

Llansilin Newsletter

Church, Chapel and Village News

No 36

Winter 2001 - 2002

Years and years ago, when I was a boy, when there were wolves in Wales,
and birds the colour of red flannel petticoats whisked past the harp-shaped hills,
when we sang and wallowed all night and day in caves that smelt like Sunday
afternoons in damp front farmhouse parlours
and we chased with the jawbones of deacons, the English and the bears,
before the motor-car, before the wheel, before the duchess -faced horse,
when we rode the daft and happy hills bareback, it snowed and it snowed.

But here a small boy says: "It snowed last year, too. I made a snowman and my brother
knocked it down and I knocked my brother down and then we had tea."

' But it was not the same snow,' I say. Our snow was not only shaken from whitewash
buckets down the sky,

it came shawling out of the ground and swam and drifted out of the arms and hands and
bodies of the trees; snow grew overnight on the roofs of the houses like a pure and
grandfather moss,

minutely white-ivied the walls and settled on the postman, opening the gate, like a dumb,
numb thunderstorm of white, torn Christmas cards.'

' Were there postmen then, too? '

' With sprinkling eyes and wind - cherried noses, on spread, frozen feet they
crunched up to the doors and mittened on the manfully. But all the children could hear
was the ringing of bells.'

' You mean that the postman went rat-a-tat-tat and the doors rang? '

' I mean that the bells that the children could hear were inside them.'

' I only hear thunder sometimes, never bells.'

' There were Church bells, too.'

' Inside them? '

' No, no, no, in the bat - black, snow - white belfries, tugged by bishops and storks.
And they rang their tidings over the bandaged town,
over the frozen foam of the powder and ice - cream hills, over the crackling sea.
It seemed that all the churches boomed for joy under my window;
And the weathercocks crew for Christmas, on our fence.'

(Extract from ' A Child's Christmas in Wales ' by Dylan Thomas)

Times of Worship

Llansilin Parish Church

1st Sunday	Holy Communion	10.00
2nd	Matins	1 0.00
3rd	Holy Communion	8.30
4th	Welsh Communion	9.00
	Evensong	6.30
5th	Family Service	10.00

Llangadwaladr Church

2nd Sunday	Holy Communion	2.30
4th	Matins	2.30

Rhiwlas Mission Church

1st Sunday	Holy Communion	2.30
3rd	Matins	2.30

Please contact the vicar to arrange home communion, visiting or special services

Gofalaeth Bro Llansilin a'r Cylch

Rhag.

2	Gweinidog	Rhiwlas	6.30
	Pregeth a trafodaeth		
9	Mrs Nesta Barker Jones	Bethania	2.00
	Gwasanaeth Nadolig Seion		
16	Gweinidog	Salem	2.00
	Gwasanaeth dan ofal Chwiorydd		
23		Cefncanol	2.00
30		Bethesda	2.00

Ion.

6	Gweinidog (C)	Soar	6.30
	Gwasanaeth yr Ifanc		
13	Parch E Elfyn Richards)	Rhiwlas	2.00
20	Gweinidog	Bethania	6.30
27	Mr Gwilym Jones	Salem	2.00

Chew.

3	Gweinidog (C)	Cefncanol	6.30
10	Parch Ddr Nerys Tudor)	Bethesda	10.30
17	Gweinidog	Soar	2.00
	Gwasanaeth dan ofal Chwiorydd		
24	Parch Gwilym O Jones	Rhiwlas	2.00

Pregethwr o Seion, Croesoswallt *
Cymun (c)

Who's Who?

Gweinidog

Parch Stanton T Evans
20 Croeswylan Lane, Croesoswallt
Ffon (01691) 654 682

Vicar

The Rev C F Carter
Y Ficerdy, Llansilin, Oswestry SY10 9PX
Tel (01691) 791 209 Mob.0777 313 4858

Churchwardens at St Silin's

Deborah Hill- Trevor tel. 791 402
Beryl Jones tel. 653 941

Gofalaeth Bro Llansilin A'r Cylch

Ysg Wyn Davies tel. 791 395
Trys Carys Evans tel. 791 240

Organist, St Silin's

Morfydd Williams tel. 659 369

Parochial Church Council Secretary

Valerie Burton tel. 791 274

Parochial Church Council Treasurer

Esther Milner tel. 791 323

Covenant Secretary, St Silin's

Graham Moss tel. 791 528

Bellringing, St Silin's

Tower Captain - Eric Avery tel. 791 298
Steeple Keeper - Chris Burton tel. 791 274

Rhiwlas Mission Church

Contact Marjorie Evans tel. 600 228

Llangadwaladr Church

Contact Vera Evans tel. 791 471

The Newsletter is produced by

Anneli Thomas tel. & fax 791 239
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Distributor: Margaret Lloyd tel. 791 472

Get your Newsletter by post for a year by sending four stamps to Mrs M. Lloyd 8 Maes y llan Llansilin Oswestry SY10 7QE

Items for inclusion in the March 2002 issue by the end of January please to: Graigwen Fach, Wernddu, Oswestry SY10 9BN

This issue has been paid for by Llansilin Playscheme and Community Group

Dear friends of Llansilin

Earlier in the year our country was – and still is – under the influence of the foot and mouth disease, and many a prayers were uttered, privately and publicly for the farmers and all who were involved.

It can be said that the whole country suffered with that the foot and mouth disease- but what happened in New York and Washington on 11th September affected not only America but the entire world in general. Here again, prayers were said, and are still said, not only in this country but world wide.

I often wonder if those responsible for that crime thought twice before committing the act.

Before we personally take action on certain things, Do we think twice or think again? When in school, if a wrong answer was given to a question or a problem the teacher told us to think again.

Some months ago, I received from a friend the following piece of poetry. Neither my friend nor I know who has written it, but we would like to know very much. If you recognise it and know the author, I would be very pleased to hear from you.

Think again

Each time you think that life's unfair,

Because the burden's hard to bear

Or when you feel inclined to sigh

That fame and fortune pass you by-

Think of those who have no sight

And live their days in endless night.

Think of those who cannot hear

The voice of spring, so soft and clear.

Think of those who have no voice

To speak with others and rejoice.

Think of those who lie and pray

For strength, that they may walk one day.

Think of all the sick and maimed

For whom no sign of hope's proclaimed.

Think of each unhappy life

Shattered by some mortal strife

And cast aside the mournful view

That life brings nought but care for you.

For surely, they are more inclined

To say that life has been unkind

Think of them, and then recall

You are not unlucky after all.

At this time of thanksgiving, may we "thank" again and again and also, in the same manner "think" again and again of the many blessings that we are receiving.

God Bless You All

Stanton Evans

Christmas Services

2 Dec Advent Sunday 'Service of Light' in The Cathedral, St Asaph, 3.30pm

Switching on 'The Tree of Light', St Silin's

7 Dec Plygain, St Silin's 7.30 p.m. followed by refreshments in the Hall. All Welcome.

9 Dec Carol Service, 6.30pm St Silin's, and dedication of recent gifts

16 Dec Nadolig Gymanfa Ganu in Bethania Chapel 6.30pm

20 Dec School Carol Service, St Silin's 6.30pm

24 Dec Midnight Communion Service by candlelight, St Silin's 11.30pm

Diary Dates

8 Dec Llanymynech Amateur Dramatic Society presents a three act play by J.B. Priestley

'When we are married'

in The Hall at 7.30 pm, Tickets £3, in aid of local fund for the National Eisteddfod 2003.

14 Dec Playgroup Christmas Bingo 7 pm in The Hall

10 Jan 'The Queen's Jubilee Celebrations' meeting in The Institute 7 p.m. to form a committee

16 Jan PCC, 7.30 p.m. in the Institute

22 or 23 Feb Welsh drama, to be advertised

25 Feb Gwyl Dewi, St David's Dinner, Memorial Hall 7 p.m. Tickets from Sarah James tel. 791 346

2 Mar Sunday School Coffee Morning in The Memorial Hall, 10 a.m. – 12 noon. Stalls.

Milestones

Interment at Llangadwaladr Churchyard of Gwyneth Edwards, Weston Rhyn who died in July.

The Marriage of Robert Morris, Llangedwyn and Jayne Roberts, Llansilin, in September.

Burial of Maurice Evans, Llansilin, in September and Dilys Hughes, Llansilin, in October

Memorial Service for Richard Jones, formerly of Craigllwyn, in November.

Gymanfu Nadolig

Capel Bethania

Llansilin

Nos Sul Rhagfyr 16ed am 6.30 o'r gloch

Arweinydd: Mrs Iona

Organyddion: Henry Evans a Nia

Eitemanu gan y tri Barti Plygain Lleol

Carolau o'r Atodiad (Dwech ag Atadoid efo chiw os yn bosib)

Dan Nawdd Pwllgor Apel Eisteddfod

Genedlaethol Maldwyn 2003

Pris Rhaglen £2



Gweinidogaeth Bro Llansilin

Cafwyd pererindod lwyddianus eleni i'r Wyddgrug a Threfynnon. Rhoddodd Aled Lloyd Davies sgwrs am Daniel Owen wrth ei gofgolofn ac yna cawsom ymweld a'r capel ble bu yn flaenor.

A'r ol paned yn Tescos aethom i Dreffynnon i weld ffynnon Gwenffrewi a chael cyfle i ymuno yng ngwasanaeth y prynhawn i bererinion a oedd yno o ardal eang iawn. Diddorol oedd sylwi ar y modd yr oedd y gwasanaeth yn cael ei gyflwyno i'r llu o bobl fyddar oedd yn bresennol, drwy ddefnyddio dwylo a bysedd y cyfathrebwyr. Fe'n synwyd nad oedd gair o Gymraeg ar gyfyl y lle.

Aethom ymlaen i Faesglas i ymweld ag olion Abaty Basingwerk, hen abaty Sistaidd o'r 12fed ganrif, sydd nawr dan ofal CADW.

Cynhaliwyd Cyfarfod Diolch am y Cynhaeaf ar y Sul, gyda chyfarfod gweddi yn y bore a phregeth ga y Parch Stanton Evans yn y nos. Aeth y casgliad tuag at yr Hospice. Roedd cyfarfod y bobl ifanc nos Sul Hydref 21ain yn Rhiwlas pryd cymerwyd rhan gan yr ieuenctid a gweinyddwyd y cymun gan y Parch Stanton Evans.

Eleni agorwyd y Gymdeithas Ddiwylliadol gyda Pharti'r Ogorf o Llanfyllin. Triwad talentog iawn a llwyddodd i'n ddiddori am awr gyda'u canu swynol.

Cynhaliwyd cyfarfod I drafod dyfodol y capeli. Cafwyd trafodaeth buddiol ac fe gynhelir cyfarfod arall yn y flwyddyn newydd pryd y disgwylir cael cynrychiolwyr o'r pedwar enwad yn bresennol. Apelir i bawb feddwl yn ofalus am y ffordd ymlaen er mwyn scirhau'r dyfodol. Cofiwch ddod i'r cyfarfod yma er mwyn i bawb gael mynegi ei farn.

Emyr Evans

Health and Safety in the Churchyard.

One of the duties of the PCC is to look after the Churchyard. This not only includes the mowing and general maintenance but also making sure that everything is safe. We have noticed, not surprisingly, that some of the older gravestones are loose and might be capable of being pushed over. More surprisingly, perhaps, some more recent memorials also appear unsafe. All of these may have to be put right.

We will be able to ask the families responsible for the most recent gravestones to put them in good order, but we may have difficulty tracing the families of the older ones. At the moment we are working out what to do about all these unsafe memorials, and will publish a policy and a procedure in due course.

There will be an update on this topic in the next Newsletter. In the meantime, if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact any of the officers of the PCC.

Graham Moss

More about the Churchyard -

There has been a number of complimentary remarks this year from visitors from this country and from all over the world. How nice it is to have good news! The four or five regular cutters are representatives of Church, Chapel, Welsh and English and we have enjoyed each other's company over a cup of tea and a biscuit. However, we are now feeling that it is high time some extra persons took a share and join in next year! The job is much easier than it used to be. Every area is under control, so there should be no need for the major cut and heavy raking we used to do. The key to success is the regular cutting and strimming, - just a few more persons would make all the difference.

Please make a New Year resolution for next year and turn up on a Thursday evening and help care for this lovely oasis of peace in this hectic world - it brings its own reward.

Valerie Burton



Neuadd Goffa Llansilin Memorial Hall

Missing Minutes Records

As present Hall Secretary, I only possess minute books for Village Hall Committee Meetings from 1986. Since the hall has been in operation continuously since 1924, there have obviously been many more minute books in existence for the period 1924 - 1986. Present members of the committee have no knowledge of the whereabouts of these earlier records, which I would very much like to locate. If anyone is in possession of, or know where they might be, please contact me so that the records may be properly archived. As well as recording hall committee business, they also represent a valuable source of local history of village events for most of the last century.

Arthur James, Tel 791 346

Cyngor Bro Llansilin Community Council

At the September meeting, Mr John Davies, Oswestry Helpmates outlined additional provision for transport in the Cain and Tanat Valleys, a service in addition to existing ones but of special benefit to mobility restricted people.

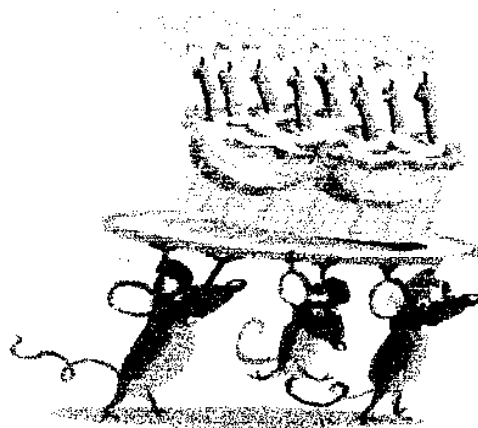
Traffic calming measures are to be installed in the village after completion of the sewage work. A request for the lowering of the kerb outside the Memorial Hall was passed to the Highways Dept.

Members expressed concern over the F & M 'High Risk' label despite there not having been any outbreak in this area, except being part of Powys. A request for change to 'At Risk' is underway.

Planning applications for an outbuilding at Tynant, Moelfre and extensions and alterations at Isfryn, Cefnganol were supported. The applicant who was refused to site a touring caravan in Rhiwlas, has been advised about rights of appeal.

There was support for St. David's City Council to designate St. David's Day as a public holiday in Wales. The council agreed that they would be supportive of activities in the village in connection with the commemoration of the Queens Jubilee in 2002, though they did not propose to organise any themselves.

The future structure of Powys County Council is presently ongoing.



The Queen's Jubilee Celebrations

An open meeting will be held
in
The Institute
Thursday 10 January
at 7 p m
to form a Jubilee Celebration Committee

Llansilin Newsletter

invites all poets of the parish to compose a poem entitled

'If I were The Queen'

of no more than six verses of four lines.

The winning entry will be printed in the Summer issue of the newsletter. There is a class for adults, one for primary and one for secondary school children. Entries to Llansilin Newsletter, address on page 2.

Llansilin Playscheme and Community Group is sponsoring a competition for an A4 sized

Portrait of The Queen.

using any medium. Classes as above

Entries to The Old White Lion, Llansilin

Closing date for both categories: Monday 13th of May 2002. All entries will be displayed during the Jubilee Celebrations in June.

Christain Aid Llansilin and District

During Christian Aid Week last May, £533.95 was collected. The coffee evening with bring and buy stalls at which Miss Bronwen Nicholas, a Christian Aid organiser was guest speaker, raised £195 with individual donations of £111.

The combined Chapel and Church service at Salem Chapel realised £135 from donations. House to house collection were as follows; Moelfre £41.36, Rhiwlas £21.20 and Llangedwyn £29.50. As district secretary, I wish to thank everyone for their kind contributions and also thank Mr John Jones, Pantglas ucha for seeing to the donations. The result was very good indeed, despite the Foot and Mouth restrictions in force at the time.

Rhiannon Lewis

Llansilin Playscheme and Community Group

After school clubs are now in full swing in Llansilin, Llangedwyn and Llansaintffraid and will continue. In the New Year, a video film crew will visit the clubs and work with the children, aiming to produce a short video film for each site and hopefully produce blooper CD roms. The children will do some of the filming, editing and background music for this. This is alongside other arts and crafts sessions. Two people from Arts Connection, Tony and Cally, will run the event with Sue Fenton, Llansilin, assisting.

The Llangedwyn Youth Club have 28 children between 8 and 15 years enrolled. Their activity programme is listed in the Garage Shop.

Twelve people from the area attended and gained their Basic Food Hygiene certificates in October, thus enhancing their employment skills and personal knowledge. Three of the delegates will be working at The Wynnstay Inn in the village. The course was provided free to locals, (small fee for others) thanks to the providers, Community Fund and Co-operative Partnership Group.

A free First Aid Course are scheduled for Llangedwyn Hall when ten participants have enrolled. It will be run over three evenings, 7 - 10 pm and a certificate valid for three years will be issued on completion. Interested?

The October Half-Term Playscheme was attended by 45 children, enjoying a Punch and Judy Show, Clown, balloon modelling, Bouncy Castle, face-painting and many more arts and crafts. A trip to the Blue Planet Aquarium proved exciting, some children even handled

the slippery snakes! and petted the fish. Anyone wanting to go on a trip to Shrewsbury for a Christmas Pantomime, please register your interest early as places are limited, by phoning Sian or Renee on tel. 791 371.



Ring in the changes with your old, unwanted mobile.

Old, unwanted mobile phones and their chargers can really ring in the changes for **The Children's Society Cymru** and help hundreds of disadvantaged children and young people in Wales. If your old mobile is cluttering up a drawer or waiting to go in the bin, destined to clog up a landfill site, there is an alternative! For every old, unwanted mobile received, the Children's Society Cymru gets £3, and if it includes a charger, an extra £2 as well.

West One Technology re-cycles old mobiles for use in developing countries. "It's a clean, green scheme, bringing benefits to needy youngsters here and improved communication in developing countries" said Eileen Hood, Fundraising Director for The Children's Society Cymru. And it couldn't be easier. Just wrap it up securely, write the address clearly and send it **Freepost** to:

Phone Raising for TCS
West One Technology
FREEPOST 7LON 20170
LONDON W1E 4EE

Would you like to spend Christmas alone in a foreign Country? Or perhaps even spend several years in a country and never visit a local home and get to know the natives? Sounds a very unfriendly place, doesn't it. There are many thousands of international students in UK Colleges and Universities who do just that. Perhaps you could make a difference to one such student by extending an invitation to your home for a week-end or even over Christmas. The HOST scheme is a well established national charity, founded by the British Council and the Foreign Office. Please contact HOST Regional Organiser Soili Barker Tel. 01948 830 549 for details.

Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin and Cylch Meithrin – Ti a Fi Llansilin

Llansilin Playgroup

Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin was formally established at a public meeting in Aberystwyth in September 1977, with the aim to provide every child under school age in Wales with an opportunity to benefit from nursery experiences through the medium of Welsh.



Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin believes:

- ◆ that Welsh is an advantage for children. As many contact hours as possible are provided, and Welsh is the only language used in the activities of the Cylchoedd.
- ◆ that play is fundamental to the physical, emotional, linguistic, social and intellectual development of children. Every opportunity to learn through play is provided of the Cylchoedd
- ◆ that children, whatever their needs, benefit from the experience of a Cylch Meithrin and Cylch Ti a Fi. Children with special needs are welcome to the Cylchoedd
- ◆ that the family is the foundation for children's development. Every opportunity is provided for families to support the nursery experiences of their children, and linguistic and social support is provided for the families through the activities of Cylchoedd Meithrin and Cylchoedd Ti a Fi
- ◆ that children have a right to expect the adults who care for them and to protect them from abuse of any kind. Cylchoedd Meithrin and Cylchoedd Ti a Fi will work with the statutory services to protect children
- ◆ that it is essential for each child who attends a Cylch will be able to continue Welsh medium education. To these ends, the Mudiad calls for

the establishment of a Welsh – medium school within easy reach of all children

The Cylch Meithrin in Llansilin opened its doors in September 1977, and over the years has seen many leaders come and go. Carys Evans was the first to take on the role of leader and when she left to return to full time teaching, the group was led by Iona Jones, Lorna Jones, Eirianwen Pugh and Bronwen Morris.

Today, Judy Jones and Linda Jones are joint leaders of the group. Both are currently training in Childcare and Education, Judy at Coleg Powys Newtown, and Linda is doing a NVQ 3.

The group experienced a serious financial crisis eighteen months ago. However, the strong community spirit of Llansilin, along with the dedicated, hardworking management committee overcame the situation enabling the group to continue with the high standard of provision, to the children who are all enjoying learning through play. The staff plan their activities and this autumn the theme were 'holidays' and 'celebration'. They meet on Mondays and Thursdays 9.30 – 11.30 a.m. and new members who wish to join in the fun are always welcome.

The Addington Fund, which was set up to help rural communities who suffered as a result of the Foot and Mouth outbreak, and to which the Vicar gave the whole of his personal Easter offering from the congregation, has reported that it has been able to assist many farmers not only with stock welfare but also as a source of support to families in distress.

Llansilin Newsletter would like to wish all readers

A Merry Christmas
and
A Happy New Year

and also thank everyone for their contributions, whether it be written items, financial support for the printing or general vigilance!
Please keep it coming

Flower and Cleaning Rota St Silin's

Dec 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd

A Big Clean on the Saturday of either of the above at 10am-12 noon or 2pm- 4 pm. Polish and dusters provided.

30th December	Christine Williams
6th + 13th Jan.	Mary Morris + Margaret Lloyd
20th + 27th Jan.	Alma Jones + Sheila Ashley
3rd + 10th Feb	Eileen Bignell + Esther Milner
17th + 24th	Val Lucas + Deborah Hill-Trevor
3rd + 10th March	Morfudd Williams + Margaret Lloyd

NB. No altar flowers during Lent

Thanks to everyone who cleaned and decorated the Church for Harvest, - the result was stunning.

Sidesmen's Rota St Silin's

Dec 2nd	10 am Communion	Mary Morris
9th	10 am Matins	David Bickerton
16th	8.30 am Communion	Deborah Hill-Trevor
	6.30 pm Carol Service	Wardens
24th	11.30 pm Candlelight Communion	G & L Moss
30th	10 am Family Service	Olive Jones
Jan 6th	6.30 pm Communion	Mary Morris
13th	10 am Matins	Sheila Ashley
20th	8.30 am Communion	Margaret Lloyd
27th	9 am Welsh Service	Vera Evans
	6.30 pm Evensong	Esther Milner
Feb 3rd	10 am Communion	Mary Morris
10th	10 am Matins	Brenda Jones
17th	8.30 am Communion	Deborah Hill- Trevor
24th	9 am Welsh Service	Phyllis Hughes
	6.30 pm Evensong	Eric Avery

Deborah is grateful to you all for your valuable help. Please arrange a substitute if unable to do your slot or contact her on tel. 791 402.

Christmas Gift Idea

'Milk Maid'

Child's Three Legged Wooden Stool

Hand crafted by Eric Avery using local timber

£12.50

All proceeds to Church funds

Limited Edition

Contact Eric on Tel. 791 798 a.s.a.p.

Belfry News

A custom among Bell ringing bands is to improve skills by entering ringing competitions. Six of St Silin's ringers were persuaded to enter a striking competition at Hope Church last September. Determined to do our best on the day we listened to the preceding competitors with mounting nervousness. Our turn came. Climbing the long winding stone staircase left us breathless and without more ado we had to catch hold of the ropes. With a signal to the judge sitting outside we lurched into our practice piece. Oh dear, we had rung much better at home. Too late!

We had rung all the right notes, and completed the piece, but the timing left quite a lot to be desired. Never mind, we did have the courage to try. Thank you all those in the village, living within earshot of our practices, for your forbearance.

Val Burton

The Wise men

Here is a Christmas Puzzle for the children to solve from Sheila Ashley.

Some months after Jesus was born, strangers from a far country came looking for the new-born King. They were learned men known as Wise Men or Magi.

Underline the correct answer of each question;

- How did the Wise Men travel?
Train Ship Plane Car Camel Horseback Bus
- From which direction did they come?
North East South West
- What was their guide?
Radar Map The sun Compass Star
- Where did they find the new-born King?
Jerusalem Samaria Bethlehem Nazareth
- What were the Wise Men?
Greek Gentiles British Jews Americans
- Who told the Wise Men he wanted to worship the new - born King?
~~~~~

Now unscramble these letters and find the name of the Festival we keep in memory of the Wise Men

P P Y E I H A N

**Happy Christmas Everyone**