

**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:**

**Richard Parry** : he celebrates 82 years on 7 February !

**Shirley Parry** : she celebrates 80 years on 9 February !

**Elizabeth Walker** : she celebrates 96 years on 24 February !

**Elwyn Collins Jones** : he celebrates 91 years on 25 February !

**Give God your weakness, and he'll give you his strength !**

Whenever **historical church education in Holyhead** is remembered, the name Thomas Ellis (1711 – 1792) springs to the minds of many people. After all, this severe Anglican, Puritan priest was the driving force behind the restoration of Eglwys y Bedd, which was in a very run down condition at that time. His idea was formed in 1743, and just one year later, both the plastering and the roof were completed. As there was no funding for staff, this charity school intended "to instruct six poor boys of the parish, to read, to write and to cast accounts" stood empty until 1748, and even in those days, the windows were targets for vandalism! He left the parish in 1759. Little is known about the man, other than that his next move was to a very good living in Surrey, that he married much later in life and then fathered two children. No image of him remains. In 1815, the charity school was united with the newly formed National Society: the patron was Sir John Stanley and it was opened in 1817. A British school was opened in 1849, at the top of Thomas St: the town population was almost 9000, and the National school building was woefully inadequate. **So who do we feature on the cover?** Fast forward to 1858, when a new vicar arrived in Holyhead - Rev. Thomas Briscoe. He was born in Wrexham in 1813, and educated in Ruthin School and Jesus College Oxford. Thomas gained a BA (Ist) in Classics, a BD, a MA, and a DD. He was a brilliant scholar in both the Classics and modern languages, and was a keen, progressive educationalist, and a devoted parish priest. Combative by nature, he worked with the Hon W O Stanley of Penrhos to improve church buildings, to increase the number of services, to build more schools and to provide a fairer order within the social system. On 25<sup>th</sup> Oct 1859, the day of the Royal Charter Storm, Mrs Ellin Stanley laid the foundation stone for the 'new' National School. It was completed in just over 7 months and was opened by the Rev Briscoe. Although the Stanleys had donated generously, one third of the total cost, including that of the school house, was donated by the Rev Briscoe himself. He taught there regularly, changing his new fashionable outdoor frock coat, for his trade mark older one, which was hung on a peg in the building. In 1876, he presented the vicarage organ together with other personal items, to St Cybi Church. He was installed as Chancellor of Bangor Cathedral in 1877, and remained in position until his death. Legend has it, that our dark wood Tudor Communion Table, which stands near the Altar rail in St Cybi, was identified by this priest within a pile of rubbish. He bought it and saved it for posterity, by presenting it to the church. Despite his leaning towards academia, **Chancellor Thomas Briscoe** was very much a "people person". On the day of his funeral in 1895, Holyhead town came to a standstill. Thousands followed the cortege to St Seiriol's Church, including every pupil of the National School, and every ship and public building flew flags at half mast. He was respected by everyone, - he truly was generosity personified! After his death, his personal library was presented to Bangor Cathedral . **Grateful thanks to Anne Hambley Jones, who lent me her copy of '..for want of schooling' by Eryl Wyn Rowlands.**

**BRO CYBI / HOLY ISLAND MINISTRY AREA**  
**Pastoral Care Circle**  
**FEBRUARY 2020**

**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, Andy Carroll, Sister Ewa Bem and her mum, Robbie, Emlyn Owen, Georgie and family, Helen Brenan.

**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, Barbara Smith, Gwilym Lewis, Huw Thomas, Megan Morgan, Edith Shepherd, Glenys Barton, Lynn, Hannah Thomas, Heulwen Richards.

**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' ...**

Keith Thomas, David Florendine, Catherine Williams, Jessie Griffiths, Stephen Anthony Hughes, Trevor Hughes.

**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:**

**Feb 02- 08:** Catherine Roberts, James Dunsmuir,

**Feb 09—15:** Mary Ellen Preston Thomas, Robert Brian Jones, Rupert Lewis, Tony Philip Hicks, Cerian Wyn Llewelyn, Ann McIlwaine, May Lewis, Thomas David Gannon, Malcolm Calvert, Joyce Rowlands, Brenda Lloyd,

**Feb 16—22:** Ellen Fletcher, Richard Parson, Robert Elwyn Owen, Noel Williams, Lal Jones,

**Feb 23- 29:** Jack Grenville Kerby, Eric Jones, Mary Grace Roberts.

**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:** Emlyn Owen is progressing quite well—but would be grateful if you would continue to pray for him until his procedure is successfully completed.

**The Holyhead Cell of the Society of Our Lady of Walsingham** will next meet for their Pilgrims Mass, in St Cybi's Church on 15 February, at 11.30am. Please bring a packed lunch which will be eaten in Eglwys y Bedd, and your deposit. All are very welcome to attend!

If you need to book a **baptism** or a **wedding**, please call into **Eglwys y Bedd**, any **Tuesday** evening **between 6.30 and 7.0pm** (Small building on left before St Cybi gates)

**Our Thursday Bible Study at St. David's.** We will meet twice in February—Thurs 6th and Thurs 20th - at 6.15 pm for Coffee / Tea before the 6.30 pm start. All very welcome!

**During Lent the Wed midweek Eucharist will start at 11.0am.** Please support immediately afterwards at midday, the Lent Lunches in **Eglwys y Bedd** on **Ash Wednesday, 26th February** and **Wed 1st April**. Cost £3-00 per person. Excellent value! Best lunch in town! Tell your friends— everyone welcome!

**Christmas Trees : Richard Parry thanks everyone involved, for their help which resulted in such a very, successful festival.**

**Birthday Remembrance.** 9 Feb 2020, would have been the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the late Gladys Ellen Thomas, a faithful member of the St Cybi congregation. May she rest in peace!

**Interesting historical February dates.** On the 3<sup>d</sup> in 1730, the London *Daily Advertiser* newspaper published the first stock exchange quotations. On the 6<sup>th</sup> in 1783, the death occurred of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown the greatest English landscape gardener, born in 1716. His work lives on today throughout the great estates of England. On the 7<sup>th</sup> in 1301, the son of King Edward I of England becomes the first English Prince of Wales. On the 8<sup>th</sup>, in 1587, Mary Queen of Scots is beheaded on the orders of her cousin England's Queen Elizabeth 1. On the 9<sup>th</sup>, in 1964, 73 million Americans tune in to the *Ed Sullivan Show* to watch four lads from Liverpool appear for the first time – The Beatles. On the 10<sup>th</sup>, in 1354, students at Oxford University fight a street battle with local townspeople resulting in several deaths and many people injured. On the 11<sup>th</sup>, in 1975, Margaret Thatcher, becomes the first woman leader of the British Conservative Party. On the 13<sup>th</sup>, in 1688, a "glorious revolution", brings the Protestant William of Orange and his wife Mary (daughter of James II) to the throne of England after the Catholic King James II flees to France. On the 15<sup>th</sup>, in 1971, "pennies, bobs and half-crowns" all disappear as Britain goes decimal. On the 21<sup>st</sup> in 1804, British engineer Richard Trevithick demonstrated the first steam engine to run on rails.

**Do you want to be part of the growing tourist industry? Spring will soon be here, and it will be time to open the doors of St Cybi's Church to tourists. We always need volunteers willing to be trained as guides, to please give us just two hours of their time each week. The "work" is very sociable , greeting visitors from literally all corners of the world. Guides always work in pairs, and after a "hands on " training session, you will be given an illustrated manual, to help remember basic information, about our beautiful old church. If this sounds like something you would enjoy, please ring Pat 860412 or email: patriciahughes2017@gmail.com. There will be a pre-season meeting on Wed 11 Mar, at 12 noon, at Eglwys y Bedd, for existing stewards, new recruits and those who think they might be interested! We look forward to meeting you .....**

**Write your troubles in the sand and carve your blessings in stone.**

**Praying for the sick:** As usual, from the March edition of the Pastoral Care Circle, we will be 'spring cleaning ' the names which we include on our Sunday list of prayers for the **acutely ill**. Whilst no name will automatically go back onto the Sunday list, please be assured that you are welcome to place any name back on to the list again. You are also, of course, invited to add new names to the list in the usual way. This ensures that our lists are always fresh and up to date. The **Wednesday list remains unchanged.** Thank you all for your support of this essential part of our ministry to the sick. For names to be included, please contact Pat Hughes as normal. When prayers are answered, please tell us, so that we can transfer the name to the 'Thank You' section. This is the very best part of putting these pages together!

**Many congratulations to Richard and Shirley Parry on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary on 27th February! May you be granted good health to enjoy many more!**

**Holyhead and District Parkinson's Support Group:** meets every third Thursday afternoon of the month, from 2.0-4.0pm at the Boston Centre Stage, Holyhead. New members and their carers are always welcome, to enjoy tea, coffee and cake! We also arrange coach trips and meals out together. Our speaker for January was Rob Wardle, whose theme was ADVENTURE! He shared his commitment to helping young people with problems. In his previous parish, he organised outdoor away weekends, which were thoroughly enjoyed. He also knew about Parkinsons at first hand, as his mum suffered with the condition. Thank you Rob!

**Katie Jones wishes to thank everyone for their kindness on the occasion of her very special 92nd birthday! Cards, gifts, visits and phone calls—all were very much appreciated.**