

# St. Dyfnog's Church

## Newsletter

Llanrhaeadr

March 2011

From the Vicar

Ash Wednesday

This month we begin our journey through Lent towards Easter, travelling together towards Holy Week, and so share Christ's journey to the cross and beyond.

On Ash Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March between 10 and 12 o'clock, myself and our parish treasurer will be available in church to receive any donations for the continuing work of St Dyfnog's, and also to provide financial information on various ways of giving.

Many I know have reviewed their giving, and I am grateful for that, however this is something we should all be doing, at least on an annual basis. There will be some coffee / tea & biscuits and the morning will close with Holy Eucharist at 12 o'clock.

Through Lent please take a few moments to look at the display board in church of paintings by the Benedictine Nuns of Turvey Abbey which offer a vivid feeling of increasing darkness as Christ journeys towards the cross.

In the final beautiful presentation we meet Christ, risen in glory - darkness to light, sorrow to joy, despair to hope, death to resurrection.

We are reminded, especially at this time of the year, that death and resurrection can and do frequently happen in the daily events of our lives, and in the lives of those around us.

Light a candle - say a prayer

**Annual Church / Parish Meeting ( former Vestry Meeting )**

This important event in the life of the parish will take place at 11.15 during a shortened Morning Prayer on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2011 - hopefully within our current time frame and with coffee available afterwards, for those wishing to stay on. Please make every effort to be present and support your PCC in this initiative.

Michael

## THE LIFE AND WORK OF A FORMER MEMBER OF OUR CONGREGATION

### SIR HENRY MORRIS-JONES M.C., M.B.Ch.B, M.P., DL.

After having read virtually every book on our bookshelf – and re-reading many of them – I came across a well-worn book which had been presented to Glenys and me by the P.C.C. on the occasion of our marriage more than 50 years ago. The book was entitled “A Doctor in the Whip’s Room” and had been written by Sir Henry Morris-Jones, M.C., M.P. It had been published in 1950, and shortly before he had retired as a Member of Parliament and just a short while before he and his wife, Leila, came to live at Bryn Dyfnog, where Clwyd and Heather Roberts now live. Sir Henry was immediately elected a Member of our P.C.C. and continued in membership for some 12 years. His wife was also a member of that Council but for a shorter period. They were regular church attendees and used to sit in the second row, immediately in front of the lectern. Apart from Terry, Angela, and Olive and perhaps one or two others, very few members of our congregation will know very much about Sir Henry and Leila Morris-Jones so I thought it might be of interest were I to tell you a little about this quite famous man.

#### His early life.

He was born in Waunfawr, Caernarvonshire in 1884 and qualified as a G.P. at Glasgow University in 1906. He set up a successful medical practice in Colwyn Bay and was very highly thought of in that locality. He continued in that practice for 22 years. A volunteer, he served with the Worcestershire Regiment during the 1<sup>st</sup> world war and was awarded the Military Cross for outstanding bravery.

He resumed his medical in 1918 and also became more and more involved in local politics. He was a member – and for many years Chairman – of the Colwyn Bay Borough Council. He also represented the Borough on the Denbighshire County Council. He became a J.P. and Deputy Lord Lieutenant and some years later he was granted the freedom of the Borough of Colwyn Bay, a rare distinction.

Sir Henry was elected a member of the Eisteddfod “Gorsedd”, taking the bardic title “Rhoslaydd”. He married Leila Marsland, a widow, in 1931. They had no children.

#### Parliamentary career.

After much persuasion he presented himself as a candidate at the 1929 General Election and was duly elected. He continued to represent West Denbighshire until 1950, first as a Liberal and later as a “Liberal National”. For a brief period he also stood as an “Independent”.

There was an economic crisis in 1931 and this led to the formation of a “National Government”, led by the Prime Minister, Ramsay MacDonald. At the same time, a new Group was formed – the Liberal Nationals – and Sir Henry joined that Group. Some of the Liberals in his home constituency saw Sir Henry as a Surrogate Tory and there was a strong move to have him thrown out at the next election. While he was at Westminster, there was some cloak and dagger activity within his constituency and when the election was called, the Liberals presented the then Director of Education for Denbighshire, John Cledwyn Davies, as their candidate. He lived at Tyddyn Parc, on the outskirts of Denbigh, and was very well known. The Conservatives did not field a candidate at the 1935 election and with their support Sir Henry triumphed with a majority of over 5,000. He was knighted in 1937. He was a Government Whip for many years and also served as Chairman of the Wales Parliamentary Party.

Facing strong opposition from the other parties, including some of the members of his own party, Sir Henry tabled a Private Members' Bill in 1949 to create the position of Secretary of State for Wales. He was unsuccessful on that occasion but never gave up seeking recognition for the Welsh nation. He was delighted when in 1965 the first Secretary of State for Wales was elected, and a Welsh Office established. The National Assembly followed many years later, in 1999 in fact. One of the most important tasks he faced as a Member of Parliament came in 1945, a few weeks before the end of the War, when a small group of M.P.'s were sent on a fact finding mission to the Nazi Concentration Camp at Buchenwald. This camp had been built as far back as 1934 and at one time held as many as 120,000 prisoners. He had been chosen as part of the delegation because of his medical experience. That short visit left a permanent impression on Sir Henry.

He retired from politics shortly before the 1950 General Election and not long afterwards came to live in Llanrhaeadr.

### Connections with St. Dyfnog's Church

I was a (young!) member of the Church Council at that time and a few years later embarked on a marathon stint as P.C.C. Secretary. Sir Henry and Leila were members of the P.C.C. and I naturally got to know them quite well. Sir Henry was also a member of the Governing Body of the Church in Wales and we benefited considerably from his experience and wise counsel. Leila presented the choir with their first and only set of gowns. The choir was much larger than the one we have now and there must have been as many as 20 children, aged between 11 and 16 occupying the first two front rows.

Sir Henry had spoken for some time of his wish to present the church with a stained glass window of the same size as the Jesse Window. It would have replaced the present window behind the altar in the Sanctuary. Without exception, the members of the P.C.C. were very supportive and appreciative of his generous gesture and Sir Henry commissioned a famous Artist in London to prepare a model of the proposed window. The model was beautifully coloured and stood some 2 feet in height. One of the many panels was devoted to Medicine and another to the Westminster Parliament. Another panel was devoted to one of Lady Henry's life-long interests. I think it was the girl guides, but I can't be sure of that. With the full backing of the P.C.C. an application was submitted for a faculty but to our astonishment this was turned down. The model itself had cost many thousands of pounds, even in those days. We lodged an appeal and I can also remember writing several personal letters to Bishop Harvard. But all to no avail. I do not remember the precise reason the Board gave for this refusal, if indeed there was one, but it was strongly rumoured that "politics" had something to do with the decision. I am not prepared to divulge in print any more on that vexed issue. Sir Henry and Lady Morris-Jones were naturally very disappointed with this refusal and it was noticed that Sir Henry's attendance at our meetings became fewer and fewer. Pre-deceased by his wife, Sir Henry moved from Llanrhaeadr in the late 60's to a nursing home on the English border. He died in 1972 and was buried at the top of our "old" cemetery, near the steps leading to the Almshouses.

There ended a most interesting chapter in the history of our church.

**R.E.J.**

### Postage Stamps

Many thanks to everybody who saved their Christmas stamps, I have been able to send off another full shoebox for funding the research into the incurable eye disease *retinitis pigmentosa*, I understand from reading in the press that the research is resulting in some very positive results. Please keep saving.

Apologies to all who did the Christmas Quiz, I made a mistake with some of the answers last month, hopefully this has not caused too many family rows! Correct answers follow:

14. *Denbighshire was originally formed in the year---1536*
15. *Who allegedly built the original Denbigh Castle---Llewelyn ab Gruffydd.*
- 16 *Humphrey Llwyd of Foxhall was famous as a?---Cartographer.*
- 17 *Thomas Gee was involved in which Welsh war?---Tithe Wars.*

### *A legend from the district of Prion.*

The residents from Prion for many years suffered from the cruelty of a harsh, grasping landlord named Lloyd the Cap who lived at Brynlluarth above Pant Pastynog. If anybody's sheep strayed onto his land he would capture them and kill them in the nearby lime kiln, their poor bleatings terrifying those who heard them.

At last Lloyd departed this life but he was denied entry into Heaven and his spirit henceforth was decreed to wander the earth in the form of a rapacious monster, roaming the uplands of Prion and Cyffylliog-no one at all ventured out after dark as a result.

There was in the area a man called Huw Jones who knew how to treat spirits and ghosts. The inhabitants begged him to use his powers to defeat the monster. Reluctantly he yielded to their pleas and set off on his bay mare with magic wand in one hand and his book of spells in the other. He could hear the roars of the beast nearby and was confronted by the form of a huge creature somewhat like a bear. Huw's plan was to cause the creature to shrink by degrees till it could be dealt with-first becoming a wolf, then something like a dog, then in size like a cat, finally to the size of a fly! This he swiftly captured in a bottle from his pocket and deposited it in the lake at Llewesog, said to be bottomless. It had taken Huw Jones three nights to accomplish this feat-his poor bay mare had turned completely white with all the terror. HJJ.

### *More answers from children.*

*Teacher: Simon, tell me do you say your prayer before eating?*

*Simon: No Sir, I don't need to, my mother is a good cook.*

*Teacher: Glen, how do you spell crocodile? Glen: KROKODIAL. Teacher: No, that's wrong.*

*Glen: Maybe it was wrong, but you asked how I spell it.*

*Teacher: Peter, why are you always so dirty? Peter: Well I am a lot nearer the ground than you.*

## EARLY WARNING!!!

*Book and Plant Fair will be held in Church on April 13/16*

*Hopefully some strongmen will move books from my shed on the afternoon of -  
Sunday April 10th (this should only take about an hour)*

*- April 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, sorting of books, from 10-30 onwards. If you can just volunteer  
for an hour it will be most helpful.*

*The Church will be open to the public from Wednesday April 13<sup>th</sup> - Saturday  
April 16<sup>th</sup>.*

*10-30/6-00, closing on Saturday at 2-30pm. Volunteers needed on the door, to take  
money, sell plants and make coffee. Lists will be in church at a later date. Please  
sign up! This Book and Plant Fair is now one of our major fundraising events, we  
need volunteers, please consider helping.*

Books may be left in church from Thursday April 7<sup>th</sup>. Plants may be brought on Monday  
April 11<sup>th</sup> or Tuesday April 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Removal of books after sale** - does anybody know the kind people who removed the  
remaining books on the Saturday afternoon last year? They offered to come again this  
year, but regretfully I forgot to take their names - if you know them, please ask them to  
make contact.

SvdB.

## Mothers' Union February.

We has waited a long time for the opportunity to listen to Bishop John Davies speaking at  
our Mothers' Union meeting. We were not disappointed. The February meeting was held at  
Poppy's by her kind invitation.

The Bishop had three phases to his talk. First there was the illumination of a Bible passage  
and its lessons, followed by an explanation of several items of a bishop's apparel; I wonder  
how many of us had realised that a bishop's mitre represents the tongues of flame of  
Pentecost? Lastly he explained a lesser-known prayer of Saint Francis and very kindly  
presented each of us with our own card.

Questions followed and then he was thanked for this most interesting afternoon by June  
Hughes. Tea was served by Poppy and Glenys.

The next meeting on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Will be held at Glan Ystrad, a meeting with a Welsh flavour,  
and a Welsh tea, when the history of the Denbighshire Infirmary will be shown in a series  
of slides.

H.J.J.

BETSI CADWALADR (1789-1860)  
(after whom our N.H.S. Trust is named)

Born on 24<sup>th</sup> May 1789 and christened at Llanycil (Y Bala) on 26<sup>th</sup> May 1789. Betsi Cadwaladr provides us with an example of the transition from the traditional Welsh patronymic system to that of family surnames:

Elizabeth Cadwaladr to Elizabeth Davi(e)s.

Her father was Dafydd Cadwaladr (1752-1832), Calvinistic Methodist preacher, second son of Cadwaladr and Catherine Dafydd of Erw Ddinmael, Llangwm.

Betsi's mother was Judith Humphreys who died c.1795, having borne nine children. On her death Betsi was left to the care of an elder sister whom she loathed. A pleasant interlude followed of kindness, education and training as a harpist and dancer. At 14 she ran away to domestic service in Liverpool, travelling with her employer to Scotland and several Continental countries in 1815-1816.

Soon after returning to Y Bala, she again ran away, to domestic service in London. For several years from 1820, as maid in a sea-captain's family. She travelled all round the world, meeting John Davies, LMS Missionary in Tahiti, whom she knew through her father's friendship with Thomas Charles of Y Bala. John Davies hailed from near Pontrobert, just over the hills south east of Y Bala. He is remembered for his translation of the Bible into Tahitian, and for his Tahitian/English Dictionary.

On returning to England, she lost all her savings, and became an actress with Charles Kemble's company, including visits to North Wales in 1844-1845 and to South Wales in 1849. Then she took to nursing, at Guy's Hospital, London.

In 1854 at the age of 65, she volunteered for nursing in the Crimean War, where Britain sided with Turkey against Tsarist Russia. She nursed heroically at ferocious battles, such as Alma and the siege of Sebastopol, winning the admiration, respect and affection of the British soldiers, including those of two Welsh regiments. Betsi was caustic in her criticisms of the conduct of war, and her relations with Florence Nightingale were stormy. Nightingale was a managerial nurse, Betsi a 'heroic' nurse.

Invalided out of the military nursing service, Betsi returned to poverty, dying in London at the home of her sister Bridget on 17 July 1860. Her love of theatre, travel, adventure; her rebellious spirit, were matched only by her religious faith. Her lifelong, 'constant companion' was the Welsh Bible given to her in her childhood by Thomas Charles of Y Bala.

*We are indebted to Dr. Alun Hughes of Cerrigydrudion for this article.*

HELP!

*Sometimes we receive electrical goods for the sales table in church—is there anybody who would take on the responsibility of checking these to enable us to sell them? Also from time to time we receive clocks and watches, these also require checking, usually needing batteries, anybody willing to do this? Please contact Mrs. Helen Jenkin Jones.*

## **Sausage and Apple Plait.**

Ingredients; 1 lb (450g.) frozen puff pastry, 1 lb. sausage meat, 1 large onion finely chopped, 1 large apple, peeled, thinly sliced, 1 teaspoon mixed herbs (dried or finely chopped fresh)

Preheat oven: gas mark 4, 425F, 210C

Method: Roll pastry fairly thin, into oblong approx. 8x12" (20-30cm) Roll sausage meat until 12" (30cm) long, flatten and lay along pastry. Cover with sliced apple, onion and herbs. Dampen edges of the pastry and roll over. Turn roll with join underneath. Cut cross pattern on top, brush with beaten egg (or milk) Bake in hot oven for 20-25 minutes. Serve hot.

This plait can also be served cold for picnics.

*This sausage plait is served in the NT restaurant at Felbrigg Hall Norfolk., a Jacobean house with part build in 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century. Well worth a visit if you are ever in Norfolk, excellent food, lovely walks in the Park and across to the Church.*

## **Llanrhaeadr WI.**

A most interesting meeting of the WI was held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February, we met in the back room of the King's Head, and were provided with excellent tea and coffee. After the monthly business, which included looking at the Monthly Newsletter, finding a volunteer to attend the Annual Council Meeting, short discussion about the proposed "Acorn Project", in our case the recipe book, looking for more volunteers to attend the International Women's Day in Llangollen and various other things we were entertained by Lowri Williams. Lowri works at Ruthin in the Archives, but in her spare (she really doesn't seem to have any!) she entertains at Plas Newydd in Llangollen, and other venues. For us she gave a monologue based on the diary of one of 'The Ladies of Llangollen' and family papers to be found in the archives. The story was told from the point of view of the 'Ladies' maid who had travelled from Ireland with them, and remained loyal to them throughout their lives.

Lowri gave a brilliant performance, and kept us enthralled throughout, an excellent evening.

Our next meeting is on Monday March 14<sup>th</sup> to be held in the village school, when the children will entertain us, starting at the earlier time of 7-00pm. This month we welcomed several prospective members, and there is always room for more!

**Answers to Quiz No. 3. 1-c 2-a 3-a 4-a 5-b 6-c 7-b 8-c 9-a 10-c**

## **What people write to their Local Authority!**

Will you please send a man to look at my water; it is a funny colour and not fit to drink.

I request permission to remove my drawers in the kitchen.

50% of the walls are damp; 50% have crumbling plaster and 50% are plain filthy.

## **.Wise people say**

A successful marriage isn't finding the right person, it's being the right person.

The best way to get even is to forget.

Ever noticed that the people who are late are often much jollier than the people who have to wait for them?

### **St Dyfnog's Sewing Group**

The first meeting of the Sewing Group will be held in church on Friday March 18<sup>th</sup> at 2-00pm. Initial aim of group:

We will inspect the altar frontal and discuss work to be undertaken.

Decide when and how often we will meet.

Appoint members to specific jobs (e.g. a record and photographs of present condition of frontal, and work undertaken for future reference)

This will be a short meeting, so come along and enjoy a cup of tea, and find out what it is all about.

**Susanne**

### **Yet another tale told in Old Jerusalem**

Many people have happy memories of walking along Hadrian's Wall, that stout defence built to separate Roman Britain from the fierce Picts.

However the Emperor Hadrian's work is not so happily remembered in Jerusalem, where this tale is told:

A Jew walked past the Emperor, and, anxious to please, called out, "Greetings Emperor." Hadrian immediately had him seized and executed for daring to address the Emperor.

A few days later another Jew passed him. Fearful of a similar fate he said nothing. At once Hadrian had him arrested and condemned for failing to greet the Emperor.

Hadrian's courtiers asked him "Why did you execute one Jew for speaking to you and the other for not speaking to you?" "Because I know how to deal with my enemies," was his grim reply.

Whether this is true or not, Hadrian did savagely repress the Bar Kochba revolt in A.D. 132 - 135.

The cost was terrible in both Jewish and Roman lives. Hadrian then razed Jerusalem to the ground and built a splendid heathen city which Jews were forbidden to enter.

Shrines to Jupiter and Venus were erected in the ruins of the Temple and over Calvary. Hadrian also built over the Stable in Bethlehem and planted a grove of trees sacred to Adonis. Thus unintentionally he preserved the site of Our Lord's birth, death and resurrection for future generations.

**H.J.J.**

### **If you're ever called upon to make a speech, here are a few helpful tips:**

1. Leave your script at home. Research your topic thoroughly, write down the main points but don't write out your speech in full - it will sound unnatural. Aim to sound conversational - be yourself.
2. Eye contact is vital with your audience. It exerts pressure on your listeners to pay attention.
3. Humour is important. Once people have laughed, they will listen to what comes next - hoping for another laugh.
4. End your speech powerfully. This can make up for any hiccups along the way. The last sentence of your speech must deliver a memorable punch!

## QUIZ A

### 1. DOLMEN

- (a) A Hungarian coin
- (b) A Turkish robe
- (c) A Megalithic tomb

### 2. PLEIAD

- (a) A Scottish dress
- (b) An 18thC literary club
- (c) A cluster of small stars

### 3. WIMPLE

- (a) A head covering
- (b) A tennis term.
- (c) To opt out of something.

### 4. TRAPPIST

- (a) A Cistercian monk
- (b) A rat-catcher
- (c) Part of a horse harness

### 5. SPURIOUS

- (a) Eager
- (b) Not genuine
- (c) Contemptuous

### 6. SOUPCON

- (a) A small amount
- (b) A thick broth
- (c) A simpleton

### 7. CANTICLE

- (a) A projecting bracket
- (b) A hymn
- (c) Swiss territory

### 8. PETREL

- (a) A solid mass
- (b) A mineral oil
- (c) An oceanic bird

### 9. DERRICK

- (a) The weather forecaster
- (b) A crane
- (c) A dare-devil

### 10. SOBRIQUET

- (a) Serious scholar
- (b) A French Revolutionist
- (c) A nickname

## THREE YEARS IN NEPAL - Part 3

*Living in Patan we feel isolated from the mainstream of Nepalese. We asked the United Mission to move us into the Bazaar in Kathmandu. Our request was taken up and we were moved into the centre of Kathmandu. The house was next to the boy's college. The ground floor was used by the college students for recreation. We occupied the first floor. It was very basic accommodation but very spacious. A Nepali family lived on the top floor. James and Andrea played with their two children. We had a happy time there as the family helped us to settle into life in the Bazaar. Life in the city was hectic but very colourful. The streets were narrow lined with small shops selling saris, flowers for worship, fruit and vegetable stalls, pots and pans, and tailors who could make a suit in a day if required. Beggars sat in various places, some having deliberately maimed themselves. Sacred cows sat in the middle of the road and everyone and everything had to go around them. Temple bells ringing, summoning Nepalese and Tibetans to worship.*

*It is said that there are more temples than homes in Kathmandu. Taxis seemed to continually sound their horns. The smell of incense, food cooking and open drains was all pervading.*

*Again our mode of transport was by rickshaw, bus, and bicycle or on foot. We decided to rent a couple of bicycles. Each had a pillion seat behind so the children could travel too. On one outing Andrea sat behind me and James behind Adrian. Suddenly Adrian saw Andrea and me disappearing between two buses. Adrian had visions of us being squashed between them. He was very relieved when he saw us emerge unharmed further along the road. It was then he decided I would be safer on foot.*

*Rabies was a major concern because of the large number of loose dogs roaming the streets. A bite from one of these could be fatal. Maya's son was bitten by a rabid dog but was saved by a course of eight injections in his stomach.*

*Every day Maya came to help in the house. She was such a help to me as she cooked and as she worked she taught me her language. Maya had made a love marriage outside of her caste. She was a Brahmin but her husband was a lower caste. She was therefore disowned by her family. Later her husband treated her cruelly. She ran away from her village to Kathmandu taking her two children with her. Here she rented a tiny room in the bazaar and managed to find work within the United Mission. Without this help of employment she and her children would have been destitute.*

*Adrian left each day for work travelling by bicycle. At Mission Headquarters he trained Nepalese in bookkeeping and accountancy.*

*Prakash and Kusum, the family who lived above us held weekly bible studies and some of the students attended. Adrian contributed to these studies, as by now his Nepali conversation was good. We both enjoyed these sessions.*

*Nepal is strictly Hindu and converts to Christianity risked being ostracised by their family and community.*

*One event which I shall never forget was when I ordered six chickens on the advice of an employee of the British Embassy. They duly arrived in the boot of a taxi in blistering heat. When the boot was opened my expectation of finding six oven ready chickens was shattered when six live but heat exhausted chickens were removed from the boot. The gatekeeper was highly amused and immediately told Maya to boil water so that he could kill and pluck them before nightfall, otherwise they would be eaten by the snakes. We all laughed about it later.*

*To be continued.....*

### **And finally - Lent Prayers – from Bishop Gregory**

*"I am inviting all members of the diocese to join me again in prayer at 1800hr every evening in Lent, or as near as they can manage, in prayer for our diocesan family. " Prayer Card - in church.*

