

BRO FAMAU GROUP OF CHURCHES MAGAZINE

MAY 2019



IN THE MISSION AREA OF MOLD

Rector/Vicar REVD DANIEL STROUD,
Tel: 01352 810694 mob: 07391 848 903
THE NEW RECTORY, RECTORY LANE, LLANFERRES CH7 5SR
Email: djstroud@gmail.com
USUAL DAY OFF: FRIDAY

Assistant Curate REVD KATHY STEWART
Tel: 01352 753 374

READERS
MR. JOHN FOXLEE
01352 810 677
MRS. VALERIE SALVONI
01352 750 734
DR WENDY SHILLITO
01352 720 377

The Bro Famau Magazine is produced by the
Editorial Team: Tracy Davies, John Foxlee, Kathleen Mason,
Daniel Stroud, Wendy Shillito, Liz Thomas,
Janet Wright and Cath Yeardley
Please contact team members individually in parishes.

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May
2019

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- Questions Answered (New item)

LETTER FROM THE ASSISTANT CURATE

The month of May I think has always been my favourite time in the year when there always seems to be more sunshine and extra bank holidays to enjoy.

During April I had the privilege to be part of one of the Mold Mission Area lent groups studying the inheritance and generosity of God. It was a rich course providing much discussion on how we are generous with ourselves, one another, the environment , finances, around justice and peace in the world. We were asked to consider and pray about our personal responses and those of the church in our response to these difficult and challenging questions .

There will be a further group meeting arranged around Pentecost this month held at Cilcain and at Pontblyddyn.

I always experience being part the Easter season as a wonderful time in the churches year and I hope that as we journey through the season together we will appreciate more of the inheritance and the generosity of our God for all time without limit.

This month we celebrate the feast of Pentecost which enriches and gives us the fullness of God's generosity through the power of the Holy Spirit. This festival has come from the Jewish Festival of Weeks as this is the time of thanksgiving 50 days after the Passover.

As a church we will be celebrating the coming and outpouring of the promised Holy Spirit, at Pentecost who empowered the disciples to go and speak about Jesus.

The Holy Spirit has many names: Paraclete (Yr Eiriolwr), Advocate (Y Diddanydd), the Third Person of the Trinity (Trydydd Person y Drindod), and is described as a dove (colomen), fire (tan), wind (gwynt), breath (anadi), wisdom (doethineb), and peace (dandnefedd).

I pray that our churches may also be empowered as a people who worship and seek to understand more about the inheritance and generosity of God in our lives each day.

We hope you will join us for our services but if you are unable to come along and would like us to hold you in our prayers please let us know. If you would appreciate a pastoral visit please contact us .

God bless
The Rev'd Kathy Stewart.

WORSHIP IN MAY 2019

Sunday 5th May

Cilcain

Gwernaffield

Llanferres

Nannerch

Rhydymwyn

Third Sunday of Easter

11.00 Morning Worship

11.00 Morning Worship

18.00 Holy Communion (Healing Service)

11.15 Holy Communion

09.30 Holy Communion

09.30 Morning Worship

Sunday 12th May

Cilcain

Gwernaffield

Llanferres

Nannerch

Rhydymwyn

Fourth Sunday of Easter

08.00 Holy Communion

11.00 Morning Worship

18.00 Evening Prayer

09.30 Morning Worship

09.30 Family Service

09.30 Holy Communion

Sunday 19th May

Cilcain

Gwernaffield

Llanferres

Nannerch

Rhydymwyn

Fifth Sunday of Easter

11.00 Morning Worship

11.00 Holy Communion

16.00 MESSY CHURCH in the Church Hall

18.00 Evening Prayer

09.30 Holy Communion

09.30 Morning Worship

09.30 Morning Worship

Sunday 26th May

Cilcain

Gwernaffield

Llanferres

Nannerch

Rhydymwyn

Sixth Sunday of Easter

11.00 Holy Communion

11.00 Morning Worship

18.00 Evening Worship

09.30 Morning Worship

09.30 Family Holy Communion

16.00 Family Holy Communion

Week day Services

Monday 9.30 at St Berres, Llanferres

Tuesdays 9.30 at Holy Trinity, Gwernaffield

Wednesdays 10.30 at St Mary the Virgin, Cilcain

FROM THE REGISTERS

Funerals

On 1st April the late Frederick George Gilliland
at Holy Trinity Church, Gwernaffield

On 18th April the late Gwyneth Foulkes
at St John's, Rhydymwyn

*‘Grant them, O Lord, eternal rest, and let light perpetual
shine upon them’*

RESTORING THE WOVEN CORD BY

MICHAEL MITTON

I review books for *The Reader* magazine and I'm fortunate to be able to keep the books I've reviewed.

This time I've been sent a book on Celtic Christianity. The sub-title is 'Strands of Celtic Christianity for the church today,' and the premise is that there were themes in the Celtic Church that are useful to the modern Church.

The Celtic Church existed here, in Wales, Ireland, Scotland and northern England when St Augustine came from Rome in 597 to convert the Anglo-Saxons in the rest of Britain. No-one knows who brought the faith here, but it may have been Greeks who had been converted by the work of St Paul. Our ancestors probably included Christians by the second century AD, since Church Fathers in the Roman Church, Tertullian and Origen in the early third century mentioned Christians in these islands. The way this book introduces the topics is by describing the lives of fourteen Celtic saints, some of them familiar to us, some not. A summary of a few and their particular attributes follows below but the descriptions are necessarily abbreviated and if you want to borrow the book, please contact me.

St Brigid - ministry of women

Also known as Brigit, Bridget or Bride, she was born in the fifth century to Brocseach, a Christian mother and Dubtach, the king of Leinster. Ireland was then still converting to Christianity; her father was a pagan and sold Broseach to a druid priest before Brigid was born. However, she is said to have been baptised by St Patrick. Later on Dubtach took her back to his palace, but she kept on giving food and valuables away to the poor so he tried to marry her off to a nobleman. She refused and opted to become a nun instead, to which he agreed.

She founded her own community at Kildare which contained both sexes. She wanted the light of Christ to shine out within the largely pagan land and to this end had a fire at the centre burning oak trees, always alight and tended only by women, whereas the priestly functions were given to men.

In pre-Christian times Celtic women had equal status with men and even

used to lead tribes into battle. There was no change in culture after Christian conversion and there was no barrier to Brigid being the leader of a mixed community. The same is seen with St Hilda's community at Whitby in the north of England. Men and women had different roles but were equally respected, and either could take up leadership.

Brigid led her community to the end of her life, dying in 524 aged about 70. She was laid to rest alongside Patrick in Downpatrick and they have been regarded ever since as the founding saints of Christianity in Ireland.

In the vivid Celtic imagination a legend grew that she was the midwife and wet-nurse at the birth of Jesus, resulting in this Celtic prayer:

*I am under the shielding
Of good Brigit every day,
I am under the shielding
Of good Brigit every night.
I am under the keeping
Of the nurse of Mary,
Each early and late,
Every dark, every light*

*Brigit is my companion woman.
Brigit is my maker of song.
Brigit is my helping woman,
My choicest of women, my woman of guidance*

St David - community

We remember David as the patron saint of Wales, but he actually established twelve monasteries that were the centres of their Christian communities in Somerset, Lincoln, Derby, and Hereford early in his ministry. He was aware of other places that needed such support because when St Kentigern stayed with him in 556, having being driven out of Scotland and took advice on where he would be most useful, he directed Kentigern to north Wales, and hence to the founding of our diocese.

David was born about 500 to St Non at the western tip of what is now Pembrokeshire. He was educated as a Christian by Non and became a monk in Ty Gwyn, under Abbot Paulinus. He was imbued with a sense of mission and after travelling to the places above and planting monastic churches he returned to the Black Mountains and prayed with some close companions about what to do next. God told him to build a community near where he

was born, and this became what is now St David's cathedral, a great educational and spiritual place that sent out evangelists to Wales and beyond over the following centuries. David became a bishop in 540 and died about 589. His last words were, 'Be happy and keep your faith, and do the little things you have heard and seen me do.'

David had a reputation for strictness and when he decided to become teetotal it was applied to his whole community. A young monk who was also the brewer, Dyfnog, became redundant and asked what he should do. David sent him to north Wales and he found a small village near Denbigh, with a good source of water nearby. He served them as a priest and also brewed beer there. It became Llanrhaeadr (the holy place by the waterfall) where you can visit his baptismal pool behind St Dyfnog's church. The people of Denbigh mission area have a service there on his feast day, February 13th.

Community spirit, like respect for women, was a feature of Celtic pre-Christian life. It was a tribal duty to look after sick and disadvantaged members. There were six social classes within Celtic society, and where you were placed depended upon ability and service to your community.

When Christianity came in the 2nd/ 3rd centuries the stories of the Desert Fathers and Mothers, holy men and women who, forsaking comfort, went to devote themselves to God in desolate places made a deep impression. There were many inhabited places in Wales and throughout Britain that provided little human comfort. Monks were drawn to these out of their monasteries to bring the love of God to the poor people there, and also worldly comfort such as beer! (Though beer was a necessity, being safer to drink than water, and given to all ages.)

There are thousands of towns and villages, especially in Wales and Ireland that bear the names of the monks who fasted, prayed and served there. A few, such as Dyserth, which means Desert, recall their spiritual origin. Celts were also taken with the ideal of the Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as the most perfect community. They looked to community as the basis of their lives, and to be with the Holy and Blessed Trinity became their ultimate goal.

Community is more than ever important to us today. We have seen in recent times, even in our wealthy society, that some people depend on food banks. Our movement into mission areas enables us to provide community support where we were not able to before; Wellfield in Northop Hall that provides accommodation for four homeless men is an example. All this

follows on from the ministry of David and the beliefs of our Celtic forebears.

Columba - creation

St Columba was born in County Donegal in 521. His life epitomised the Celtic love of travel, but his move to Iona off the west coast of Scotland was forced by events. Like David, during his early ministry as a monk he went to different parts of Ireland planting churches and monasteries, possibly about 300. At Newtownards he was accused by St Finnian of illegally copying a precious Book of Psalms. The dispute escalated and somehow was caught up with the kidnapping and murder of a prince of his clan, against the law of sanctuary. He persuaded the Clan Neill to take up arms against King Diarmaid, whose men had committed the violation. Clan Neill won the battle and many men were killed. A synod was held to judge him, he was found guilty and expelled from Ireland. In 563 he left with 12 companions in a small wicker coracle covered with leather - he was sorry for the lost lives and vowed to convert as many as had died wherever he was taken. They were swept across the rough sea and landed on Iona. Here he established a monastery that sent mission to Scotland and northern England. It is also a beautiful place that inspired him to write this devotional poem:

*Delightful it is to stand on the peak of a rock, in the bosom
of the isle, gazing on the face of the sea.
I hear the heaving waves chanting a tune to God in heaven;
I see their glittering surf.
I see the golden beaches, their sands sparkling; I hear the
joyous shrieks of the swooping gulls.
I hear the waves breaking, crashing on rocks, like thunder
in heaven. I see the mighty whales.
I watch the ebb and flow of the ocean tide; it holds my
secret, my mournful flight from Eire.
Contrition fills my heart as I hear the sea; it chants my sins,
sins too numerous to confess.
Let me bless almighty God whose power extends over sea
and land, whose angels watch over all.
Let me study sacred books to calm my soul; I pray for peace,
kneeling at heaven's gate.
Let me do my daily work, gathering seaweed, catching fish,
giving food to the poor.
Let me say my daily prayers, sometimes chanting, sometimes
quiet, always thinking God.
Delightful it is to live on a peaceful isle, in a quiet cell,
serving the King of kings.*

Columba died on Iona in 597. His story has elements of many aspects of creation: the tendency for people to fight each other; the wild nature of the sea; finally the beauty of a peaceful but active creation.

In Celtic Christian times monks were restless and were happier walking or riding about than staying in a monastery - St Cuthbert made a rule that notice had to be given to leave rather than deciding to leave impetuously because it used to disrupt monastic life and worship.

Celts were always more at home outside in nature than in buildings. Their survival depended on good weather to grow crops and in those times when crops failed, there was famine and death. Then rather than thank God at harvest they used to ask why he had let them down. God might ask now why we have let his creation down.

These days many centuries of neglect of the needs of the creation are seen by most to have led us into damaging climate change. We should be ashamed of what we have done to spoil the creation that God gave us as Columba was ashamed of his sins in encouraging people to fight. Whether he was forgiven is with God, but he tried hard to expiate them and so should we.

These are three themes alive in Celtic Christianity that have come back to us today, the ministry of women, safeguarding of community and care for creation. There are many others in the book that deserve recognition and as I said at the start, you are welcome to borrow it.

These themes are eternal, come from God and we would do well to observe and keep them.

John Foxlee





MOVIE MOMENTS

Nick and Carol Pollard from EthosMedia.org share thought-provoking reflections on the latest films.

Celebrating difference?

'The message in this film is one of inclusion, not just accepting difference but celebrating difference' said the actor Colin Farrell at the world premiere of Disney's new film *Dumbo*.

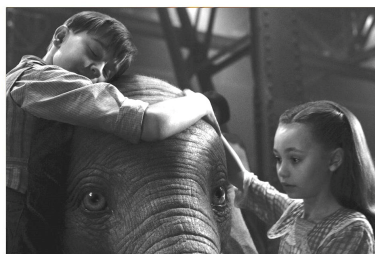
In the opening scenes his character, Holt Farrier, returns from the war without one arm, which shocks his children. 'It's still me' he says, and that is perfectly true. But his follow-on 'everything is going to be just like it was before' is more wishful thinking than reality. He can no longer perform on his beloved circus horses, so is assigned to dressing as a clown and cleaning up the elephants' dung.

And it is in their cage that he discovers the newborn baby elephant with big ears. The ringmaster who had hoped for a 'precious bundle of joy' calls Dumbo 'a monster... damaged goods' and tries to cover up the ears with a special bonnet, in the same way that he tries to cover up Holt's missing arm with a fake one.

Dumbo is the quintessential outsider who is rejected and ridiculed just because of his looks, whilst Holt also faces his own rejection because of his disability. Tim Burton, who directed the film, not only brings to it his well-known talent for the fantastical but also his skill in provoking the audience to think about the value of the outsider – those who don't fit the popular mould. And as the film progresses, Dumbo's large ears enable him to rescue others in a dramatic scene in which Holt also plays a key role, regardless of his disability.



So, we are caused to think about the value of 'difference'. If others make us feel unhappy with how we look, or if we face sudden changes to our bodies, do we feel pressured to cover up and try to continue just like we were before? Or can we celebrate the differences and embrace the changes, bringing them out into the open and using them for the good of others?



**ETHOS
MEDIA.org**

EthosMedia.org provides free resources to help people explore spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues through the latest feature films.



In cinemas from 29th March



The last Messy Church was on Palm Sunday when we looked at the story of Easter.

We made a fabulous Easter Garden which will be decorating Gwernaffield Church over the next few weeks. Our Craft Table was very busy. We made palm branches which are also going into the church, and also Easter Cards and decorated eggs

We all had fun pinning the tail on the donkey and Hannah won the prize for the nearest tail!

We made Resurrection biscuits with Jammie Dodgers and digestive biscuits, and we also made Hot Cross buns which we cooked and ate with our yummy meal. Thank you to everyone who brought the children, who gave their time and energy to help, and most of all to the Messy Churchgoers who made it such a fun and enjoyable occasion.

Our next Messy Church will be back to the Third Sunday in the month (May 19th) and of course everyone is welcome!



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
John chapter 5 verses 1-18

Jesus was in Jerusalem for a festival, and he visited the pool of Bethesda. People said that an angel sometimes made the water ripple.

Sick people waited for the water to ripple, because they thought that the first person in would be healed.



Jesus went up to a man who had been sick for 38 years.



Do you want to be healed?

I've got no-one to put me in the pool, so I can never get in first.



Pick up your mat and walk!



He was healed! The man picked up his mat and walked around. But it was the Sabbath.

God had given the law that the Sabbath day was a rest day (Ex 20: 8-11)... but to make sure it was kept, the Jewish leaders had made up rules, and then more rules so that anything that even might be work was banned.

The Jewish leaders saw the healed man.



It's the Sabbath! You can't carry a mat, that's 'work'!

The man who healed me told me to carry it.



Which man?

I don't know.

Later, Jesus found the man in the temple.



You are healed now, but don't sin any more, or something worse might happen to you.

Now the man knew who Jesus was...



he went straight back to the Jewish leaders to tell them.

and they went to Jesus



You were working on the Sabbath!

My father, God, doesn't stop working on the Sabbath so I keep on working as well

Not only does he disobey our Sabbath rules, but he says he is equal to God!



We definitely have to kill him.

WORDSEARCH CHILDREN

a	n	g	e	l	d	f	q	m	y	w	k
h	w	h	u	d	l	f	a	a	l	a	w
c	a	r	r	y	i	e	d	t	r	i	h
j	t	i	x	h	r	s	a	v	h	t	j
e	e	p	z	y	e	t	o	d	a	e	t
w	r	p	s	h	l	i	y	b	e	d	r
i	t	l	t	f	e	v	b	t	e	r	s
s	j	e	r	u	s	a	l	e	m	y	s
h	b	s	m	u	s	l	l	x	g	p	i
o	q	e	s	p	r	u	l	e	s	o	c
l	m	e	w	a	l	k	k	a	d	o	k
p	j	b	a	n	n	e	d	a	k	l	y

day

ripple

waited

father

rules

healed

walk

law

Jesus

mat

disobey

temple

carry

Bethesda

leaders

banned

sick

Jerusalem

Jewish

water

festival

Sabbath

pool

angel

PRAYER DIARY FOR MAY 2019

ON THESE DAYS IN THE MONTH LET US GIVE
THANKS FOR

- 1 Sts. Philip & James, Apostles
- 2 St. Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor, AD373
- 3 Henry Vaughan, Poet, 1695
- 4 Anti-bullying Day (United Nations)
- 5 St Asaph, 2nd Bishop of our diocese, 6th century
- 6 Those enjoying the Spring Bank Holiday
- 7 Midweek Communion in Holy Trinity, Gwernaffield
- 8 Archdeacon's Visitation, Bangor on Dee
Julian of Norwich, anchoress & writer, c.1417
- 9 St Gregory of Nazianzus, Bishop, AD390,
Mission Area Conference, Pontblyddn
- 10 Concert in St Mary's Cilcain, Autoharp
- 11 Coffee events in Gwernaffield Church Hall &
Cilcain Village Hall
- 12 Family Service in St Michael's Nannerch
- 13 Christian Aid week—collectors, givers and recipients
- 14 St Matthias, Apostle
- 15 John Davies (1644) of Llanferres & Mallwyd, Priest &
Translator,
Magazine Editorial Team Meeting

- 16 St Brendan the Navigator, AD577
- 17 World Hypertension Day
- 18 HIV Vaccine Awareness Day
- 19 St Dunstan, Bishop, AD988
- 20 World Bee Day
- 21 The Naked Preacher, training course, Llangollen
- 22 Shared Ministry team meeting, Christ Church,
Pontblyddyn
- 23 Learning to make Ourselves and our Churches Dementia
Friendly - event in the cathedral
- 24 Charles Wesley (1788) & John Wesley (1791), Priests
& Missionaries
- 25 St Bede, Doctor, AD735,
Coffee morning in Daniel Owen Centre by St Mary's,
Cilcain
- 26 St Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop & Missionary, AD605
- 27 Rogation Days today and the next two days
- 28 St Melangell, Abbess, 6th century
- 29 Midweek Communion in St Mary's Cilcain
- 30 **Ascension Day**
- 31 Visit of the Virgin Mary to Elizabeth

WORDSEARCH ADULTS

This month (31st May) the Church remembers the visit of the virgin Mary to her cousin Elizabeth. Both were pregnant, and the visit gives us a poignant glimpse of two humble, ordinary women, caught up in a great event that would shape world history. Their trusting faith in God and total acceptance of His will, shine through.

After Jesus is born, Mary fades into the background, and makes few appearances: when she loses her Son in Jerusalem, when she urges Him to help the wedding party in Cana; and when Jesus gives her into the keeping of the beloved disciple when He is on the cross.

Mary, chosen to be the mother of Jesus Christ, one who is both God and Man, holds a unique place in the history of mankind. Down the centuries that have followed, the Church has paid special honour to Mary – and well deserved it is. “All generations shall call me blessed...”

- Visit
- Virgin
- Mary
- Cousin
- Elizabeth
- Pregnant
- Glimpse
- Humble
- Ordinary
- Women
- Great
- History
- Trusting
- Faith
- God
- Acceptance
- Will
- Jesus
- Jerusalem
- Cana
- Special
- Honour
- Generations
- blessed



REV. DR JOHN DAVIES

In the prayer diary for this month, on the 15th May, we celebrate and give thanks for the life of John Davies.

He was born in Llanferres in 1567, the son of a weaver. His potential was noticed by Gabriel Goodman, a leading churchman and benefactor, who had him educated at Ruthin School.

William Morgan had published a Welsh translation of the Bible in 1588, but it had a lot of errors, which he set about correcting. The work carried on after his death in 1604, when others carried on leading to a second publication in 1620. John Davies is believed to have done a lot of the translation work before he went to study at Oxford. Both editions can be seen in St Asaph cathedral and a statue of John is in the Translators' Memorial standing on the Cathedral Green. There are 1620 Welsh Bibles in both St Berres' Church Llanferres and St Mary's Church, Cilcain.

He graduated from Jesus College, Oxford in 1594. After serving curacies he was given the living as Rector of St Tydecho's Church, Mallwyd in 1604. The village is today on the A470 halfway between Dolgellau and Machynlleth at the southern point of Gwynedd. He was there for 40 years until his death in 1644. The church is probably much as it was when he was there, having an unusual layout of banked pews in a long narrow building up to the organ at the west end. There is a statue of him in the churchyard, put up on the 200th anniversary of his death. His grave is near the church.

He published a Welsh translation of the *Book of Common Prayer* in 1621 and in 1632 a Welsh/ Latin dictionary. There are several theological books in Welsh to his name, and academic Welsh grammars. He is acknowledged as the leading Welsh scholar of the late Renaissance period, a major contributor to the systemisation of Welsh grammar and a key figure in the group of Translators that enabled the Welsh language to survive.

His hobby was building stone bridges, several remaining examples of which can be found in the Mallwyd area.

He left £10 to St Berres' Church in his will (equal to over £1000 now) and a memorial tablet was retained from the previous church when it was rebuilt in the 18th century, which can be seen on the back wall to the left of the door.

Coming from a humble beginning, he used his great gifts to the full and we have ample reason to thank God for him.

John Foxlee

Questions Answered

A congregation member enjoyed the question and answer session that Revd Daniel leads at the beginning of his sermons in Lent. She wondered if we could start a regular slot in the magazine whereby someone sends in a question and a volunteer replies with the answer.

The question to start us off is about the Temple of Jerusalem, which Jesus predicted would be destroyed.

There have been several temples built on Temple Mount in Jerusalem. The first was built by King Solomon and destroyed by the Babylonians when the Jews were taken into exile. It was rebuilt when the Jews were allowed back to their land at the end of their exile by Cyrus the Great.

The temple was nearly destroyed again by Alexander the Great, who was enraged because the Jews refused to worship him as a God. Hasty diplomacy in the nick of time persuaded Alexander not to sack the temple.

Dark times happened for the Jews in the time of the rule of Antiochus IV, who outlawed the observance of the Sabbath, and who erected a statue of Zeus in the temple, sacrificing pigs in the precincts. This led to the famous Maccabean revolt, and the temple was restored to its proper use.

The Temple that Jesus worshipped at had been extensively rebuilt by Herod the Great. As Jesus had sadly predicted, it was completely destroyed by the Romans in 70 CE. There was a further unsuccessful Jewish revolt in 132 CE which resulted in the Jews being expelled from Jerusalem. Further attempts to rebuild the temple finally ended in a huge earthquake in 363 CE.

On the Temple Mount today there is situated the Dome of the Rock and the Al-Aqsa Mosque. The only surviving part of the Old Temple is the Western Wall, where Jews still pray today.

If there are any other questions that anyone would like to ask, I'm sure there would be someone in our Bro Famau team who would be happy to try to find an answer!

AROUND OUR CHURCHES

NANNERCH, ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS

Croeso Pawb with Ysgol Nannerch

This half term we went into church for 'Experience Easter'. An interactive way to explore the Easter Story with children. Six stations were set up to mark the events of Holy Week. The children gathered in church to be told the story of Jesus' journey from His triumphal entry into Jerusalem to the Resurrection. This established the time line. Then groups of children moved around the stations. The first, 'Hopes and Dreams'- Jesus Rides Into Jerusalem; the second, 'Servant King- Jesus Washes the Disciples Feet; the third, 'Remember Me'- The Last Supper; the fourth, 'Alone'- The Garden of Gethsemane; the fifth, 'Sharing Our Sorrows' - The Crucifixion, and the last; 'The Empty Tomb'- The Resurrection, at this station all the children came together again.

Each reflective area is set up in a different part of the church and is manned by an adult. Each area has artefacts that 'set the scene' for a short talk and the children, in small groups, move from area to area. The stations all require the children to discuss and participate.

We are always impressed by how involved the children get in these sessions and how well informed they are beforehand..

Thank you to Rev. Kathy and members of Mothers' Union for their help and support.

The children were also involved in making Palm crosses and an Easter garden in the days before Croeso Pawb.

New Headteacher for Ysgol Nannerch

After the Easter holiday, Mrs Janet Meaden will become the headteacher of Ysgol Nannerch and St Mary's VA School, Nercwys. The two schools have now been federated.

Please pray for the success of this initiative.

LYCIG Coffee Morning

As part of our mission to reach out to the community, an Easter Coffee Morning on Saturday 20th April was held at the home of

Lindsay Wilding. Tea and coffee, cakes and biscuits, raffle and Easter Egg Hunt were the order of the day. Fun for all!

Nannerch and Rhydymwyn Mothers' Union

We welcomed Sarah Wheat to our MU meeting this month. Sarah is the Diocesan Engagement Officer and had been very much involved in The Wrexham Night Shelter project this Winter. This has run in partnership with Housing Justice Cymru and Wrexham Council. The shelter accommodated rough sleepers over a ten week period during the coldest months of the year. More than 130 volunteers from church and community groups in the town, offered safe beds, a hot meal and a warm welcome to up to 10 people every night. Seven different churches across Wrexham offered their church hall as a venue for the night shelter.

We were staggered to hear that Wrexham has the second highest number of people living rough in Wales and the highest per head of population. Listening to Sarah really brought home the commitment and dedication of these groups of people.

Our MU branch collected toiletries as emergency supplies for local hospitals. At our meeting we were able to make up 9 toilet bags which we will pass on to MU Outreach officer to be delivered to where they are needed. Thank you to all those who contributed and helped make up the bags.

Next month, May 21st we welcome Nesta Davies who will talk to us on Power of Attorney and family law.

RHYDYMWYN, ST JOHN'S

Flintshire Foodbank.

A box, placed at the back of the church, is for donations to the Foodbank. All donations welcome.

Kids Club.

Every Friday evening from 6-7pm in Rhydymwyn Football Club. Children are to be aged 5-11. Further information from Zen 01352741226.

100 Club.

We are now selling tickets for this fundraiser at £10 a ticket. There will be 4 draws throughout the year of £50, first prize, and £25,

second prize. Tickets available from the wardens or committee members.

Village Fete.

This annual village event is to be held on Saturday 6th July. St. John's will be once again having a stall and raffling a food hamper. Donations for the hamper are very welcome.

GWERNAFFIELD, HOLY TRINITY

Sales Table

The Sales Table is little depleted at the moment – all items are gratefully accepted. Hetty Derbyshire, our verger, looks after the Sales Table and reports that she has been delighted with the monies raised over the past year. All monies are ploughed back into the running costs of our Church

Mold Food Bank

Donations are very welcome and can be brought to the back of the church

Mothers' Union

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 28th May - our speaker for the evening will be John Bowen who will give a talk on St Beuno's Jesuit Spirituality Centre in Tremeirchion. New members are always welcome - we meet on the last Tuesday of every month at 7pm in the Church Hall. Please telephone Mrs Gaynor Morgan (Secretary) on 01352 741515 for more information

Christian Aid Week

There will be a coffee morning to support Christian Aid Week on Saturday 11th May from 9.30am to 12.30pm in the church hall. There is no charge, but donations are very welcome

Fundraising for 2019

Saturday 8th June -7.00 pm– A Musical Evening

Saturday 6th July – 2.30pm – A Strawberry Tea with various stalls

Saturday 7th September – 10.00am– 12.pm Coffee Morning

Saturday 5th October – 7.00pm– Harvest Hotpot Supper

Further details available from Carole on 01352 740550

Church Tidy-up

Thank you to those who gave of their time recently to tidy-up the Churchyard - a splendid job! A further thank you to Pat Wells for the very welcome refreshments.

Easter Afternoon

Our Easter Egg Hunt and afternoon tea proved very popular, with over thirty children searching for eggs in the Churchyard and grounds. Within the Church Hall, children and parents were busy on the craft table making little baskets and Easter book-marks. Sixteen bonnets were entered in The Easter Bonnet parade and the judge had a very difficult task deciding on the winners - Well done to all those who entered into the spirit of the afternoon! It was a lovely family occasion and, as an added bonus, £282.00 was realised for our Church.

Many thanks to all who supported us in many different ways - Lynne Harrison who planned the Easter Egg Hunt, the enthusiastic children who took part, those in the kitchen serving the Hot Cross Buns and Welsh Cakes that had been donated by The Village Bakery Co. We received lots of monetary donations from those unable to attend which was very much appreciated.

Our next event will be a Musical Evening on Saturday 8th June at 7.00pm in Holy Trinity Church when we will be entertained by Angela Parker (it is always a delight to listen to her) and young local singers and musicians. Tickets are £8.00 including refreshments and are available from Carole - 01352 740550

LLANFERRES, ST BERRES,

Open the Book

We have been enjoying our visits to Bro Famau. Most recently we were joined by Fiona, a teaching student from Germany. She helped us to tell the story of the paralysed man whose friends took him to see Jesus and lowered him in through the roof! Thank you to John Foxlee who stood in at short notice recently and who did such a good job, he is certain to be asked again!

Mold Foodbank

We still have a box at the back of the church which takes donations for the foodbank. Any contributions are gratefully accepted

Church Opening

We are happy to start opening the church during the daytime for anyone who would like to spend a few moments of tranquillity in our beautiful church. Anyone who would like to help in the rota of opening and closing the church would be very welcomed.

CILCAIN, ST MARYS

Congregational Meeting

At the recent Congregational Meeting, all the Officers were willing to continue to stand for another year, and so there were no changes to report.

Mothering Sunday

The Mothering Sunday Service was conducted by both the Rev Kathy & the Rev Daniel, and the Ladies present all received a beautiful rose. The Service was followed by refreshments in the North Aisle where we enjoyed Tea, Coffee & Cake. Thank you to everyone involved on this lovely day.

Easter Gardens

The Rainbow Group from Pantymwyn had made some beautiful Easter Gardens which will be on display in Church over the Easter period. A very big thank you to all the Children who helped to make these beautiful Gardens.

Mission Area Vestry Meeting

Our Mission Area Reps. attended the Vestry Meeting held in Northop Church Hall, where Mrs Amanda Griffiths very kindly offered to be the Representative for the Diocesan Standing Committee, & was duly elected.

Future Events

10th May	“Autoharp and Dulcimer Delight”. Details to follow
11th May	Community Café 2—5 in Cilcain Village Hall
25th May	Daniel Owen Centre Mold 9—11 Coffee Morning
26th August	Cilcain Show & Mountain Race 11—5
28th Sept	Daniel Owen Centre Mold 9—11 Coffee Morning

SUNDAY BIBLE READINGS PREVIEWED

Please use these introductions to prepare for worship. If you are a reader at home who is unable to come to church, you might like to use these pages, with your Bible, to join the congregation on a Sunday in the reading of the same passages

Sunday 5th May - Third of Easter

Acts 9: 1-6 [7-20] Saul, whom we know as Paul, was one of the strongest opponents of the apostles' teaching. In what he came to describe as a sudden and abnormal birth, a life-changing encounter with the risen Christ transformed him into a great apostle and missionary.

Revelation 5: 11-14 Week by week we hear John's mystical visions of the glories of heaven. As he perceives it, everything God has ever created comes together to proclaim the glory of the Lord.

John 21: 1-19 Jesus, in his risen body, appeared many times to many people. Here he joins some of his disciples for breakfast on the shore of the lake where it all began. Peter is challenged about his commitment to a life of love and service.

Sunday 12th May - Fourth of Easter

Acts 9: 36-43 After Pentecost the disciples found themselves filled with the same teaching and healing power of Jesus himself. Peter's gifts were such that, like the Master, he miraculously brought the dead back to life.

Revelation 7: 9-17 In John's vision of heaven God has gathered people from all over the world. They are free of all pain and sorrow, brought into the presence of God through the work of Jesus.

John 10: 22-30 During Jesus' lifetime most people did not perceive him to be the expected Messiah. In this reading, as so often, Jesus points to the things he does as signs of who he is. To those who see and follow, there is his promise of eternal life.

Sunday 19th May - Fifth of Easter

Acts 11: 1-18 These Acts are those of the risen Christ in and with his Church. The Jerusalem church here calls on Peter to justify his eating and preaching amongst Gentiles, and they realise that the new life in Christ is not restricted to a privileged few.

Revelation 21: 1-6 Our weekly readings are giving us some of John's visions of the glory of the risen and ascended Christ, worshipped in heaven by all the faithful. At the end of this age, John believes, there will be a new heaven and a renewed world, and God's presence will fill them both.

John 13: 31-35 The gospel takes us back to the night of the Last Supper. Judas has gone out to betray Jesus who now speaks of his own destiny not as failure but as glory, fulfilling to the uttermost God's way of love.

Sunday 26th May - Sixth of Easter

Acts 16: 9-15 Paul's missionary work took him into northern Greece, as he and his companions felt themselves directed by the Holy Spirit. We know that Paul made many friends in Philippi as well as converts.

Revelation 21: 10, 22-22: 5 These weekly readings now move from John's pictures of heaven back down to earth. His new Jerusalem symbolises a new kind of paradise; all humanity is redeemed, and everything is blessed by the perpetual presence of the Lord God.

John 14: 23-29 Jesus promised his apostles that even when he had left them his peace would remain. The Holy Spirit would be sent in his name to be their teacher and guide.

Or.

John 5: 1-9 As John tells his gospel, Jesus' public work began with a great deal of teaching before any miraculous work. But now he shows us that the power to heal is strong enough to overcome a lifetime of disability when Jesus comes face to face with suffering.

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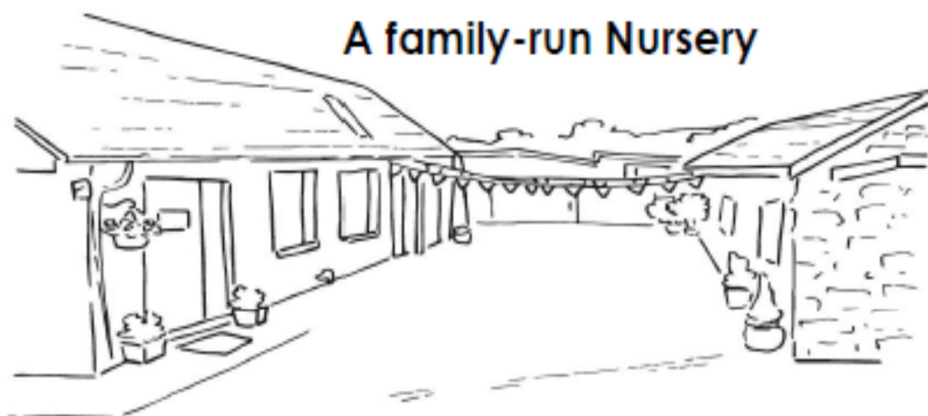
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Ask for Gavin or Emma

Bro Famau Group of Churches in the Mission Area of Mold Local Contacts

WARDENS:-

Tel 01352

GWERNAFFIELD , HOLY TRINITY

MR. PETER DAVIES, Ardwyn, Cae Rhug Lane, Gwernaffield - 741826

MRS KATHLEEN STANTON, 2, The Links, Gwernaffield - 740068

Subwarden

MRS. MADGE NEWTON, 7 High Park, Gwernaffield - 740649

LLANFERRES , ST BERRES

MISS ANNE WOODWARD, Cysgodfa, Tafarn-y-Gelyn - 810270

MR ROB ARMSTRONG, The White House, Rectory Lane, Llanferres - 810259

CILCAIN, ST MARY THE VIRGIN

MR. JOHN PRIOR-EGERTON , Ty Gwyn, Ffordd Trelan, Cilcain - 741042

MRS. AMANDA GRIFFITHS, Tegfan, Hendre. - 740872

RHYDYMWYN, ST JOHN THE EVANGALIST

MRS. MARION WATTS, Swn yr Awel, St John's Park , - 741350

MRS. ELIZABETH THOMAS, 5 St. John's Park, Rhydymwyn - 741405

NANNERCH ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS

MRS. CATH YEARDLEY, Hafan Deg. Ffordd-y-Graig, Lixwm - 781151

MRS. JANET WRIGHT, 2 The Walled Garden, Ffordd-y-Waen, - 741701