

CYLCHGRAWN MISOL MONTHLY MAGAZINE

Gorffennaf/July 2016

50c/50p



See how the flowers
in the fields grow.
King Solomon
was not dressed as
beautifully as one of
these! Matthew 6:29

BRO
CYFEILIOG a MAWDDWY.

As you read this, the decision has been made, the vote taken; but as I write this article there are still two days to go. Are we still in Europe?

I wonder which way Jesus would have voted? There's a tricky one. I don't think Jesus showed much interest in national boundaries, he certainly valued all people; note especially his championing of the stranger and the outcast. I'm thinking especially of the Samaritans, despised by Jesus' fellow Jews. But although we note and admire his social conscience, no one would describe Jesus as a narrow campaigner; he would not be here cheering Boris, Cameron or Corbyn! Rather, Christ points us primarily towards an eternal kingdom, a kingdom of the soul, unity with God, a relationship that transcends issues of EU membership.

But we live in the practical world and we have to make a decision. I suspect that most people will vote with their hearts, and the reason the campaign has been so acrimonious is that people are torn between the arguments. I want to be an internationalist, that is what my heart is shouting at me, but I am equally aware of the importance of local community / belonging; that sense of family, shared nationhood, which roots us in time and place. Does the headlong rush towards European federalism take away our sense of identity? - That is my worry.

Which ever way the vote goes, I feel we all need some reassurance. "Europe" needs to "stop" and take stock, to do some deep thinking, so that its members do not lose that sense of personal identity. I hope that it is not already too late for us to take a fresh look at things, to reform, without throwing all the toys out of the pram.

Take a look at Matthew 22. vs 15 – 22, if you really want to get a sense of how Jesus thinks. He notes the value of both the physical and the spiritual, and within that distinction, the importance of governance and order. Perhaps one of the great lessons for us in the 21st century is the need to sacrifice /deny some of our own personal freedoms and even our prosperity, for the good of our neighbours near and far. Personal freedom, (the mantra, the be all and end all of the 20th century) without governance, without control, is a recipe for chaos; in which only the strong (perhaps only the ruthless) will prosper. Our meddling in the Middle East, breaking down existing systems of governance, has been a disaster; and the Arab Spring, that home grown desire for freedom, has bought mainly chaos and suffering. In this context, Jesus' words are shocking, quite counter revolutionary!

“Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's.” Even the hated Romans, foreign invaders, alien governors, have their value. That's not very PC, but then Jesus was rarely PC!

Rev'd Roland Barnes

200 CLUB MONTHLY DRAW JUNE 2016

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------|---|
| 1st | £40 | 19 Ceinwen Jones(Llanbrynmair) |
| 2nd | £20 | 29 Nesta Jones (Machynlleth) |
| 3rd | £10 | 69 Bethan Gwawr Jones (Llanbrynmair) |
| 4th | £10 | 109 Andy & Adam (Corris) |

Dear Friends,

After a break of 9 weeks and some frantic cleaning by some very dedicated people we were able to move back into St Peter's Church on the 5th June. When I arrived at St Peter's on Tuesday 31st May armed with my mop, bucket, broom, dusters and polish, I was met by what seemed to be a battalion of people each with their own corner of the Church to clean - women, men and builders all mucking in together. It was a site that brought a lump to my throat. Over the following four days a relay of people came to make sure that everything was clean and in working order for 8 o'clock on Sunday morning 5th June. At 11 o'clock we welcomed Gareth and Carian Nicholas, their families and friends for the Baptism of their son Zach Gareth. What a wonderful service to have on our first Sunday back.

The work is not quite finished yet and we are not allowed into the new area at the back of the Church just yet but by the end of the summer all should be in place for the builder to hand the building back to us. We can then start to arrange "open days" for the community to see the new facilities and how they can be used for the community. Plans are also underway for a special service of thanksgiving. Keep a look out for notice of these events that will be coming soon.

I am very grateful to Mr Ken Searson and everyone who worked so hard brushing, washing, polishing and supplying refreshments during those 5 days, it was all done with friendship and laughter. It was all done to the praise and glory of God through Jesus Christ. Our grateful thanks also go to the Tabernacle for accommodating us on Sunday mornings. Thank you all so much.

With every blessing to you and yours

Rev Kathleen

St. Mary Magdalene - the woman with a past. 22nd July.

Later this month Christians all over the world will commemorate probably the most unlikely saint in the Bible, Mary Magdalene. There was something in her background that has always fascinated people. All we are told about her 'past' is that Jesus had cast 'seven devils' out of her, but on that slender if intriguing evidence she has become the patron saint of 'fallen women'.

Some see her as the woman 'who was a sinner' who washed Christ's feet with her tears at a respectable dinner party. Of that person Jesus remarked that 'she had been forgiven much' and consequently 'loved much'. Whether she was that woman or not, the description perfectly fits her. No one who has heard or read it could surely fail to be moved by her tearful encounter with the risen Jesus in the garden on Easter morning, the man she had taken to be the gardener revealing Himself in one word, Mary, as her beloved Teacher.

The problem with a good story – and hers is as good as it gets – is that people can't leave it alone. Down the centuries she has been John the Apostle's fiancée until he left her to follow Christ. She has gone with Jesus' mother and the same John to live in Ephesus and died there. In art and literature she has become an alluring, sexual figure, disapproved of by the mother of Jesus. There is no historical evidence whatsoever for any of this. In fact, the Gospels suggest the two Marys were close in their shared devotion to Jesus.

Her popularity is shown in the fact that 187 ancient churches in Britain are dedicated to her, and a college at both Oxford and Cambridge. Whatever the details of her story, we cherish it because it shows that having a 'past' is no reason not to have a future.

The Battle of the Somme

On the 1st July 2016 we commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme and remember those who fought and died during the battle. The Somme was one of the deadliest battles of the First World War. During five months of combat, the total number of men killed, wounded and missing reached over one million.

A century later the battle scars still remain. It's still difficult to make sense of what happened and see God's place in the conflict. It challenges any image of a safe, problem-solving God who protects at all costs from pain and suffering. As Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane demonstrates, God is to be found alongside in the pain: *'Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.'* (Luke 22:42).

Geoffrey Studdert-Kennedy, the chaplain popularly known as *'Woodbine Willie'*, served at the Somme said: *'We have taught our people to use prayer too much as a means of comfort: the comfort of the cushion, not the comfort of the Cross.'*

He is saying that prayer in itself won't save us from suffering, as it didn't save Christ from the cross. But it does enable us to fight evil in a way that will transform the situation, like Jesus going to the cross.

On Sunday 26th June we came together at St Peter's Church with the British Legion and the RWF Veterans Association for a Service of Remembrance to mark the centenary of this dark time in our history. .

***MACHYNLLETH, LLANWRIN, PENEGOES & CORRIS
GWASANAETHU'R SUL/SUNDAY SERVICES.***

Gorffennaf 3 July Pentecost 7 Thomas Apostol

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Machynlleth)
- 9.30 a.m. Cymun Bendigaid/Holy Eucharist (Corris)
- 9.30 a.m. Cymun Bendigaid/Holy Eucharist (Llanwrin)
- 11.00 a.m. Cymun Bendigaid/Holy Eucharist (Machynlleth)

Gorffennaf 10 July Pentecost 8 SUL Y MOR/SEA SUNDAY

- 9.30 a.m. Morning Worship (Corris)
- 10.00 a.m. Cymun Bendigaid/Holy Eucharist (Machynlleth)
- 11.00 a.m. Congregation Meeting (Machynlleth)
- 2.00 p.m. Gosber (Penegoes)

Gorffennaf 17 July Pentecost 9

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Machynlleth)
- 9.30 a.m. Cymun Bendigaid/Holy Eucharist (Corris)
- 9.30 a.m. Cymun Bendigaid/Holy Eucharist (Llanwrin)
- 11.00 a.m. Cymun Bendigaid/Holy Eucharist (Machynlleth)

Gorffennaf 24 July Pentecost 10

- 9.30 a.m. Cymun Bendigaid/Holy Eucharist (Corris)
- 9.30 a.m. Cymun Bendigaid (Machynlleth)
- 11.00 a.m. Cymun Bendigaid (Penegoes)
- 11.00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Machynlleth)

Gorffennaf 31 July Pentecost 11

- 10.30 a.m. United Bilingual Morning Prayer (Machynlleth)

Awst 7 August Pentecost 12

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Machynlleth)
- 9.30 a.m. Cymun Bendigaid/Holy Eucharist (Corris)
- 9.30 a.m. Cymun Bendigaid/Holy Eucharist (Llanwrin)
- 11.00 a.m. Cymun Bendigaid/Holy Eucharist (Machynlleth)

Every Wednesday

- 10.00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (**Machynlleth**)

**CEMAES, DAROWEN, MALLWYD & LLANBRYNMAIR
GWASANAETHU'R SUL/SUNDAY SERVICES.**

Gorffennaf 3 July Pentecost 7 Thomas, Apostol

| | | |
|-------------|---------------|----------|
| 09.45 a.m . | Cemaes | RPB (E) |
| 14.00 y.p. | Darowen | RPB (HW) |
| 11.15.a.m. | Mallwyd | RPB (E) |
| ..... | Llanbryn-mair | |

Gorffennaf 10 July Pentecost 8

| | | |
|-------------|---------------|--|
| 09.45.a.m. | Cemaes | JE (MP) (Banns) |
| 14.00 y.p . | Undebol | |
| 11.15am | Mallwyd | JE (MP) |
| 10.45am | Llanbryn-mair | Memorial Service Centenary Battle of the Somme War Memorial |

Gorffennaf 17 July Pentecost 9

| | | |
|------------|---------------|--------|
| 09.45 a.m. | Cemaes | KR (E) |
| ..... | Darowen | |
| 11.15 a.m. | Mallwyd | KR (E) |
| ..... | Llanbryn-mair | |

Gorffennaf 24 July Pentecost 10

| | | |
|------------|---------------|---------|
| 09.45 a.m. | Cemaes | DM (E) |
| 14.00 y.p. | Darowen | RPB (E) |
| ..... | Mallwyd | |
| 11.00 a.m. | Llanbryn-mair | RPB (E) |

Gorffennaf 31 July Pentecost 11

| | | |
|-------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| ..... | Cemaes | United Bilingual Morning Prayer |
| ..... | Darowen | 10:30 a.m. (Machynlleth) |
| ..... | Mallwyd | |
| ..... | Llanbryn-mair | |

Awst 7 August Pentecost 12

| | | |
|------------|---------------|---------|
| 09.45 a.m. | Cemaes | RPB (E) |
| ..... | Darowen | |
| 11.15 a.m. | Mallwyd | RPB (E) |
| ..... | Llanbryn-mair | |

The Five Fingers Prayer.

1. Your thumb is nearest to you, and without it you are helpless. So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you, without whom you, too, would be lost. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is, as C. S. Lewis once said, a "sweet duty."

2. The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.

3. The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for our Prime Minister, our Assembly leader, the national leaders in Europe, the leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nations and guide public opinion. They need God's guidance.

4. The fourth finger is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger; as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need your prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.

5. And lastly comes our little finger; the smallest finger of all. Which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, "The least shall be the greatest among you." Your 'pinkie' should remind you to pray for yourself.

By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.



Thanks.

Muriel would like to thank everyone for the cards, gifts, flowers and telephone calls she received after her recent operation. She would also like to thank those who visited her at home. It was very much appreciated. Diolch yn fawr.

Magazine.

Anyone who feels they have something appropriate to go in the monthly Church magazine, please feel free to send in. By e-mail if possible (cliveandhelena@hotmail.co.uk), if not possible a hard copy will do, marked for the attention of Clive Thomas. Submission's need to be in by no later than, one week before the end of month.

Croeso y Cymru

Over the years millions of visitors must have seen the signs at the Severn Bridge: 'Croeso y Cymru' It takes a bit of the sting out of having to pay to get in, but at least it costs nothing to get out! For anyone it is always a joyful sight as you make your way back.

When the journey was made back in the early sixties, there was no Severn Bridge. Entry into Wales from southern England involved a detour via Monmouth and the A40. In fact, the journey took so long that you needed to stop half-way overnight.

The Bridge changed everything. It was opened by the Queen fifty years ago, on September 8th 1966. So popular was this new fast route to the delights of the Gower, the Brecon Beacons and the beaches of Pembrokeshire that a second bridge was built to meet the demand, and the Queen returned to open it twenty years ago.

There's still 'a welcome in the hillsides', but those two magnificent bridges have made it much easier to respond to it!





News around Ministry Area.

Holy Trinity Church Corris.

In between the drizzle, the children of Corris school walked to Corris Church to be greeted by the Rev Kath, all the children gathered around the font.

Kath wanted to explain to the children what it would have been like for a pilgrim many years ago and she explained it in a way of a " holiday ".

First, there was where he or she would start, what they would wear, what they would take, and why they would take on such a hard journey and that it would be done all on foot!

The picture that Kath is showing the children is a map of Bardsey Island in Wales (see picture previous page) as many pilgrims travelled there.

Kath then asked the children to follow her to the altar where she showed them the silver goblet and plate that is used for communion and on the plate were some wafer bread. Kath told them what communion was all about while they all took a piece of wafer.

The children had many questions for Kath.

Before we knew it a whole hour had passed and lunch time was approaching so Kath ,Cyril and myself said our goodbyes to the children.

Rachel Sear.

Dyddiadur Diary

Gorffennaf 13 July 7pm Cemaes Cyfarfod CAG / MAC Meeting.
Gorffennaf 14 July 7pm Swyddfa'r Plwyf / Parish Office
Machynlleth. Food Bank AGM



St Peter's Plodders. July Walk

Afon Hengwm Uwchgygarreg. (4 miles.)

Saturday 9th July.

A gentle walk never far from the Afon Hengwm (river of the valley), with it's tumbling waterfalls and variety of woodland and riverside tracks. The route offers fine views of the surrounding mountains. Although you will ascend and descend about 550 feet, there are no steep sections. We shall be leaving from **St Peter's Church at 09:30**. Please bring a packed lunch.

Our June walk took place midweek due to commitments with some members of the Plodders. Following the river Dysynni up the valley towards Bird Rock and returning via the back road to Bryncrug, the walk was blessed with fine warm weather for most of the walk although heavy showers were forecast. We did however have one shower, but were able to shelter whilst eating our packed lunches



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Tîm Gweinidogaeth / Ministry Team.

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Rev Roland Barnes | Team Leader |
| Rev Canon Kathleen Rogers | Team Leader |
| Rev Peter Ward | Chairperson |
| Rev Dominic McClean | |
| Mrs. Jen Evans | Worship Leader |
| Mrs. Denise Perkins | |
| Mr. Alan Murphy | |

Gweinidogaeth Swyddogion Cyngor Ardal. Ministry Area Council Officials.

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Ysgrifennyddes / Secretary: | Mrs Denise Perkins. |
| Trysorydd / Treasurer: | Mrs Joanne Gower. |
| Wardeiniaid / Wardens: | Mr Alan Murphy, Mrs Denise Perkins. |



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