

**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 :**

**Elwyn Collins Jones: he celebrates 93 years on 25 February!**

**We wish you many more years of health and happiness!**

**What do we show on the front cover? Candlemas!** Recent traditions have taught that Christmas decorations should be taken down on Twelfth night, 5/6 January, which was considered the last day of the Christmas season. To leave them longer, would incur bad luck! However, in medieval times, Candlemas, was considered to be the last day of Christmas, so that decorations could be left until 2 February. 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. The mother was considered unclean, and not allowed to touch anything sacred, or visit the sanctuary in the temple, until this happened. 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. This process was later called "churching," and could be used for mothers of still births, and adoptive mothers. The Church candles intended to be used throughout the year, were generally blessed on Candlemas, to underpin the message that Christ was the light of the world! They were also lit in the bedrooms of those close to death, to keep away evil spirits. A North American tradition, dating back to early German settlers in Pennsylvania, states that if a ground hog or badger, emerges from its hole on that day, and due to clear weather sees its own shadow, there will be six more weeks of wintery weather. If it cannot see its shadow, due to cloudiness, spring will arrive early. Pre-Christian rites for the Roman goddess Februa, involved a procession of candles on 2 February, with people displaying lighted candles in their windows, to drive away evil spirits. This evolved from the Celtic tradition of Imbolc, the four days which marked the mid point between the winter solstice and the spring equinox. It was known as the 'feast of lights,' celebrating the increasing strength of the life giving sun, as winter gave way to spring. It is also believed that 2 Feb was the old date in the Aztec calendar, when the gods were asked for rain which would lead to a bountiful harvest! Devout Christian families in Mexico City, own a doll called the Christ Child, which is placed in a home nativity on Christmas Eve. Gifts are presented to the 'child' at Epiphany, (Three Kings Day) and a special cake is baked with a tiny figure of the baby Jesus inside. The person who finds the baby figure in their slice, is considered to be the godfather of the child, and responsible for hosting the February celebrations four weeks later. The Christ Child doll is specially dressed, and carried in procession to church just as Jesus was believed to have been presented, all those years ago. **Leaving Christmas lights on until Candlemas, brings cheer during these gloomy winter months—it's great company and therapy! Try it next year!**

**Our sympathy goes out to Anne, Gareth, Sian, and family of the late Dave Winkle. A valued member of the Holyhead Rotary Club, he was a much appreciated part of the stewarding team at St Cybi, for the past few years. May he rest in peace!**

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

**FEBRUARY 2022**

**Ministry Area Leader/Vicar: Rob Wardle 07710 173177**

**Associate Vicars : Neil Ridings: 01407 861663**

**Jane Bailey : 01407 810827**

**Andy Herrick: 01407 861084**



**We are looking forward to life getting back to some sort of normality, 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 are handling 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:**

**Sun:** Brian Wray, Brenda Borsby, Mike Boylin, Judy, Katie Jones, Myfanwy Newman, Yvonne Fairlamb, Sue Jones, Ray, Jane Parry Williams, Frances Iliff, Eunice, Sue Chadwick, Anita Parry, Graham Smith, Lynn Walton, Sylvia Owen.

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

**Wed:** Hannah, Menna Screech, Rosemary Tucker, Huw Thomas, Jan Ware.

**Prayers for any other reason:**

Angela, Pam.

**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' ...**

Margaret Helen Clarence, Ellen Haf Griffiths, David Alexander Winkle, Barbara Smith, Hilda Ellen Jones, Anthony (Tony) Wyn Pursglove, Edward Warren, Colin Parry.

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

**Grief is love with no where to go!**

**Anniversaries of death:**

**Jan 30-Feb 05:** Tom Williams, Catherine Roberts, James Dunsmuir

**Feb 06—12:** Mary Ellen Preston Thomas, Robert Brian Jones, Rupert Lewis, Tony Philip Hicks, Cerian Wyn Llewelyn, Ann McIlwaine, Ian Marshall Garden, May Lewis, Thomas David Gannon, Malcolm Calvert.

**Feb 13-19:** Joyce Rowlands, Brenda Lloyd, Ellen Fletcher, Richard Parson.

**Feb 20-26:** Robert Elwyn Owen, Noel Williams, Lal Jones, Jack Grenville Kerby, Eric Jones, Mary Grace Roberts.

**Feb 27-Mar 05:** Gwladys Warden Owen, Mark Batty.

**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.**

**Starting on 5 Dec 2021, at 9.15am in St Cybi, there will be on the first Sunday of each month, a said communion service followed by a Morning Praise service at 11.0am. These will be the only services in the Ministry Area on that day ,so all four churches please join together.**

Our existing **volunteer tourist guides for St Cybi 2022** very much look forward to re-suming duties in the spring. We hope that colleagues from Holyhead Rotary Club will be able to help as generously as they have in previous years. This year, we hope to be open seven days each week, and we would welcome new volunteers, both from all four of the church congregations or the community, to come forward to be trained. If you enjoy meeting new people, it is a very interesting way of spending a couple of hours each week, helping holiday makers and your community at the same time. We work in pairs to cover a morning and an afternoon shift. Please contact Pat for more details. Thank you!

**Churches Together (Cytun) Charity Shop:** Open, usual place, week beginning Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> February. Items for sale to be dropped off at the shop between 2.00 -3.00 pm on Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> please .Offers of sales help will be appreciated. (Jane: 01407 810827) Monies raised will be donated to Digartref Holyhead and Christian Aid Overseas.

A **Wedding Blessing** was recently performed in St Cybi for Anthony Paul Smith and Allison Eudoxia Iglesias Alonso, after a civil ceremony earlier in the day. We wish them every happiness in their future life together.

**Interesting dates in the month of February!** On the 3<sup>rd</sup> in 1943, an extraordinary act of heroism occurred off Greenland after the U.S. Army transport ship *Dorchester* was hit by a German torpedo and began to sink rapidly. It became apparent there were not enough life jackets, so four U.S. Army chaplains on board removed theirs, handing them to frightened young soldiers. They chose to go down with the ship while praying. On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, the first female physician in the U.S., Elizabeth Blackwell (1821-1910) was born near Bristol, England. She was awarded her MD by the Medical Institute of Geneva, New York, in 1849. She established a hospital in New York City run by an all-female staff, and trained women to be nurses for service in the American Civil War. On the 6<sup>th</sup> in 1952, King George VI of England died. Upon his death, his daughter Princess Elizabeth became Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Her coronation took place on June 2, 1953. 2022 will mark her **Platinum jubilee**. The 11<sup>th</sup> is celebrated in Japan as the founding date of the Japanese nation, which occurred with the accession to the throne of the first Emperor, Jimmu, in 660 BC. On the 12<sup>th</sup> Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865) the 16th U.S. President was born in Kentucky. He led the nation through the tumultuous Civil War, freed the slaves, composed the Gettysburg Address, and established Thanksgiving. On the 22<sup>nd</sup>, George Washington (1732-1799) was born in Virginia. He served as commander during the American Revolution and became the first U.S. President.

Please join us for a **Walsingham Mass** at St Cybi, at 11.30am on 12 February 2022. All are very welcome, whether you are past or future pilgrim or just curious to know more!

**Thanks for prayers answered :** Lynz is very grateful, for a solution to her problem. Monica Griffiths thanks everyone for their prayers! She looks and feels much better.

Along with the last copy of the PCC, we sent **congratulations to our Bishop Andy John:** on his election to the status of **Archbishop of Wales**. As always, he graciously replied: Hello Pat, And many thanks – for this and your good wishes. Do give my best to everyone and here's to hoping 2022 will be a good year for us all. Take care. + Andy

**Thank you to the cleaning teams in all four churches—you are much appreciated!**

**Mother's Union.** The next meeting, third Thursday of every month, will be on 17th February 2.0pm at St. David's. Our Archdeacon Andy Herrick, will present "An illustrated talk on his visit to Zambia" He is always a relaxed and engaging speaker , so do come! In January, we enjoyed a social afternoon with plenty of fun, guessing who had "enjoyed" various interesting experiences in younger days! The group are always happy to welcome new faces! Remember, you don't have to be a mother to be a member! Ring Janice for details: 762905.

**Burial of Ashes:** Rita Draine

**Do not fear what may happen tomorrow. Our Father, who cares for you today, will care for you again tomorrow and every day. He will either shield you from suffering or give you sufficient strength to bear it!**

**Quote for these difficult times! Ships don't sink because of the water around them. They sink because of the water that gets into them. Don't let what's happening around you get inside you, and weigh you down!**

\*\*\*\*\*