

St. Dyfnog's Church Newsletter.

March 2010.

Llanrhadr.

From the Vicar

Already we have reached the third Sunday of Lent and are able to pause and reflect upon our how Christ continues to touch our individual circumstances, our life as a parish, and how these experiences might be shared with others.

Once again a reminder that Bishop Gregory has set out three priorities for our Diocesan family over this church year and will be expecting a response from us as a parish at his Visitation in the Autumn.

Firstly - enabling and encouraging the whole people of God

Secondly - enlivening and enriching our worship

Thirdly - engaging the world

Our Annual Church Meeting - **St Dyfnog's 6 p.m. Wednesday 31st March in Church** - will provide a platform for some discussion of these three priorities and how we might translate them into action!

This is an important meeting to set the direction for the parish over the next year and beyond.

We will be deciding upon our Churchwardens, Parochial Church Council members and also electing people to represent the parish at the annual Diocesan Conference and at meetings of our Deanery Conference.

We will not be re-electing people en block and will certainly be looking for new people to share the load which others have carried, so faithfully, often over long periods of time.

Please think carefully and prayerfully before the meeting, and about these elections - we are growing as a parish in so many ways - so come along, ready to share your ideas and offer your time and talents.

Michael

Time to renew the Electoral Role - Details overleaf from the Diocesan Secretary

A cook's Tour continued.

20th Century.

Elizabeth David's Mediterranean Food was a challenge to the age of post-war austerity. It was followed by French Country Cooking in 1953, and Italian Food 1954. Ignoring food shortages, she wrote, in her excellent prose, about the sight and savour of real food, carefully prepared from good ingredients. Her clarion call was taken up by other writers. Another influential book was the Constance Spry Cookery Book 1956, by Constance Spry and Rosemary Hume. It stemmed from the Cordon Bleu Cookery School in London, was rather upmarket, but workable. As the consumer society emerged it was still foreign food, especially French, that set the standard.

The 60's and 70's saw a flood of new cookery books aimed at either simple cooking for the beginner or sophisticated food for entertaining.

Elizabeth David supported the publishing of two leaders in their field. Alan Davidson, a career diplomat, specialised in seafood- North Atlantic Seafood 1979 is the key authority- and Jane Gregson's books derived from her column in the Observer. Her books on Fish 1973, Vegetables 1978 and Fruit are superb. As well as her background anecdotes she presents clear and workable instructions. Her most influential book is English Food 1974 (including Welsh recipes!) It came at a time of reaction against a market of standardised food, canned, frozen, packaged, and ubiquitous. There was wide spread worry about the use of pesticides and fattening cattle hormones, battery hens and non- organic vegetables.

Food may be plentiful, but tasteless, and choice was becoming limited by supermarket monopoly buying, and unseasonable production.

It was back to the countryside.

The hippy culture of the late 60's and 70's with a touch of Zen Buddhism avoided dairy products in favour of brown rice and vegetables. By the late 70's vegetarianism became less cranky. With cheaper foreign travel people became more familiar with the foods of the Middle East. Cladia Roden's A Book of Middle Eastern Food was an introduction. Indian and Chinese food became familiar from their restaurants and take-aways. Cheap prices, open hours and a modified exotic flavour had appeal. Madhur Jaffrey, the Indian actress, published, An introduction to Indian Cookery in 1976 (in Britain) and Kenneth Lo's Chinese Food was published in 1972.

LEMON BISCUITS (CRISPY LITTLE BISCUITS, IDEAL WITH A CUP OF TEA!)

Ingredients; 250g (8oz.) unsalted butter, softened. 100g (3 ½ oz.) caster sugar, grated rind of 2 lemons, 1 tablespoon lemon juice, 300g (10oz.) self raising flour.

Method; 1. Put butter, sugar, lemon rind and juice in bowl, using an electric beater, beat together until pale and light.. Sift in flour and continue to beat to form a stiff dough.

2. Roll 15g (½oz) pieces of dough into balls and flatten them into 5 cm (2 inch) discs. Score the surface of each with the back of a fork and put them on 3 large, lightly oiled baking sheets. Bake in a preheated oven, 180C (350F) Gas Mark 4 for 12 - 15 minutes until lightly golden. Leave to cool for 5 minutes on the sheets and transfer to a wire rack until cold.

Preparation time 10 minutes

Cooking time 12-15 minutes.

Makes 40 biscuits.

Judge Not !

I was shocked, confused, bewildered
As I entered Heaven's door,
Not by the beauty of it all,
Nor by the lights or its décor.

But it was the folks in Heaven
Who made me splutter and gasp-
The thieves, the liars, the sinners,
The alcoholics and the trash.

There stood the kid from seventh grade
Who swiped my lunch money twice.
Next to him was my old neighbour
Who never said anything nice.

Herb, who I always thought
Was rotting away in hell,
Was sitting pretty on cloud nine,
Looking incredible well.

I nudged Jesus, 'What's the deal?
I would love to hear Your take.
How'd all these sinners get up here?
God must've made a mistake.

'And why's everyone so quiet,
So sombre - give me a clue.'
'Hush ,child', He said, 'they're all in shock.
No one thought they'd be seeing you.'

Remember.....Just going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in your garage makes you a car.

It strikes me that we have never given a proper welcome to Adrian and Pamela Evans now that they are living in Church Walks cottage. We also welcome their daughter, Andrea, Mauro, Callum and Max, who more often than not are in church as a family. Last year we bemoaned the loss of Jean and Bob, and of Dianne and Albie and the gap left in our parish life - but a miracle happened during the autumn when this new family started attending church regularly, although still living in Rhyl; showing every sign of wanting to join in all our activities which they certainly did at the Christmas Fair. We are very glad indeed to have them among us.

We are pleased also to welcome back after many years' absence abroad- in Dubai- Roland and Mary Davies, Pentre Bach, regular worshippers before they went off East.

H.JJ.

Mothers' Union.

Mothers' Union Motto for the year:

"Lord help me to be more of a smiler and less of a whiner"

The Branch started the spring session with a meeting at the home of Poppy Webster - yet again! We do thank her for letting us make use of her home so often. It being close to Lent, we had asked the Vicar to lead the meeting and answer some of the questions that bother us about church and Bible matters. This he did so well and we sincerely thank him for his time. It is good for us to meet our Vicar informally like this.

These are a few of the questions that were asked;

If God guides us - how do the consciences of Christians differ so often- eg in politics?

Why does God make sin so easy and goodness so difficult?

Why should Christ 'descend into Hell' as the Creed says?

How do you answer people who say 'I can be a good Christian without going to church'.

Can prayer alter God's mind?

These questions and others were ably answered by the Vicar, and gave us food for thought.

During the meeting two new members were welcomed - Dorothy Aldridge and Jean McCarter; we hope they will soon feel at home among us.

The annual subscriptions were collected and then Pam Roberts Prion, who was the last Branch member to correspond with our linked branch at St. James, Sydney, Australia, read out the latest letter in reply from Gwen Shakell (this lady has Welsh roots). The tea hostesses were Poppy and Glenys and they were warmly thanked by the Branch Leader.

The body of every organisation, society and club is made up from four kinds of bones-
There are the wishbones who spend their time wishing someone would do the work.
There are the jawbones who do a lot of talking but little else.
There are the knuckle bones who criticise everything others try to do
Luckily, however, all organisations have backbones who carry the load and do the work.

There's nothing as interesting as the lives of real people - Do you remember the girl singer Helen Shapiro - " Walking back to Happiness " - reaching No. 1 in the pop charts at 14 years of age. She was brought up in a Jewish home and this is her story: -

."Our Family, would keep Passover and High, Holy Days. I believed in God but it was a God with a big stick. Actually God was getting rid of false beliefs to make room for Him. My musical director, Bob, was a Christian and I was envious of his solid faith. I started to read the Old Testament looking for references to the Messiah - I never realised they were there before - In Isaiah, Micah, Daniel, Jeremiah and the Psalms. Then I read the New Testament for the first time. Would I find in it anti-Jewish expressions? However I read St. Matthew and it seemed like a continuation of the Old Testament. I re-read parts of the Jewish bible, and, yes, there they were, the same references to the coming of Jesus - I had never noticed them - that is when I became a Christian. I now share my new-found faith with others in gospel outreach evenings"

Her story is indeed a case of " Walking back to Happiness! " H.J.J.

Question from a Police Promotion Examination Paper

You are on duty in the centre of Wrexham when a gas main explodes. This creates a large

crater in the middle of a main trunk road. The explosion results in a van being thrown on its side. In this vehicle are a man and a woman, the woman being the wife of your sergeant, the sergeant being currently away on a course in Bridgend. Both are injured and in need of hospital treatment. When an ambulance is sent for it too meets with an accident while on its way to the scene. At this point two dogs, neither of which is wearing a collar, begin to fight in the middle of the road and they are encouraged by men leaving a nearby public house, who are inebriated and disorderly. In the middle of this disorder a car and a coach collide and to add to the confusion the coach driver starts running away. The car is being driven by the Chief Constable. A man runs out of a nearby house calling for a midwife and a woman informs you that there is a fire on the forecourt of the garage two roads away. You then see a shopkeeper waving at you frantically for assistance; he has been robbed at gunpoint

Bearing in mind the provisions of the Justices of the Peace Act, the various Acts relating to mental health and particularly Section 49 of the Police Act, which course of action would you take?

Specimen answer.

I would immediately remove my helmet, put on my raincoat, make myself as inconspicuous as possible and mingle with the crowd.

Not a joke as such but taken from a church paper; 'This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Brown to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.....'

Stress management.

Accept that some days you're the pigeon and some days the statue.

Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.

Since it's the early worm that gets eaten by the bird, sleep late.

Birthdays are good for you, the more you have the longer you live.

A Daily Prayer for Lent Evenings

Lift up our hearts, Heavenly Father,
Lift up our hearts that we may be inspired,
Lift up our eyes that we may see your love at work in the world,
Stir up soul and body in your service.
Grant to the family of St Asaph,
That every member may be enthused, that our worship may be uplifting,
And that we may serve your Kingdom in the world. Amen

MISC - Not used March 2010

Medical terms explained.

Artery - The study of Paintings.	Bacteria - Back door to cafeteria.
Benign - What you be after nine.	CAT scan - Searching for kitty.
Colic - A sheep dog.	Caesarean Section - A neighbourhood of Rome
Fibula - A small lie.	Dilate - To live too long.
Morbid - A higher offer.	Coma - A punctuation mark.
Terminal illness - Getting sick at the airport..	

Limericks.

There was a young lady of Milton.
Who was highly disgusted with Stilton;
When offered a bite,
She said "Not a mite!"
That suggestive young lady of Milton.

There once was an old man of Lyme
Who married three wives at a time;
When asked, "Why a third?"
He replied, "One's absurd!
And bigamy, sir, is a crime."

