

St. Dyfnog's Church Newsletter.

Llanrhaeadr.

November 2010.

From the Vicar

All Saints / All Souls

" See I make all things new. "

This November morning is so calm and not a breath of wind stirs the trees. However the leaves are losing their hold on the parent branches and are beginning to slowly glide to earth. I imagine that we will shortly be out with a rake and brush to use these leaves for compost to enrich the soil for next year's plants.

The world around us continues to show us God's power and love to restore and renew.

In less than half a year the new buds will be so full of new promise - the cycle begins again - new times, new life.

All Saints - an opportunity to celebrate and thank God for people - past - present - and future who reflect His love in the world around them, and of course, those yet to come, who will do so.

All Souls - a reminder that in death life is never lost, but simply changed in the power of Christ's resurrection - journey's end means arriving home in the fullness of our calling.

Visitation - Sunday 12th December - St Mary's Denbigh

Please ensure this date is in your Diary and given high priority !

On this Sunday Bishop Gregory will make his first visit to meet us all as the Deanery of Denbigh Church family - he needs to meet all - not just Clergy and Parish Officers.

There are no Sunday Services in our Parish Churches on that day as the Visitation will begin with a celebration of the Holy Eucharist, followed by an opportunity for discussion with our Bishop about our parishes and issues which will affect us all.

More detail to follow over the next month - Please set the 12th aside now!

Michael

Answers to October Quiz: 1-c 2-a 3-c 4-b 5-c 6-a 7-c 8-b 9-c 10-b.

My sincere apologies for the late appearance of this most interesting article, due to my filing system!! SrdB.

Historical Tour of The Midlands.

This historical tour of The Midlands at the end of June this year proved to be very interesting indeed. The tour was arranged by the Cefn Meriadog Historical Society. Dewi and I have been members of this enterprising Society for years, and I am very proud to be the Vice-**Chairman** of the group who meet monthly in Mari Chapel and in the Summer arrange outings, picnics and walks.

One beautiful summer morning we set off, and our first stop was Bromyard, a very pretty little town with a lovely Norman Church, then on to Stratford. It was very busy with crowds of tourists, and as it was a scorching hot day, ice creams and shade were the priorities. We visited a lovely art exhibition unusually floating on a narrow boat, which bobbed about alarmingly as another boat sailed by.

Onward then to our hotel near Coventry and a well earned rest and a comfortable night's sleep.

Up early the next morning and off to Lemington Spa with its beautiful Georgian architecture and the Assembly Rooms visited for its health giving water in the pump room. It's only a mere trickle these days, so it's hey days are well and truly in the past.

On to Warwick Castle for the afternoon. What a remarkably preserved monument that is. There were knights in full armour rescuing damsels in distress, re-enactments of battles, gardens and a very enjoyable exhibition of falconry. The flights of several huge eagles were breathtaking and of course ice creams were obligatory in the scorching sunshine.

Warwick itself is a town steeped in history, with ancient buildings and gates which once protected the inhabitants.

After this very full day we were glad to be back at the hotel where the days' events were discussed.

The next day our morning was spent at Stoneleigh Abbey, where we had a very interesting guided tour. This beautiful stately home had family connections with Jane Austin. After coffee and cakes we ambled around the gardens and sat by the river, before going on to the Roman Fort at Lunt.

The Guide there took a look at the tired looking hot group that we were, and provided drinks of water for all before explaining the history of the Fort and insisting that Dewi dressed up as a Roman soldier with a very heavy helmet on his head.

Finally we visited Coventry. In the sunshine the colours in the glass of the cathedral windows were magnificent. A large choir was practising there which evoked a lovely atmosphere. We just sat and listened for a while before leaving the Cathedral to visit the ruined earlier church close by. Falcons were nesting at the top of the spire. The cries of these birds was a chilling sound as we explored the ruin that remains after it was destroyed by the German Bombers in 1940. A poignant few words behind the altar "Father Forgive" were our lasting images as we left.

Another bright day saw us leaving our hotel to travel north into Shropshire and the Iron Bridge Gorge museum of Brick Hill. We literally stepped back in time as we explored this Victorian Town. The old shops, the schoolroom, the public house and a greeting from a policeman dressed in Victorian Fashion were really fascinating. We entered the public house just before leaving and joined in with a wonderful lady singer accompanied by a jovial pianist, singing all the old music hall songs, and of course everyone joined in! If you visited the Bank you could actually exchange your money for 'old money'. Everything on sale had two marked prices, old and new. We bought one bread roll for three farthings!

Finally our last visit was to the Iron Bridge itself. Many photographs were taken of this structure.

Our trip came to an end with a surprise visit to the Roman Vineyard near the Roman town of Wroxeter. We tasted the various wines produced here. The vineyard site was chosen by the Romans as it is in a very sheltered position, and the vines were certainly thriving.

Lovely cream scones, cakes and tea were then served to us all then there was an opportunity to buy bottles of any wine you had particularly enjoyed.

The coach was certainly much heavier when we left for home, and there was a certain clanking sound as we went along!

Pamela Roberts.

Jan Morris

I was fourteen years old in 1953 and my reading at that time, as now, included epic accounts of both Arctic exploration and very dangerous attempts to climb mountains.

When Sir John Hunt announced that he was leading an expedition to the then unconquered Mount Everest I was fascinated. For the first time in my life I started reading The Times newspaper. It had obtained the sole right to report on the expeditions progress, and the journalist who went up to base camp with the climbers in order to write reports was an ex-soldier named James Morris.

In the early nineteen sixties James Morris underwent a gender change and from that time onwards adopted the name Jan Morris.

I little thought that one day this world renowned author would become a friend and supporter of my own writings. But I went along to a public event in which she was taking part - afterwards I introduced myself to her and it was agreed that we would keep in touch.

I have since visited her wonderful home near the village of Llanystumdwy, with an open invitation to call whenever I am in the area. Jan and her life-long partner Elizabeth have made me feel very welcome and I never visit without Jan handing me a signed copy of her latest book.

Dewi Roberts

Real grave-stone epitaphs.....

Alice Mary Johnson 1883-1947
Let her RIP.

Mary Anne has gone to rest
Safe at last on Abraham's breast,
Which may be nuts for Mary Anne,
But it's certainly rough on Abraham.

Here lies the body of
SAMUEL YOUNG
Who came here and died
For the benefit of his health.

Here lies the body of JOHN MOUND
Who was lost at sea and never found.

St. Dyfnog's Quiz. No.2

Answer a-b- or c.

Who or what are the following- ?

1. **EPITHALAMION**

- a. an extinct form of elephant.
- b. a poem for a wedding.
- c. an ancient Mongolian.

2. **SCULLION**

- a. a rogue.
- b. an oarsman.
- c. a cook's boy.

3. **HARBINGER**

- a. a forerunner
- b. an excessive drinker.
- c. a harbour master.

4. **SIROCCO**

- a. limestone sediment.
- b. a Sultan.
- c. a wind from the Sahara.

5. **LIMERICK**

- a. a small fruit.
- b. nonsense verse.
- c. a green corn stack.

6. **DULCIMER**

- a. a sweetener.
- b. nonsense verse.
- c. to boil gently.

7. **FRANGIPANE**

- a. an almond paste.
- b. a crumbly loaf of bread.
- c. a flirtatious girl.

8. **HOROLOGIST**

- a. a time machine.
- b. a clockmaker.
- c. a nightmare.

9. **ACACIA**

- a. a cooked nut.
- b. a shout.
- c. a raspberry vinegar

10. **ALB**

- a. a large seabird.
- b. a white vestment.
- c. a former native of Scotland.

Three years in Nepal.

In 1973 Adrian, myself and our two children, James and Andrea attended a Baptist Church in Mold. The church was frequently visited by missionaries. The commitment they had to their work, and the dedication to the people they had gone to serve had a definite influence on our own lives and eventually led us to three years in Nepal.

The Regions Beyond Missionary Union (as it was then known) was already a known society to the Church as they already supported a worker in Peru from the Church.

They made us aware that workers were required in the Kingdom of Nepal. It seemed a million miles away. What were the people like? How would we fit in? With our interest now fired we wanted to know more. We were invited to attend an interview at the R.B.M.U. Headquarters in London.

It was explained to us the Kingdom of Nepal was closed to the outside world until 1953, whilst the rest of the world was developing, Nepal was way behind. The mortality rate was on average around 40-45 years of age. Sickness was rife and the people poor. When the outside world was allowed into the country, missionaries were the first to enter.

The geography of the country was briefly explained to us, but, nothing could really prepare us for what was to come.

One could say it was foolhardy or a step of faith. We trust it was the latter. James then 5, and Andrea 3 were not aware of the way of life to come. Neither did we.

Friends in the Church were very supportive, we were leaving family, friends, our home, and financial security. We literally did not know what was ahead of us.

In January 1976 on a cold wet morning we left our home near Mold and travelled to London, Heathrow to fly out to Nepal.

to be continued next month- don't miss the next exciting episode.

. Operation Christmas Child.

We had two very successful afternoons, when a group of us gathered in Church to cover the boxes for Operation Christmas Child, an occupation new to some, but tackled with great enthusiasm! Many thanks to everybody. Thanks must also go to Poppy Webster who yet again has produced two boxes of woollen hats, for boys and girls, this is a huge effort, and we are most grateful. **The filled boxes are due back in Church on November 11th.** St. Dyfnog's is a 'drop off' point, and in the next newsletter we will be able to tell you if we have beaten last years record of 265 boxes. Ysgol Pantpastynog held their Harvest Thanksgiving at St Dyfnog's on 11th October and brought along over fifty boxes - well done to all the children and parents ! Ysgol Bro Cinmeirch will also be supporting the shoe Box Appeal and shortly their boxes too will arrive in church - well done again ! SvdB.

Wrinklies' Health Regimes.

Eat well, stay fit, die anyway.

The only way to keep your health is to eat what you don't want, drink what you don't like and do what you'd rather not. Mark Twain.

The wrinkly's diet; forget the health food. I need all the preservatives I can get.

We concentrate so much on our St. Dyfnog that we overlook another holy man who was actually born in our parish. He was Ieuan Was Badrick (John the servant of Patrick) born in the old farm on the right as we leave Llanrhaeadr for Denbigh - Llwyn Mawr.

Miracles were accomplished by him when he was only twelve years old; he saved the life of one of his father's servants after a deadly snake bite and prophesied that no snake would be seen in that area till Judgement Day! One day he noticed that his father's crops were being devastated by crows whereupon he led them into a barn and closed the door upon them all.

When he saw these miracles, Tudur, his father, decided to send Ieuan to St. David's to be educated by Patrick, Archbishop of Menevia. When his teacher moved to Ireland, Ieuan and many other pupils went with him. Here, Ieuan performed more miracles, so much so that Patrick commanded the young man to return to Wales to work his miracles among his own people. So Ieuan returned to Llwyn Mawr, intending to raise a church nearby. This he was forbidden to do by an angelic messenger, but rather he was to travel south until he would see a roebuck rising before him. Ieuan obeyed, travelled south and at the place we know as Cerrigydrudion, saw a roebuck rising and there he built his church, still standing to-day dedicated to Mary Magdalene. HJJ.

A Meeting of Ladies known officially as Llanrhaeadr Women's Institute.

October 12th. 2010 saw Llanrhaeadr WI meeting in the community room at Ysgol Bro Cinmeirch, ready to plan our next year's activities. But first we must propose and adopt President and Treasurer's reports and choose and elect our officers and committee members.

The President's report outlined our activities for 2010, a varied programme which included a visit to Springs Spa, a garden visit to Stella Maris, talk on the RNLI, Eisteddfod concert from the children of Ysgol Bro Cinmeirch, a members night at St. Dyfnog's Church, a lively talk - 'model to osteopath' and a Christmas Party. We had 2 theatre visits, - 'panto' at Theatre Clwyd, 'Calendar Girls' at Venue Cymru and a visit to Oriel Mon to see Kyffin Williams exhibition.

We have also had some lively discussions on topical matters - the importance of honey bees, re-cycling and the campaign 'country of origin labelling', and are not afraid to inform 'the powers that be' how we feel about issues which concern our village, country and wider world. Indeed, in the near future we will be visiting local supermarkets to check the labelling on fresh meat and fish products! The National Federation of Women's Institutes is asking for clear and accurate information so that shoppers can make an informed choice on the purchase of fresh meat and fish.

A 'paned' is always on the menu. So whilst sipping and munching, we chatted about next year's activities. It seems a *visit* to Nepal is on the agenda, Africa too, an 'Ask the Panel' with local celebrities, a story of 'The Ladies of Llangollen' and visits - to the theatre, perhaps Port Sunlight and/or the National Library of Wales at Aberystwyth. Can we fit in some felt-making, a talk on 'honey' and the Hearing Dogs? Of course we can! **We're Llanrhaeadr WI !**

Why not join us for a visit? We meet on 2nd. Monday of the month - our next meeting is on Monday 15th. November, Ysgol Bro Cinmeirch, with Christmas Crafts. We're sure you'll like us. **We look forward to welcoming you!**

Mothers' Union - October.

We were guests of Marion and Patrick Beaumont at Tros y Ffordd for the October meeting. There was a record attendance and several visitors were welcomed. Marion has made a special study of the architecture and historic features of many of the old churches in our area and this was demonstrated in the many unique slides she showed us with the help of Patrick. They were warmly thanked by Pamela Roberts. Afterwards we enjoyed a splendid tea provided by Marion herself and by Mary Lloyd and Jean MacCarter. It was a most enjoyable afternoon in bright sunshine among the autumn colours surrounding Tros y Ffordd.

H.JJ.

Today's children, when they visit our church and look at the Jesse Window, declare that Jesse is on his mobile ! (check this on your next visit)

Newsletter Feedback

Just three - two wondered if we should include names of those who are sick, births, marriages, deaths and new church members.

This is sometimes fraught with difficulty as this type of information is subject to the constraints of the Data Protection Act and is also of a personal nature.

Perhaps on a more positive note an e mail from Joan & Tony Kellet in Canada -
" I enjoy it immensely. It is informative and interesting as well as being varied. Congratulations on maintaining a web presence. I worshipped at St Dyfnog's with my family - Kellet, from Ystrad Farm, some 55 years ago - I particularly remember what a beautiful Church it is.

Stop Press

There is a strong possibility that we will have the Brynhyfryd Choir & Musicians with us for a Concert in Church during December - watch this space!!

**If after church, you wait a while, someone will greet you with a smile
But, if you quickly rise and flee, we'll all seem still and cold maybe
The one beside you in the pew perhaps is just a stranger too
All here, like you, have fears and cares; all of us need each other's prayers**

(A little verse and thoughts from Dianne & Albie in Scotland !)