

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

**Join our 80+ Happy Birthday Corner!**

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

**Happy Birthday Blessings to :**

**Dafydd Hughes :** he celebrates 80 years on 11 December!

**Thelma Collins -Jones :** she celebrates 82 years on 20 December!

**Christmas historical traditions.** Christmas in the 16th Century period was an extravagant affair – a mixture of older folk practices and Christian ritual. The Tudor '12 Days of Christmas' was a period in which work was forbidden between Christmas Eve (24 December) and Epiphany (6 January). A pre-Christian tradition, thought to have been introduced by the Norse and maintained by the Tudor gentry, featured a large log from the base of a tree which was decorated with ribbons and dragged home. Laid upon the great hearth of the manor on Christmas Eve, it would be kept smouldering over the full '12 Days of Christmas'. It was considered lucky to keep some of the charred remains for next year's fire. Made popular in Italy in the 13th Century and first recorded in English in 1426, Christmas carols originally involved dancing as well as singing. 16th Century Christmas carols still sung today, but revised, include 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas', 'The First Noel' and 'Good King Wenceslaus'. 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. The demand was so great that flocks of turkeys were driven to London on foot from Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire, the journey starting in August. Rather than a sweet snack, the "minced pye" was served at the beginning of the meal. It was baked with prunes, raisins, dates, powdered beef, butter, egg yolk, flour, suet, marrow, and minced mutton and seasoned with salt, pepper and saffron. The total of 13 ingredients represented Christ and his Apostles, while the loaf-like shape echoed the crib of the infant Christ and was sometimes adorned with an image of the babe in pastry. Another much older tradition was inherited from the Anglo-Saxons and included much singing. (Wassail comes from the Old English "Wass Hal" meaning "Your good health".) A large wooden bowl containing hot ale, spiced with apple, sugar and spices, was taken from door-to-door. Strangers were offered a drink in exchange for a donation. A wreath or double-hoop with roots in earlier pagan folklore, the Kissing Bough was woven from mistletoe, ash, hazel or willow, covered in evergreens and supported an effigy of the baby Jesus in the centre. Visitors would be embraced under the bough as a sign of goodwill, leading to the custom of kissing under the mistletoe. Gift-giving in the Tudor court took place on New Year's Day.

**In Poland spiders are considered to be symbols of prosperity and goodness, at Christmas. In fact, spiders and spider webs are often used to decorate Christmas trees.**

**According to legend, a spider wove the baby Jesus a blanket to keep him warm.**

**BRO CYBI / HOLY ISLAND MINISTRY AREA  
Pastoral Care Circle  
DECEMBER 2018**

**Vicar: Andy Herrick : 01407 861084**

**Associate Priests: Jane Bailey : 01407 764780**

**Neil Ridings: 01407 861663**



**If you cannot come to church, the church will come to you!**  
**Our visiting team has grown in size, to allow us to reach out to even more people. We know that in some areas loneliness can be a huge problem, more so now that darker evenings are here, or if you are new to the area. 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 (in all churches):** Geraldine Lee, Lance, Kayleigh Maguire, Gwyn, Megan, Hazel, Ann Fell, Ian, Baby Bailey, Gareth, Gwen, Hannah, Huw, Ian Walker, Derrick, Olwen Owen, Alan Taylor, Gwyneth, Peter, Shaun, Margaret, Linda Owens, Mary Harvey, Jean Barton, David Heath.

**Please let us know the name of anyone who needs our prayers. We also pray for those who care for them.**

**Wednesday (St Cybi)** Elizabeth Jones, Betty Ashton, Trevor Peacock, Angela Hillman, Menna Screech, Buddug Hems Williams, Annette Williams, Barbara Smith, Dr Ken Roberts, Gwilym Lewis, Helen, Andy, Huw Thomas, Megan Morgan.

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

**Rest in Peace : 'I am the resurrection and the life'**

Evelyn Williams, Patti Humphreys, David Rowley (Jr), Margaret Ceridwen Eilertsen .

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

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

**Anniversaries of death:**

**Dec 02-08:** John Henry Walker, Elizabeth Pierce Elsley, Eric Hampson, Edna Twiss, Michael Anthony Ashton

**Dec 09-15:** Thomas Gwilym Jones, Reg Thomas,

**Dec 16-22:** Nell Jones, Leah Kathleen Hughes, Clive Hems,

**Dec 23-29:** Val Hicks, Peg Glazebrook, Richard March, Mervyn Richard Williams, Idwal Williams Smith.

**Dec 30-Jan 05:** Graham Berisford Cobbe, Francis James Bell, Margaret Edwards, David Lloyd Williams, David Hems Williams, Hywel Manley Williams.

**If you have lost loved ones , and you wish to remember them in the Anniversaries of Death section, please get in touch as soon as possible. The fact that one of our clergy performed the ceremony, unfortunately does not mean that the name automatically transfers into the Anniversaries section. You need to request it please. It is very comforting to many people, to read and hear the name remembered.**

**Baptism and Wedding booking dates : Tuesday evening, 4th and 11th December at 6.30-7.0pm in Eglwys y Bedd (building on left , near gate, in front of St Cybi)**

**Thanks for prayers answered:** Gwyneth is very grateful for the improvement to her health, but would appreciate you to keep praying for her until her speech is fully restored.

**Please pray for these recently married—we wish them every happiness!**

05 November: St Ffraid : Daniel Martin Lowies and Grace Llawela Jones

**The 'X' in X-Mas, , comes from the Greek meaning of 'X'=Christ.(Christ Mass)**

**Thank you so much to Tesco**, who allowed us to create awareness in the community of our St Cybi Restoration Appeal. We are extremely **grateful** to everyone who **donated** so generously, and to those who **handed out** leaflets and **collected** so willingly, over the week-end Sat 17- Sun 18 November. Our team of 23 stood in shifts over a period of 14 hours!

**The Pastoral Care Team** pray that the peace and hope of Christ's birth will be with you now and in the days ahead. With Christmas blessings to all from: Rev Jane , Carys, Hilary, Lorna, Glenys, Karen, Barbara, Hugh, Sandra, Gill, Kath and Pat.

**Interesting Historical December Dates!** On the **1st**, in **1990**, England was connected to mainland Europe for the first time since the Ice Age as engineers digging a railway tunnel under the English Channel broke through the last rock layer. On the **4th**, in **1791**, The *Observer*, now the oldest Sunday newspaper in the world, was first published in Britain. On the **5th**, Walt Disney (**1901-1966**) was born in Chicago, Illinois, He opened the Disneyland amusement park in Anaheim, California, in 1955. In 1971, Disney World opened in Florida. On the **7th**, wax modeller Marie Tussaud (**1761-1850**) was born in Bern, Switzerland. She established Madame Tussaud's waxworks in London in 1802. On the **15th**, in **1995**, European Union leaders announced their new currency would be known as the *Euro*. On the **15th**, French engineer Alexandre Eiffel (**1832-1923**) was born in Dijon, France. He designed the Eiffel Tower for the Paris International Exposition of 1889, and helped design the Statue of Liberty. On the **16th**, in **1653**, following the defeat of King Charles I in the English Civil War, Oliver Cromwell, leader of the Parliamentary forces, was declared Lord Protector of England. On the **21st**, in **1993**, the KGB (Soviet Secret Police) organization was abolished by Russian President Boris Yeltsin. On the **16th**, in **1969**, the British House of Commons voted 343-185 to abolish the death penalty. On the **25th**, Isaac Newton (**1642-1727**) was born in Woolsthorpe, Lincolnshire. He was a mathematician, scientist and author, best known for his work on the theory of gravitation. He died in London and was the first scientist to be honoured with burial in Westminster Abbey.

**All are welcome to attend our Walsingham Mass, at 11.30 am in St Cybi, on Sat 15th Dec, especially if you are considering joining us on pilgrimage in July 2019!**

**Find us on line:** [www.holyheadparishchurches.co.uk](http://www.holyheadparishchurches.co.uk)—**Facebook:** Bro Cybi Ministry Area

**As the gift shops in St Cybi will be closing a few days before the start of the Christmas Tree Festival, please do your gift shopping early, to avoid disappointment! Why not look at the display of Iconart window transfers? As well as the magnificent Tree of Life window in St Cybi, there are many scenes of the Nativity. They are reasonably priced and very light to post ! Proceeds to the St Cybi Stone-work Restoration Appeal.....**

**The Christmas wreath was originally hung as a symbol of Jesus. The holly represents his crown of thorns and the red berries the blood he shed.**

**December Diary**

10: Dinner in aid of St.Cybi Restoration Appeal -7.0pm. (See Tommy or Richard)

13: Carols by candlelight St David 6.30pm (entertainment and refreshments)

14: RNLi concert St Ffraid 7.0pm

17: St Cybi opening service for Christmas Tree festival 6.0pm.

23: Carols at St Gwenfaen 5.0pm

24: Christmas Eve: St Cybi: 5.00pm: Blessing the Crib service.

24: Christmas Eve: St Cybi: 11.30pm: Midnight Mass

24: Christmas Eve: St Ffraid: 11.30pm: Midnight Mass

25: Christmas Day: St Cybi: 10.30am: Holy Communion

25: Christmas Day: St Gwenfaen: 10.30am: Holy Communion

We look forward to seeing you as often as possible.....!

**Greetings from our vicar Andy Herrick: With huge thanks for the wonderful welcome on Ynys Cybi and wishing you all God's richest blessings for Christmas and the New Year. May the light of Christ, who travelled the road from his birth in a manger to his death on the cross, and onwards to the glory of his resurrection, shine in your hearts and bring you true peace and joy as he walks with you on your own continuing journey through life. With much love from Andy and Sara.**