

Y GROESFAEN

Cylchgrawn Plwyf Llandeilo Fawr, Taliaris & Maesteilo

FEBRUARY - MARCH **CHWEFROR - MAWRTH**



Parish Magazine of Llandeilo Fawr, Taliaris & Maesteilo



Dear Friends,

February 4th, the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas), will be the tenth anniversary of the first services that I led in the parish. So please forgive me if I indulge in a little reminiscence.

Within six months of my arrival here, the PCC received a complaint that ‘there had been more changes than in the previous 50 years’—something of an exaggeration, since I had resolved to keep everything more or less as it was for my first year!

There has, of course, been much change since, building on the firm foundations laid during Will Strange’s ministry. There has been the repair and refurbishment of the daughter churches at Maesteilo and Taliaris, and the continued dedication of their loyal congregations. Wednesday Communion has become a significant service in many ways, and now often overflows the Lady Chapel. The greater variety in our styles of worship has proved attractive to a wide range of people. There has been the development of a full range of work with children and young people—

toddlers to teens—through the dedication of gifted leaders. The appointment of Paul Blackwell last year has opened up new possibilities, not least in our outreach in the local schools.

Body Building—*Meini Byw*, a vision for a church at the heart of its local community, took root and grew among St Teilo’s congregation. Its most obvious impact has been in the re-ordering of the building, but equally important is the commitment to serve the community. This is seen in several ways, large and small: the annual Festival of Music and Flowers; a dance class held on our premises by Education in the Community; the use of the building for conferences and meetings as well as concerts.

I personally take pleasure in the many people who have come to a living faith, through the Alpha Course and other means, and the maturing Christian discipleship to be seen in individual lives. Our team of lay readers and other licensed lay ministries is a sign of a welcome move away from clericalism to the ministry of the whole Body of Christ. And there is the sense of warm fellowship, of the Body Christ in action in numerous ways (see Mary Dwerryhouse’s article on p 4). The late Gwyneth Priestland used to say how much she loved the new *bwrlwm*, the buzz of fellowship and activity in the parish. I love it, too.

Peter

READINGS FOR 11AM & 6PM SERVICES AT ST TEILO’S

February 4th (Candlemas)

CM Psalm 24:[1-6] 7-10
Malachi 3:1-5
Hebrews 2:14-18
OR Luke 2:22-40

February 11th (2nd Sunday before Lent)

HC Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-25
Revelation 4
Psalm 65
Luke 8:22-25
P&P Luke 8:22-25

February 18th (Sunday before Lent)

CB Exodus 34:29-35
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
Salm 99
Luc 9:28-36
MW Luke 9:28-36
EP Psalm 89:1-4, 13-18
Exodus 3:1-6
John 12:27-36a

February 25th (Lent 1)

FC Luke 4:1-13
EP Psalm 91:1-11
Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Romans 10:8b-13

March 4th (Lent 2)

CM Psalm 27
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Philippians 3:17-4:1
OR Luke 13:31-35

March 11th (Lent 3)

HC Isaiah 55:1-9
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Psalm 63:1-8
Luke 13:1-9
P&P Luke 13:1-9

March 18th (Lent 4: Mothering Sunday)

CB Josua 5:9-12
2 Corinthiaid 5:16-21
Salm 32
Luc 15:1-3, 1b-32
FS 1 Samuel 2:1-10
2 Corinthians 1:3-7
OR Luke 2:33-35
EP Psalm 32
Joshua 5:9-12
2 Corinthians 5:16-31

March 25th (Lent 5; Passion Sunday)

FC John 12:1-8
EP Psalm 126
Isaiah 43:16-21
Philipians 3:4b-14

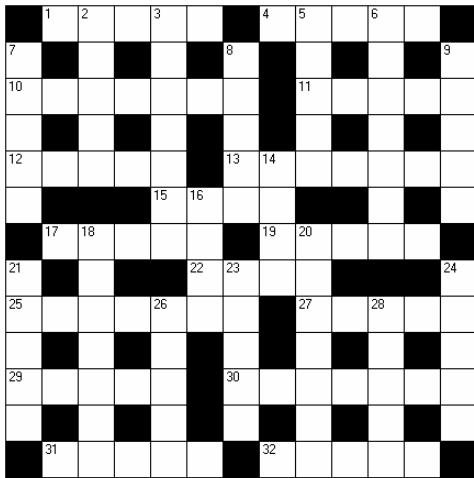
April 1st (Lent 6; Palm Sunday)

MW Isaiah 50:4-9a
Philippians 2:5-11
OR Luke 22:14-23, 56

CB = Cymun Bendigaid
CM = Choral Matins
EP = Evening Prayer
FC = Family Communion
FS = Family Service
HC = Holy Communion
MW = Morning Worship
P&P = Prayer & Praise

Based on *The Combined Almanac*
(Church in Wales 2006-7)

Bible Crossword



Clues Across

- 1 Piece of wood cut by Elisha in 2 Kings ch. 6 (5)
- 4 Adhesive label proving postage has been paid (5)
- 10 Root vegetable (7)
- 11 Moslem religion (5)
- 12 ..the flashing spear and _____ (Job 39.23) (5)
- 13 Disease (7)
- 15 Performance by a single individual (4)
- 17 Highly spiced food first devised in Birmingham (5)
- 19 Burnt remains put on by Mordecai in Esther ch. 4 (5)
- 22 Elevator (4)
- 25 In which Paul shhok out his clothes in Acts ch. 18 (7)
- 27 Caleb's daughter in Judges ch. 1 (5)
- 29 ..astonished at the _____ of fish (Luke 5.9) (5)
- 30 Palace home of Popes from the 4th to 14th century (7)
- 31 Small value coin (5)
- 32 Sheds tears, as did Hezekiah in 2 Kings ch. 20 (5)

Clues Down

- 2 Italian city after which a certain shroud was named (5)
- 3 Great struggle in the face of suffering in Hebrews ch. 10 (7)
- 5 Test (5)
- 6 Of an island on which St Paul was shipwrecked (7)
- 7 Fruit of a tree that dried up in Joel ch. 1 (5)
- 8 ..like one who finds great _____ (Ps 119.162) (5)
- 9 Break, as the three companies broke the jars in Judges ch. 7 (5)
- 14 What can be made with two tenths of an ephah of flour in Leviticus ch. 24 (4)
- 16 Medium used for painting (4)
- 18 Any one of twelve disciples chosen by Jesus (7)
- 20 Terrors _____ him on every side (Job 18.11) (7)
- 21 Gathered with myrrh in Song ch. 5 (5)
- 23 Whence came Pontus in Acts ch. 18 (5)
- 24 Intone (5)
- 26 One of those sounding cymbals in 1 Chronicles ch. 15 (5)
- 28 A pilgrim's pouch (5)



Dulcie finally found a way to stop Fred snoring during the sermon...

Services During Holy Week/Yr Wythnos Fawr

Palm Sunday (April 1st)

St Teilo

- 8am Holy Communion
- 11am Morning Worship
- 6pm Holy Communion

Holy Trinity Taliaris

- 9.45am Holy Communion
- (Palm crosses will be distributed at all services)

Maundy Thursday (April 5th)

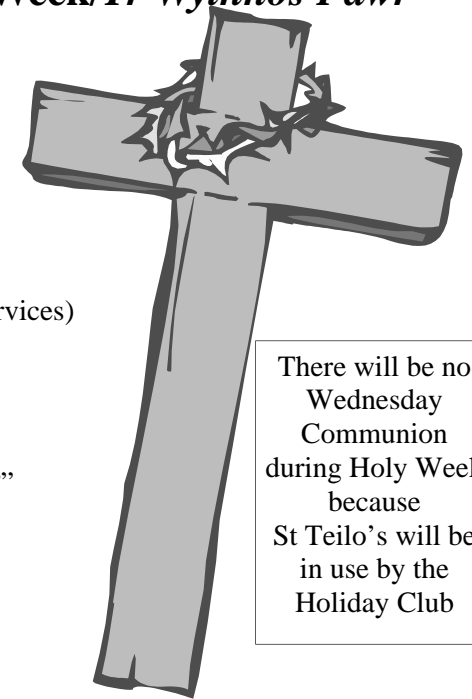
St Teilo

- 7pm Parish Communion & Vigil
- "Could you not keep watch for one hour?"

Good Friday (April 6th)

St Teilo

- 8am Ante-Communion
- 11am Holiday Club Service
- 2pm An hour at the Cross
- 7pm Choral Music for Good Friday:



There will be no Wednesday Communion during Holy Week because St Teilo's will be in use by the Holiday Club

Easter Eve (April 7th)

St Teilo

- 8pm Prayer & Praise
- Prayer vigil until 8am: 12 hours to watch and pray, from 8pm on Easter Eve to 8am on Easter Morning. Could you take two hours of the Vigil? (Please sign the rota)

Easter Day (April 8th)

St Teilo

- 8am Holy Communion
- 11am Holy Communion
- 6pm Evening Prayer & Holy Communion
- Holy Trinity Taliaris & St John Maesteilo
- 9.45am Holy Communion

Alleluia, Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Solution: inside back cover

Ash Wednesday

February 21st

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. But why 'Ash' Wednesday? The reason has to do with getting things right between ourselves and God.

The people of the Old Testament would cover their heads with ashes and rend their clothes as outward signs of their heart-felt repentance. (See Genesis 18:27; 2 Samuel 13:19; Job 2:8, 30:19; Isaiah 58:5; Jeremiah 6:26; Jonah 3:6). In the early Christian Church, new converts had ashes sprinkled over them at the beginning of Lent as part of their preparation for baptism at Easter. They were turning to God for the first time, and mourning their sins.

But soon many other Christians wanted to take part in the custom, and to do so at the very start of Lent. They heeded Joel's call to 'rend your hearts and not your garments' (Joel 2:12-19).

So began to custom of 'ashing', receiving a mark of ashes on the forehead as a sign a penitence, and a reminder of our mortality. Many people have been attending the 10.30am Ash Wednesday Communion service at St Teilo's since 'ashing' was introduced a few years ago.

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Ash Wednesday Collect

Lenten Services

A Rule of Life

The Church in Wales has issued a teaching course called *A Rule of Life (Rheol Buchedd)*. Loosely based on the rule of St Benedict (prayer, study, service and community), it sets out the basic commitment of Christian discipleship. This material will provide the themes for a series of five evening services during Lent (Thursdays at 7pm). These will be times of reflective worship based on the traditional form of evening prayer, and will include a short talk on the following topics:

March 1st: *Why have a rule of life?*

March 8th: *Prayer and worship.*

March 15th: *Bible reading, reflection and learning.*

March 22nd: *Christian service.*

March 29th: *Sharing God's gifts.*

April 5th: *Maundy Thursday Holy Communion and Meditation.*

Lent is a time when Christians make a special effort at serious self-examination with a view to strengthening and deepening their faith and witness. Perhaps this year, 'giving something up for Lent' might take the form of making time to attend these Lenten services.



MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

It is pleasing to report a good number of members and some guests present for our Christmas celebration. The 'in-house' entertainment more than lived up to expectations, with poems, a monologue, silly songs and Doug Constable's moving, beautiful carols enjoyed by everyone. We were also very blessed to have Nancy Davies accompanying some traditional carol singing. Needless to say the American Tea was more than enough to feed everyone present twice over!

In January, we were delighted to welcome as our guest speaker Lis Evans, who spoke about the history of the Welsh-language *Plygain* service and entranced us all with her singing of some of these ancient carols with their emphasis on the simple but profound truths of the Christian Gospel.

Many congratulations and love go to our most senior member, Mrs Ivy Williams, who celebrated her 90th birthday on the 25th January.

Our speaker in February will be the Reverend John Walters who will speak on 'The Vicar Who Lost his Church', the story of how another St Teilo's was moved stone by stone to the Welsh Folk Museum at St Fagan's. In March we are very much looking forward to hearing the Reverend Bryan Witt, the MU Diocesan Chaplain. As always, guests and new members are welcome.

make a mother's day . . .

The MU has launched a project which will make a difference to the lives of mothers around the world. By choosing a special gift for your mum, or in memory of her, you can help another child's mum in tough circumstances. More information from Anna (822421). Gifts include:

- insecticide treated mosquito net £5
- sponsor a place in a parenting group £8
- provision of seed/training for £12
- prison support work £16
- essential aid kit £28
- train a community birth attendant £37
- support a MU trainer £100



Mothers Sunday

There will be a special Family Service on March 18th at 11.00am in St Teilo's for Mothers' Day.

Celebrating Welsh Churches and Chapels

Wales's Best One Hundred Churches,
T J Hughes, (Seren Books 2006) £9.99

If you have enjoyed Colin's article then I'm sure that you would find this book interesting. T J Hughes offers "a celebration of Welsh churches and chapels". The opening chapters give a concise history of religion in Wales, as seen through the buildings in which worship is/has been offered. This is not a book about architecture (although unusual features may be noted) as much as about setting and atmosphere—"a sense of harmony, of all the elements in the setting and the fabric of it, that there is nothing which jars or diminishes it"; something which evokes "responses of peace, of delight, of aesthetic or spiritual recognition". Choosing "the best" in anything invariably depends on personal taste. You may not agree with the author's choice but you will enjoy the elegant prose and the beautiful colour photographs. I was pleased to see several of my favourites there—Nevern and Manordeifi, for example—but this book made me want to jump in the car and seek out the ones I previously knew nothing about.

If you have unspent Christmas book tokens or if you just want to do some delightful armchair travelling during these cold months, why not ask Anna to order you a copy from the church bookstall?

We would love to hear about the church that you would put top of your "best" list (after St Teilo's, of course!)



RAINFALL

Month	Nov	Dec	Jan
1	0	0	11
2	0	20	0
3	0	35	5
4	0	1	0
5	0	20	1
6	0	4	9
7	0	15	37
8	0	8	12
9	1	3	16
10	15	11	5
11	1	30	16
12	4	0	1
13	0	8	6
14	0	8	0
15	22	16	0
16	18	0	0
17	9	0	11
18	1	12	24
19	4	0	6
20	25	1	10
21	1	0	3
22	0	0	5
23	19	0	
24	0	0	
25	33	0	
26	15	0	
27	27	0	
28	43	6	
29	2	19	
30	2	51	
31		2	
MM	242	270	178
Inches	9.68	10.80	7.12

Unsung Heroes

There are people who are always about - always busily doing things, and these are the people we are apt to take for granted. For they are the people we know will always be willing to do this or that, or even both this and that.

'Unsung' because we do take for granted that 'it' will be done well and without fuss. Their numbers ebb and flow like the tide as older members slow down and younger ones step up a pace to fill the gap.

So who are these unassuming people who carry out their tasks quietly and without fuss? I don't know, but I do know that we can all worship the Lord in a church that is clean and tidy, its brasses gleaming, its sconces filled most beautifully with fresh flowers and where we are welcomed graciously at the door as we come in. And there is much more, so much more that we take for granted.

Peter says that they are all part of the ministry team, in large and small ways, and all important in the eyes of God. So why don't we acknowledge their being, and admire them for their dedication, and maybe wonder if there were some way in which we could all be part of the ministry team.

Mary Dwerryhouse

Vestry Meetings

The Vestry is the Annual General Meeting of the Church. Accounts and reports of the year's work are received, and officers and PCC members elected. It is therefore important that everybody involved in the church should attend.

The meetings of the three churches will be held as follows:

St Teilo Llandeilo Fawr

6pm Sunday 29th April
(Following Holy Communion)

Holy Trinity Taliaris

9.45am Sunday 22nd April
(Following Holy Communion)

St John Maesteilo

9.45am Sunday 18th March
(Following Holy Communion)

EFCW: Programme 2007

'Is the Bible just a book? - hearing God's voice in the Scriptures.'

Ian Aveson, Vicar of Holy Trinity, Aberystwyth

7.30pm Friday February 9th, 7.30pm at St Anne's Penparcau, Aberystwyth

'Can we trust Genesis today?'

Revd Dr Ernest Lucas, Bristol Baptist College

7.30pm Friday 29th June at Llandeilo Parish Church

'A reliable Bible?' *Will Strange, Vicar, St Peter's Carmarthen*

7.30pm Friday November 9th at Letterston Church Hall

The Evangelical Fellowship

The **Llandeilo Gospels Committee** will hold its Annual General Meeting at 2.30pm on Thursday 22nd February in St Teilo's church hall. The meeting will include a presentation of the new educational outreach material, and tea. We extend a cordial invitation to members of our welcome team and all who are interested in helping with the project.

Handel's Messiah: Please note that the St Teilo Singers' performance will start at **7pm** on 10th February in order to allow for two short intervals. The soloists will be Katy Lever (Soprano), Louise Jones (Contralto), Richard Allen (Tenor) and Aled Edwards (Bass).

Bell Ringers: Tower Captain **Chris Moses** has asked us to appeal for any potential bell ringers as two of the team have left recently. We all appreciate being "summoned by bells" to our 11am worship every Sunday so if you think you might be able to help, please contact Chris on 823366. Expert training provided!

Prayer Week: May 19th - 27th May. **Bryan Williams** writes: Last year's Prayer Week proved just how much can be done for our community through prayer, corporate and individual. The programme for this year will be published in due course, but in the meantime any further suggestions would be greatly appreciated. Last year our scripture-reading marathon was particularly successful with readings in Welsh,

English, French and German. Since Prayer Week is an international event we would like to include as many readings in other languages as possible. Can you help? Let us try and join hands with Christians throughout the world.

Congratulations . . . to Mrs Ivy Williams, who celebrated her 90th birthday on January 25th, and to **Mr John Bement,** who celebrates his 90th birthday on 11th February.



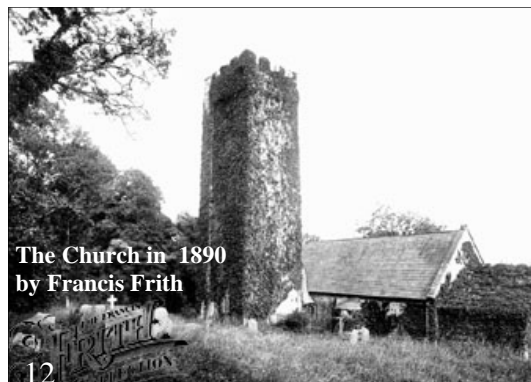
St Teilo's Lady Chapel: The PCC has applied for a faculty to hack off the degraded rendering in the Lady Chapel and re-plaster with an appropriate lime mortar. The exterior walls will also be re-pointed. This much-needed work has been made possible by a generous gift from a member of the congregation. The chapel will be out of use for about two months from late February.

A New Hymn: Rev Doug Constable is, amongst his many other talents, a hymn-writer. A hymn that he wrote last year, set to the tune Abinger, which Ralph Vaughan Williams wrote for the words 'I vow to thee my country', is called *There is a love more perfect*. Roger Royle has expressed an interest in using it on Radio 2's *Sunday Half Hour* on 11th March—so there is a good chance that it will be broadcast. Make a note in your diary, and tune in!

In front, another lowish, round arch joins it to the south wall but the north wall opens up into a surprisingly wide and deep side-aisle – surprising, that is, until you realize that it incorporates the ground floor of the tower. At the end of this is the rope of the single surviving bell: dating from 1350, it is one of the oldest in Wales. A side-altar is set back in a recess to the side so that it, too, faces East.

I have seen "lines-of-sight" from main altar to side-aisle elsewhere but Gumfreston does better than that by having an 8ft high passage at a 45° angle to everything else – an intriguing and most unusual feature which creates the oddest "pillar" I have ever seen. This runs from the left of the chancel arch to the front of the side-aisle with the passage running behind it: thus it is left of centre, sort of L-shaped, at least 7ft long and 3ft thick and possesses an indescribable assortment of lumps, bumps, recesses, ledges, and protuberances, all in a church which already has more than its fair share of such features! The word *extraordinary* could have been invented for this pillar!

To the congregation, the chancel has a grotto-like appearance, seemingly narrower than ever; only on entry do you appreciate that, shielded from view, there is an extension to the south with a fair-sized vestry and back door. Similarly,



The Church in 1890 by Francis Frith

only at the altar do you truly appreciate the stained glass east window. I am not a great fan of elaborate richly-coloured stained glass which, however worthy its theme, keeps out much-needed light. Gumfreston's window is just right – a simple geometric pattern of circles and crosses, picked out in red, blue and green and letting through plenty of light. Closer inspection reveals lightly-engraved birds and foliage on the clear panes – surely the legacy of a 19th-century Vicar who was a renowned local naturalist. Then you spot a smaller side-window in similar style but with a different pattern. I found these windows delightful.

Lastly – but certainly not least – there are the wells. At the bottom of the churchyard, three springs rise to the surface in close proximity, creating a small stream which departs under the churchyard wall. They may not look imposing but have a rich history, having been regarded as special and/or holy since at least the 6th century. They are older than the church or village (now in ruins in the woodlands) and were an important part of pilgrimage routes for centuries as each well had its own medicinal qualities. Maybe St Teilo knew of and/or visited these wells as he was reputedly born at nearby Penally.

Sue and I discovered Gumfreston when, as part of the Tenby Arts Festival every September, the congregation contributes a Celtic Evening wherein they relate stories of Celtic Saints, customs and legends. Many candles have been lit each time I have attended a service or event and I find the atmosphere created by the effects of candle and shadows in such an ancient building very conducive to worship. There is a service most Sunday mornings at 11am (check with Tenby church). It is well worth the effort of getting there.

Colin Henderson visits GUMFRESTON CHURCH

In her 'Open Church' article in the October issue of *Y Groesfaen* Anne Williams identified five categories of visitor to Llandeilo Church. One of these was: "Churchophiles—people who make for the church as soon as they stop at an unfamiliar town." I innocently commented to her that the Llandeilo congregation must contain a good number of its own churchophiles who would have visited a lot of interesting churches between them. Foolishly, I had forgotten that Anne is on the Magazine Committee! So here I am, writing the first of what she hopes will become an occasional series of articles on interesting churches visited by readers of *Y Groesfaen*.

St Laurence's Gumfreston was an easy choice for me. Small, old, unusual country churches attract me most (probably because before coming to Llandeilo, I was very involved with one). Gumfreston is to Tenby what Taliaris is to Llandeilo – situated in a place where there is hardly a village, kept going by a very dedicated group of extremely loyal supporters and under the wing of the much larger church in the nearest town.

Gumfreston Church is unusual all right, and that begins with the process of finding it! Gumfreston itself is well signposted on the B4318, three miles west of Tenby, but there is no village centre as such. A clear sign to the church points down a narrow, wooded lane. If you arrive by car, as you will, don't go there! Park near the farm opposite and walk down the short lane. The churchyard is essentially a clearing in the woods, with

the land continuing to slope downwards. Apart from some modern gravestones, the whole scene has a timeless quality: there

are no other buildings in sight and it is as peaceful as can be.

The stone tower catches the eye first. Solidly square, it dominates the scene and brings words like *sanctuary* and *look-out* to mind. Nearest to you is a substantial and extremely old porch which, like the tower, looks several sizes too big for the church it serves and is thought to be a surviving part of a much earlier building. The porch roof is of the "cement-over-slates" type, characteristic of the area. The church itself is a long, low building which runs almost apologetically sideways before hiding behind its tower. The whole makes a fascinating, almost quirky, first impression.



As you enter the church through the round arches of the porch, the sensations are similar to those of stepping down into a cave – length, narrowness and limited height. A quick glance reassures you that – electric lights and heaters apart – there have been no Victorian "improvements" here. The walls, low and thick, are painted in a standard cream and it is no surprise to see considerable evidence of damp here and there. Logically, most of the windows are on the south side, from which the land falls away – single clear rectangular panes with substantial mullions in between. The south wall is otherwise fairly plain; it is the north wall that catches the eye, with an unusual curved recess that presumably was once a fireplace, and one of those tall and narrow Norman windows within a deep angled recess which emphasises the extreme thickness of the wall.

Adventures of an Evacuee—Back to Normal!

by William Barry Evans

In due course my grandparents at Cwm farm decided that I should move to my aunt and uncle's home in Llandybie where my sister had been taken earlier. It was a happy reunion

but unfortunately my uncle being a schoolteacher tended to treat us rather severely at times and we were very unhappy. I shall refrain from detailing all of these hurts but we are still acutely conscious of them. The move meant another school to attend and this one was

situated at Blaenau to where we were conveyed by a school bus. A school from the south of London area shared the building with the local children. We soon settled into this new experience but the inevitable bully had control of the school ground where we played hoping not to incur his wrath. My answer this time was not to use violence but to offer him sweets which had the desired effect and we became friends !

Life once again settled into a routine with the odd break such as the time when playing cricket with friends in a field I ran to recover the ball from the other side of a barbed wire fence and sustained a slashed knee for my trouble. I was carried back to the house where the doctor was called and

I was stitched up on the kitchen table. I was plastered from ankle to thigh which meant no school for five weeks during which time I was bored with very little to do. It was not long after



my return that at school one morning we were told that we were to sit an exam that very morning – it was the eleven plus. There was no preparation or warning. I failed, of course!

Not long after this Brenda and I were on the move yet again when my aunt became pregnant and it was

necessary for us to leave. This time there were no relations for us to move to so we joined other evacuees for a selection process in Llandybie Community Hall where we were "chosen" by a Mrs Drew. She really only had room for one evacuee but not wanting to split us, agreed to take us both. The Drews had one daughter – Iris – a girl a little older than my sister. Now, of course, we went to Llandybie school, our fourth in two years, where we were ruled by a very strict school mistress who wielded a freshly cut piece of hazel branch very effectively. Her speciality was to get her "victims" to stretch out their hands whereupon the hazel switch descended with little mercy on the open palm! It hurt, it really did hurt.

However, life went on in a happier state than previously with Mrs Drew being strict but fairly so, treating Iris and ourselves alike. Mr Drew worked at the local lime kiln and on Saturdays I was soon joining the lorry drivers on their delivery of lime and gravel to outlying farms. We all became firm friends. On one occasion we went further afield to provide stone for the building of an airstrip near Port Talbot where frantic efforts were being made to pursue the war effort. It was a profound reminder that the war was still going on in spite of the peacefulness of the countryside.

As the Blitz faded into memory to be re-awakened by the occasional German bombing raid, evacuees from all over the country began to return to their respective homes. Included amongst these was my sister but I stayed on in Wales for a bit longer. I

was growing all the time and with other evacuees we challenged the local boys' gang to a duel. With due solemnity time and place were fixed but thankfully perhaps no one turned up!

Eventually with a certain amount of regret and apprehension I too returned to the bosom of my family in London to find everything had changed in my absence. It was a learning process yet again. Soon doodlebugs (flying bombs) began to arrive over London and more adventures came my way. But that is another story....

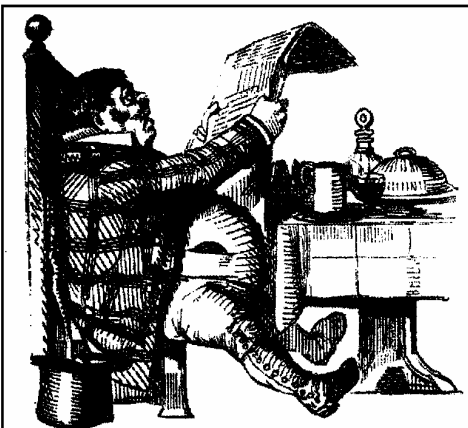


Marketing the Gospels

The Gospels Committee has been given a further European Union Objective One grant of £4,931 by Carmarthenshire County Council. The money is to spent on three marketing projects:

Full colour three-fold A4 publicity leaflets promoting the exhibition;
A Sign Board to be erected near the church gate;

A 24-page colour booklet about the Gospel Book for sale to visitors. The aim is to enhance the tourism potential of the exhibition.



David took Lent less seriously than some of his fellow clergy.

St John Maesteilo

It was very encouraging to have excellent congregations for our Christmas Services. Let's hope this carries on throughout the coming year.

We start another year of events in the church and hopefully they will be as well attended as in the past.

February 27th: 'Images of Change' - a talk by Mrs Margaret Evans, who has played a major role in conservation in Carmarthenshire over the past 25 years, particularly with The National Trust.

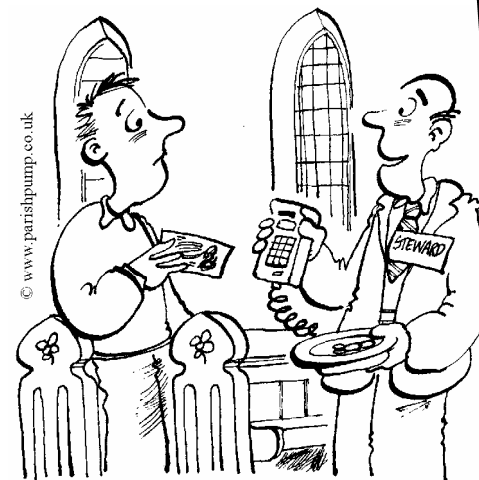
March 15th: 'Indoor *Son et Lumiere*'. Following last year's very successful evening, Anthony Dyke is back by request with his film and music presentation of travels through Scotland, Ireland and Wales.



April 3rd: 'Spring Flowers' - a floral demonstration to be given by Heather Thomas in preparation for Easter.

The full programme for the year will be available soon. The Summer Fayre will take place in June—watch this space for details.

We look forward to seeing you in church.



"...as an alternative to cash why not Chip and Pin?!"

NB Annual subscriptions for *Groesfaen* 2007 are now due—a bargain at just £2 for 6 issues (or £4.50 if posted). Please place the appropriate amount in an envelope marked clearly with your name and address and state whether you want your magazine delivered, left in church (named) to be picked up or posted.

Give your envelope to any member of the Magazine Committee or one of the Church Wardens. Comments and suggestions are welcome.



ST TEILO'S CHURCH BOOKSTALL

One of the most enjoyable aspects of running the Bookstall is the regular visits to Emmanuel Christian Bookshop in Haverfordwest, which supplies all our stock and whose staff are always hugely helpful in tracking down my sometimes rather vague requests (as in "I think it had a blue cover and was something to do with the Bible . . ."). I was there again recently, returning unsold Christmas stock and browsing through their shelves for items which I hope will be interesting to Llandeilo readers. Do visit the Bookstall and see for yourself what's new. Here's a sample:

- **Get More Like Jesus While Watching TV**, recommended by Canon J John as 'an insightful book that illuminates our minds and hearts to perceive the sacred in the secular'. Can't wait to read this one!
- **In Christ Alone Devotional** based on the bestselling song by Stuart Townend and Keith Getty which takes the reader on a remarkable 30-day journey of worship and devotion. Inspiring reading for Lent, perhaps.
- **Mother's Favourite Hymns** is a 3-CD box set comprising a collection of some of our best-loved hymns, including 'Amazing Grace', 'Just As I Am' and 'Here is Love Vast as the Ocean' - a great Mothers' Day present, or you could even treat yourself.
- If your Mum is of a slightly younger generation, then she might appreciate one of the **Big Worship Box Sets** or even **Drive Time Message for Women**, a collection of 20 daily devotions featuring texts from *The Message Bible* and designed to 'encourage personal interaction with God'. There's one for men too . . . You could listen to this twice through Lent!

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the Abolition of Slavery Bill and there are several new books which commemorate this historic event:

- **Voices Against Slavery: 10 Christians who spoke out for freedom.**
- **William Wilberforce, a Biography** by journalist Stephen Tomkin 'who could not write a dull sentence if he tried' (J I Packer). A great read.
- **Abolition!** a compelling account of the traffic in enslaved Africans and the struggle to bring it to an end within the British colonies.

And something for the younger generation . . .

- Switchfoot's newly released CD, **Oh Gravity**
- **Every Teenager's Little Black Book**
- **Bible Memory Game**
- **Ten Boys Who Made a Difference**
- a range of **DVDs and CDs** to encourage younger children in their faith.

Saturday February 24th
7.00pm

Concert Return visit of Cambrensis

The Cardiff based
Christian choir

Pantycelyn School Hall
Cilycwm Road, Llandoverly

Tickets £5/£3 01550 720405

Amanda Stone commits herself to



ActionAid (and other aid agencies) are our foot soldiers against natural disaster, exploitation and impossible political circumstances. Almost always those who suffer in these situations are children, women, elderly and poor people. To raise funds to help Actionaid in their work I have committed myself to raising £3,000 by next July and by doing so, be able to take part in a trek to the Rift Valley in Tanzania in October to witness first-hand two projects being run in that area. I want to stand where others stand, in the dust and hot sun, and try to understand why I can shop for fresh food every day while a lot of these folks die from malnutrition.

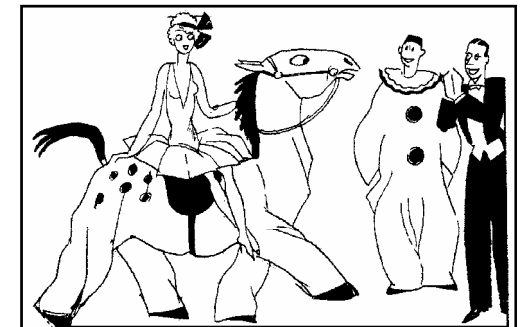
I have so far raised £1,500 (more than the cost of the trek) and I have done so by hosting dinner parties, selling art work and auctioning items generously donated. No one has paid for me to go on holiday – every one has had something in return for their donation; but now I can ask for donations and know it is going direct to ActionAid and those who needed it most.

I am still, of course going to be hosting fund-raising events as well, so if

you would like to help at any of those you would be most welcome. Events in the planning are Llandeilo Family Olympics, weekend art exhibition and an evening "do." If you would like to make a donation please either leave it at the back of church or post it to me at Pen y Banc, Golden Grove, Carmarthen, SA32 8NW. If you pay by cheque and it is for over £20 please include your name, address and post code and I can gift aid it.

Thank you.

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actionaid.org



Although it was a memorable service, the new showbiz couple in the parish hadn't quite got the idea of a donkey for the Palm Sunday.



Welsh Bible beats rugby star's book

Rugby star Robin McBryde lost out to Jesus as shoppers grabbed Welsh books in the run-up to Christmas. One of the best-selling books in Welsh was *Y Testament Newydd/The New Testament**—beating sales of Robin McBryde's autobiography, *Y Cymro Cryfa (The Strongest Welshman)*.
Western Mail, 17th January

*On sale at St Teilo's Bookstall