

LLANSILIN PARISH CHURCH

with RHUWLAS MISSION CHURCH and
LLANGADWALADR CHURCH

NEWS

ISSUED QUARTERLY

DECEMBER 1992



CHURCH SERVICES

LLANSILIN

| | | |
|------------|-----------------|------------|
| 1st Sunday | Holy Communion | 10.00 a.m. |
| | Sunday School | 10.00 a.m. |
| 2nd Sunday | Matins | 10.00 a.m. |
| 3rd Sunday | Holy Communion | 8.30 a.m. |
| | Cymun Bendigaid | 10.00 a.m. |
| 4th Sunday | Matins | 10.00 a.m. |
| 5th Sunday | Family Service | 10.00 a.m. |

LLANGEDWYN

| | | |
|------------|----------------|------------|
| 1st Sunday | Family Service | 11.15 a.m. |
| 2nd Sunday | Holy Communion | 8.30 a.m. |
| 3rd Sunday | Sunday School | 11.15 a.m. |
| | Evensong | 6.30 p.m. |
| 4th Sunday | Holy Communion | 11.15 a.m. |
| 5th Sunday | Matins | 11.15 a.m. |

LLANGADWALADR/RHIWLAS CHURCHES (Services alternate between these 2 Churches from these dates:)

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|-----------|
| 6th December 1992 | Rhiwlas Mission Church | 2.30 p.m. |
| 13th December 1992 | Llangadwaladr Church | 2.30 p.m. |

VICAR: Rev Christopher Carter The Vicarage Llansilin Tel: 209

CHAPEL SERVICES

| | | | |
|----------------|---------------------------|------------|------------|
| Rhagfyr 6ed | Gweinidog | Soar | 10.30 a.m. |
| Rhagfyr 13eg | Parch Rhys ap Ogwen Jones | Rhiwlas | 2.00 p.m. |
| Rhagfyr 20fed | Gweinidog | Bethania | 6.30 p.m. |
| Rhagfyr 27ain | Mr Thomas Morris | Salem | 6.30 p.m. |
| Ionawr 3ydd | Gweinidog | Cefn Canol | 6.00 p.m. |
| Ionawr 10fed | Mr Eurwyn Pierce Jones | Bethesda | 2.00 p.m. |
| Ionawr 17eg | Gweinidog | Soar | 2.00 p.m. |
| Ionawr 24ain | Parch Eifion Roberts | Rhiwlas | 2.00 p.m. |
| Ionawr 31ain | Mr Gwilym Jones | Bethania | 2.00 p.m. |
| Chwefror 7fed | Gweinidog | Salem | 6.30 p.m. |
| Chwefror 14eg | Nia Rhosier | Cefn Canol | 2.00 p.m. |
| Chwefror 21ain | Gweinidog | Bethesda | 10.30 a.m. |
| Chwefror 28ain | Mr Arthur Hughes | Soar | 2.00 p.m. |

Gweinidog/Minister: Y Parch Stanton Evans 20 Croeswylan Lane
Oswestry Tel: 654682

Annual Prayer Meetings are held in Llansilin, Rhiwlas and Cefn Canol during the first full week in January. Details from the Minister.

Cynhelir cyfarfodydd y Gymdeithas Lenyddol bedair gwaith yn ystod tymor y gaeaf - fel rheol ar y Nos Lun cyntaf o'r mis.



A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE VICAR

Have you noticed the car-window sticker which reads "A dog is for life, not just for Christmas" It aims to make us think twice before buying a puppy as a present for someone whose enthusiasm may not survive the reality of toilet-training, muddy pawmarks, chewed furniture, all-weather walks and the vet's bill, let alone the lifelong commitment that lasts long after a once-playful pet has become old and ill.

I'm afraid that all too often the baby whose birthday this is get's treated very much as if he was just such a Christmas puppy: people get a warm sentimental glow from the well-loved traditions - the cards, the carols, the children's nativity play - all centred on the angelic baby Jesus lying in the manger, but once Christmas is over he is quickly forgotten for another year, tidied away with the fairy-lights and the tinsel while we get on with the serious business of earning a living (or now-adays, looking for a job), raising a family, and coping with all the crises which which crop up sadly often in any human life. Which is to miss the point entirely: Jesus, born in a stable because there was no room for him indoors, faced with cold, hunger, hardship, danger and exile on the very first stage of a life's journey, which led through rejection, betrayal and desertion to an unjust death, embodies God's assurance that we are not just playthings, created for his pleasure and tossed aside when we wear out or go wrong, but children whose fortunes he follows, rough or smooth, with the same selfless commitment that binds us to a beloved pet, a marriage partner, a parent or a child of our own - but which we all too seldom give him in return. Jesus' priceless present is a reminder to us all that God is for life, not just for Christmas.

I would like to thank all the kind people who send me cards every Christmas, often without getting one back! so this is my opportunity to wish you all joy and peace this Christmastide, and a happy and hopeful New Year.

Kit Carter

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

- Joint Service at Rhiwlas Methodist Church Christmas Eve 7.00 p.m.
- Holy Communion at St Silin's Church Christmas Eve 11.30 p.m.
- Holy Communion at St Silin's Church Christmas Day 8.00 a.m.
- Holy Communion at Llangedwyn Church Christmas Day 9.30 a.m.

WHAT IS THE PLYGAIN?

Plygain is a very old Welsh tradition of Carol Singing. It was around Christmastide 1964 that the Cardiff Welsh Folk Museum began to focus attention upon the Valley's Carolling tradition, they would take along recording equipment to the Plygain Service, which is found in church and nonconformist chapel alike.

The meaning of Plygain is an abbreviated form of early break of dawn morning service, and families would walk to their chapel and churches, and with an aid of a pitch fork to help get the first note would sing in rotation until the break of day on Christmas morning. Today they are not held in the early morning or on Christmas morning but making use of Sunday evenings and week-nights alike.

On attending a plygain a stranger is immediately struck by the unusual form of the service, a Congregational hymn then a bible reading and a prayer, the service would then be in the hands of the Carol Singers, no programme is prepared before hand, no one acts as an announcer, the carol parties walk quiet and leisurely forward on to the chancel step or into the area enclosed in chapel named (Set Fawr) where the deacons sit, the pitch fork is brought out to secure the first note.

On average there will be eight to twelve parties present, most plygains have three rounds, all in Welsh and different, mostly parties of three or quartets. It is a point of honour not to offer a carol already heard that evening, many carol parties are family units.

To conclude the Service, the men Carol Singers gather together to sing the old carol 'Carol y Swper' (Supper Carol) which commemorates the Lord's Supper.

All the Carol Singers are invited into the Vestry to a special supper provided by the ladies.

The oldest Plygain held in the outskirts of Llansilin are, Efailrhyd, Briw, Penygroes, Llanarmon, Llanarmon Fach, Cefnblodwel and Llanrhaeadr Y.M.

From 1964-66: Two facts remain that Nonconformity is the present mainstay of the plygain locally, and secondly the same carol groups sing in each one, no doubt this system is largely responsible for the sustained vigour of the Valleys.

Long live the Plygain.

Rhiannon Lewis.

AFTER READING THIS INTERESTING ARTICLE, WE HOPE YOU WILL COME AND SUPPORT THE PLYGAIN HELD AT LLANGADWALADR CHURCH ON 4th DECEMBER AT 7.30 p.m. AND ALSO THE ONE AT THE BRIW CHAPEL ON 20th DECEMBER AT 6.30 p.m.

M O T H E R ' S U N I O N



The Mother's Union had another successful year with some excellent speakers and demonstrations. These have been both practical and thought provoking. Visitors at meetings included friends of the Vicar's from Poland and Mrs Legg, Deacon at Llanwddyn Church. Members visited the Flower Festival at Dolanog Church and en route for home, enjoyed a meal at Bodfach Hall Hotel. The annual Christmas Party will be held in the Memorial Hall on 17th December. The speaker at the January meeting will be Mr John Bowles, Appeals Organiser for the Children's Society.

The Mother's Union have been corresponding since 1988 with The Lone Members of the Mother's Union in Riverina, New South Wales Australia. Mrs Phyllis Wilkes writes:

"After each monthly meeting, I write and give them news of our meetings, who our speakers are and to generally give them the village news. I send them our Mother's Union magazine together with some photographs of our social events. Also we sent a small gift after attending the Centenary Service in St Asaph Cathedral with other members. We have wonderful letters from Australia and they are read at our meetings. I have them all and have corresponded with various members such as Violet Summerman, Edna Forbes, Ann Stewart and now Edna Hanna. Mrs Bev Mitchell, their Vicar's wife, has visited us here and was able to take first-hand news back to the Parish, where members have to travel many miles to their meetings. Our prayers and meetings are shared and it brings us closer together."

S U N D A Y S C H O O L

WRITTEN OR TRADITION?

Future Sunday School articles will be written by the children but here is a Christmas Quiz for grown ups to try as well as younger ones. The answers are in St Matthew's Gospel, chapter 2 and St Luke's Gospel, chapter 2 verses 1-20.

Don't look until you have tried first!!! Then read the words upside down below.

1. Did Mary ride on a donkey or on an ass to go to Bethlehem?
2. How long were they there before Jesus was born?
3. What was the weather like?
4. Can you describe the building Jesus was born in and what animals were there round the manger?
5. How does the Inn Keeper come into the story?
6. When did the wise men come - how many were there, and how did they travel?

Were you surprised? So many of the familiar details of the Christmas story come not from the Bible but from tradition.

T W E L F T H D A Y C U S T O M S

Twelfth day is the day of Epiphany, January 6th, 12 days after Christmas and traditionally marking the end of the Christmas Season. The mediaeval Christmas holiday ended with Twelfth Night ceremonies which dated back beyond Roman times and recalled the more ancient Winter Solstice rites.

Twelfth Day ceremonies were Roman in origin and the feast of the day was the last of the Christmas boar. A rich plum cake was baked and whoever found a dry bean in his piece was the King of the all-night revels.

By the late eighteenth century a Twelfth Cake had become a rich fruit cake decorated with gold stars, crowns, and angels and figures of the Three Kings at Bethlehem.

In Cumberland it is still the tradition to bake a cake containing a bean.

TWELFTH NIGHT CAKE

Ingredients

6oz butter or margarine, 3oz brown sugar, 3 eggs, 5 fl oz of milk, 1 level teasp bicarbonate of soda, 2oz treacle, 4oz currants, 4oz sultanas 4oz mixed peel, $\frac{1}{2}$ level teasp ground cinnamon, $\frac{1}{2}$ level teasp mixed spice, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb plain flour, $\frac{1}{2}$ teasp salt.

Method

Grease and line a 7inch tin. Cream the fat and sugar, gradually add the eggs. Dissolve the soda in the milk and add to the mixture. Add the treacle and beat well. Add the prepared fruit and spices. Sift the flour and salt and mix lightly. Put the mixture into the tin and bake 2-2 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours at 335°F, Gas 3.

(Silver Charms should be baked in the cake.)

SOME USEFUL HINTS

Buy a new washing up bowl, mop and gloves before any big do - it won't make the washing up any less but it won't seem so bad with new things!

Candles that have been stored in a freezer for at least an hour - longer if possible - burn just as well but last much longer.

Spray Pampas grass and catkins with hair spray to stop them dropping pollen or fluff everywhere.

P R O B L E M S A N D P U Z Z L E S ! ! !

Take the number of books in the Old Testament: multiply the first number by the second number. The answer is the number of books in the New Testament.

Enter your age into a calculator: multiply it by 2: add 5: multiply the total by 50. Add the age of a friend: subtract 250: divide the total by 100: press the equals key. (Your age should appear on the left of the decimal point and your friend's on the right!!!)

Ask a friend to enter any number into a calculator. Now tell your friend to multiply it by 2, add 5, add 12, subtract 3, divide by 2 and take away the number first entered. Announce the answer will be 7. It will be!!! This works with any number you put in.

Many animals are mentioned in the Bible. Look up the following and take the first letter of each animal. Put the letters together to make a new word. **CLUE:** Animals do not need these!

Luke Ch 2 v 24 ?wo -- --
Job Ch 39 v 13
Psalm 58 v 8
Job Ch 39 v 27
Daniel Ch 6 v 24
Leviticus Ch 16 v 21 Goats ?-
Matthew Ch 19 v 24

SOME THOUGHTS FOR 1993!!!

Every time I pass a Church
I pay a little visit
So when at last I'm carried in
The Lord won't say 'Who is it'

Dear God, help me get up
I can fall down by myself.

I won't look for faults as I go through life
But if by chance I find them,
I'll be wise and blind, for often it's kind
To look for the virtue behind them.

Time is a three-fold present; the present as we experience it, the past as a present memory, and the future as a present expectation. (St Augustine of Hippo)

AN ADVERT!!!

Carpenter seeks Joiners, experience not necessary. Apply J. C. King, Nazareth.

C A L E N D A R O F E V E N T S

DECEMBER 1992

| | | | |
|---------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------|
| Friday 4th | PLYGAIN | Llangadwaladr Church | 7.30 p.m. |
| Thursday 17th | M.U. PARTY | Memorial Hall | 7.00 p.m. |
| Sunday 20th | CAROL SERVICE | Llansilin Church | 6.30 p.m. |
| Sunday 20th | PLYGAIN | Briw Chapel | 6.30 p.m. |

JANUARY 1993

| | | | |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|-----------|
| Wednesday 6th | P.C.C. MEETING | The Institute | 7.30 p.m. |
| Thursday 21st | M.U. MEETING | The Institute | 7.15 p.m. |

FEBRUARY 1993

| | | | |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|-----------|
| Thursday 18th | M.U. MEETING | The Institute | 7.15 p.m. |
| Wednesday 24th | ASH WEDNESDAY | Llansilin Church | 7.30 p.m. |

A Bible Study Group will be held during Lent. For details please contact the Vicar.

P A R I S H R E G I S T E R S

| | | | | |
|-----------|----------|------------------------|----------------|------------|
| Sept 13th | Baptism | Nia Jade Carruthers | Priddbwll Farm | Llangedwyn |
| 26th | Marriage | Victoria Jane Roberts | Bodlith to | |
| | | Michael Edward Foulkes | Selattyn | |
| Oct 9th | Burial | Gwladys Myfanwy Evans | late of Hendy | |
| 18th | Baptism | Benjamin Howard-Baker | Glascoed | |

PLEASE NOTIFY THE VICAR if you would like home Communion, special prayers or if you know of anyone who is in hospital or ill at home.

The Deanery Confirmation will be after Easter on a date expected to be May 2nd. Confirmation Classes will begin in the New Year. Anyone interested, of any age, please contact the Vicar.

Many thanks to Mr Bill Pinder for his delightful drawing of St Silin's Church.

The next Newsletter will be produced on 1st March 1993. If anyone would like to contribute, or has any useful suggestions or information, please contact the Secretary Miss Mary Morris Tynwydd (Tel: 223) before 6th February.