

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

Join our 80+ Happy Birthday Corner!

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

Happy Birthday Blessings to:

Morfudd (Morrie) Conant: she celebrates 99 years on 3 December!

Dafydd Hughes : he celebrates 81 years on 11th December!

Thelma Collins—Jones: she celebrates 83 years on 20th December !

A Victorian Christmas People around the world have enjoyed midwinter festivals for thousands of years. With the arrival of Christianity, pagan festivals became mixed with Christmas celebrations, hence the custom of decorating houses and churches with evergreen plants like mistletoe, holly and ivy. However the Victorians revolutionised the way we celebrated Christmas! Before Victoria's reign started in **1837**, nobody in Britain had heard of Santa Claus, Christmas crackers or Christmas cards. Humanist and social reformer Charles Dickens wrote his book "A Christmas Carol", in **1843**, which actually encouraged rich Victorians to give money and gifts to the poor. Boxing Day, December 26th, was the day servants and working people opened the boxes in which they had collected gifts of money from the upper classes. At the start of Victoria's reign, children's toys tended to be handmade and expensive, only within the reach of the "better off". The coming of factories created mass production, which brought with it games, dolls, books and clockwork toys all at a more affordable price, to middle class children. The idea of Christmas stockings became popular from around **1870**, but poor children could still only expect an apple, orange and a few nuts. At the same time, the concept of "Santa Claus" arrived along with his reindeer and sleigh. Christmas Cards and the "Penny Post" had already been introduced in Britain in the **1840s** by Rowland Hill. The idea was simple, a penny stamp paid for the postage of a letter or card to anywhere in Britain. Sir Henry Cole tested the water in **1843** by printing, with John Horsley, a thousand Christmas cards for sale in his art shop in London for one shilling **each** (equivalent to £6-40 in today's money!). By **1870** a halfpenny postage rate was introduced as a result of the efficiencies brought about by the railways. This increased the popularity of the Christmas card! A strange but true fact, is that the UK now leads the world in card innovation, design and sales! Turkeys had already been brought to Britain from America in the 1500s. However, when Victoria first came to the throne, both chicken and turkey were too expensive for most people to enjoy. In northern England roast beef was the traditional choice for Christmas dinner while in London and the south, goose was the favourite. Many poor people made do with rabbit, but by the end of the nineteenth century most people feasted on turkey for their Christmas meal. Queen Victoria's German husband Prince Albert helped to make Christmas trees as popular in Britain as they were in his native Germany, when he brought one to Windsor Castle in the **1840's**. Crackers were invented by Tom Smith, a London sweet maker in **1846**. The original idea was to wrap his sweets in a twist of fancy coloured paper, but this developed and sold much better when he added love notes (mottos), paper hats and small toys, and made them go off with a bang. This brand is still the official supplier of crackers to the Royal household. **Despite their rather dour reputation, we have much for which to remember and to thank the Victorians!**

St Cybi Stonework Project. We are grateful that Tesco have allowed us to collect again from their very generous customers—we thank each one of them. Huge thanks too, to Chris Medley for producing such professional illustration boards, and to the seventeen volunteers who gave their time to hold donation buckets, and to explain the ongoing work, by handing out leaflets. The amazing sum of £642 was raised. Thank you all, so very much!

During our darkest moments, we must always focus on the light!

BRO CYBI / HOLY ISLAND MINISTRY AREA
Pastoral Care Circle
DECEMBER 2019

Ministry Area Leader/Vicar: Rob Wardle 07710 173177

Associate Vicars : Neil Ridings: 01407 861663

Jane Bailey : 01407 810 827

Andy Herrick : 01407 861084



When you cannot come to church, the church will come to you!

Our pastoral care 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, especially if your family live away, 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, Gwen, Hannah, Huw, Alan Taylor, Neil Miles, Helen Nason, Lynda Owen, Myfanwy Newman, Graham Smith, Andy Carroll, Sister Ewa Bem and her mum, Robbie, Diana Walker, Emlyn Owen, Georgie and family.

Please let us know the name of anyone who needs our prayers, and their carers.

Wednesday (St Cybi) Betty Ashton, Trevor Peacock, Angela Hillman, Menna Screech, Buddug Hems Williams, Barbara Smith, Gwilym Lewis, Huw Thomas, Megan Morgan, Edith Shepherd, Glenys Barton, Lynn.

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' ...

Megan Lloyd Fraser, John Ihle, David Cecil Owen, John Brian Ellis, Kathleen Stride, Dillon Rhys Kennedy, Myfanwy Roach, Shirley Jones, Sallie Williams,

Burial of Ashes: Rachel Morris, Suzanne Eliot.

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 01-07: Margaret Preston, John Henry Walker, Elizabeth Pierce Elsey, Eric Hampson, Edna Twiss, Michael Anthony Ashton.

Dec 08-14: Thomas Gwilym Jones, Reg Thomas.

Dec 15-21: Nell Jones, Leah Kathleen Hughes, Clive Hems.

Dec 22-28: Val Hicks, Peg Glazebrook.

Dec 29-Jan 04: 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.

Thanks for prayers answered: We give thanks that Eve Morris has recovered from a stroke! The family of Neil Miles are delighted with his recovery to date, but ask that you please pray for a complete return to health. Mair Roberts is much improved.

Our hardworking Pastoral Care Team pray that the peace and hope of Christ's birth will be with you now and in the days ahead. May you and those you love, enjoy the best of health. Christmas love and blessings to all from: Jane , Rob, Neil, Carys, Hilary, Lorna, Glenys, Karen, Barbara, Hugh, Sandra, Gill, Kath and Pat.

The Holyhead Cell of the Society of Our Lady of Walsingham will meet for an advent tide Mass, in St Cybi's Church at 11.30am on Sat, 14th Dec, led by Jane Bailey, followed by Christmas lunch.

If you need to book a **christening** or a **wedding**, please call into **Eglwys y Bedd**, any **Tuesday evening between 6.30 and 7.0pm—but not Christmas Eve or New Years Eve please !** (Small building on left before St Cybi gates)

Our Thursday Bible Study at St. David's, Morawelon will meet on December 5th for the final session of the year- 6.15 pm Coffee / Tea before the 6.30 pm start. No meetings in January, so the first of 2020 will be **Thurs 6 Feb**, same time, same place. All welcome!

Interesting historical December dates. On the **1st**, in **1918**, Iceland was granted independence by the Danish parliament. On the **1st**, in **1942**, the Beveridge Report was published in Britain, envisioning the welfare state including insurance for the entire population. On the **1st**, in **1955**, the birth of the modern American civil rights movement occurred as Rosa Parks was arrested in Montgomery, Alabama, for refusing to give up her seat to a white man and to move to the back section of a municipal bus. This resulted in a year-long boycott of the city bus system by African Americans and led to legal actions ending racial segregation on municipal buses throughout the South. On the **1st**, in **1988**, Benazir Bhutto was nominated to become prime minister of Pakistan, the first woman to govern a Muslim nation. On the **1st**, in **1989**, Mikhail Gorbachev became the first Soviet Russian leader to visit the Vatican and meet the Pope, thus ending 72 years of strict atheist policy in Communist Russia. On the **2nd**, in **1971**, the United Arab Emirates was formed, seven Arab kingdoms on the eastern coast of the Arabian Peninsula including the former Trucial states Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ajman, Umm al Qaiwain and Fujairah. Ras al-Khaimah became a member in 1972. On the **3rd**, in **1967**, the first successful heart transplant was performed by Dr. Christiaan Barnard at Cape Town, South African, on Louis Washkansky, who then lived for 18 days. On the **13th**, in **1545**, The Council of Trent, summoned by Pope Paul III, met to discuss doctrinal matters including the rise of Protestantism. On the **14th**, French physician Nostradamus (1503-1566) was born in St. Remy, Provence, France (as Michel de Notredame). He wrote astrological predictions in rhymed quatrains, believed by many to foretell the future. On the **14th**, in **1861**, in Britain, Prince Albert died of typhoid at Windsor Castle. He was the consort and husband of Queen Victoria of England. Following his death, the Queen went into an extended period of mourning, and wore black for the rest of her life (forty years). On the **23rd**, Mormon prophet Joseph Smith (1805-1844) was born in Vermont, USA. He founded the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. On the **25th**, in **1066**, William the Conqueror was crowned King of England after he had invaded England from France, defeated and killed King Harold at the Battle of Hastings, then marched on London.

Sometimes, the people around you don't understand your journey. They don't need to, it's not for them!

The United Service on Sunday Nov 24th at 11.00am in St Ffraid's, to renew Jane's licence and commitment , and to present her with a cheque for a new home gift, was an absolute success. It was followed by a Bring and Share lunch thoroughly enjoyed by a mixed congregation from all four churches. Jane writes: Greetings from Rhosneigr! I moved here on 4 Nov, and am settling really well, but still sorting through a garage full of boxes. Just to thank all those who have sent me cards and good wishes, your kindness has been much appreciated! I am pleased to be continuing my ministry as part of the Bro Cybi / Holy Island Ministry Team, on a part time basis. I send you every blessing for Christmas and the New Year.

Christmas Diary! It's never too soon to write them in. Please support!

6 Dec : St David: Carols by Candlelight: 7.0pm Magee Brothers

10 Dec: St Cybi : Rotary Carol Concert; 6.0pm Holyhead Male Voice Choir

13 Dec: St Ffraid: RNLI Carols: 7.0pm : Menai Bridge Brass Band

16 Dec : St Cybi :Opening Service for Christmas Tree Festival: 6.0pm (Note time)

20 Dec: St David: Methodist Christingle—with a difference ! at 7.30pm.

Come dressed for the nativity—or outfits will be provided! Refreshments!

22 Dec: St Gwenfaen: Lessons and Carols. 5.0pm

Christmas Eve: St Cybi : 5.0pm: Crib Service for all the family.

Christmas Eve: St Cybi: 11.30pm Midnight Communion

Christmas Eve : St Ffraid: 11.30pm Midnight Communion

Christmas Day: St Cybi and St Gwenfaen: 10.30am: Morning Communion

If you wish to buy any of the ICONART transfers which have been on sale in St Cybi's, please ring Pat 860412. They make excellent Christmas gifts!