

St. Dyfnog's Church Newsletter.

November 2011.

Llanrhaeadr.

From the Vicar

“ Be prepared! ”

November is a month of “ Super Saints, ” but also of “ All Saints, ” people just like us!

All have in common a sense of readiness to answer God's call upon their lives at any time and we too answer that call today, in the grace of the present moment, as the season of Advent approaches.

Sometimes we have an amazing talent for complicating what is simple and for casting a mist of confusion over what should be quite clear.

Each present day is all that we need to cope with - the past is the past, forgiven by God - the future has not yet come to meet us and needs to be confidently left in God's hands.

So we are to let the light of Christ shine through our own lives, for this flame of faith will help us to see everything in life in the light of God's love.

The flame of hope will make us confident of God's goodness in our lives, to give us support and protection and the flame of love for others will be nurtured, and burn brightly with understanding.

Faith, hope and charity, these three gifts of God, are the three flames which we must encourage to reflect ever more brightly in our own lives and in the lives of others.

Advent - a time for believing - hoping - caring.

Michael

York, Lancaster and Denbigh.

The series of battles, murders and executions between 1453 and 1485 are known to history as the Wars of the Roses, although the white rose was a Yorkist badge, the red rose of Lancaster was not, only being adopted during the reign of Henry VIII.

The cause of the Wars was a struggle between the houses of Lancaster and York for the English throne, and who would then control, the then king, Henry VI. Henry was the son of England's warrior King, Henry V, victor of Agincourt, but was a very different monarch to his warlike father. He was a kindly simple man, founder of Eton College and much given to religion. He was completely under the domination of his wife Margaret of Anjou, daughter of the King of Sicily, who did all she could to keep the throne in the hands of Lancaster for her son Edward, Prince of Wales, although it is doubtful that Henry VI was Edward's father; a more likely possibility was the Lancastrian Duke of Somerset.

The leader at this time of the Yorkist party was Richard Duke of York, but when he was killed along with his first son, Edmund, Earl of Rutland, at the battle of Wakefield, the mantle fell upon his eldest son Edward Earl of March. Edward was to win a great victory on the Welsh border, successfully defeating the Lancastrians at Mortimer's Cross, when three suns were seen to appear in the sky, giving Edward the motto of: 'the sunne in splendour'.

One of the Lancastrians captured at Mortimer's Cross was Owen Tudor, who has secretly married Katherine of Valois, the widow of Henry V, this marriage only being discovered upon the death of Katherine. Owen being drawn to her attention when he fell into her lap, drunk. They had several children, most notable Edmund Tudor 1st. Earl of Richmond, and the father of Henry VII, and Jasper Tudor, all the children becoming half brothers and sisters to Henry VI. The day after the battle of Mortimer's Cross a number of Lancastrians were executed in the market square of Hereford, one of these being Owen Tudor, who did not believe he would be executed until the collar of his red velvet doublet was ripped off. As he laid his head on the block he said "The head shall lie upon the block, that was once to lie on Queen Katherine's lap". After his execution his head was placed on the market cross, and it is said a mad woman combed his hair, washed his face and set a hundred candles burning around him.

Even in death Owen had a way with the ladies.

It was his son Jasper that Denbigh would remember.

Henry VI had granted to his half brother the Lordship of Denbigh and Denbighshire, neglecting to tell him that the Castle and Town were in Yorkist hands, Jasper would have to win his half brother's gift.

Once before Jasper had attacked Denbigh in 1459, holding the town and castle briefly, until the Yorkist Sir Richard Herbert attacked him there, but now Jasper was here both to take the town and seek revenge against the Welsh Yorkists who he saw as being responsible for the death of his father. He brought with him 2000 Welsh Lancastrians, but was only successful in burning the town, within the walls, and not being able to take the castle.

York, Lancaster and Denbigh cont.

Perhaps, it is at this time that the town moved from inside the walls, to the land outside, the townspeople not wishing to be continually placed in harm's way.

In answer to Jasper's attack on Denbigh, Edward IV sent William Earl of

Pembroke, and a large army to drive the Lancastrians out, this they did with great ferocity, provoking the rhyme:

*In Harlech and Denbigh, every door flaming.
The Vale of Conwy reduced to embers,
In the year of our Lord 1408.*

Sir John Wynne in his 'History of the Gwydir Family' states that the whole country was 'reduced to cold coals'.

In 1470 Edward IV was besieged at Denbigh, and forced to leave the country by his one time friend and ally the Earl of Warwick, the 'Kingmaker'. He returned in 1471, defeating, and killing Warwick at the Battle of Barnet, and defeating Queen Margaret's forces at the Battle of Tewkesbury, where her son the Prince of Wales was killed, and she went into exile.

Henry VI was taken prisoner and ended his days in the Tower of London, probably murdered by the victorious Yorkists.

Denbigh's loyalty to the Yorkist cause had caused it great suffering, but with Edward IV securely on the throne, a grant of 1,500 marks, about £1000, was given to the Burgesses of the town towards rebuilding 'by the occasion of burning of the same town violently done'.

The balance of 200 marks, £133, was paid by Edwards brother Richard, when he ascended the throne as Richard III.

With the Lancastrians defeated, Jasper Tudor fled to France from his castle in Tenby, taking with him his nephew Henry Tudor, Earl of Richmond, the only hope of a Lancastrian claim to the throne.

They would return in 1485, defeat Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth, and place Henry Tudor on the throne as Henry VII.

**John Oliver Hunt
Denbigh.**

Answers to Quiz. Trains, boats and

- 1.a suspension bridge.
2. The Snowdon Mountain Railway.
- 3.William Edwards.
- 4.Swansea.
- 5.1966
- 6.the first scheduled helicopter service.
- 7.'Babs' was the car in which John G. Parry achieved the world land speed record on Pendine Sands in 1926.
- 8.the first turn-pike road.
- 9.Pontarddulais.
- 10.1895.
- 11.the first aircraft designed and built in Wales, in 1907.
- 12.the Gwalia, in Cardiff in 1922.
- 13.the Britannia rail-bridge across the Menai Strait.
- 14.The Neath Canal.

More new dog varieties!

Pekingese +Llasa Apso --- Peekassoo, an abstract dog.

Labrador Retriever + Curly Coated Retriever ----- Lab Coat Retriever, the choice of research

scientists.

Terrier + Bulldog -----Terribull a dog that makes awful mistakes.

A CAUTIONARY TALE.....

Don't if you have a nervous disposition, make the mistake of acquiring a pedigree Ragdoll kitten.

It is a challenging and life changing experience.

Nevertheless, it is a joy to be owned by Just William who is adorable, loving, obedient (sometimes), endlessly entertaining, but very naughty. He loves loud noise, sits on the washing machine or spin dryer, follows the vacuum, and knocks off brass ornaments on the mantleshelf which then fall on the tiled hearth with a satisfying crash. He is intrigued by the television, watching Wimbledon was fun although he didn't catch a single ball!! He has disconnected the T.V. Cables several times and reduced the colour to an impregnable grey fog. T.V. Engineer's call-out fees are costly, so I have become adept at 're-tuning the set'

William's latest obsession is to search behind pictures, perhaps for spiders, particularly the large family portrait in a heavy gilt frame, lifting the bottom of the frame and letting go with a bang. I dread to think what would happen if it fell on him. He adores my long-suffering dog and follows him everywhere, usually clinging on to his hind leg or tail.

Despite his naughtiness and resulting havoc, I love him to bits and would hate to be without him.

Margaret Armer

Operation Christmas Child

Boxes to be returned to St. Dyfnog's Church during the first week of November.

Many thanks to those ladies who spent time covering the boxes
Further details in our next Newsletter

CHEESE AND WINE EVENING.

ON OCTOBER 21ST A SPLENDID 'CHEESE AND WINE EVENING' WAS HOSTED BY SANDRA EDWARDS AT HER HOME TAN-Y-PARC. ENTERTAINMENT WAS PROVIDED

BY GILLIAN DAVIES AND LIN. BELLISS, WHO SANG AND PLAYED THEIR GUITARS, THIS AMAZING COUPLE MANAGED TO SING EVERY REQUEST, AND THERE WERE MANY! THE BUFFET WAS PROVIDED BY SANDRA WITH THE HELP OF MANY FRIENDS, IT LOOKED AND TASTED WONDERFUL. AS USUAL OLIVE RAN THE RAFFLE WITH MANY PRIZES HAVING BEEN DONATED. AN EXCELLENT EVENING WAS HAD BY ALL AND £200 WAS RAISED FOR CHURCH FUNDS. MANY THANKS SANDRA, THANKS ALSO TO HER UNFORTUNATE DOGS WHO HAD TO SPEND THE EVENING IN A BEDROOM!

The King James Bible.

We are all aware that this year we are celebrating four hundred years of the King James Bible, the

Bible that we all grew up with.

I have just read of a most unusual celebration of this fact – the biggest Community Bible ever. What is it?

Anyone – from shoppers to celebrities – in the whole of the British mainland, in forty centres, is being invited to inscribe, in his or her own handwriting, two verses of the Bible, thirty thousand verses in all. The finished version will be presented in Westminster Abbey on November 16th in the presence of the Queen. Prince Charles gave the project its kick-start by inscribing the first two verses of Genesis. This version will be in very truth “The People's Bible”

H.J.J.

Harvest Sunday

I write this on Harvest Sunday when our church collection will be given to Christian Aid. Did you know that coffee was the focus of this year's Christian Aid Week? Coffee mornings were very much in evidence and in Wales three of our Bishops took part. In England, Scotland and Wales, twenty-two bishops and ministers tried their hands at being 'baristas' for the day – all to raise awareness of how small-scale coffee farmers in Nicaragua have been able to work their way out of poverty with the help of Christian Aid's support for a co-operative initiative. Seven hundred farmers are now involved, benefiting more than four thousand people.

Another initiative this year is to send as many chemically treated mosquito nets as possible to Africa, where there are nearly 250 million cases of malaria a year, and one million deaths.

“Every penny we receive will be spent on community health projects like these”, reports Christian Aid News.

Read in a newspaper: - Army vehicle disappears - An Australian Army vehicle worth \$74,000 has gone missing after being painted with camouflage.....

Joke du Jour

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, 'Why is the bride

dressed in white?'

The mother replied 'Because white is the colour of happiness, and to-day is the happiest day of her life'

The child thought about this for a moment then said 'So why is the groom wearing black?'

A little girl dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Sunday school. As she ran she prayed, 'Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord don't let me be late!'

While she was running and praying, she tripped on the curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again. As she ran she once again began to pray, 'Dear Lord, please don't let me be late....But please don't shove me either!'

Three boys are in the playground bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, 'My father scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, they give him £50....'

The second boy says, 'That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give him £100.'

The third boy says, 'I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect the money!'

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to 'Honour thy father and thy mother', she asked 'Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?'

Without missing a beat, a little boy answered, 'Thou shall not kill'

Is the world going mad? By lines from a local paper.

County to pay £250,00 to advertise lack of funds. (do we elect these people?)

What senior citizens are worth

Did you know we older folk are worth a fortune? We have silver in our hair, gold in our teeth, stones in our kidneys, lead in our feet and gas in our stomachs!

I have become older since I last saw you, a few changes have come my way. Frankly I have become a frivolous old woman!!

I am seeing six gentlemen every day! As soon as I wake up Will Power helps me out of bed, then I go to see Jimmy Riddle and then it is time to breakfast with Mr. Kellogg, followed by the refreshing company of Mr. Tetley or my other friend known only by his initials PG.

Then someone I don't like at all – Arthur Itis – he knows he is not welcome, but insists on being there, and what is more he stays all day. Even then he does not like to stay in one place, so he takes me from joint to joint. After such a hectic day I am glad to go to bed (and with Johnny Walker too!!!) Oh yes I am now flirting with Al Zheimer!

The vicar called the other day and said that at my age I should be thinking of the hereafter. So I told him I did all the time. For no matter where I am, the bedroom, the sitting room or the garden, I ask myself, 'Now what am I here for?' Well I will close now and hope that Will Power is your constant companion too, but do make sure his friend Emma Royd does not creep up on you from behind! And watch out for the crafty one Gerry Atric!

Toast Cups

Prep time 10 mins.

Cook time 10 mins.

Makes 24.

It's a good idea to keep some of these in the freezer. They make great containers for many hot or cold fillings.

*Ingredients; 2 tablespoons butter softened.
textured*

! pound loaf of thin sliced firm-

bread.

- 1.pre-heat oven to 200 c. Gas6 Butter insides of muffin tins. (1 1/2" size)*
- 2.Using a plain or fluted 2-3 inch biscuit cutters cut rounds from the bread. Press into muffin cups to line bottom and sides.*
- 3.Bake until edges are golden brown, about 10 mins. Cool on rack.*
- 4.Store in airtight tin for up to 3 days. Or freeze.*

This is an interesting filling for Toast Cups.

Smoked salmon and Parmesan Cups.

8 ozs. Natural cream cheese, softened

cup grated Parmesan cheese (3 oz.)

teasp. Hot pepper sauce

Dash of lemon juice.

3 ozs. Thinly sliced smoked salmon.

32 Toasted Cups.

Sprigs of dill or parsley to decorate.

1.Preheat oven to 200c Gas 6.

2.In a small bowl, or food processor combine, cream cheese, Parmesan, hot sauce and lemon juice. Blend Well.

3.Cut salmon into 32 pieces and place inside each toast cup. Spoon or pipe about 2 teasps. of cheese mixture over salmon top each with sprig of dill.

4. Bake until cheese is just softened, about 5 mins.

5.

Church in Wales - Provincial Review Group

This group is reviewing roles and responsibilities within the church, on its " fitness for purpose, " and will be making recommendations for the medium and long term future.

On the 28th November, following Choral Evensong at the Cathedral, there will be an opportunity for individual questions to be put to the group - All are welcome.

If you would like further information, please speak with me.

Michael

N.B. Christmas Fayre - Saturday 3rd December