sioellanddarogshow.co.uk) or contact Lewis Jones on 275593 or [secretary@sioellanddarogshow.co.uk](mailto:secretary@sioellanddarogshow.co.uk)

### **Llanddarog and District Women's Institute**

Llanddarog WI Branch Meetings are usually held on the first Wednesday of each month, except August, in the Llanddarog Village Hall Committee Room.

10 January 2.30 pm Healthy Eating, Speaker: Caralinda Jefferies

7 February 2.30 pm Belly Dancing, Speaker: Jacki Yorke

7 March 7pm St Davids Supper

New members welcome. Enquiries to Elizabeth Wills 01269 832569 or Marion Little 275507.

### **YFC/C. Ff. I Llanddarog**

Dechreuwyd y tymor ym mis Medi gyda noson Barbeciw a gemau i'r aelodau hen a newydd! Cafwyd noson yn llawn o hwyl a sbri! Mae wedi bod yn gyfnod prysur ers hynny, gyda nifer o weithgareddau amrywiol a digon o gystadlu!

Llongyfarchiadau mawr i bawb wnaeth gystadlu yn yr Eisteddfod Sir eleni. Braf oedd gweld cymaint o aelodau'r clwb yn cystadlu, ac yn mwynhau'r profiad. Fe ddaeth y clwb yn 5ed i darian yr Eisteddfod.

Ar y 1af o Dachwedd, fe wnaeth rhai o aelodau'r clwb fynd lawr i Glwb y Cwms i gystadlu yng nghystadleuaeth chwaraeon y Sir. Cafwyd noson llawn sbri a digon o gymdeithasu gydag aelodau o glybiau eraill.

Yn ystod yr hanner tymor buom fel clwb yn ymarfer ac yn paratoi ar gyfer y noson Caws, Gwin ac Adloniant. Cafwyd ei gynnal ar y 10fed o Dachwedd yn Neuadd y

Gwendraeth. Noson i ddathlu eitemau Eisteddfod y Sir, ac i ail ddangos hanner Awr Adloniant y clwb. Roedd pawb i weld wedi mwynhau mas draw, a braf oedd cael dangos i'r gymuned y talent sydd gan yr aelodau, ac i werthfawrogi eu holl waith caled. Hoffwn ni ddiolch yn fawr iawn i bawb wnaeth cynorthwyo'r clwb mewn unrhyw fodd er mwyn i'r noson fod yn un llwyddiannus.

Ymlaen at y siarad cyhoeddus. Llongyfarchiadau i'r rhai fuodd yn cystadlu yn y gystadleuaeth Siarad Cyhoeddus Saesneg ym mis Tachwedd, a diolch yn fawr i Lowri a Gethin Thomas, Y Berllan am eu dysgu nhw. Edrychwn ymlaen at y Siarad Cyhoeddus Cymraeg ym mis Ionawr.

Mae'n agosáu at y Nadolig nawr, felly mi fydd y Clwb yn cynnal ei Cwrdd Carolau ar yr 11eg o Ragfyr, am 7yh yn Eglwys Sant Twrog, Llanddarog, ac mi fyddwn yn parhau gyda'r ymdeimlad Nadoligaidd wrth fynd o gwmpas y pentref ar nos Fercher y 13eg o Ragfyr i ganu carolau.

Hoffwn ni fel clwb ddanfôn ein gwellhad buan i un o'n harweinyddion blaenllaw, Peter Howells. Rydym yn edrych ymlaen yn fawr i gael o yn ôl gyda ni yn y Clwb.

Os oes gan unrhyw un unrhyw gwestiwn ynglŷn a'r tymor newydd, neu eisiau ymuno, peidiwch ag oedi i gysylltu gyda unrhyw un o aelodau neu arweinyddion y Clwb, neu gallwch gysylltu gyda Caryl Jones, ysgrifenyddes y Clwb am y flwyddyn sydd i ddod ar 07875797587; neu danfonwch ebost i'r Clwb ar [c.ff.i.llanddarog.y.f.c@gmail.com](mailto:c.ff.i.llanddarog.y.f.c@gmail.com)

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## **WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?**

### **Burning the candle at both ends**

Tapers were made by rolling rushes into a long length (18 inches). These were dipped in hot mutton fat and allowed to dry. They were then stuck on a metal hook, lit, and that gave quite a good light. But if they wanted a brighter light they bent the tapers into a 'V' shape, stuck them back on the meat hook, and lit both ends. That gave a brighter light but they were gone in half the time – hence the expression “*burning the canle at both ends!*”

### **Take pot luck**

Large households did all their cooking in a large pot over the fire. On a good day, if the master of the house had caught a rabbit or a chicken, there would be a really good meal bubbling away, but if he hadn't caught anything there's just be mushy vegetables simmering away. So, if you were a caller to that property you'd have to “*take pot luck*” as to whether you got a good meal, or whether you just got vegetables.

**GWASANAETHAU'R SUL YN EGLWYS Y PLWYF**  
**SUNDAY SERVICES IN THE PARISH CHURCH**

|              |                                                                                                                                                                                         |         |                                |         |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------|---------|
| Sul/Sunday 1 | Cymun Bendigaid                                                                                                                                                                         | 9.30 am | Evensong                       | 5 pm    |
| Sul/Sunday 2 | Boreol Weddi                                                                                                                                                                            | 9.30 am | Holy Communion                 | 5 pm    |
| Sul/Sunday 3 | Holy Communion                                                                                                                                                                          | 9.30 am | Service in the Botanic Gardens | 2.30 pm |
| Sul/Sunday 4 | Cymun Bendigaid                                                                                                                                                                         | 9.30 am | Holy Communion                 | 11 am   |
| Sul/Sunday 5 | Cymun dwyieithog gyda eglwysi eraill LLannau Tywi / Bilingual Holy Communion with the other churches in the Ministry Area of Llannau Tywi.<br>Lluniaeth i dilyn/ Refreshments to follow |         |                                | 10 am   |

**SWYDDOGION ST TWROG OFFICIALS**

|                                                                  |                  |                       |             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| <b>WARDENIAID/WARDENS</b>                                        |                  | Mr Peter Rees         | 275479      |
|                                                                  |                  | Mrs Mair Rees         | 275396      |
| <b>TRYSORYDD/TREASURER</b>                                       |                  | Mr Robert Jones       | 275756      |
| <b>YSGRIFENNYDD/SECRETARY</b>                                    |                  | Miss Vilna Thomas     | 275372      |
| <b>UNDEB Y MAMAU/<br/>MOTHERS UNION</b>                          | <b>Secretary</b> | Mrs Mair Rees         | 275396      |
|                                                                  | <b>Treasurer</b> | Mrs Margaret Rees     | 275479      |
| <b>CLWB IAU</b>                                                  |                  | Mrs Helen Beynon      | 275623      |
|                                                                  |                  | Sian Plimmer          | 07761083414 |
|                                                                  |                  | Maria Jones           | 07528378374 |
| <b>GLANHAUWRAIG/CLEANER</b>                                      |                  | Mrs Pam Roper         | 275656      |
| <b>SWYDDOG DIOGELWCH IECHYD/ HEALTH &amp;<br/>SAFETY OFFICER</b> |                  | Mr Huw Voyle Williams | 275222      |
| <b>SWYDDOG DIOGELU/SAFEGUARDING<br/>OFFICER</b>                  |                  | Mrs Daphne Evans      | 275666      |
| <b>WEBSITE COORDINATOR /<br/>CYDLNYDD Y WEFAN</b>                |                  | Mrs Margaret Rees     | 275479      |