

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:

Morfydd (Morrie) Conant: she celebrates 101 years on 03 December!

Dafydd Hughes: he celebrates 83 years on 11 December!

Thelma Collins-Jones: she celebrates 85 years on 20 December!

We wish you many more years of health and happiness!

Christmas – then and now! An annual Christian holiday, celebrated all over the world, to remember the birth of Jesus Christ. The date was chosen by the Roman Catholic Church many years after his death. The use of evergreen Christmas trees, wreaths and garlands goes way back to the Egyptians and Romans, reminding us of the continuity of life and nature through the darkest days of winter, and anticipating that spring will return. The use of modern Christmas trees started in Germany in the 16th century, when they were decorated with fruits and nuts, instead of the glitzy decorations we use today. In 1848, Prince Albert introduced this custom of his homeland to his wife Queen Victoria, and a drawing of the family admiring the decorated tree, appeared in the Illustrated London News. 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! For children, Christmas is all about receiving presents. Santa Claus is based on the legend of St Nicholas, a fourth century Christian bishop who used his large inheritance, to provide for the poor and needy. He loved children, and brought them gifts secretly at Christmas. Why were stockings hung on the mantelpiece at Christmas? A poor man didn't have enough money to pay for his three daughters' dowries. The girls had washed their stockings and hung them before the fire to dry. Generous St Nicholas dropped a bag of gold down the chimney, and the coins ended up in the stockings. 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 blood, green symbolises life and gold signifies royalty. Next time that you sing carols, moving from door to door, remember that it stems from the old custom ofwassailing, or toasting someone's good health and fortune! When making Christmas cakes, always stir the mix in an east to west direction, following the journey of the wise men. Druids considered mistletoe to be an aphrodisiac, a symbol of fertility, virility, love and laughter. The traditional kiss under the mistletoe is a way of asking for the blessings of the spirits of Christmas. 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! The iconic spruce tree that graces Trafalgar Square each year, is an exceptionally generous Christmas gift. Each year, since 1947, the people of Norway have donated a tree in gratitude for Britain's support for Norway in the second world war. 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. **Fascinating!**

Mothers Union. The ladies of the Holyhead Branch enjoyed a pre- Christmas Buffet Lunch at The Anchorage which all agreed was delicious. It was so nice to be able to meet together in such a social atmosphere, another step back to normality hopefully.

The earliest known version of today's Christmas Market happened in Vienna in 1298. It was called the December market!

BRO CYBI / HOLY ISLAND MINISTRY AREA

PASTORAL CARE CIRCLE

DECEMBER / CHRISTMAS 2021

Ministry Area Leader/Vicar: Rob Wardle 07710 173177

Associate Vicars : Neil Ridings: 01407 861663

Jane Bailey : 01407 810827

Andy Herrick : 01407 861084



We are looking forward to life getting back to some sort of normality, so that when you cannot come to church, the church will come to you again!

Our pastoral care visiting team has grown in size, to allow us to reach out to even more people, as soon as we are allowed. 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.

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:patrichahughes2017@gmail.com Thank you.

Your prayers for the sick are asked for:

Sunday: Brian Wray, Brenda Borsby, Mike Boylin, Monica Griffiths, Judy, Katie Jones, Myfanwy Newman, Yvonne Fairlamb, Sue Jones, Ray, Alwenna, Jane Parry Williams, Francis Iliffe, Eunice.

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

Wednesday: Hannah, Menna Screech, Barbara Smith, Rosemary Tucker, Huw Thomas, Jan Ware.

Prayers for any other reason:

Angela, Pam, Lynz.

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' ...

Avril Foulkes, Michael Kitt, Betty Williams.

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

Burial of ashes: Janice Owen

Grief is love with no where to go!

Anniversaries of death:

Dec 05-11: Elizabeth Pierce Elsley, Eric Hampson, Edna Twiss, Michael Anthony Ashton, Gareth Roberts.

Dec 12-18: Thomas Gwilym Jones, Reg Thomas.

Dec 19-25: Nell Jones, Leah Kathleen Hughes, Clive Hems, Val Hicks, Peg Glazebrook, Richard March.

Dec 26-Jan01: Mervyn Pritchard Williams, Idwal Williams Smith, Graham Berisford Cobbe, Francis James Bell.

Jan 02-08: Margaret Edwards, David Lloyd Williams, David Hems Williams, Hywel Manley Williams, Arwyn Abbit, Gareth Jones.

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.

Please pray for the recently baptised:

28 Nov: St Cybi: Freya Grace Hogarth

We welcome her as the newest member of our church family!

Due to darker nights, St David's will put on a **festive afternoon tea with the Magee brothers and carols on Sat 4 Dec, at 2.30pm**. Linda, Sandra, Gill, Kath and team have such a great reputation for putting on a good show, that all fifty tickets were sold, before they were even printed!

Due to Covid restrictions, donations to St Cybi from visitors amounted to £1209-80. **Many thanks to all our knowledgeable guides who kept the church open, to welcome them.** We look forward in 2022 to welcoming a much larger number of cruise ships back into Holyhead.

Starting on 5 Dec, at 9.15am in St Cybi, there will be on the first Sunday of each month, a said communion service followed by a Morning Praise service at 11.0am. These will be the only services in the Ministry Area, so all four churches please join together.

St David's—weekly prayer meeting—restarts Monday 29th Nov at 5.0pm. Join us!

The Pastoral Care and Envelope Delivery Team send you love and prayers for a happy, peaceful Christmas and a healthy new year!

The best Christmas gift is to realise how much you already have!

Volunteer stewards please for Christmas tree festival—St Cybi— 17-24 Dec. Ring Pat.

Interesting dates in the month of December: Born on the 7th in 1761, Madame Tussaud started her apprenticeship during the French Revolution, (1789 – 1799,) making death masks from the heads of guillotined prisoners. She arrived in Britain in 1802, and initially toured with her exhibition of waxworks, finally settling in London in 1838.

Christmas shopping in our charity shop ends on Fri 3 December!

We were delighted to welcome two new worshippers, at our November **Walsingham Requiem Mass** at St Cybi. Please join us for our Advent / Christmas Mass, at 11.30 on 11th December in St Cybi, after which we look forward to enjoying lunch together.

Ideas for Christmas gifts, - light to post. Former churchwarden of St Ffraid, George Lees has written an interesting history of the church, with a brief illustrated companion book describing 18 other churches in Wales, dedicated to the saint. Both are on sale, either in St Ffraid or directly from the author, who still lives in the village: 01407 860752

Your Christmas Diary! St Cybi Rotary Carol Service - Mon 13th at 6pm: St David: Street carolling—wrap up warm! Wed 15th at 5.0pm. St Cybi Christmas Tree Festival opening service - Thurs 16th at 6pm. Daily viewing from Fri 17th -Fri 24th between 10.30am and 3.30pm (Sun 19th and Wed 22nd will be slightly later due to services) St David: Street carolling—wrap up warm! Fri 17th at 5.0pm. St David: The Big Feast—BBQ, free food, Christmas Giveaway: Sat 18th—2.0-4.0pm St Gwenfaen:-outdoor carolling at the hall. Casey Jones on keyboard. Light refreshments to follow. Sun19th: at 4.0pm. St Cybi : Crib Service - Christmas Eve at 5pm: St Cybi Midnight Communion- Christmas Eve at 11.30pm: St Ffraid: Mid-night Communion - Christmas Eve at 11.30pm: St Cybi's Christmas Day at 10.30am: St Gwenfaen: Christmas Day at 10.30am: St David - Ministry Area Communion: Sun 26th December 10.00 am: St Cybi - there will be no service on Wednesday 29th December. For extra info on any of these events, please contact ROB!

Birthday Blessings on 11 Dec to Andy Herrick, and to Christine Llewelyn on 15 Dec. May you both enjoy good health to celebrate many more!

Thanks for prayers answered: Geraldine Lee is grateful for excellent results after her cancer treatment, and the support through the difficult time afterwards. Thankfully she is back to her "old self!" Brian Wray thanks all who continue to pray for him. Ann Davies is feeling so much better. The family of Andrew Samson are grateful that he is so much recovered! Monica G is feeling better, but please continue prayers until she is completely well! Margaret Williams thanks everyone for their prayers—she looks and feels very well! Carolann Wedlake has returned home and continues to improve !

Seasonal message from our Bishop Andy John: Dear friends, May I wish you all a very happy Christmas! This year has been seminal in the life of our church and I am conscious that as we come to the close of the year (still not fully out of the Covid threat) that we have seen wonderful examples of faith, hope and love across the diocese. I have personally witnessed extraordinary acts of generosity and faith in action, the kind of thing which gets to the heart of Christmas itself. We believe God came into our midst and showed us what life was like in his Kingdom. Our church has shown it knows this very well and puts its faith into action. Please remember you are prayed for constantly and I hope the year ahead is full of blessed and good things. Yours in Christ +Andy

Christmas message from our Ministry Area Leader Rob! Dear friends, I wish you much love and blessings for Advent and Christmas. We need good news in our lives now more than ever. My prayer for you is that you continue to know the wonderful Divine Image of Christ which is within each one of you. Wishing you a Happy and Blessed Christmas, Rob