

Do not regret growing older—it is a privilege denied to many!

Join our 80+ Happy Birthday Corner!

To include someone , please get in touch now, with name and date of birth.

Happy Birthday Blessings to :

Morrie Conant: who celebrates 103 years on the 3rd!

Dafydd Hughes : who celebrates 85 years on the 11th!

Thelma Collins Jones: who celebrates 87 years on the 20th!

We wish you many more years of health and happiness!

Christmas through the ages; The winter solstice, shortest day / longest night, may have been observed since Neolithic times (12,000 BC), and has definitely been celebrated since 4,000 BC. Egyptians believed that winter happened because the sun god Ra had become sick and weak, but also that the solstice would bring him back to health, causing summer to return. Ever-green trees, wreaths and garlands were used to decorate homes, symbolising the triumph of life over death, a continuity of life through the darkest days of winter. Romans marked the winter solstice on December 25. The first recorded Christmas celebration was in Rome on December 25, 336 AD. Nativity scenes were first enjoyed in tenth century Rome. Later, in 1223, Francis of Assisi assembled a nativity scene outside his church in Italy, children sang carols, and eventually drama became included. Popular in Italy in the 13th Century and first recorded in English in 1426, Christmas carols originally involved dancing as well as singing. Santa Claus is based on the legend of St Nicholas, a fourth century Christian bishop who used his large inheritance, to provide for poor and needy children. The original costly Christmas gifts, brought by the three kings to the infant Christ, were of course gold, frankincense and myrrh. The Christmas wreath represents the crucified Christ's crown of thorns, and eventually the Christmas colours of red, green and gold were added. Red represents his crucified blood, green symbolises life and gold signifies royalty. The Tudors forbade any work to be done from Christmas Eve through to Epiphany. Why are there twelve days of Christmas? It took the three kings that length of time to make the journey, from their home to the stable! Henry VIII is credited with adopting the turkey as a Christmas bird following its introduction to Britain from America in the 1520s. It quickly became fashionable among the Tudor elite and was often served in a coffin-shaped Christmas pie, where it was stuffed with numerous other game birds. Rather than a sweet snack, the "minced pye" was served at the beginning of the meal. It was baked with a total of 13 ingredients, to represent Christ and his Apostles, while the loaf-like shape echoed the crib of the infant Christ. Our modern Christmas tree tradition appears to have started in 16th century Germany, where Christians began to decorate their trees simply, with fruit and nuts for the festive season. The 16th century Protestant reformer Martin Luther is thought to have been the first person to have brought a Christmas tree into a house. Legend has it that whilst quietly composing a sermon, he was inspired by stars shining through branches on a winter night walk, and sought to recreate the scene in his own home by erecting a tree and decorating it with candle light. Nowadays, people sometimes consider using the written name Xmas to be a rather slovenly, secular habit. It was however started in the 16th century, and in the Greek alphabet, the name Christ begins with the letter 'X', or Chi. So not sloppy at all, but rather intellectual! During WW2 the US Playing Card Co joined with American and British intelligence agencies to create very special decks of cards. They appeared to be Christmas gifts, but when wet, individual cards peeled apart, to reveal maps of escape routes, thus helping allied POWs escape from German camps. **Christmas is regarded as a religious celebration to observe the birth of Christ, who came into the world to atone for the sins of humanity. Window candles and Christmas lights, demonstrate the fact that Christians believe that Jesus Christ is the ultimate light of the world!**

We send Christmas blessings to all our readers, all over the world!

**BRO CYBI / HOLY ISLAND MINISTRY AREA
PASTORAL CARE CIRCLE
DECEMBER / CHRISTMAS 2023
Associate Vicars : Neil Ridings: 01407 861663
Jane Bailey: 01407 521092**



We know that in some areas, loneliness can be a huge problem, especially if your family live away , or if you are new to the town or village. The clergy currently under-take all visits.

Please don't feel that you are on your own—we are just a phone call away!

Some of you might like us to call for a friendly chat, others might like to receive Holy Communion, either in your own home, in hospital or in a care or nursing home.

Others prefer a telephone call, just to be reminded that we are thinking of you.

Remember that if we don't know that you need us, we sadly cannot help you , so someone please get in touch on your behalf!

For anything to be included in this leaflet, please contact:

Pat: 01407 860412 or email: patriciahughes2017@gmail.com. Thank you.

Your prayers for the sick are asked for:

Sunday: Brian Wray, Mike Boylin, Ray, Alan, Pat Jones, Janice, Carolann Wedlake, Annette, Jenny, Lynn, David & Margaret Thompson, Mabon, Heather Rendall, Ken Williams, Tabitha Rendall-Todd, Alyse Scarisbrick, Janet Evans, Jen Suboor, Jenny Jarvis, Alan Tucker, Chris.

Please let us know the name of anyone who needs our prayers.

Wednesday: Hannah, Rosemary Tucker, Huw, David Carey, Katie Jones, Sue Tatlow, Ken Williams, George and Mair Lees.

If you need us to pray for you for any reason at all, please let us know.

Rest in Peace: " Love is meant to hurt, when it leaves "

Gareth Hambley Jones, Lloyd Jones, Ruby Maureen Evans

Please **pray for the families and friends who grieve for their loved ones.**

Grief is love with no where to go!

Anniversaries of death:

Dec 03-09: John Henry Walker, Elizabeth Pierce Elsey, Eric Hampson, Edna Twiss, Michael Anthony Ashton, Gareth Roberts

Dec 10-16: Thomas Gwilym Jones, Reg Thomas

Dec 17-23: Nell Jones, Leah Kathleen Hughes, Clive Hems, Val Hicks

Dec 24-30: Peg Glazebrook, Richard March, Mervyn Pritchard Williams, Idwal Williams Smith, Graham Berisford Cobbe

Dec 31-Jan 06: Francis James Bell, Margaret Edwards, David Lloyd Williams, David Hems Williams, Hywel Manley Williams

Grieving is nature's way of giving us space to accept the loss of those we love. It's a time to be very gentle with yourself.

Holyhead Churches Together (Cytun) has organised ANOTHER one hour's silent vigil in St Mary's Oratory on Wednesday, 13 December @ 6.0pm - a non-political act of prayer for all the innocent people who continue to suffer in Israel/Palestine. All welcome.

St Cybi was due to close for reordering from Xmas Day. However due to a faulty boiler, and the seasonally cold weather, it was decided to close NOW. We have tried to cover all immediate venue changes here, within this December PCC.

Although they will be available in our other 3 churches, any member of St Cybi who has difficulty obtaining a PCC, please get in touch with Pat—we can arrange delivery.

Due to the early closure of St Cybi, the Wednesday mid week Eucharist will take place at 10.30am EACH WEEK at Ysgol Cybi, Holyhead. Visitor car parking across the road.

Due to Covid restrictions, it was impossible to remember the centenary of the Lifeboat Memorial at **St Gwenfaen's**. This will be remedied at 10.00am on Sunday, 3 Dec, when a wreath will be dedicated and laid on the memorial, in a service to celebrate 103 years. All welcome!

The joint service on Sunday, 3 Dec, will take place at St Gwenfaen, at 11.0am. This is the only M A service on that day. If any one needs transport, please contact Rev Neil.

MOTHERS UNION. As there will be no meeting in December, the November meeting was a social afternoon with an early celebration of Christmas; festive decorated tables with mince pies, Bara Brith; a quiz, with music. Our Winter meal out will be on FRIDAY JANUARY 5th in the Llaingoch Village Hall where we will have a catered early Afternoon Tea - sandwiches, savouries, cakes, scones etc. tea and coffee. The cost is £12.50 and the time is 12.30 - 1.0pm. Any Members who have not given Janice their name, please contact her on 01407 762905 or by email. **The January meeting ,on Thurs 18th, 2.0pm at St David, will be a fun social afternoon of reminiscing.**

Our **Christmas Walsingham Mass** will happen on **Saturday, 9th December in St David at 11.30 am. (Note new venue)** We will then enjoy an early Christmas lunch at the Breakwater Country Park Café, (one, two or three courses depending on your appetite). If you want to try out one of our masses, to see if it works for you, you will be most welcome! No pressure.....In the present uncertain world, when according to survey figures regular worshipping numbers appear to be falling, **pilgrimage seems to be on the rise! We are all seeking "the peace which the world cannot give", wherever and in whatever way is possible!**

Thanks for prayers answered: Judy ; Hedd

St Cybi's Church apologises to the community, that due to circumstances beyond their control, sadly, for the first time in more than twenty years, there will be NO CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL this year!

What do you do every Tues from 12—1.0pm ? Nothing? Why not pop down to St Ffraid's Hall, for a cuppa (tea / coffee) with biscuits, to discuss the bible readings for the following Sunday? Want to know more? Speak to Rev. Neil 861663

Birthday blessings to Rev Christine Llewelyn—who celebrates on 15 December!

Bishop and Archbishop Andy John, sends his love to everyone.

An early notice for Feb 2024 Please start saving clothes, bric-a-brac etc for the **Holyhead Cytun Charity Shop (Churches Together),** across the road to the Cross, from Monday 5th - Friday 9th - setting up on the 4th

In the medieval calendar, Christmas events started forty days prior to Christmas Day. The shortened period we now know as **Advent** (from the Latin word adventus meaning "coming") was originally known as the "forty days of St. Martin," because it began on 11 November, the feast day of St Martin of Tours. It was a time of fasting, in preparation for the feasting of Christmas!

Advent course: St Davids / 6.30pm Tues 5th, Tues 12th & Tues 19th. All welcome!

Message from Rev.Neil: He thanks us all for the support given this year, and wishes everyone a blessed and happy, Advent, Christmas and New Year.

St David's: Thanks to everyone involved – the **Musical Xmas Market** was a great success, very well supported with a lovely pre Christmas atmosphere. The amazing sum of £1135 was raised, and shared equally between The Methodists and St David's (Toilet fund raiser)

St Ffraid – Fri 8 Dec, 7.0pm – annual RNLI carol service. Coffee, tea, mince pies served afterwards in the Hall. All welcome! **St Davids** Church annual fundraiser for St David's Penrhos Hospice, on **Friday 8 Dec at 6.30pm** has a great new name: **SOUNDS OF THE SEASON**. Music by Magee, plus a local ukulele band, and a wonderful female singer from Waenfawr. Tickets - £6 each, includes light refreshments. Contact: Linda 765697 or Sandra 764698. You know you'll enjoy yourselves!

Services –10 Dec: 9.15am St Gwenfaen – morning prayer. St David: 9.15 am Holy Communion. St Ffraid:11.0am Holy Communion. **Services- 17 Dec:** 9.15 am St David- morning prayer. St Ffraid: 11.0am Holy Communion. St Gwenfaen: 5.0pm Carols & Readings. Sherry & mince pies etc after service. All welcome! **Services- 24 Dec:** St David: 9.15am Holy Communion: St Ffraid: 11.0am Holy Communion:11.30 PM Midnight Communion. **Service Christmas Day 25 Dec:** St Gwenfaen:10.am Holy Communion.

Message from **Pat and the hardworking PCC delivery team!** Hugh, Hilary, Karen, Susan, Sandra and Pam : **May God's richest blessings, truest joys, constant love, tender guidance , unfailing protection and calming peace be yours this Christmas and the New Year!**