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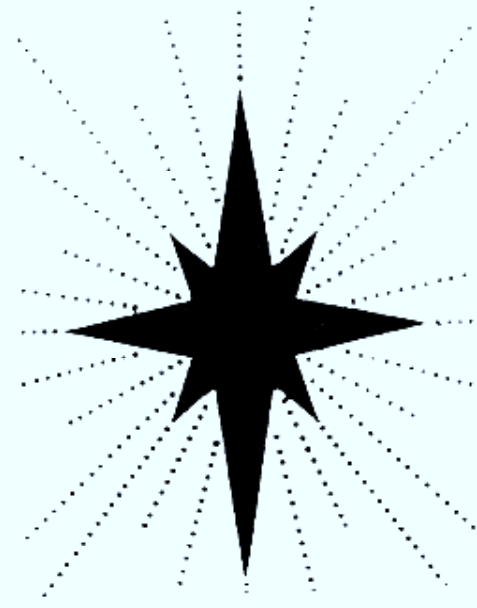
LLANSILIN PARISH CHURCH

with LLANGADWALADR CHURCH and  
RHIWLAS MISSION CHURCH

**N E W S**

ISSUED QUARTERLY

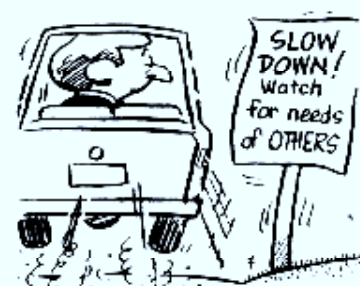
DECEMBER 1995



## CHURCH SERVICES

### Llansilin

|            |                 |         |
|------------|-----------------|---------|
| 1st Sunday | Holy Communion  | 10.00am |
|            | Sunday School   | 10.00am |
| 2nd Sunday | Matins          | 10.00am |
| 3rd Sunday | Holy Communion  | 8.30am  |
| 4th Sunday | Cymun Bendigaid | 9.00am  |
|            | Evensong        | 6.30pm  |
| 5th Sunday | Family Service  | 10.00am |



A Slower Pace

### Llangedwyn

|            |                |         |
|------------|----------------|---------|
| 1st Sunday | Evensong       | 6.30pm  |
| 2nd Sunday | Holy Communion | 8.30am  |
| 3rd Sunday | Family Service | 10.30am |
| 4th Sunday | Holy Communion | 10.30am |
| 5th Sunday | Matins         | 8.30am  |

### Llangadwaladr and Rhiwlas Churches

|            |                |               |        |
|------------|----------------|---------------|--------|
| 1st Sunday | Holy Communion | Rhiwlas       | 2.30pm |
| 2nd Sunday | Holy Communion | Llangadwaladr | 2.30pm |
| 3rd Sunday | Evensong       | Rhiwlas       | 2.30pm |
| 4th Sunday | Evensong       | Llangadwaladr | 2.30pm |

VICAR: Revd C F Carter, The Vicarage, Llansilin. Tel: 791209

## CHAPEL SERVICES

### Rhagfyr

|       |                     |           |        |
|-------|---------------------|-----------|--------|
| 3yd   | Y Gweiniog          | Soar      | 6.30pm |
| 10fed | Mr Geraint Jones    | Rhiwlas   | 2.00pm |
| 17eg  | Y Gweiniog          | Bethesda  | 2.00pm |
| 24ain | Gwasanaeth Arbennig | Salem     |        |
| 31ain | Mr Thomas Morris    | Cefncanol | 7.00pm |

### Ionawr

|       |                        |          |        |
|-------|------------------------|----------|--------|
| 7fed  | Gweiniog (Cymun)       | Bethesda | 6.30pm |
| 14eg  | Parch Eifion A Roberts | Soar     | 2.00pm |
| 21ain | Gweiniog               | Rhiwlas  | 6.30pm |
| 28ain | Mr Gwilym Jones        | Bethania | 2.00pm |

### Chwefor

|       |                      |           |         |
|-------|----------------------|-----------|---------|
| 4ydd  | Gweinidog            | Salem     | 10.00am |
| 11eg  | Mr Moelwyn Jones     | Cefncanol | 2.00pm  |
| 18fed | Gweiniog             | Bethesda  | 6.30pm  |
| 25ain | Parch Gwilym O Jones | Soar      | 2.00pm  |

Gweinidog/Minister: Y Parch Stanton Evans, 20 Croeswylan Lane, Oswestry. Tel: Oswestry - 01691 654682.

## AN ADVENT MESSAGE FROM THE VICAR

Recently on the radio I heard a circus ringmaster talking about his job. He said it was really two jobs: he had to act as "frontman", the link between the performers and the audience, and he was also the "linkman", making sure that everyone and everything was in the right place at the right time. So he might be out in the ring, eloquently introducing the next act, while keeping his fingers crossed that the act was ready to come on! And the thought crossed my mind, "That sounds just like a vicar's job!" And then another thought struck me: that a ringmaster who tried to turn himself into a one-man circus by attempting to perform all the acts himself would very soon come to grief; but that's just what all too many clergy try to do! So we find ourselves-for I plead guilty to the charge as well - approaching a P.C.C. meeting like a lion-tamer entering a cage full of dangerous beasts whom he expects to try to jump on him and maul him at the first opportunity; or walking a lonely tight-rope between two parish factions; or desperately juggling an over crowded time-table; or straddling two parishes like a trick-rider with his feet on two horses trying to gallop in different directions: so its no great surprise when all too often the whole concern starts to fall apart like the clown's car! So then we have to re-learn the lesson that our job is to find the right people to do all the other jobs much better than we ever could, to make sure that they know what they're suppose to be doing, and when, and who with, and that they've got the resources they need to do it, and then to let them get on with it, while we're saying our piece "out front" in fancy costume. Just like a ringmaster, in fact! But is the church like a circus? Well, what is a circus for? Inside the big top we enter a magical world where for an hour or so we are lifted out of our every day lives into another dimension where anything is possible and who knows what will happen next?. We are "taken out of ourselves", transfigured by excitement and wonder and helpless laughter. And that's what we should come to church for, too - and at Christmas we sometimes do glimpse the magic. But the Christmas story reminds us that our "circus" takes place not in a sawdust ring but in the arena of everyday life, where the excitement is often frightening, the risks are real, and the laughter may be at our expense. No amount of tinsel can disguise the draughty stable, and behind the wise men come Herod's soldiers; The Christmas-Tree throws the shadow of a cross. But that doesn't mean the magic's not there. It means that led and inspired by our real ring-master, born in that stable, the most ordinary people can combine to achieve the most extraordinary things against all the odds, and restore to our sad and disillusioned world the lost dimension of wonder and adventure and joy. It really is "the greatest show on earth"!

So may you find and share the magic this Christmastide and throughout the coming year.

*Kit Carter*

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### CHRISTMAS SERVICES

|               |         |                    |                   |
|---------------|---------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Christmas Eve | 7.00pm  | United Service     | Rhiwlas Church    |
| Christmas Eve | 11.30pm | Midnight Communion | Llansilin Church  |
| Christmas Day | 8.00am  | E ly Communion     | Llansilin Church  |
| Christmas Day | 9.30am  | Holy Communion     | Llangedwyn Church |

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## NEWS FROM THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS.

The big issue facing members recently, has been the continued absence of the Verger, Mr Bell Hughes on an extended convalescence with his sister in Coventry. Various people have volunteered to carry out some of the many duties which Bell had quietly executed for so many years. Just a few of these tasks included locking and unlocking the Church every day, caring for the boiler, setting out the hymn and prayer books, and preparing the Altar for services, plus ringing the bell and winding the clock.

On a different note, we have finally had to revise church fees (unaltered for many years) and make a small increase for weddings and funerals and for heating (when applicable).

Another interesting discussion has been the possibility of upgrading church facilities to include a meeting room with provision for making refreshments and for toilets. Such a radical concept needs very much careful thought and a committee of members has been appointed to do a feasibility study.

Finally - is there anyone out there with a head for heights who will volunteer to set up a ladder and give the church gutters a clean-out? not a hard job, not a long job - Please, somebody?!

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### "IN MEMORY OF..."

Work is under way by specialist craftsmen to renovate the church windows and the wrought iron gates. The cost is met from church funds with assistance of grants from CADW (Welsh Historical Monuments).

The stained glass East Window behind the altar has been re-leaded at a cost of £5405. The smaller windows of plain leaded glass are gradually being dealt with and cost from £300 to £500 each. Work on the wrought iron porch gates and road gates is due to start soon.

We would like to invite individuals or families who have an affection for Llansilin Church to consider paying for the restoration of one of these objects in memory of a loved one. An inscribed brass plaque would record the gift. If you would be interested please contact the Vicar - 791209, Church Wardens - 791283 or 653941 or the secretary - 791274.

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WORRY is like a rocking chair: it will give you something to do, but it will get you nowhere.

Or as an old lady told me, "I've had lots of trouble - but most of it never happened,"

The Bible teaches: "Don't worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking with a happy heart."

Daily Post 1995.

## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

AUTUMN FAYRE - Saturday September 23rd 1995

The Annual Autumn Fayre held at the Memorial Hall was opened by a past organist of the Church and also a past school teacher of the Old School - Mrs Rhiannon Williams "Cartref", Llanrhaidr. In the unavoidable absence of the Vicar - Revd C F Carter, Mrs Williams was welcomed by the Vicar's Warden Mrs Sheila Ashley. Flowers were presented by Miss Heulwen Jones "Tymawr". Business was brisk on all the stalls, raffle tickets sold well and of course the ladies who served the refreshments were kept very busy! A very BIG THANK YOU to everybody for their hard work and to all those who supported us so generously by giving and buying. Together we raised £494.14 - Well done!

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HARVEST SUPPER - Wednesday October 4th 1995

The venue this year for the Annual Joint Harvest Supper with Llangedwyn was the Memorial Hall at Llansilin. Seventy three members and friends sat down to a very enjoyable supper. Entertainment was provided by the popular Llansilin Quartette. As of previous years, desserts were provided by the ladies and again generous raffle prizes were also donated. The evening concluded with the singing of both National Anthems. The Revd C F Carter expressed thanks to the "Burtons" and all their helpers for a most enjoyable and successful evening.

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HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICES.

Llansilin, Llangadwaladr and Rhiwlas Churches were decorated by lady members for the above services (thank you to Rhydycroesau WI for allowing us at Llansilin to have your pedestal arrangements used at your 40th Anniversary Dinner). The Revd C F Carter took all services. The organist at Llansilin and Rhiwlas Churches was Miss Morfudd Williams, Oswestry and, at Llangadwaladr Mrs Esther Milner, Llansilin. The guest preachers at the services were - Llansilin - Revd W Jones, Llangollen, Llangadwaladr - Revd T Villiers, Llanymynech and at Rhiwlas the Revd Eifion Roberts, Oswestry.

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MOTHER'S UNION.



The Revd: C Carter opened the September meeting with a short service. The guest speaker was the Revd; David - Vicar of Llanfyllin who gave a talk on his early life in Bridgend and the Vale of Glamorgan. He was thanked by the enrolling member Mrs Glenice Jones. Light refreshments were served by Mrs Christine Williams.

An open meeting in October took the form of a 'Coffee Evening' to raise much needed funds. Over £150 was raised. Sincere thanks are extended to everyone who supported us in more ways than one - THANK YOU.

ELIZABETH ANNETTE ASHLEY  
1975 - 1995

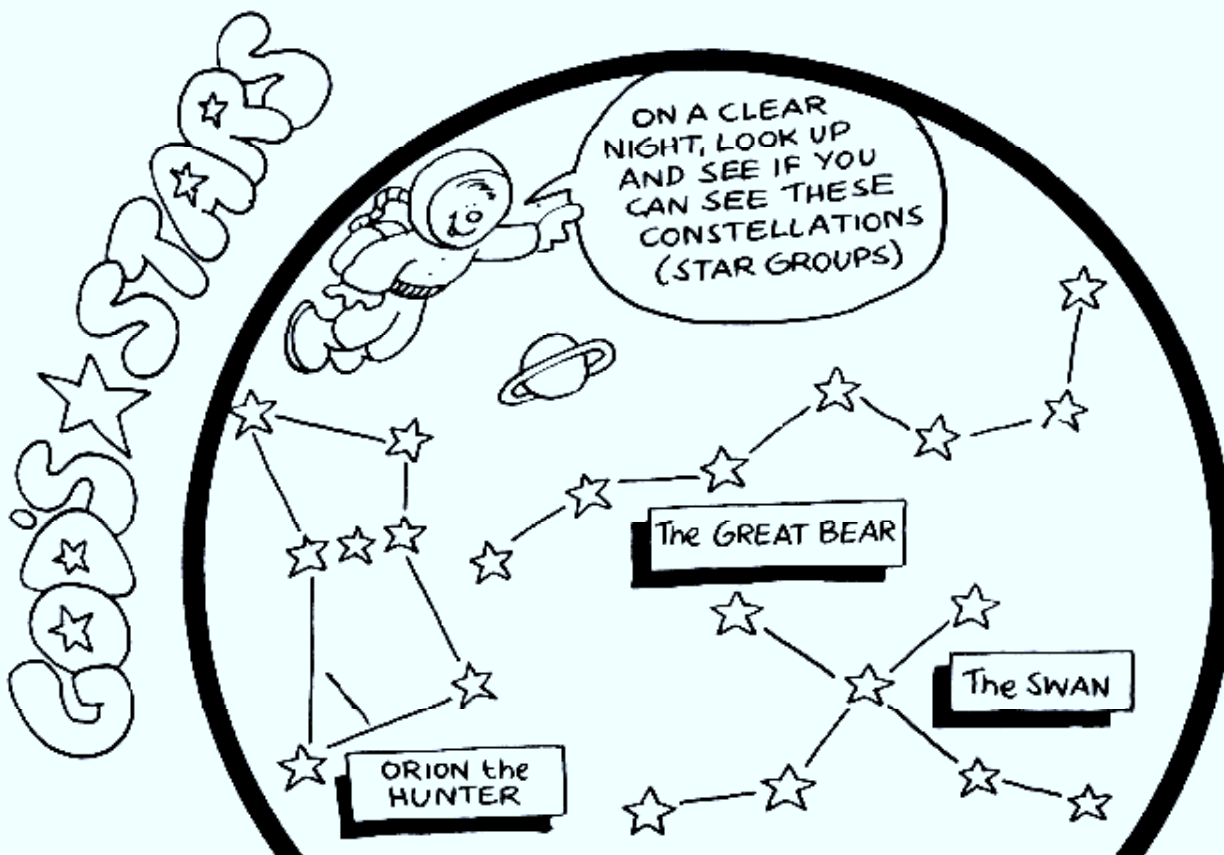
Just as this newsletter was being put together the whole community was shocked and saddened by the sudden death of Elizabeth Ashley on November the 10th. The hundreds of mourners who packed the church and overflowed into the churchyard at her funeral bore witness to the affection she inspired in friends of all ages, and the sympathy of the countryside for her family in a loss which everyone felt that they shared personally. Liz, as her contemporaries called her, was a delightful person, cheerful, outgoing, witty, indeed cheeky, but utterly without malice, and always ready to help or lend a hand. The old people she helped to look after thought the world of her - and so did many of us at St Silin's, where she enlivened services and parish events from her infancy onward. When she was 14 she sent the vicar a christmas card with a poem of her own, which is printed here in memory of her.

Christmas is'nt just for Santa,  
Presents and fun.  
Remember the birth of Jesus,  
God the Father's son.

He was born in a stable,  
A manger as a bed,  
No mattress, just straw  
to lay his tiny head.

A star above him in the sky,  
The wise men came to see  
The baby boy small and mild.  
A king one day he'll be.

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## LLANSILIN CHURCH SIDESMEN'S ROTA

### December

|                       |           |                      |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|
| 3rd Mrs Beryl Jones   | - 10.00am | 10th Mr John Roberts | - 10.00am |
| 17th Miss Mary Morris | - 8.30am  | 24th Mr Dan Jones    | - 9.00am  |
| 24th Church Wardens   | - 11.30pm | 25th Christmas Day   | - 8.00am  |
| 31st Mrs S Ashley     | - 10.00am |                      |           |

### January 1996

|                       |           |                     |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|
| 7th Mrs Beryl Jones   | - 10.00am | 14th Mr Clive Inman | - 10.00am |
| 21st Miss Olive Jones | - 8.30am  | 28th Mr Wyn Hughes  | - 9.00am  |
| 28th Mrs S Ashley     | - 6.30pm  |                     |           |

### February

|                     |           |                     |           |
|---------------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|
| 4th Mrs Beryl Jones | - 10.00am | 11th Mr D Bickerton | - 10.00am |
| 18th Mrs A Jones    | - 8.30am  | 25th Mr Dan Jones   | - 9.00am  |
| 25th Mrs S Ashley   | - 6.30pm  |                     |           |

### March

|                     |           |                  |           |
|---------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|
| 3rd Mrs Beryl Jones | - 10.00am | 10th Mrs B Jones | - 10.00am |
|---------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|

If you are unable to collect on any of these dates would you please arrange for someone else to do it - Thank You.

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## FLOWER AND CLEANING ROTA

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| December 3rd            | Mrs G Jones, Mrs J Davies & Mrs Avril Jones. |
| December 10th & 17th    | Mrs B Jones, Miss O Jones & Mrs D Jarvis.    |
| December 24th & 31st    |  |
| January 7th & 14th 1996 | Mrs Alma Jones & Mrs Withers-Green.          |
| January 21st & 28th     | Mrs Annali Thomas & Mrs Valerie Burton       |
| February 4th & 11th     | Mrs Kaye Hughes & Mrs Brenda Jones           |
| February 18th & 25th    | Mrs Nancy Williams & Mrs Pat Roots           |

If again any of these dates are unsuitable would you please arrange for someone else to do it - THANK YOU.

THURSDAY 12th DECEMBER - All ladies (and gents too) to give Church a special polish for Christmas.

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## STRENGTH FOR THE ASKING

A little boy was having a hard time lifting a heavy stone. His father asked, "Are you using all your strength?" "Yes I am", the boy replied. "No you're not, said the father. I'm right here waiting, and you have'nt asked me to help".

When we are faced with a problem that seems unsolvable or a burden that is too heavy, we might ask ourselves, "Are we using all our strength?". Our Father, too, is waiting to help.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

|              |      |        |               |                                   |
|--------------|------|--------|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| December     |      |        |               |                                   |
| Friday       | 1st  | 7.30pm | Plygain       | Llansilin Church                  |
| Thursday     | 7th  | 7.30pm | MU            | Christmas Party<br>Ashfield Hotel |
| Sunday       | 17th | 6.30pm | Carol Service | Llansilin Church                  |
| Sunday       | 24th | 6.30pm | Plygain       | Briw Chapel                       |
| January 1996 |      |        |               |                                   |
| Thursday     | 18th | 2.15pm | MU Meeting    | Institute                         |
| February     |      |        |               |                                   |
| Thursday     | 15th | 2.15pm | MU Meeting    | Institute                         |

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PARISH REGISTERS

|           |           |                                 |   |
|-----------|-----------|---------------------------------|---|
| September | 24th 1995 | Baptism                         | Robert William Carruthers<br>Priddbwllch Bach                         |
| September | 30th 1995 | Marriage                        | Edwin Ashley Graigwen Fawr<br>to Samantha Noblet Wrexham              |
| November  | 21st 1995 | Burial                          | Elizabeth Annette Ashley<br>Graigwen Fawr                             |
| November  | 23rd 1995 | Burial<br>Rhiwlas<br>Churchyard | Joshua Hindley - Grandson<br>of Mr & Mrs R Lowe<br>Bryn Powis Rhiwlas |

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A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE OF ELIZABETH ASHLEY WILL  
TAKE PLACE AT LLANSILIN CHURCH ON SUNDAY DECEMBER 10TH AT 10.00am.

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Flower Festival - Final sum raised was £2795.86.

Have you thought of your last minute Christmas presents? - if not, Llansilin Tea Towels, Horse Brasses and Prints of the Church are still available. Please ring 791243.

Due to lack of space various items have been held over until 1996.

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.

THANK YOU to all who have contributed in different ways to this Newsletter.

DISTRIBUTION: Margaret Lloyd : 791472

The next NEWSLETTER will be produced on 1st MARCH 1996.  
We would be grateful for contributions, information or suggestions from anyone for future Newsletters.  
Please contact Mary Morris - 791223 by 1st FEBRUARY 1996.