

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 102 years on 3 December !

Dafydd Hughes: he celebrates 84 years on 11 December !

Thelma Collins Jones : she celebrates 86 years on 20 December !

We wish you many more years of health and happiness!

What do we show on this month's cover? As we are about to showcase yet another magnificent community Christmas tree festival in St Cybi, we might like to think about the history of our relationship with these beautiful trees. The use of evergreen trees, wreaths and garlands to symbolise eternal life was popular amongst the ancient Egyptians, Chinese and Hebrews. They viewed them as a sign of hope of better times to come! In the northern hemisphere, the shortest day/ longest night is called the winter solstice. The ancients believed that the sun was a god, and that winter happened because the sun had become sick and weak. The solstice meant that the sun would begin to get well and that summer would return. Ancient Egyptians worshipped a god called Ra, who wore a blazing sun like disc in his crown, on his hawk like head. At the solstice when the health of Ra began to recover, homes were filled with green palm rushes, symbolising the triumph of life over death. Romans decorated their temples with fir trees at the end of December at the feast of Saturnalia, to honour Saturn their god of agriculture. Tree worship was common amongst pagan Europeans. It survived their conversion to Christianity with the Scandinavian custom of setting up a tree for birds at Christmas. Their ritual of decorating house and barn with evergreens at New Year, much loved plants of their sun god Balder, was intended to scare away evil spirits and the devil, and to ensure good health for the year ahead. Our modern Christmas tree tradition appears to have started in 16th century Germany, where Christians began to decorate their trees or pyramid shaped stacks of wood, for the festive season. The first person thought to have brought a Christmas tree into a house may have been the 16th century Protestant reformer Martin Luther. Legend has it that he was inspired by stars shining through branches on a winter night walk, whilst quietly composing a sermon, and sought to recreate the scene in his own home by erecting a tree and decorating it with candle light. The first Christmas tree in the UK might well have been in the 1790s, introduced by Queen Charlotte the German wife of George III. The idea was encouraged and popularised by another German – Prince Albert – consort of Queen Victoria. In the British Isles , the preferred tree of choice is the Norway Spruce, which was a native species before the last ice age and which was re-introduced before the 1500s. **We hope that you will all enjoy our wonderful collection of decorated trees in our beautiful and ancient church of St Cybi, and having read these few words, maybe feel a special connection to our collective past.**

All will be welcome at our Walsingham Mass at 11.30 am on Saturday, 3rd December, at St Cybi. This will be our Christmas mass to celebrate with gratitude the birth of our Lord. After service, we look forward to our Christmas lunch, in the conservatory of the Breakwater Country Park café. Plans are already tentatively being made for our August 2023 pilgrimage to Norfolk—our first since 2019 due to Covid! For more information, please ring Jane Bailey: 01407 521092

Message from Anglesey Food Bank : Many thanks to **Bro Cybi Ministry Area**, for your generous donation of £250 raised at the St Ffraid **Harvest lunch**. It is much appreciated !

BRO CYBI / HOLY ISLAND MINISTRY AREA

PASTORAL CARE CIRCLE

DECEMBER / CHRISTMAS 2022

Ministry Area Leader/Vicar: Rob Wardle 07710 173177

Associate Vicars : Neil Ridings: 01407 861663

Jane Bailey : 01407 521092



We wish all our readers good health, happiness and every blessing for this Christmas tide and the new year!

We look forward to life getting back to normal, 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. Until this happens, the clergy will handle all visits.

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: patriciahughes2017@gmail.com. Thank you.

Your prayers for the sick are asked for:

Sunday: Brian Wray, Mike Boylin, Judy, Ray, Anita Parry, Thelma Collins-Jones, Alan, Pat Jones, David Carey, Sue Tatlow, Janice, Patsy Young, Baby Emlyn, Katie Jones, Fenton Hanbury .

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

Wednesday: Hannah, Rosemary Tucker, Huw, Brenda Borsby, David Carey .

Prayers for any other reason:

Susan, Angela, Pam: That inflation and the cost of living be brought under control, so that our people will not financially fear the coming winter and beyond!

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' ...

Debbie Roberts, Peter King Roberts, Margaret Armstrong, Christopher John Walton, Gerald Whittaker, Jo Whitely, Elsie Looms

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

Grief is love with no where to go!

Anniversaries of death:

Dec 04-10: Elizabeth Pierce Elsley, Eric Hampson, Edna Twiss, Michael Anthony Ashton, Gareth Roberts

Dec 11-17: Thomas Gwilym Jones, Reg Thomas

Dec 18-24: Neil Jones, Leah Kathleen Hughes, Clive Hems, Val Hicks, Peg Glazebrook

Dec 25-31: Richard March, Mervyn Pritchard Williams, Idwal Williams Smith, Graham Berisford Cobbe, Francis James Bell

Jan 01-07: Margaret Edwards, David Lloyd Williams, David Hems Williams, Hywel Manley Williams

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.

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 read and hear the name remembered.**

Please pray for this young person recently baptised:

6 Nov: St Cybi: Myia Grace Rees

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

Neil writes: Over recent months the clergy have gradually returned to taking **Home Communion** to those who have requested it. We are conscious that there may well be others too, who have not been in touch. If you would like Home Communion then please do contact one of the Clergy Team. Thank you.

Mothers Union ladies look forward to their **Christmas Buffet lunch, on Thursday 1 Dec. First meeting of 2023 will be on Thurs, 19 Jan, at St Davids, at 2.0pm. Everyone welcome!**

The annual **Rhoscolyn calendar** is now available for 2023, featuring 13 lovely images all taken by members of the local community. Sold in aid of Cancer Research UK—price £10-50. To buy, please ring Susan 860569 or email to: information@rhoscolyn.com **Absolutely perfect as a Xmas gift!**

Thanks for prayers answered: Rhianwen is feeling so much better and is back doing what she enjoys! It was great to see Ailia back in church last week looking so well!

The **Tuesday lectionary study group** meet in **St Ffraid's Hall, 12 till 1pm**, with a cup of coffee or tea to discuss the following Sunday's bible readings. We look forward to welcoming you! For more details contact Rev Neil, 861663.

Interesting December Dates: On the **1st** in **1988**, Benazir Bhutto was nominated to become prime minister of Pakistan. She was the first woman to govern a Muslim nation. On the **1st** in **1989**, Mikhail Gorbachev was the first soviet Russian leader to visit the Vatican and meet the Pope, thus ending 72 years of strict atheist policy in Communist Russia. On the **2nd**, in **1982**, the first permanent artificial heart was implanted in 61 year old Barney C. Clark by Dr William de Vries at the University of Utah Medical Centre in Salt Lake City. The patient who was close to death at the time of the operation, survived 112 days after the implantation. On the **5th**, in **1905**, the roof of Charing Cross Railway Station in London collapsed, killing five people. On the **10th** in **1901**, the first Nobel Peace Prizes were awarded worth \$30,000 each. Alfred Bernhard Nobel, a Swedish chemist, had died five years earlier, leaving the fortune he had amassed from his invention of dynamite, to the awarding foundation. On the **15th**, in **1791**, the Bill of Rights became part of the United States Constitution providing protection for the basic rights of the individual to free expression and justice. On the **24th**, in **1508**, London houses received piped water again, for the first time in over a thousand years, since the Romans left! On the **25th**, in **440**, it is believed that church leaders agreed to fix the date of the birth of Christ. Previously some had celebrated it in May and others in January! On the **28th** in **1918**, the results of the first general election in which women were allowed to vote, confirmed David Lloyd George as prime minister.

Enter the New Year with gratitude for a new chance to create your dreams!

Birthday Blessings to the Rev Christine Llewelyn, for 15th December!

St Cybi Christmas Tree festival. Setting up of trees will take place on the morning of Thurs 8th Dec. The dedication service at 6.30pm that evening, is when the lights will be switched on. This is always very dramatic! We will be open for the public to view from Fri 9th onwards until 23rd, between 11.0am and 3 pm (closed Sundays). We will be grateful for offers of meeting and greeting – please contact Pat 860412 Thank you!

December /January dates for the diary! **Sun:4th: 11am Joint Service/St Cybi: Wed:7th:10.30am Eucharist/St Cybi: Thurs: 8th: St Cybi: Setting up the Xmas trees. Xmas Tree Opening Service 6.30pm. St Cybi: Viewing of trees by the community Mon—Sat from 9th to 23rd Dec: Fri:9th: RNLI Concert/ St Ffraid 7pm: Carols 7pm/ St David: Sun:11th: 9.15 St David & St Gwenfaen: 11am St Ffraid & St Cybi: Wed:14th:10.30am Eucharist/ St Cybi: Sat:17th:Big Feast from 1pm at St David: Sun:18th: 9.15/ St David,11am St Ffraid & St Cybi: Carol Service/ St Gwenfaen @ 5.30:Mon:19th: Celebrate St Nicholas/ Ukrainian Service 6pm/ St Cybi: Tues:20th:Carol Singing/ Morawelon from 6pm/ meet at St David: Wed:21st: 10.30am Eucharist/ St Cybi: Carol Singing/ Morawelon from 6pm/ meet at St David:Thurs:22nd: Town Carol Service/ 7pm/ St Cybi:Christmas Eve Sat: 24th: Crib Service/ St Cybi /4pm:Midnight Eucharist/11.30pm/ St Ffraid & St Cybi: Christmas Day Sun: 25th: Family Communion/10am/St Gwenfaen & St Cybi:Wed: 28th: 10.30am Eucharist/St Cybi:Sun:1st Jan: Family Communion/11.0am /St Cybi. **EVERYONE WILL BE VERY WELCOME AT ALL THESE EVENTS!****

St Cybi is very grateful for a very generous **£100 donation given by Phil Jones**, in memory of his late parents **Gwyneth and Tudor Jones**, London Rd. Thank you!

Fundraising to maintain the respectful appearance of **St Seiriols Churchyard** is ongoing. So many of us have family members buried there! If you would like to support, by **buying reasonably priced Bonus Ball tickets weekly**, with the possibility of winning a cash prize, please contact Tommy Williams 764562. Thank you.

The best Christmas gift is to realise and be thankful for, what we already have!