

# St. Dyfnog's Church Newsletter.

Llanrhaeadr.

May 2011

From the Vicar

Second Sunday of Easter

On Easter morning we certainly needed bigger words than the word, surprise! We needed strong words to try to deal with what happened on that first Easter Day. We needed words like astounded and astonished, like amazed and awestruck, like dazzled and dumbfounded - it was so incredible!

This Sunday we now meet the disciples again huddled behind "locked doors" frightened, hiding, and, at least in Thomas' case, filled with doubt. They hardly appear to be the foundation stones of a new movement that will change the whole course of human history! Yet there they were, but we know the story of Easter doesn't stop where they were - it goes on - and the central thing the Easter story has to say is that God has moved through our locked doors, just as he did in the Gospel account and has come to us.

So, the Easter story continues and we can continue to be a part of it as individuals and as a Church.

Michael

## Quiz Answers No. 5

1-c 2-b 3-b 4-a 5-c 6-a 7-a 8-c 9-b 10-b

## **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, he 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 AD 132-135. The cost was terrible in both Jewish and Roman lives. Hadrian then raised Jerusalem to the ground and built a splendid heathen city which Jews were forbidden to enter. Shrines to Jupiter and Venus were erected on 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.**

Among the many things said or written by Sir Winston Churchill is the following startling statement- "We are all worms, but I think I am a glow worm".

Even if we are worms, let's be glow worms and lighten the darkness just a bit!

In this year of the fourth centenary of the King James Bible, it is interesting to note that the following phrases were first seen in that Bible:-

by the skin of the teeth

apple of the eye

counting the cost

a word in season

streets paved with gold

labour of love

all things to all men

the right hand of fellowship

burden and heat of the day

the twinkling of an eye

clear as crystal

hold your tongue

thorn in the flesh

pearls before swine

playing the fool

the fat of the land

little by little

blossom as the rose

blind leading the blind

a little bird whispered it

--- and many more.

Guess who?

As a 15-year old, he was expelled from school because, said the headmaster, his lack of interest in his studies was a bad influence on his classmates.

So he sat an examination to gain entry to a different school – and failed to pass it.

At last he found a place in yet another school, finished his training and applied for a post as a teacher. He was turned down.

Then he got a job as a tutor in a boarding school – and was promptly dismissed. Finally, by the influence of his family, he managed to get a humble job in an office.

Layabout. Dunce. Failure. In his time he was known as all of these. Yet he went on to become a university professor, a Nobel prize winner and one of the greatest teachers, mathematicians and physicists the world has ever known.

His name?

Albert Einstein.

H.J.J.

The old verger was telling a visitor about the services in the Parish Church. 'And the vicar's sermons,' he said 'are what I call ox-head sermons'.

'I suppose you mean they are powerful and forward-looking?' suggested the visitor.

'No, not that,' came the reply, 'I mean he has two good points and a lot of bull in between'.

Vicar giving notices: 'This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Roberts to come forward and lay an egg on the altar'

Judge passing sentence on a bigamist: 'I now send you to prison, this is actually, one time in life, when in fact, two rites do make a wrong.'

Business advice: - 'It's not whether you win or lose-it's how you place the blame'.

'When I first started working I used to dream of the day when I might be earning the salary I'm starving on now!'

'The best way to appreciate your job is to imagine yourself without one'

**The Sewing Group** - The Sewing Group has now met on a few occasions, our main aim is the restoration of the old and very delicate Altar frontal. We are very lucky in being led by Susanne Owen, who is very knowledgeable about this type of work, and is therefore able to give us very clear guidance. We are initially carrying out general repairs, covering areas where the silk is perished, and eventually covering with conservation net to prolong its life. To date, we have removed the frontal from its frame, which is now in the process of being re-padded. Un-picking the fringe, for access to the gold work and reinforcing the edge with special tape. Whilst we are working on the frontal it is being stored, rolled up, this roll is suspended to prevent any pressure on the frontal. 3 metres of net has been ordered along with gold thread and suitable embroidery thread for the work to continue. We do not have any time-scale for this project as various things prevent us meeting every week, church being used for other purposes etc. but we will keep you up to date with our progress. If there are anymore needlewomen out there, who would like to join the team, please contact Susanne.

## **FLOWER FESTIVAL JULY 2011**

**ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FLOWER FESTIVAL ARE COMING ALONG WELL - WATCH FOR THE PROGRAMME TO BE IN CHURCH, AND ALERT YOUR FRIENDS TO THIS COMING EVENT.**

### **Sunday Coffee Rota.**

As most of you will be aware we are serving coffee after church on two mornings a month, in an effort to raise money for the Flower Festival, this is putting rather a strain on the 'coffee makers', with this in mind I have put up a list on the church notice board (inside church) hoping that new people will sign up, I have even approached some of the gentlemen of the parish asking for volunteers! Below the coffee rota is a list explaining where everything is kept, and a format to follow, starting on Saturday with the setting up of tables/chairs etc. Please, if you can, will you volunteer? S.vdB.

### **Quotes from Witty Women!**

I have come to the conclusion, after many years of sometimes sad experience, that you cannot come to any conclusion at all. Vita Sackville West.

If I had my life again I'd make all the same mistakes – only sooner. Tallulah Bankhead.  
Never mistake knowledge for wisdom. One helps you make a living the other helps you make a life. Sandra Carey.

Expecting life to treat you well because you are a special person is like expecting an angry bull not to charge because you are a vegetarian. Shari R Barr.

I do want to get rich but I never want to do what there is to do to get rich Gertrude Stein.  
A woman is like a tea bag. Only in hot water do you realise how strong she is. Nancy Reagan.  
I have often wished I had time to cultivate modesty....But I am too busy thinking about myself. Dame Edith Sitwell.

You grow up the day you have your first real laugh-at yourself. Ethel Barrymore.

The real menace with dealing with a five year old is that in no time at all you begin to sound like a five year old.

When fates got it in for you there's no limit to what you have to put up with. Georgette Heyer.  
Never eat more than you can lift. Miss Piggy.

Regret is an appalling waste of energy, you can't build on it, it's only good for wallowing in. Katherine Mansfield.

I've been rich and I've been poor, rich is better. Sophie Tucker.

Never lend your car to anyone to whom you have given birth. Erma Bombeck.

### **Women's Institute.**

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April we welcomed Alison, who gave us an expert demonstration on felt making, telling us a little of the history of the craft. We all enjoyed 'having a go' afterwards, with a fair amount of laughter as we tried to make felt balls without too much splashing and slithering around in soap suds. The next meeting will be held in St. Dyfnog's Church on May 9<sup>th</sup>. At 7-30pm. Subject 'Public Affairs Resolutions' Competition 5 biscuits. All welcome.

### **A Surreal Experience**

Some five years ago I was a delegate at a week-end literary conference, the venue being the Esplanade HOTEL IN Llandudno.

It was organised by the well known writer Peter Finch and in a book which appeared two years ago entitled Real Wales he recalls an encounter in the lift. **I meet Dewi Roberts descending. Dewi is editor of a whole stream of anthologies which gather slices of creativity according to subject – Christmas, birds, childhood, Wales, walking, love, war. He's also a teashop expert having compiled the only guide I've ever seen on the subject: ' Afternoon Tea Venues In North Wales' Scones, knitwear, consideration. There's a decent tea shop above Ottakers in the High Street, he tells me. The conference has got off to a good start.....**

To read a reference to oneself is a surreal experience, I find, I wonder whether other readers have had similar experiences?  
**Dewi Roberts.**

### **Jokes sent in by a new reader**

My mate just hired an Eastern European cleaner, took her 5 hours to Hoover the house. Turns out she was a Slovak.

Came home to-day to find all my doors and windows smashed. What sort of person does that to someone's Advent Calendar.

Just had my water bill of £175 drop on my mat. That's a lot. Oxfam can supply a whole African village for just £2 a month: Time to change supplier I think.

2 women called at my door and asked what bread I ate, when I said white they gave me a lecture on the benefits of brown bread for 30 minutes.  
I think they were Hovis Witnesses.

### **Mothers' Union April 6<sup>th</sup>**

#### **An Open Meeting held at The Vicarage.**

At our meeting on April 6<sup>th</sup>. We welcomed several guests to an afternoon of entertainment by Wendy Grey Lloyd. As ever Wendy gave a polished, professional performance, the subject being 'The Seven Ages.....' this time based on 'hats'. Whilst wearing a variety of hats she wove her stories, recited poems, and generally kept us interested. A personal note was included by members of the audience being brought into the recital. Her amusing account of a local council and their deliberations made us all laugh. The ladies served an excellent tea, Olive provided the raffle, as she always does, and Jane welcomed us to the Vicarage with her usual cheerfulness, to all these people we give our most grateful thanks. It is meetings like this that make our Mothers' Union so popular, and so enjoyable.

**STOP PRESS – YOUR SUPPORT NEEDED!**

**YOU WILL REMEMBER THE GLAN DOMWY GROUP WHO PERFORMED FOR US LAST YEAR WITH THEIR RECORDERS, WHEN WE HAD AN EXCELLENT EVENINGS ENTERTAINMENT, THEY ARE TO RETURN TO GIVE ANOTHER CONCERT WITH THE CHANCEL SINGERS & REVD. BETHAN SCOTTFORD ON FRIDAY JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup>. IF YOU MISSED IT LAST TIME, DO PLEASE MAKE AN EFFORT TO ATTEND. IT WILL BE A TRULY ENTERTAINING EVENING, WITH, I EXPECT, SOME REFRESHMENT AFTERWARDS!**

## **WE NEED A GOOD TURNOUT FOR THIS VISIT**

### **The Book and Plant Fair**

This has been a most successful event. It took two days to arrange the books on the pews, during the second day we had rather a shock when people started to arrive to buy books! Apparently one paper had put April 12<sup>th</sup> as the starting date! These noble customers wandered amongst us sorting out books, eventually we found that we had sold £410 worth. By Wednesday the plants had arrived, Peter and Frankie doing a brisk trade. Many thanks to all who helped on such a regular basis, I know that it is a commitment to make over four days, somebody on the door collecting the money, packing the books, making tea and coffee and keeping the books looking tidy. It can be boring during the quiet spells, but we only had one complaint, a couple arrived and when asked for £1 each for entry (to include tea/coffee & biscuits) decided not to bother, but otherwise the £1 entry was well received. Many thanks to the people who donated biscuits, tea, coffee and milk, which all helped towards the profit. We raised approximately £1,500 in total!

### **St. Dyfnog's Well.**

The condition of the well has deteriorated substantially of late and is cause for concern. It is an historic Grade 2 Listed Building with a very strong association with the Church. According to Thomas Pennant in the 18<sup>th</sup>. Century 'the site was blessed with changing rooms for many visiting bathers, and the spring enclosed in an angular wall, decorated with small human figures'.

Donations from the visiting pilgrims to the well may have helped build the church and our 'jewel in the crown'- the 1533 Jesse Window.

A small group of parishioners and friends would like to form an action group to study the possibility of halting the decline of the Holy Well and preserving its unique heritage for future generations.

An open meeting has therefore been arranged for May 19<sup>th</sup> to be held in church.

Please make every effort to attend as this could be the last chance to 'save' this beautiful part of our village heritage.