

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 :

Everyone who has a birthday, but wishes to remain anonymous!

We wish you many more years of health and happiness!

February is considered to be merely a “waiting for spring” month, but three events internationally help to raise its profile! **Mardi Gras** (French for Fat Tuesday,) falls this year on 13 Feb. This is 47 days before Easter, and is the equivalent of Shrove Tuesday, (Pancake Day,) in that all rich, fatty foods must be eaten before the start of the Lenten fast. The Carnival season begins at Epiphany, (Three Kings Day,) and ends on Shrove Tuesday. Most extravagantly celebrated in New Orleans and Alabama in America’s ‘deep south’, it includes parades, masked balls and general feasting and drinking. **Chinese New Year**: The first day of celebration is moveable – it takes place on the new moon which appears between 21 January and 20 February. This year it occurs on 10th February. As each country in the world has its own Chinese community, it will have its own legends and particular way to celebrate! The evening preceding the New Year’s Day is frequently regarded as an occasion for Chinese families to gather for the annual reunion dinner. Ancestors are ritually worshipped on that day. It is also a tradition for every family to thoroughly clean their house, in order to sweep away any previous ill fortune and to make way for incoming good luck. Businesses are expected to pay off any outstanding debts before New Year’s Eve. Many different legends exist, to explain the annual spring festival. One is that it started with a mythical beast called Nian, which lived either under the sea or in the mountains. It would eat villagers, especially children, in the middle of the night. One year an older man stepped up saying he could avenge the beast. He had discovered that the beast feared the colour red and fire crackers. From that day on, it has been the custom to use these two elements at each spring festival, and the beast has never been seen since! Another ancient tradition for New Year’s Eve is one of all night revelry. Friends’ homes are visited and good luck greetings are wished for each house. Cards are exchanged and children are given gifts of money, sealed in red envelopes. The fifteenth day of the festival is celebrated with lanterns. It is also favoured by those seeking a romantic partner, similar to our Valentine’s Day, and often marks the end of the Chinese New Year. **Leap Year**: The emperor Julius Caesar is responsible for our leap year, containing an extra day, occurring every four years. The earth takes slightly longer than 365 days to orbit once around the sun, so in order to line up the calendar year with the solar year, he came up with the idea of the leap year! Without it, the calendar would gradually fall out of line with the seasons. Even after the Julian calendar evolved into the Gregorian calendar in 1582, the tradition continued. The Irish Saint Bridget, supposedly convinced St Patrick to go against tradition and to allow women to propose marriage on leap year day. When the tradition was adopted in Scotland, Queen Margaret of Scotland in 1288 passed a law that if a man did not accept, he must pay a fine of between £1 and the price of a silk gown! In that country too, any lady intending to propose has to give the man fair warning by wearing a red petticoat! In Denmark, a man who refuses a proposal in leap year, has to buy for the lady twelve pairs of gloves, supposedly to hide her shame of not being able to show off an engagement ring! In Finland, the price of a refusal, is enough fabric to make a skirt! In Greece it is considered unlucky to get married on leap year day. Superstition maintains that those who do are more likely to divorce. In the US, the New Mexico town called Anthony is considered to be the leap year capitol of the world! Every four years those born on 29 Feb, from all over the world, gather to celebrate their unusual birth date. A buffet meal with wine is served in a local vineyard. “Leapers” and their plus one are served free – everyone else has to pay! In southern Germany, age old tradition encourages girls to leave small birch trees decorated with ribbons on the doorstep of the boys they dream about! In 1928, Harry Craddock, a bartender at the Savoy in London, created a Leap Year Day Cocktail from Grand Marnier, sweet vermouth, gin and a dash of lemon juice. This bitter sweet concoction perfectly captures the spirit of this very bizarrely different day! **Happy Leap Year Day everyone!**

**BRO CYBI / HOLY ISLAND MINISTRY AREA
PASTORAL CARE CIRCLE
FEBRUARY 2024**

**Associate Vicars : Neil Ridings: 01407 861663
Jane Bailey: 01407 521092**



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, Lynn, David & Margaret Thompson, Heather Rendall, Ken Williams, Alyse Scarisbrick, Janet Evans, Jenny Jarvis, Alan Tucker, Chris, Gareth, Bernard, Hedd.

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 "

Brenda Ackroyd, Ken Williams, (Casoma), Derek George Parry, Anne Marie Lloyd, Audrey Jones, Frances Edith (Effie) Thomas, Tabitha Rendall-Todd, Lynn Walton.

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:

Feb 04-10: James Dunsmuir, Mary Ellen Preston Thomas, Robert Brian Jones, Rupert Lewis, Tony Philip Hicks

Feb 11-17: Cerian Wyn Llewelyn, Ann McIlwaine, Ian Marshall Garden, May Lewis, Thomas David Gannon, Malcolm Calvert, Joyce Rowlands, Brenda Lloyd, Ellen Fletcher, Richard Parson

Feb 18-24: Gladys Carney, Robert Elwyn Owen, Noel Williams, Lal Jones

Feb 25– March 02: Jack Grenville Kerby, Gwladys Warden Owen, Eric Jones, Mary Grace Roberts
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.

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, restarting on 3 January. Please use visitor car parking across the road.

The joint service on Sunday, 4 February, will take place at St Gwenfaen, 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. A Winter Afternoon Tea out at the Llaingoch Village Hall was enjoyed by all, thanks to Barbara who organized the event. The following reminiscing afternoon was a lot of fun, a real "blast from the past" The next meeting on **Thursday 15 th February at 2.0pm at St Davids Church**, will have as guest speaker Catherine Love,. She will tell us of the Uganda Project with which our Ministry Area Churches and Ysgol Cybi were involved. All are welcome, especially those who helped with fundraising. Contact Janice 01407 762905

Thanks for prayers answered: Carys and her family would like to thank everyone for all their good wishes, telephone calls and prayers during her hospital stay and her continuing recovery. It has been much appreciated.

We include belated 80th birthday wishes for Carolann Wedlake (28th December 2023), with hopes that the celebrations were good, and that there are many blessings for the year ahead. She thanks us for prayers for her recovery!

Please pray for this person recently baptised:

21 January: St Ffraid: Millie Jean Raya Pell

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

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

Our January **Walsingham Mass in St David** was well attended by about twenty pilgrims, and celebrated by John Harvey, our Archdeacon. It was followed by a very sociable time, enjoying a delicious meal of coffee and various cakes, provided in the Hall by the members of the group. 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 10th February. In the present uncertain world,, **pilgrimage seems to be on the rise! We are all seeking "the peace which the world cannot give" ,wherever and in whatever way is possible! Names and deposits now being taken for our 2024 pilgrimage: 2-6 September, by coach to Norfolk! 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

Please donate clothes, books, bric-a-brac etc for the **Holyhead Cytun Charity Shop (Churches Together,)** usual place, across the road from the Cross, from Monday Feb 5th - Friday Feb 9th - setting up on Feb 4th. Offers to help serve in the shop will be appreciated! We look forward to seeing you, whether you're selling or buying ! Please ring Jane : 01407 521092

Before Christmas, four of our ladies were in Ysbyty Gwynedd at the same time! Lynn, Carys, Betty and Katie. We hear that three have returned home now, and are starting to/ have recovered. Dear Lynn has passed away—may she rest in peace!

14 February—Valentine Day Quotes! Love is composed of a single soul, inhabiting two bodies! Whatever our souls are made of, his and mine are the same. Love does not consist of gazing at each other, but in looking outward together in the same direction. Love is friendship, that caught fire! Love is like the wind, you can't see it, but you can feel it! Love is a friendship, set to music!

Message for anyone whose family has ever been connected to St Cybi's Church. If there are any books or kneelers still there, given in memory of close friends and family, that you would like to keep, the church will be open on Fri 2 Feb, between 10.0am and 12.0 noon for you to collect. Please use the arch gate from Swift Square car park.

2 Feb - Candlemas! In medieval times, Candlemas, was considered to be the last day of Christmas, so decorations could be left until that date. Why? Also called the Feast of the **Purification of the Virgin Mary**, it was the date on which she was ritually purified – 40 days after the birth of our Lord. Apparently, ritual purification of a woman forty days after the birth of a son, and eighty days after a daughter, can be traced back to the time of Moses. At the end of this time, she would bring to the priest a one year old lamb to be a burnt offering, (for very poor people, a small amount of flour would be accepted instead,) and a young pigeon as a sin offering. Her cleanliness would then be restored. The day is also remembered as the **Presentation of Christ in the Temple**, the introduction of the infant to Simeon and Anna, and the thanksgiving for the survival of mother and child. The Church candles intended to be used throughout the year, were also generally blessed on Candlemas, to underpin the message that Christ was the light of the world! **I leave my illumined nativity up until Candlemas, bringing cheer during these gloomy depressing winter months. It's great company, therapeutic and spiritual. Why not try it next year ?**

Lent dates for your diary! 14 February: Ash Wednesday Service : 10.30am @ St David. Discussion Groups : St Ffraid's Church Hall: TUESDAYS @ 12 noon—February 13/ 20/ 27 + March 5/ 12 / 19 and also at St David's: MONDAYS @ 6.0pm— February 19/ 26 + March 4/11/18 . We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible to all these special events.

No matter how long the cold, bleak days of winter may continue, winter always turns to spring. This is the law of the universe and the law of life. As long as we hold on to hope, spring is sure to come.