

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 :

Emrys Williams : he celebrates 86 years on the 17th!

Barbara Hobday: she celebrates 86 years on the 22nd!

Monica Griffiths: she celebrates 85 years on the 29th!

We wish you many more years of health and happiness!

What do we show on our front cover? Historically, the rather morose season of **Lent**, marked by fasting, prayer and sacrifice was transformed joyfully on **Easter Day**. This central Christian tradition commemorates the **resurrection** of Jesus Christ three days after his **crucifixion**. Unlike the fixed date of Christmas, it is a moveable feast, celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the spring equinox, on 21 March. It can therefore fall on any Sunday between March 22 and April 25. This decision was made in 325AD by the Emperor Constantine at the Council of Nicaea. Many secular Easter traditions like eggs and bunnies have pre Christian / pagan origins of renewal of life and fertility. As long ago as the Neolithic age (10,000 BC,) European tradition tells that hares were ritually buried beside humans, as they represented rebirth. More recently in 51 BC Julius Caesar commented that Britons did not eat hares, due to their religious significance. However, by the 1600s AD things had changed radically. Written accounts at the time mention traditional Easter hare hunts and the eating of hare meat. One tradition known as the hare pie scramble, took place in a village in Leicestershire. It involved baking a hare pie and people scrambling for a slice! In 1790 the local parson tried to stop the custom, due to its pagan connections, but he was unsuccessful, and the custom continues to this day! In the medieval period, it was forbidden to eat eggs during Lent, so to eat eggs on Easter Sunday was a special treat. In present day America , children look for special treats that the Easter bunny may have left behind. Easter egg hunts possibly began in the 16th century, when Martin Luther hid eggs for women and children to find, symbolising it was a woman who first entered the empty tomb. Although chocolate eggs were common in France and Germany in the early 19th century, in the UK the first was produced by John Cadbury in 1842. The name of the Anglo Saxon goddess of spring Eostre (Ostara) whose festival occurred around the time of the spring equinox, possibly gave rise to the name Easter. The Venerable Bede in the 8th century (731AD) believed this. The gospels indicate that Christ was crucified during the week of **Passover**, so Easter usually occurs around the time of that Jewish festival, which commemorates the Israelites' liberation from Egypt. Early Christians, many of whom were Jewish linked Jesus' death to the Passover lamb and spiritual salvation. There is evidence to support the fact that Christians observed Easter (Pascha – Greek for Passover)) as early as the mid second century (just over 100 years after Christ's death and resurrection.) Various countries partake in interesting customs. On **Good Friday**, in western Switzerland, "weeping women" carry crimson cushions through the streets, bearing the symbols of Christ's passion: nails, a crown of thorns and the handkerchief used by St Veronica to wipe his brow, which then incredibly showed the imprint of his face. In Cyprus and Crete, bonfires were lit and a small doll representing Judas was thrown into the flames. In Poland, on **Easter Saturday**, families prepare a "blessing basket" This is filled with coloured eggs, sausages , bread and other important food which is taken to church to be blessed. Lent isn't over for them until the basket is blessed. On **Good Friday**, in the middle ages, no one was allowed to use iron tools or nails. **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!**

THE MOST POWERFUL MESSAGE EVER HEARD

.....CAME FROM AN EMPTY TOMB!

**BRO CYBI / HOLY ISLAND MINISTRY AREA
PASTORAL CARE CIRCLE
APRIL / EASTER 2025**

Ministry Area Leader / Vicar : Kathryn Evans : 07568 555585

Associate Vicar: Neil Ridings: 01407 861663

Pioneer Priest: George Bearwood: 07375 042021



Whether you need a friendly chat, or Holy Communion at home, in Hospital, or a care home, our caring clergy will be happy to help! If we don't know that you need us, we sadly cannot help you! Please ask someone to get in touch on your behalf....For anything to be included in a newsletter, or if you want one to be delivered to your home, please email patriciahughes2017@gmail.com or ring Pat at 01407 860412. Thank you.

Your prayers for the sick are asked for:

Sunday: Brian W, Mike B, Ray, Alan, Pat Jones, Janice, Carolann W, Heather R, Janet E, Jenny J, Chris, Bernard, David P, Margaret and David T, Maureen, Keith Bryant, Debbie, Catherine O, Val, David, Peter, Michelle, Andy, Christine Jones, Olwen Jones, Peter Murphy, Mick Wilde.

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

Wednesday: Hannah, Alan and Rosemary T, Huw, David Carey, Katie, 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 "

Edward Alan Lewis, Ken Richards, Jonathan Miles Walsh

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 30-Apr 05: Nicola Waddington, Robert Idris Llewelyn

Apr 06-12: Dr Denis Lloyd, Douglas Raymond Williams,

Apr 13-19: Robert Henry Greenwood, Jinny Wearne,

Apr 20-26: Rev. Samuel William Walter Manning, Gwerfil Pierce Williams, Rev David William Walton, John Mason, Marion Wynne Williams

Apr 27-May 03: Amy Thomas, Scott Lee, Jill Evans, Ann Gray, Eryl Lloyd Williams,

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

2025 World Day of Prayer service on 7 March, hosted by the English Methodists, at 6.0pm at St David was very enjoyable and well attended. Thanks to everyone for their hard work and organisation.

DATE FOR THE APRIL DIARY- EASTER MONDAY— ST GWENFAEN'S HALL—coffee morning from 10.30—12 noon. £5 for coffee and cake. Children free. Raffles. Lent will be over—there will be lots of cake! Do come!

The usual group meets in St Ffraid's Hall, each Tues, from 12.00 -1.0pm to discuss Bible readings—new members always welcome, especially for the Lent meetings!

DATE FOR THE MAY DIARY! Coffee morning—at St David's Church, Holyhead, on Saturday, 3rd May, from 10.0 am—12 noon, in aid of St David's Hospice, Holyhead. Do come and support this fantastically worthwhile cause—it is the only hospice this side of Llan-dudno—and enjoy yourselves at the same time! Bring your friends!

The March **Mother's Union** meeting was chaired by Karen Hayter, a previous group leader. It was well attended. Guest speaker was Stewart describing his most memorable train journeys. His talks are always well researched and interesting.

Another date for the MAY diary! Thursday 8th! 3.0pm @ St David! 80th anniversary V.E. Day! Afternoon Tea with entertainment. 40s dress optional. Tickets £10 per head – buy now for yourself and your friends - from Linda (Tel 765697) or Sandra (764698.) You know you'll enjoy it!

Please pray for these recently baptised:

08 Mar: St Ffraid: George Arthur Tate and Holly Martha Tate

We welcome them as the newest members of our church family!

Our next joint ministry area service takes place on **Sunday, 6 April** at 11.0am at **St Gwenfaen, Rhoscolyn** (Usual services on the **other Sundays in the month: St David and St Gwenfaen @ 9.15am: St Ffraid @ 11.0am: Everyone will be most welcome !**

IMPORTANT! M.A EASTER VESTRY: TUES: 6 MAY : ST DAVID: 6.0pm

The Walsingham March Mass was well attended and joyfully celebrated on the 8th, by Archdeacon John Harvey. **Pilgrimage 2025 is already booked from 23-27 June.** If you would like to travel with us, please get in touch now ! Places are filling quickly. Either email **patriciahughes2017@gmail.com** , or ring Jane **07815 620135** or Pat **01407 860412:** All will be most welcome at the next Mass at St David, 11.30 on Sat 12th April, to be celebrated by Rev George.

Thanks to you all for your kindness and for prayers answered: Myfanwy Jones (Myfs) is so grateful to everyone, for every kindness received, during her recent illness: phone calls, visits, cards, gifts and prayers. She is recovering well and is hoping to return to church before too long.

Thanks also from Graham Webb, who also appears to be recovering well.

Romance is in the air! Elaine Walton and Malcolm Thomas were married in a civil ceremony on 4 March 2025, followed by a very warm and friendly buffet reception for family and friends at their Valley home on 8 March. Celebrations culminated in a very emotional blessing of their wedding rings by Rev Neil, during the mid week communion at Ysgol Cybi on Wed 12 March, involving their church family, when a delicious wedding cake was enjoyed. One of our Walsingham group, **Michael Murray** married **Donna** in Glamis Castle, Scotland on 15 March. The groom wore his clan kilt. Partway through the ceremony, a piece of the same tartan was wrapped around the bride's shoulders and fastened with a clan brooch. This age old tradition indicates that the bride has been accepted into her new clan family! It is always wonderful when God causes people's lives to become romantically entwined, in later life. We wish both couples good health, and much happiness in their new life together.

Our wonderful PCC delivery team, who go out in all weathers, to private houses, and care homes in town and surrounding areas, wish everyone a happy and blessed Holy Week and Easter. They are Hilary, Hugh. Karen, Pam, Bernie and Pat. Much appreciation also to church wardens who hand out! Thank you all !

Easter Message from Kathryn Evans: The hymn "Lord of all hopefulness" is a wonderful reminder of this Lent and Easter season. The words remind us of the life that Jesus lived – morning, working, evening and night, and the peace that we can find in him. Working backwards we find Christ's peace, love, strength and bliss at all moments of our lives. But this grace is not one that comes cheaply, for it was brought to us by Jesus' death on the cross, his dying and rising again is what gives us hope. Hope that this world is not all that we have to look forward to, hope that there will be a new day when all things will be made new. Our response to the Good news of the empty tomb is to join in with bringing the Kingdom of God to our communities. We do that by sharing love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control – the fruit of the Spirit. St Paul (in a different letter) reminds us that three things remain – faith, hope and love. Jesus demonstrated the greatest love of all in dying so that each of us can be reconciled back to God. The empty tomb reminds us of the hope we have in God who makes all things new. **As we sing the many wonderful Easter hymns and re-visit that first Easter, may we be filled with love, hope and faith.**

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER – dates for the diary. Mon 14th: Chrim Mass at the Cathedral – 11.0am **Tues 15th: St David – 6.0pm - Evening prayer: Wed 16th St David – 10.30am - Holy Communion: Wed 16th St David- 6.0pm – Stations of the Cross: Thurs 17th St David – 2.0pm – MU – Thoughts and reflections on Maundy Thursday led by Kathryn and Neil: Thurs 17th St Ffraid - 6.0pm – Stripping of the Sanctuary, Watch of the Passion: Good Friday – 18th – Cytun – Walk of Witness and Service at the Millennium Cross – meet at St Mary's, 12 noon. Good Friday – 18th - St Ffraid - 2.0pm – Meditation on the Cross; Sat 19th – St Ffraid – Easter Vigil & Bringing of the Light – 7.45pm: Easter Day – 20th – 6.0am – Cytun – Sunrise service T Bay Beach: 9.15am St David: 10.0am St Gwenfaen: 11.0am St Ffraid.**