

St. Dyfnogs Church Newsletter.

Llanrhaeadr.
September 2009

From the Vicar

" Do not look forward to what might happen tomorrow, the same Everlasting Father who cares for you today will take care of you tomorrow and everyday. Either He will shield you from suffering or He will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace then, and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginings. "

Words from Frances de Sales,1622, who encouraged the Christians of his day to pursue a life of holiness in all aspects of their lives. Francis encouraged people to find God in the " hum drum " of their daily lives.

In his book *Introduction to the Devout Life*, Frances reminded people that the devout life - the pursuit of holiness - can be practised anywhere :
" I want to teach people who live in crowded cities within their families, in the middle of domestic cares at home or in the press of public affairs in their professional life It's a mistake to want to banish the devout life from the soldier's camp the manual worker's workshop, the court of princes, the homes of married couples. "

This may at first sight seem a little removed from ourselves as we are surrounded by images of the successful and encouraged to try and become like the " celebs " by using their shampoo or make-up - because, as the advertisers tell us " your worth it! "

With their failed relationships and dysfunctional lifestyles the

majority of our " celebs " are more to be pitied rather than copied.
They too are part of our every day lives and need our prayers, I'm sure.

WINDOWS & WARRIORS

Michael LLANRHAEADR IN THE CIVIL WAR

When Charles the first raised his first standard at Nottingham on the August 22nd 1642, declaring war on Parliament, he divided the countries of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales into rival factions, putting neighbour against neighbour , brother against brother and King against Parliament

This can be best stated in part of Kipling's poem on the battle of Edgehill;

'And the raw astonished ranks stand fast
To slay or to be slain
By men they new in the kindly past
That shall never come again. -

In North Wales most Castles were held for the King, not least of these was the fortress of Denbigh, its Governor Sir William Salusbury, of Rhug and Bachymbyd, fortifying the Castle and town walls, at his own expense.

By 1645, Parliaments New Model Army was sweeping all opposition away, and a strong force under the command of General Sir Thomas Mytton, arrived in the Vale of Clwyd. They laid siege to Ruthin Castle, which surrendered after six weeks, and by the 17th. of April 1646 were making their way towards Denbigh.

At what period of time did the villagers in Llanrhaeadr decide to hide the Jesse Window? Probable, when the siege of Ruthin was taking place, they must have had information of what happened to the church windows in the towns of Nantwich and Wrexham, this was probable relayed to them by, one Richard Symonds, a well born Royalist trooper, who served with the Earl of Lichfield.

Symonds kept a diary of the marches of the Royalist Army, and when arriving in the Vale was fulsome in his praise of the churches in Ruthin and Llanrhaeadr, and it could have been on his advice that the Jesse Window was dismantled and hidden, probable buried in the woods. To the strongly Protestant troops of General Mytton, anything as ornate as the Jesse Window would have been seen as Papist, and at high risk of being destroyed.

The Civil War was a war of Religion as well as Monarchy against Parliament.

On Friday November 7th., the Royalists held a rendezvous of all the troops in the area on Denbigh Green, then an open piece of ground, and that night the Royalist Officers made their headquarters in Llanrhaeadr at Sir Evan Lloyds house.

As more Parliamentary troops now freed from the Siege of Chester were able to arrive in the Vale, the Royalists withdrew towards Denbigh, Sir William Vaughan's Cavalry and Infantry opposing General Mytton on Denbigh Green but without success, had to flee towards Llanrwst.

On April 7th. 1646 a skirmish took place at Llanrhaeadr, with a force from Denbigh of one hundred and twenty cavalry, and thirty 'rifles' probable Dragoons, and a party of Parliamentarians under Captain Price. The Royalists made a night march from the Castle but Parliamentary scouts gave advance warning of their

approach, and their attack was unsuccessful. The Royalist party on their return to the town being ambushed by Colonel Carter and the 'horse guards', taking many prisoners and capturing forty horses, along with weapons and ammunition.

Many such encounters must have taken place during the siege of Denbigh, and it was in one of these that Edward Wynne was killed, serving as a Captain of Infantry, the spot where he fell being known afterwards as Captains Bridge, between Brookhouse and Whitchurch.

Colonel Salisbury made a request to General Mytton that the Captains body be buried in the churchyard at Llanrhaeadr, and that a party of Musketeers be allowed to fire a volley over the grave. One can imagine Myttons' thoughts of the wisdom of allowing a troop of the enemy behind his lines, for whatever purpose. Mytton came up with a compromise, his troops would meet the funeral party at the Ystrad Bridge and escort the corpse to its resting place, and his troops would fire a volley, in respect of a fallen enemy.

A very civil war, indeed.

The Funeral Party would probably have made its way from the Town directly to the Ystrad Bridge, passing through the Parliamentary artillery lines, in what is now the grounds of Howells School, where the earthworks can still be seen.

It would be nice to imagine that Salisbury and Mytton sat their horses, knee to knee while the Captains body was transferred, and talked of happier times when they were younger and playmates together.

The Captains body was laid to rest in the churchyard, with all military honours, as promised.

The Tombstone reading:

**'Here lyeth ye body
Of Capt Edward Wynne.
4th son of Edwd Wynne.
He dy'd in the
Defence of Denbigh
Castle when besieged
By Oliver Cromwells
Army.**

The tombstone is in error, as Cromwell was then only a General, serving in the East Midlands and never set foot in North Wales.

Denbigh Castle surrendered in October 1646, and the imprisonment and subsequent execution of Charles Stuart brought about the end of the First Civil War.

The restoration of the Monarchy in 1660, although with much limited power, finally brought an end to the Wars. In 1661 the Jesse Window was replaced in the church, Colonel William Salisbury defender of Denbigh had died in 1660, heavily fined by Parliament for his loyalty to Charles, and was buried in Llanynys.

His 'enemy' Thomas Mytton, served Parliament to the end.

This article began with part of a poem by a more modern poet, Kipling.

Let it end with a contemporary quote from a letter by Sir William Waller, the Parliamentarian to his friend Sir Ralph Hopton, a Royalist:

'That great God which is the searcher of my heart knows with what a sad sense I go upon this sevice, and with what perfect hatred I detest this war without an enemy'.
John Hunt. July 2009

This excellent cake was served at the Flower Festival, and was greatly enjoyed.

Citrus tray bake.

Prep. Time 15 mins. Makes 16.

Cooking time 40 mins.

Per serving 290 cal. 12g. Fat. (5g. Sat. fat) 30g. Sugar, 0.5g salt.

125g. Butter, softened , plus extra for greasing tin.

230g golden castor sugar.

250g natural yogurt.

3 large eggs, separated.

Juice of ½ an orange.

Zest of 1 lime.

100g plain flour, extra for dusting tin.

150g fine semolina.

2 tsp. Baking powder.

75g. Ground almonds.

For the icing.

200g. Icing sugar.

Zest of 1 orange.

Juice of 1 lemon and 1 lime.

Method.

1. Pre-heat oven to 180c, fan 160c, gas 4. Grease and flour a 23cm square cake tin.
2. In a large bowl, whisk together the butter and sugar. When light and creamy, beat in the yogurt, egg yolks orange juice and lime zest. Sift in flour, semolina and baking powder. Mix well, then stir in almonds.
3. In another bowl, whisk the egg whites to soft peaks. Lightly fold into the cake mixture until well incorporated, then spoon into the cake tin. Bake for 40 mins.
4. Remove cake from tin and cool on a rack. Meanwhile, sift icing sugar into a bowl and stir the remaining ingredients. Drizzle over the warm cake and leave to set.

LINKS.

I visit a lady aged 104 from time to time, she lives in a residential home and now can clearly recall details of her working life as a district nurse in rural Denbighshire.

This link with the past is something which I value.

Sometime ago I met the poet Ruth Padel who is the great-great grand-daughter of Charles Darwin.

When I was a very young man I met the last superintendent of the St. Asaph Workhouse.

When I was a full time student at Harlech College the distinguished philosopher Bertrand Russell came along to speak about the threat of nuclear war. I had an opportunity to shake hands with him. He was an old man at this time but, quite apart from anything else, was a member of that almost legendary group of intellectuals who formed what became known as the Bloombury Group.

These links are important, for the unrecorded past can be lost in a generation.

Dewi Roberts.

Does anybody else have memories of meeting famous/interesting people who have left a mark on their lives? Perhaps we could record them in the Newsletter.

HARVEST FESTIVAL LUNCH.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 11TH. THIS EVENT WILL BE HELD THIS YEAR AT THE BROOK HOUSE MILL RESTAURANT. 12.45PM. LUNCH CONSISTING OF MAIN COURSE AND SWEET. COST £12.

**BOOKING SHEET AND MENU CHOICE WILL BE IN CHURCH.
BOOKING NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 30TH.**

Ten little churchmen.

Ten little churchmen went to church when it was fine, but it started raining, and then there were nine.

Nine little churchmen stayed up very late, one overslept himself, and then there were eight.

Eight little churchmen on the road to heaven, one joined a rambling club, and then there were seven.

Seven little churchmen heard of Sunday 'flicks', one thought he'd like to go, then there were six.

Six little churchmen kept the place alive, one bought a television set, then there were five.

Five little churchmen seemed loyal to the core, the Pastor upset one of them then there were four.

Four little churchmen argued heatedly, over ceremonial then there were three.

Three little churchmen sang the service through, got a hymn they didn't know, and then there were two.

Two little churchmen disputed who should run the next church concert; then there was one.

One faithful churchman, knowing what to do, got a friend to come to church, then there were two.

Two sincere churchmen each sought one more. So their numbers doubled, then there were four

Four sturdy churchmen simply couldn't wait till they found four others, then there were eight.

Eight eager churchmen searching round for souls, working, praying, witnessing, drew others in by shoals,

Shoal and shoals at every service, cramming every pew
O God, supply this zeal and grace in my own church life too!

Contributed by Pamela A Roberts.

Attic Sale

On a rather drizzly Saturday morning we gathered early in the Vicarage yard to set out our stalls for the Attic Sale. A huge variety of goods had been donated and were soon displayed for the opening at 10-30am. The sale started with the usual rush of keen 'car booters' looking, and finding bargains! By mid-day the sun was out and many people enjoyed the excellent salad lunch served by the two Margarets and BBQ cooked by Peter. This proved very popular, and went on well into the afternoon. The event raised £1000 for church funds, and thanks to the hard work of all was a successful and rewarding event.

A Cook,'s Tour of the Past . (continued)

16th and early 17th Century.

The rise of the Middle class merchant society led to monopoly ploys that raised the prices of grain and meat and worsened the plight of the poor. The fishing industry was radically effected by the Reformation and the loss of fast days. As the Puritans gained in power exotic foods were frowned upon and festivals disappeared, while excessive drinking was curbed. Good plain fare became a British tradition. The medieval ragouts and fricasses became nasty foreign food - not meat and veg! The pudding, however, remained supreme. (it was sometimes served before the meat to reduce the appetite) (is this the origin of Yorkshire pudding being served before the meat course, as is often the case in Yorkshire families?)

Samual Pepys records in his diary of the 1660's any special item cooked at home - a piece of venison, a mutton pie, a hare, or even a lobster. His wife was a rather erratic housewife. Sometime she would spend most of the day cooking pies, at another time he was compelled to get food delivered for dinner. He was concerned to provide ample five or six course meals if he had visitors, but would employ an outside cook to provide chickens, ham and fish. Washing day meant 'humble pie!' (the servants were wakened by 4am. To start the day's labours)

Trade abroad was being developed. Shipping companies like the East Indian were introducing coffee and tea. By the end of the 17th. Century coffee houses were opening all over London and eating houses became centres for the various clubs springing up, meeting houses for literary or political discussions or more dashing groups like the wealthier, more licentious Hell-Fire Club.

(to be continued)

The Things Children Say!

One summer evening during a violent thunderstorm a mother was tucking her son into bed. She was about to turn off the light when he asked with a tremor in his voice "Mummy, will you sleep with me to-night?" The mother smiled and gave him a reassuring hug. "I can't dear," she said "I have to sleep in Daddy's room". A long silence was broken at last by his shaky little voice: "The big sissy".

It was that time during the Sunday morning service, for the children's sermon. All the children were invited to come forward. One little girl was wearing a particularly pretty dress and, as she sat down, the vicar leaned over and said, "That's a very pretty dress. Is it your Easter dress?" The little girl replied, directly into the vicar's clip-on microphone, "Yes, and my Mum say it's a bitch to iron."

Why does a Jewish surname like Rosenthal appear in North Wales?

My late husband's father was born in Lithuania and became a Rabbi. He was sent on a mission round Europe to collect money for Jewish charities. He met a Jesuit priest and was converted to Christianity, learned English and was ordained. He was given a parish in the East End of London; St. Mark's, Whitechapel with a special dispensation to preach in Hebrew. His son David was given the parish of Sparkbrook in Birmingham, also a poor parish. They liked ritual, so were what is called High Church, which brought a bit of colour into the lives of the poor people in the area.

David Rosenthal married Elizabeth Ravenhill of an old Herefordshire family, who rented a cottage in Llanfair, near Harlech, and then bought Tanybuarth, a series of four old drovers cottages. Ned Ravenhill returned there but moved out for the few weeks when the family arrived on holiday. Elizabeth(Bess) and David had two children Margaret and Michael.

A new Bishop of Birmingham arrived: he was very Low Church, so several Churches refused to cooperate and continued to keep their ritual. When David died suddenly in 1938, Bishop Butler arrived at St. Agatha's and removed all signs of ritual including the removal of the Blessed Sacrament, and Bess had to move out of the Rectory and go and live with her sister in Cambridge. Margaret was a schoolteacher, but Michael went to work at Harrods, joining the Naval Reserve. So he was called up and was involved in rescuing people from the Athenia, sunk by a German submarine before war had been declared.

In 1945, as a Naval Officer, he went to Cypher School, where he met Second Officer Molly, one of the tutors. They married the following year, and spent their honeymoon at Tanybuarth Cottage near Harlech. In due course their children and grand-children spent their holidays there.

Michael died in 1981. Mark was working in this area, so Molly moved to Tandderwen. After 13 years she moved to Llanrhaeadr. Now there are Rosenthals in Rosneigr and near Mold, where Molly has two great-grandchildren. So the Rosenthals are spreading in North Wales.

Molly Rosenthal.

(We would love to have more articles like this - how about the history of your family?)

Weekly Giving Envelope Scheme

We have now ordered our sets of envelopes to cover each week during 2010.

Mr Phillip Williams, Parish Treasurer, reports that we are already seeing an increase in the value of weekly giving via Gift Aid. Currently we have just twenty four people who use the envelope scheme. (Electoral Role 106!)

If our income is to grow in order to meet ever rising costs we must further develop the use of weekly envelopes - please order yours a.s.a.p, from Mr Reg Fardoe.

Mother's Union

On Friday July 31st. Mothers' Union members and husbands enjoyed one of the best outings of recent years.

We travelled in the Community Bus, ably driven by Philip, to Bryn-y-Maen Church above Colwyn Bay. (the Vicar's previous parish)

Four kind ladies were waiting to greet us and after the Vicar had given us the story of the church, we enjoyed coffee and biscuits.

The church, built in 1897 is called Christ Church but is more generally known as "The Cathedral of the Hills" a name given to it by the Archbishop of Wales on its consecration in 1899. It has an interesting story.

In the area lived a poor girl named Eleanor and she became maid in the household of a rich family named Frost, living in Old Colwyn. They derived their wealth from their London firm of rope and cable makers, and manufactured the first cable linking Britain with America and also supplied the rope on which Charles Blondin walked across the Niagara Falls in 1859 in front of 50,000 spectators!

In due course Eleanor married the eldest son of the family - Charles - they travelled abroad extensively.

After his death she decided to build this fine church in his memory on the uplands above Colwyn Bay, along with a Vicarage and a new house for herself. The former parish is now part of the Parish of Colwyn Bay, whose present Vicar is the Rev. Nigel Williams who some of you will remember when curate of Denbigh.

From Bryn-y-Maen we travelled to Upper Colwyn Bay to Pen-y-Bryn Restaurant, where we were all seated at a long table and enjoyed a splendid meal chosen from a menu a yard long!

The third part of our journey was spent at the Puppet Theatre in Rhos-on-Sea where the proprietor-ticket office man-puppeteer- and everything else - entertained us for an hour and a half.

The presence of several children added to the fun of the proceedings and the puppeteer had a very warm, winning way with them.

We are deeply indebted to Glenys, our Secretary for making all the complicated arrangements for this splendid day out.

Helen Jenkin Jones.

" For those in Peril on the Sea "

Most of you will know *Albie Roberts*, who until very recently came to church and shared faithfully in the life of the parish every other month.

You may well wonder what he was up to during the month in between !

The following article has all the answers - remember *Albie & Dianne* in your prayers, as they enjoy their " new beginning " in Scotland.

A SEAFARER'S LIFE

After the Piper Alpha disaster, in which 167 souls perished and 59 survived, it was decided that every oil rig and drilling installation in the North Sea would have to have a “place of safety” in case of evacuation. After much consultation with all concerned it was decided that the best way to achieve this would be to have a dedicated vessel standing by every installation. Therefore the standby industry was born. Initially it consisted of converted trawlers as they became available under the decommissioning scheme forced by EU fishing quotas, a subject that is worth an article of its own! It was then realized that casualties would need medical care so the standard of the ships and the personnel on board had to be improved. This has led us into the industry as it is now with dedicated ships and well trained personnel to deal with every possible emergency. All personnel on board have to complete a complex medical training program that hopefully means that they are able to deal with broken limbs, burns, hypothermia, and all other injuries associated with rig disasters. We carry two fast rescue craft that can be launched in two minutes with a three man crew on board to rescue anybody who falls off the rig in what is called a “man overboard incident”. We also have a hospital on board with full medical facilities and even a direct radio line with Aberdeen hospital in order that complex medical procedures can be carried out with direct guidance from the doctor on duty. We also have a helipad on the deck in case a medivac is needed so an air-sea rescue helicopter can land and take away serious cases. We have the facility to accommodate 300 souls, 50 in bed wards and 250 walking wounded. We carry defibrillators, class A drugs, splints and many other paraphernalia associated to the medical industry. There is a dedicated medic on board who takes the major decisions. This can be the cook to the captain depending on the level of training that they have received. My company ships were involved in the two recent helicopter accidents in the North Sea. My main role on board as an engineer is to ensure that the ship has power and propulsion at all times but I am also expected to assist in the care of casualties, and as such I have been trained.

My ship acts as a relief ship letting other vessels leave their station to return to port for crew

change, stores repairs fuel etc. We cover the whole of the North Sea as far North as Iceland and East to Norway One advantage of being in the North Sea is the chance to see all manner of wildlife. We regularly have dolphins playing in our bow wave and as I type we have a Minkie whale alongside casting a doleful eye upon us. Migratory birds use the ship as a resting point and this also brings the predators. Evert rig has its resident hawks and some have Peregrine falcons. I have even witnessed tawny owls flying around in broad daylight. My favorite bird is the gannet, graceful in flight and sleek as a javelin when diving for fish. Their size is quite amazing and they can often be mistaken for a swan when resting on the water.

Before I was in the standby industry I sailed worldwide on oil tankers, bulk carriers, roll on/roll off. Container ships, general cargo and I even spent some time as the engineer on HMP Weare the Uks only prison ship. One question that I am often asked is which is my favorite port. Hong Kong has to come top of the list beating Kobe, Japan by a short head. Hong Kong has a heartbeat that can be felt, and in my many visits to Kobe in the 1970's I saw technology develop at an astronomical pace. My daughter Lorraine often benefited from this, being one of the first in her school to own a Sony Walkman along with all sorts of other gadgets.

As most of you are aware Dianne and I are off on a new adventure. The editor has asked to be kept informed of our progress. So watch this space for updates from the "foreign correspondent"

Parish Website - www.stdyfnog.org.uk

We are managing to keep the website up to date and have now arranged for our monthly newsletter to be included there for reading or downloading.

The photo gallery on the site is now set to music, is attracting quite a lot of interest, and we have received some encouraging comments about the quality of our website - however good / new ideas always welcome!

Michael

A Startling Headline in the Church Times

"Britain becoming a cold place for Christians"

Why is everyone in such a hurry these days to banish religion as much as

possible from our daily lives?

Rod Liddle in the Sunday Times writes - "In the B.B.C.'s 7.50 am "Thought for the Day," God is almost never allowed to poke His nose into the Broadcast and when He does, it is with apologies and embarrassment."

We are sad about the fact that it has been decreed that sixth formers need not go to morning assembly in school. Does this mean that children of fifteen years of age are deemed to have had enough experience of life to make up their minds about their beliefs and their futures?

In a recent Songs of Praise interview, the composer John Rutter, though an agnostic, spoke of his appreciation of school morning assemblies where the hymns gave him "a sense of faith and mental furniture as a foundation for life". This foundation has led to his composing many lovely hymns and songs on a religious theme. He makes a strong point there.

There is a piece in a recent M.U. Roundabout leaflet written by the daughter of Billy Graham - under the heading - "How does God feel?" This followed an interview, after the devastation of New Orleans hurricane, asking her, "How could God let it happen?" Her reply was "I believe God is deeply saddened by this, just as we are, but for years we've been telling God to get out of our schools, our government, indeed our lives. Being the gentleman He is, I believe, He has calmly backed out. How can we expect God to give us His blessing and His protection if we keep demanding that He leave us alone?"

The Seasons of our life

Lord of our seasons, we bring to you the seasons of our life,
Our strength and weakness, our ups and downs,
Our belief and doubt, our yes and no.

Some of us feel like spring, some of us feel like summer,
Some of us feel like autumn, some of us feel like winter.

Lord of our seasons, we need you now.
As we live out our spring and our summer,
feed us and improve us, challenge us and use us.
As we pass through our autumn and our winter,
love us and comfort us, carry us and save us.

Lord of our seasons, be it easy or hard, we affirm our belief that you are our God.

Bless us in the name of Christ.

