

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 : she celebrates 100 years on 3 December!

Dafydd Hughes: he celebrates 82 years on 11 December!

Thelma Collins Jones: she celebrates 84 years on 20 December!

We wish them many more years of health and happiness !

Christmas is regarded as a religious celebration to observe the birth of Christ, by the majority of Christians throughout the world, and culturally by many non Christians.

The season of Advent which precedes it, is regarded as the start of the liturgical year, and was used historically by some as a time of expectant waiting, even fasting, in preparation for the feast. The earliest known date for this observance of Advent was 480 AD. Although the month and date of Christ's birth is unknown, the church in 440AD fixed it as December 25. For Christians, believing that God came into the world in the form of man to atone for the sins of humanity, is the most important reason to celebrate Christmas, rather than knowing Jesus' exact birth date. The Romans marked the winter solstice on December 25. The first recorded Christmas celebration was in Rome on December 25, 336 AD. In the early middle ages, (5th –9th century,) Christmas day was overshadowed by the Epiphany on the 6th January. However the feast regained prominence when Charlemagne was crowned Emperor on Christmas Day 800. King Edmund the Martyr was later anointed on Christmas Day in 855 and King William I of England (the Conqueror) was crowned on Christmas Day 1066. The medieval calendar was filled with Christmas related holidays, and by the 12th century, the "twelve days of Christmas" had become an extremely popular annual event. By the High Middle Ages, about 1200AD, Christmas celebrations had become extremely popular. The Yule Boar was a centrepiece of these feasts; carolling was much enjoyed and was usually performed by dancers who sang, with a lead singer backed with a chorus. In England, gifts were exchanged on New Year's Day, and there was special Christmas Ale. Ivy, holly and other evergreens were widely used as decorations. In 1223, Francis of Assisi assembled a Nativity scene outside his church in Italy, and children sang carols. This event grew larger each year, eventually featuring drama as well as music. The custom spread throughout Europe, and people travelled long distances to enjoy it. By the 17th century, lavish dinners were served, and elaborate masques and pageants were enjoyed. During the Reformation, approx 1550, many Protestants believed the gift bringer was the Christ child, and the date of exchanging gifts was changed from 6 Dec to Christmas Eve. Later during the Protestant Reformation, Puritans banned Christmas in England in 1647, associating it with drunkenness and other rowdiness ! It was however restored as a legal holiday in England in 1660 when the throne was restored to Charles II, but still remained disreputable in the minds of many people. In 1640, the Scottish Parliament officially discouraged the observance of Christmas, and it was not until 1958, that Christmas again became a Scottish public holiday. In the rest of the UK, Christmas Day became a bank holiday in 1834. Boxing Day, the day after Christmas, was added in 1871. Festive decorations have developed in many ways over the years. Nativity scenes were first used in 10th century Rome. In Sicily, living nativity scenes are still a more popular alternative to static crèches. The traditional colours of Christmas decorations are red, green, and gold. Red symbolizes the blood of Jesus, which was shed in his crucifixion; green symbolizes eternal life, in particular the evergreen tree, which does not lose its leaves in the winter; and as one of the three gifts of the Magi, gold is the first colour associated with Christmas, symbolizing royalty. The first record of a Christmas tree used by German Lutherans in the Cathedral of Strassburg, exists from 1539. The Star of Bethlehem is remembered as we put a star on top of our tree; for a different reason some prefer to choose an angel. The poinsettia, popular since the 16th century, is known in Mexico, its country of origin as the Flower of the Holy Night. **Window candles and Christmas lights, demonstrate the fact that Christians believe that Jesus Christ is the ultimate light of the world.**

**BRO CYBI / HOLY ISLAND MINISTRY AREA
PASTORAL CARE CIRCLE
DECEMBER / CHRISTMAS 2020**

Ministry Area Leader/Vicar: Rob Wardle 07710 173177

Associate Vicars : Neil Ridings: 01407 861663

Jane Bailey : 01407 810827

Andy Herrick : 01407 861084



Our kindly Pastoral Care team send you friendship and blessings always, and pray that this Christmas will bring LOVE into your heart, good HEALTH into your body and mind, and PEACE and JOY into your homes throughout the New Year!

We are: Jane, Rob, Neil, Carys, Hilary, Lorna, Glenys, Karen, Barbara, Hugh, Sandra, Gill, Kath and Pat. We very much look forward, when it is allowed, to returning to our previous pattern of pastoral visiting, which has been severely curtailed this year, due to Covid! We are sorry !

Christmas celebrations might look a little different this year, but please don't think that you are on your own— we are just a phone call away. Remember that if we don't know that you need us, we sadly cannot help, so please ask someone to get in touch on your behalf.

For items to be included in these monthly newsletters, or queries about envelope deliveries, please contact: Pat: 01407 860412 or email: patriciahughes2017@gmail.com

Through the dark of ADVENT, there is hope that whispers "God is here!"

Bless us Lord this Christmas, with quietness of mind. Teach us to be patient and always to be KIND!

Your prayers for the sick are asked for:

Sunday: Gwen, Hannah, Huw, Alan Taylor, Sandra Recourt, Ann Cuthbertson, Keith Bryant, Rosemary Tucker, Avril Foulkes, Elizabeth Walker, Christopher Evans, Michael S, Rob B, Alison Walker; Wyn, Clare and family, Julie Wilde, Sam Alsop Hall, Enid Jones, Pat C., Gareth and family.

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

Wednesday: Betty Ashton, Trevor Peacock, Angela Hillman, Menna Screech, Barbara Smith, Gwilym Lewis, Huw Thomas, Megan Morgan, Edith Shepherd, Glenys Barton, Margaret Williams, Glenys Williams, Maurice, Michael S, Rob B.

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' ...

Robbie Hall, Eve Lorrman

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

Death leaves a heartache that no one can heal, but love leaves a memory no one can steal.

Anniversaries of death:

Dec 06-12: Eric Hampson, Edna Twiss, Michael Anthony Ashton

Dec 13-19: Thomas Gwilym Jones, Reg Thomas

Dec 20-26: Nell Jones, Leah Kathleen Hughes, Clive Hems, Val Hicks, Peg Glazebrook, Richard March, Mervyn Pritchard Williams

Dec 27-Jan 02: Idwal Williams Smith, Graham Berisford Cobbe, Francis James Bell, Margaret Edwards, David Lloyd Williams

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.

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.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST CYBI: Tuesday 22nd @ 7pm—Carol Service with a difference! Thursday 24th Christmas Eve @9.0pm Holy Communion. Friday 25th Christmas Day @10.0am Holy Communion. Please note that due to Covid restrictions, we shall have to limit numbers. In order to avoid disappointment, book your seat now for all services—please ring Pat—860412 or email: patriciahughes2017@gmail.com These

services will hopefully be recorded. There will also be **outdoor carol singing: 5.0pm Mon**

14th—Rhosclyn: 6.30pm Tues 15th -Morawelon, Holyhead: 6.30 pm Wed 16th

Morawelon, Holyhead: Mon 21st—Trearddur Bay. If you wish to sing, please ring Rob 07710 173177 – he will tell you where to meet! We really look forward to welcoming everyone back, wherever you choose to worship, to celebrate Christmas! We offer a

warm welcome to everyone who seeks peace at this time, no matter what your worshipping background. If this will be your first time in a long time, you will be very welcome!

FANTASTIC HEALTH UPDATE from Rob Wardle: After his recent medical procedure, he has been declared "cancer free", and apart from blood tests, will not need to be seen again for 12 months! Great to have you back leading services again Rob. Many thanks for prayers answered !!

At **St Cybi**, after 10.0 am service, on Wednesday 9 Dec, Rob Wardle will discuss building proposals to **improve and re-order both the church and Eglwys y Bedd.**

Interesting historical December dates. On the 1st in 1135, King Henry 1 died after eating too many lampreys (fish that tasted like squid.) On the 2nd in 1697, the rebuilt St Pauls Cathedral in London, was opened. On the 4th, in 1872, the deserted ship the Mary Celeste was found drifting in the Atlantic. On the 5th in 1905, the roof of Charing Cross railway station in London collapsed, killing five people. On the 6th in 1921, Ireland's 26 southern states were granted independence from Britain. Ulster in the north remained part of the UK. On the 7th in 1783, William Pitt became both the British Prime Minister and Chancellor at the very young age of 24. On the 12th in 1955, British engineer Christopher Cockerell patented the "Hovercraft", half ship, half aircraft. On the 16th in 1773, unruly American colonists emptied 342 chest of tea into the sea – forever named the Boston Tea Party! On the 24th in 1508, London houses received piped water again, the first time in 1000 years since the Romans left! On the 25th in 440, church leaders fixed the birth date of Christ. Previously it had been celebrated in either January or May.

WALES UNITES: 7pm on Christmas Eve. Will everyone please stand on their doorstep to sing Silent Night, in the language of your choice? English, Welsh or German for starters.....

In the run up to Christmas, I'm sure our thoughts are with those in need at this time. **These items are most needed by the local Foodbank.** Please give whatever you can afford, as a gift to someone you don't even know, in gratitude for what you have. Milk (UHT/long-life), coffee (instant), fruit juice (not refrigerated), squash/cordial, potatoes (tinned & instant mash), rice pudding (tinned), custard (tinned), jam, vegetables (tinned) -e.g. carrots, sweet-corn, peas, fruit (tinned), meat (tinned), tuna (tinned), sugar, tomatoes (tinned), biscuits & snacks, chocolate bars, crisps, sweets, shower gel (ladies & gents), shampoo (ladies & gents), deodorant (ladies & gents), toothpaste & toothbrushes, toilet rolls & kitchen rolls, tomato/brown sauce. Some supermarkets are making this easier, do look out for their helpful offers! If you need us to collect something from you, please let us know. **Thank you!**

Chatter around the coffee table: Birthday blessings to **Andy Herrick** for the 11th Dec. and to **Christine Llewelyn** for the 15th Dec. As a child, she remembers having no birthday presents, because it was too close to Christmas! Elizabeth Walker has returned from hospital, and is being cared for at home by her loving family. **Jane Bailey** thanks everyone for their prayers, and we are delighted to have her back amongst us, taking services again!

The parish is very grateful to the hardworking **"envelope" delivery team**, who have been out in all weathers since the first spring lockdown, making sure we all stay connected! They are: **Hugh & Hilary, Karen & Stewart, Sandra & Pam, Sylvia, and Pat.** Special Christmas blessings to you all!

The congregation and friends of **St Davids** have collected £152 in their Christian Aid Elephants, and are delighted to have celebrated Advent Sunday with a **first return to church** after COVID! Apparently, the atmosphere was beautiful!

Welcome news for existing Walsingham pilgrims, and those who might wish to be! We look forward to holding our first mass together since the spring lockdown, in St Cybi, on Saturday 9th January 2021 at 11.30am, to celebrate Epiphany! All are very welcome!

We are grateful to all within the parish, who have been keeping in touch with others by telephone during this strange year. Please remember that those living alone might like a phone call on Christmas Eve, or Christmas Day! Special Christmas blessings to you all!