

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 :

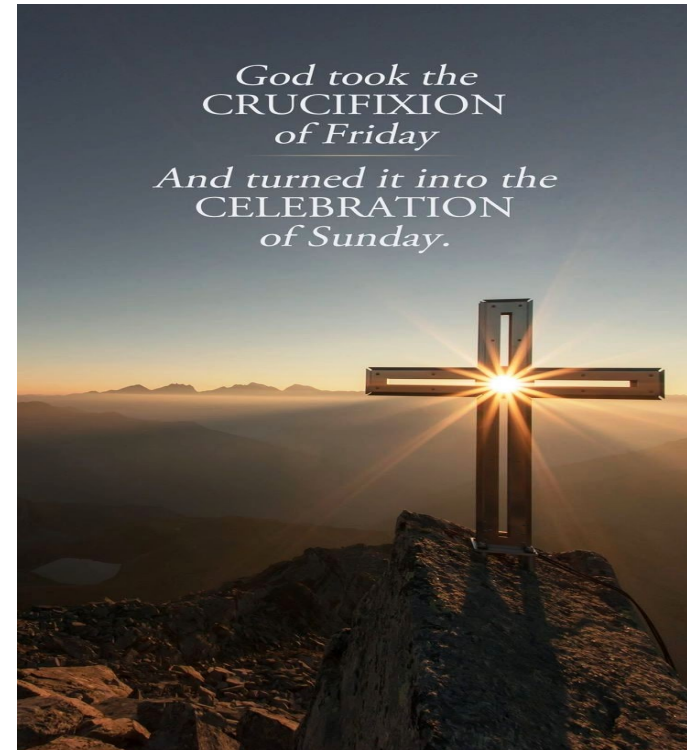
Keith Bryant: he celebrates 84 years on the 25th!

Mary Halford: she celebrates 88 years on the 31st!

We wish you many more years of health and happiness!

Easter is the most important Christian festival. It joyfully celebrates Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead, three days after he was executed by crucifixion. Unlike Christmas, it does not have a fixed date. So how is the date of Easter calculated? Christian churches in the West celebrate Easter on the first Sunday following the full moon after the vernal equinox on March 21. It is believed that the word 'Easter' may come from 'Eostre' the Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring, who had festivals held in her honour during April. **Lent** is the season of reflection and preparation for the celebration of Easter. It begins on **Ash Wednesday** and lasts for forty days, replicating Christ's withdrawal into the desert, when Satan tried his best to bring him down by temptation. According to various Christian denominations, Lent has traditionally also been a period of fasting, or at least a time of sacrificing luxuries. **Holy Week** begins with **Palm Sunday**, recalling how the crowd enthusiastically waved palm branches, while watching Jesus ride triumphantly into Jerusalem on a donkey, to celebrate the historic Jewish feast of Passover. This connects us to the Old Testament, recalling the exodus of the Jews out of slavery in Egypt and the sparing of the first born children. In the middle ages, the days approaching Easter were predictably spent mostly in church. In Holy Week, the days from Wednesday onwards were described as "darkness." The **Maundy Thursday** service would involve bare altars, but adorned with twigs and branches, symbolising the stripping and scourging of Jesus. **Good Friday's** service was a day of mourning, where generally nobody would use any iron tools or nails. No Eucharist would take place but a reading would be made from the Gospel of John. The service would be held in almost entire darkness, with one candleholder gradually being put out to symbolise darkness falling on the world. The centremost candle would remain lit, representing the light of Christ. The service would progress with the congregation kneeling in the nave with the priest praying in Latin. Easter Sunday services would commence at dawn with hymn singing outside the church. In the medieval period, it was forbidden to eat eggs in Lent, so on Easter Sunday, eggs were considered an important part of the feasting celebrations, especially in poorer families who could not afford meat. In the late 16th century, the Protestant reformer Martin Luther organised egg hunts for his congregation. Apparently, men would hide eggs for women and children to find, - a nod to the fact that it was women who discovered the empty tomb on Easter morning. In parts of modern day Switzerland, a Biblical passion play is staged on Maundy Thursday. The next day on Good Friday, a procession takes place, where people carry two sculptures - one of the dead Christ and one of his Mother Mary, through the streets. Another tradition that is specific to western Switzerland is called 'weeping women'. Crimson cushions, bearing the symbols of Christ's passion, are carried through the streets. The cushion contains nails used in the crucifixion, the crown of thorns that was placed on his head and the handkerchief that St. Veronica used to wipe Christ's brow as he carried the cross (which was also incredibly imprinted with the image of his face). Good Friday recalls crucifixion-one of the most excruciating deaths imaginable. (The core of the word "cruc" is self explanatory) Many countries fast and pray, holding services in the afternoon to remember the hours Christ hung on the cross. Churches in some parts of the world, ring the day in with 33 peals, one for each day of Christ's life on earth. Why is the day so called? Possibly from "God's Friday," or maybe because the death represents the ultimate act of love, that Jesus died to pay the price of human kind's sins. It is one of the oldest Christian holidays, and has been observed since 100 AD. **Flowers** are one of the joys of Easter. The white Easter Lily, religiously symbolic, is referred to as the 'white robed apostle of hope'. The colour characterises Christ's purity. The five petals of the white rose symbolise the five wounds which he received before and during the crucifixion. The purple crocus signifies royalty. Red tulips mean love. White tulips portray forgiveness. **May we all enjoy flowers at Easter!**

BRO CYBI / HOLY ISLAND MINISTRY AREA
PASTORAL CARE CIRCLE
MARCH / EASTER 2024
Associate Vicars : Neil Ridings: 01407 861663
Jane Bailey: 01407 521092



EASTER BLESSINGS TO ALL OUR READERS !

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. The clergy currently undertake all visits.

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: Brian Wray, Mike Boylin, Ray, Alan, Pat Jones, Janice, Carolann Wedlake, Annette, Jenny, David & Margaret Thompson, Heather Rendall, Ken Williams, Alyse Scarisbrick, Janet Evans, Jenny Jarvis, Alan Tucker, Chris, Gareth, Bernard, Hedd, Maureen Hunt.

Please let us know the name of anyone who needs our prayers.

Wednesday: Hannah, Rosemary Tucker, Huw, David Carey, Katie Jones, Sue Tatlow, Ken Williams, George and Mair Lees.

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

Rest in Peace: Love is meant to hurt, when it leaves "

Lynn Patricia Walton, Grantham Leslie Glyn Howarth, John Harrison, George Peter Henson.

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

Love does not know how deep it is, until the hour of separation.

Anniversaries of death:

Mar 03-09: Mark Batty, Don Ware, Olwen Jones, Megan Mills—Williams

Mar 10-16: Sarah Louise Allcott, Joseph Collins Jones, Dale Evans, Nicola Brady, Gladys Cunningham

Mar 17-23: Olga Wright, Ian Walker, Stanley Henry Eaton

Mar 24-30: Bob Davies, Vera Dunn, Agnes Collins Jones, Nicola Waddington

Mar 31-Apr 06: Robert Idris Llewelyn, Dr Denys LLOYD

There is a land of the living, and a land of the dead. The bridge between the two is love!

Although they will be available in our other 3 churches, any member of St Cybi who has difficulty obtaining a PCC, please get in touch with Pat—we can arrange delivery.

Due to the early closure of St Cybi, the **Wednesday mid week Eucharist** will take place at 10.30am EACH WEEK at **Ysgol Cybi, Holyhead**. Visitor car parking is across the road.

The joint service on Sunday, 3 March, will take place at St Ffraid, at 11.0am.

This is the only M A service on that day. Services on the other Sundays in the month, will be as usual: St David and St Gwenfaen @ 9.15am: St Ffraid @ 11.0am: All will be most welcome!

MOTHERS UNION. The February meeting presented by Catherine Love highlighted the Uganda project with which many of us had been initially involved. Our next meet on Thurs 21 March at 2.0pm at St David, will be a sort of nostalgic photographic quiz: "Guess who this baby grew into?" We will also decide on the summer trip destination! New members always welcome—these days, you don't even have to be a mother! Contact Janice 01407 762905.

DATE FOR THE DIARY ! ST GWENFAEN'S HALL —COFFEE MORNING—EASTER MONDAY—1st APRIL, 2024 —10.30—NOON. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Thanks for prayers answered: Alyse Scarisbrick has had her last week of chemo, and the scan shows her to be "clear" The family are grateful to everyone for their prayers.

More thanks for prayers answered: Pat Jones has also had good news from her consultant! Please continue to pray for her complete recovery!

Message from Archbishop Andy John: He always enjoys reading our PCC each month and sends his love to everyone! He will be in St G at 9.15 and St F at 11.0 on 17 March!

Lent dates for your diary! Discussion Groups : St Ffraid's Church Hall: **TUESDAYS @ 12 noon— March 5/ 12 / 19** and also at St David's: **MONDAYS @ 6.0pm— March 4/11/18** . We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at these special events.

Our February **Walsingham Mass in St David** was again celebrated by John Harvey, our Archdeacon, and well attended although competing with three large local funerals! . If you want to try out one of our masses, to see if it works for you, you will be most welcome! No pressure.....We are sociable as well as spiritual! We will be in St David's again, at **11.30am on Saturday 9th March**, which will again be followed by tea / coffee and cake, served in the hall by members of the group. **If you want to join our 2024 pilgrimage, (full board) by coach to the Shrine of our Lady of Walsingham, in Norfolk, names and deposits now being taken . Please contact Pat: 01407 860412 or Jane: 01407 521092.**

What do you do every Tues from 12—1.0pm ? Nothing? Why not pop down to St Ffraid's Hall, for a cuppa (tea / coffee) with biscuits, to discuss the bible readings for the following Sunday? Want to know more? Speak to Rev. Neil 861663

I asked Jane to explain more about 'Cytun' (Churches Together.) She replied: It was formed in 1990 to encourage Christian denominations to work together nationally to end homelessness and to increase environmental awareness in our churches. Locally, monies raised in our recent charity shop (the amazing sum of £1200—many thanks to all involved) will help local homeless via Digartref and internationally will support UNICEF in Palestine and Gaza.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES: Palm Sunday 24 March: St David and St Gwenfaen: 9.15 Holy Communion: St Ffraid: 11.0am Holy Communion. Monday 25 March: Bangor Cathedral : 11.0am Chrism Eucharist . Tuesday 26 March :St David: 6.0pm Evening Prayer. Wednesday 27 March: St David: 10.30 Holy Communion AND 6.0pm Stations of the Cross. Maundy Thurs: 28 March: St Ffraid: 6.0pm Holy Communion. Good Friday:29 March: Cytun Walk of Witness and service at the Millennium Cross. Meet at St Mary's Church , Holyhead at 12 noon AND St Ffraid's 2.0pm: Meditation on the Cross. Saturday 30 March: St Ffraid's 7.0pm: Easter Vigil and Bringing of the Light. Easter Day 31 March: 7.0am Cytun Morning Sunrise Service at St Ffraid's Cross, Trearddur Bay Beach

EASTER DAY SERVICES IN ALL CHURCHES WILL BE CONFIRMED SOON !

Everyone will be most welcome at all our services .

Happy baby news! Welcome to Celyn Rose Griffiths, who entered the world on St. Valentine's Day! She is the daughter of **Huw and Holly**, and grand daughter to **Nigel**, and great grand daughter to **Monica!** Apparently her name is the Welsh version of Holly!

Another beautiful baby girl was born the next day! Maeva Grace Griffin born to Amy Abbit and Matthew Griffin. Granddaughter to Antony Abbit and Lisa Matthews and great grand daughter to a very proud Betty Abbit! The name apparently means 'welcome' in French, but is Tahitian in origin!

Advance Note for the Diary! A workshop / presentation on local place names to be held in St Gwenfaen's Hall early April. More details to be announced later!

MARCH—the month was named after Mars the Roman god of war. He was an ancestor of the Roman people through his twin sons Romulus and Remus, born in 753 BC, to their human mother Rhea Silvia, a vestal virgin. The month was traditionally when warfare recommenced after the winter break. In the northern hemisphere, the first day of the month is the meteorological first day of spring. The first is the feast day of St David, followed by that of St Patrick on the 17th.

The greatest message ever heard came from an empty tomb!