



Gower

Ministry Area

November 2025 Vol 125 1506

The Ministry Area Of Gower



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Inside this issue

Ministry Area Contacts	2
The theme: 'God's Rich Tapestry' by The Wonder of Wellbeing Team	4-6
The WOW report for November	7
Memories of St Gwynour's	8-10
A Problem you may not know about	11
From Peter Lewis Team Leader	12-14
South West Gower Cluster	15-19
Three Cliffs Cluster	20-22
East Gower Cluster of Churches: Dunvant, Ty Coch, Killay	23-25
North Gower Cluster	26,27
Caldey Island Retreat	28,29
'Holy Ground' a poem by Anna Burgess	30
Penclawdd at War	31,32
Gower Church Magazine 100 years ago by Valerie Beynon	33,34
Advertisements	35-45
Gower Churches – St Gwynour by Valerie Beynon	46
Church locations and postcodes	47

The editor apologises for an error in Fr Nigel Doyle's article last month. The start of his full-time self-supporting ministry was 2012 not 2021 as printed. A big difference. Sorry Nigel.

Advertising or Subscriptions

For advertising or subscriptions please contact

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The November theme chosen by the Wonder of Wellbeing team

'God's Rich Tapestry'

"I want you woven into a tapestry of love, in touch with everything there is to know of God. Then you will have minds confident and at rest, focused on Christ, God's great mystery. All the richest treasures of wisdom and knowledge are embedded in that mystery and nowhere else". '

The Message' translation of Colossians 2: 2-4



Rach, WoW Project

Lead: We can often forget that what appears to be the mess found in our lives is actually just the back view of the rich tapestry of our lives

that God is ever weaving - for us personally, for our families, for our churches as well as for our communities. Fortunately, we can trust that one day we will get to see the beauty of God's handywork from the front and all of those strange and dark threads that perhaps frustrated or confused us at the time, will actually be part of His glorious pattern.



A firm favourite for my children growing up was to snuggle up and watch the animated film, 'The Prince of Egypt' and from it I loved the

song 'Through Heaven's Eyes' by Brian Stokes Mitchell. The lyrics remind me that we are created by God to live life in community – and importantly, to try and look at our lives through heaven's eyes, rather than ours or the culture around us

*A single thread in a tapestry
Though its colour brightly shines
Can never see its purpose
In the pattern of the grand design*

*And the stone that sits on the very top
Of the mountains mighty face
Does it think it's more important
Than the stones that form the base?*

*So how can you see what your life is
worth or where your value lies?
You can never see through the eyes of
man - You must look at your life
Look at your life through heaven's eyes*

*A lake of gold in the desert sand
Is less than a cool fresh spring
And to one lost sheep, a shepherd boy
Is greater than the richest king*

*So how do you measure the worth of a
man. in wealth or strength or size?*

*In how much he gained or how much he
gave?*

*The answer will come to him who tries
To look at his life through heaven's eyes*



Dan, Faith & Wellbeing

Guide: I often joke that I could run a course on imposter syndrome, however due to how I feel at times, I don't even think I could do that!

For some reason, be it experience, or the messages we get from our culture, society, the media, I often find myself doubting my abilities and questioning people's views on what I achieve. I'll check, was it good enough – which if I admit it is me asking at times; am I good enough.

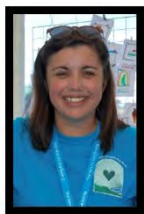
Sometimes we can get trapped into a feedback loop of thoughts swirling around our minds, where we then begin to believe what we are thinking is true about every situation. A helpful tool that we humans have, however, is metacognition, which is when we step back from our thoughts, giving us distance from them to allow us to see what they really are. They can lose their power and then we get time to respond to them. As Christian's, this gives us huge hope!

Our thoughts can be like the back of a tapestry - lots of loose chords which make up a bigger picture, but we only see the chords, we can't always see the bigger picture or plan that God has for us. I often reflect upon my own journey and how God has planned the twists and turns which don't seem to make sense at the time, but on hindsight I can see how God has worked all these things to lead to where I am now.

Having spent my childhood enjoying the Gower landscape; working in retail,

gaining skills and confidence to speak with anyone and everyone; undertaking a digital media course; working as a qualified social worker with children, families and adults experiencing enduring mental ill health, I can see how God has shaped and transformed my mind and heart to be able to meet with people where they are in life. Also, in my own walk of faith, where I didn't grow up having a faith, or attend church, but then at 18 coming to know Jesus through seeing Him in others and through seeking a relationship with Him and experiencing the ebbs and flows of faith and church, has transformed my thinking on how people understand their own faith. It is complicated.

We may feel out of place or out of our depth, but I encourage you to trust that God has put us where we are, so that we can bring him glory. Isaiah reminds us that we were made by God “everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made” and in Jeremiah 29:11 we're told that God has plans for us. Though we can feel negative feelings, and think negative thoughts, we can step back away from the mess of those chords, and remind ourselves of God's love for us, and his plan for us, so that we can see the beautiful picture of his great tapestry of love.



Chloe, Creative Practitioner: For a long time, my life felt like the messy underside of a tapestry. Knotted, tangled, and unclear -

but slowly, I began to see that God had been weaving something beautiful all along.

A few years ago, I suffered severe burnout, was diagnosed with infertility, a chronic health condition, and a rare pituitary tumour. It was a hard year, and I plummeted emotionally and physically, sadly having to step away from work to rest and recover. Life felt broken, yet glimmers of gold thread (moments of hope) kept appearing. Friends reminded me of my love for art and encouraged me to explore it through therapeutic practices. Art became a way to process pain and, when partnered with faith became a powerful tool for emotional healing. As I slowly recovered from the brutality of treatment, I felt called to help others tell their stories through creativity.

So, I pursued a Master's in Arts, Health and Wellbeing at Cardiff University, not knowing where it would lead but knowing I had to go for it. Eventually, I began creating workshops for carers and healthcare professionals - those who always help others but often go unseen and unsupported themselves. Nature and creativity became the heart of this work.

Then, unexpectedly, a message from Peter Lewis, a family friend, randomly

got in touch one day. He had moved to Gower with a vision that aligned perfectly with mine. After seeing the work, I was doing and what I had been working on it seemed to fit perfectly with the heart for what Peter had for Gower. And over time, the Wonder of Wellbeing was born!

Looking back, I see the tapestry from God's side - clear, intentional, and full of grace. What once felt messy on my side was always part of His beautiful design.

A Breath Prayer

"For you created my inmost being you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful; I know that full well." Psalm 139:13-14 (NIV)

We invite you now, to ponder on the theme of God's rich tapestry. For a few minutes, reflect on the idea of your life is being woven together with purpose and care. Read over a few times, pausing in between, this beautiful piece of scripture found in Psalms which uses the imagery of being knitted together. This Psalm allows us to focus in on God and His intimate part in our creation. He put extra thought and detail into every part of us - just like a textile artist does to their creation of a tapestry - or in this case knitting.

While you spend some time in your own pace, slowly inhale through your nose and exhale out of your mouth, and think of that wonderful truth. We are knitted, woven together, created by God and can rest in that beauty.

Inhale: You knit me with wonder

Exhale: I rest in Your design



Gower Wonder of Wellbeing

creating inviting spaces for renewal and hope

We are thrilled to report that over the last three months of the Wonder of Wellbeing project; our team, clergy and wonderful volunteers have interfaced with over 2,200 people. This figure includes those who we have had prayerful conversations with, others who have attended our events or reached out to us via our website and on

our social media pages, as well as those who we've had the privilege of praying prayers of healing and blessings over - Whoop Whoop! Please continue to pray for the project, for the team of people involved and who help (and for more volunteers!) and that for all the seeds that we are planting, that the Holy Spirit nurtures and waters them to lead people to Christ and deepen their discipleship with Him.

Partnerships:

The WoW team has been busy developing relationships with a number of potential partners, such as:

Citizens Cymru: Along with others from the Ministry Area, the team attended an interesting training day run by Citizens Cymru in exploring how to successfully gather people together in organising community activities. This was a really informative day with lots of practical advice in supporting and mobilizing groups across communities.



Swansea Church Leaders and Project Workers Breakfast: Rach and Dan attended a networking breakfast for Swansea Church Leaders and Project Workers at Parklands Church where we chatted with one of the trustees at St Madoc's Christian Centre, discussing potential opportunities to support their exceptional work with visiting youth groups for 2026.



Christian Vision for Men: Dan attended a two-day conference with CVM and has begun exploring opportunities to partner with them in hosting walks and talks for men and as well as creating wellbeing sessions such as bushcraft for father, sons, uncles and granddads!



Memories of St Gwynour's Church, Llanyrnewydd

Diane Cornelius writes: As a congregation we each have, and will hold dear, memories of St. Gwynour's:

Pam Rasbridge recalls how she accompanied her father, the then

Church Warden for two services on Sundays as well as Sunday School. She says St. Gwynour's has been a large part of her life, so hard to replace.

Emma's first visit to St. Gwynour's was with her mother on one Christmas Eve. Walking into that pretty, lit-up building hearing carols being sung in that calm and holy place was the best grounding for our perfect Christmas after days of chaotic preparation. Sometime later my need for more involvement with my faith, St. Gwynour's has helped to satisfy it. I found what I wanted there. To me the church is special.

Keith and Mary Evans remember, that on one cold January morning, with their friends Dorrien, the newly elected Bishop of St. David's, and his wife Rosie attended the Sunday Service at St. Gwynour's. Though it was probably much warmer outside than inside the church there was something very uplifting about the service. We celebrated what it meant to be a "faithful remnant" with the Bishop giving the blessing. He spoke of the warmth of the welcome and of the sense of the "sacred" he felt in the church encouraging all with the words of Dewi Sant to be joyful, to keep

the faith, and to do the little things. What lies ahead we do not know, but we *do* know that on that cold winter's morning eighteen months ago the Kingdom of God felt very near.

Gillian remembers the occasion when a hive of activity preparing the church for the Harvest Thanksgiving Service was going on. Andrew, on the organ was practising the chosen hymns. He suddenly changed the tempo and played a well-known "toe tapper". We all joined in singing and then dancing in the aisles waving our feather dusters in gay abandon. St. Gwynour's was alive with music, fun, laughter and camaraderie, a treasured memory.

Pam Dennis says, I have attended services in many churches in the course of my life. St. Gwynour's is the only one in which I felt truly at home and where I have been happy to see my daughters married and my grandchildren baptised. My husband's funeral was held there, and I had hoped my own would also eventually be held there. It's loss will be an enduring sadness.

Diane: Hearing bells ringing out across Cilonnen led me to finding St. Gwynour's back in the eighties. Much followed there over the years: my daughter's wedding, my granddaughter's baptism, Sunday School, church warden and enduring friendships - half a life-time. The church became my sacred place and will be deeply missed but so many good, good memories will remain.

Valerie Beynon: Like many Gower people, and especially former and current members, I was very sad to hear that Llanynnewydd, Penclawdd Church is to be closed on the 30th November. St Gwynour's is the church which I attended until going away to university. It had been the place of worship since the 1850's for four generations of my father's side of the family. Both sets of his grandparents had been active in the life of the church and are buried in the churchyard.

When I was a teenager in the 1950's, Matins was celebrated on Sunday mornings, except on the first Sunday in the month when Eucharist took place. My family attended Evensong at 6.30pm, after the daily farm tasks were done and the Church would be full. I have many happy memories to recall. At special Church Festivals such as Easter and Harvest Thanksgiving, everyone came. It was essential to be in your seat at least 20 minutes before the service began; otherwise you would not be sitting in your regular pew or you might even have to stand! There was always a visiting Vicar to preach the Sermon and most of these were well known as good orators. These special Festivals were an excuse for most ladies and children to have new outfits!

The Vicar in the 1950's was the Rev. Benjamin Evans who lived in the large Vicarage, on the slope above the Church at Brynhir. This had been the home of the generous benefactors in the early 1900's, Mr & Mrs Baker-Haynes, a Swansea industrialist

family. They had given their home as part of their major contribution to St Gwynour's mentioned in the Church's description on page 46. The Youth Club always enjoyed their Christmas party in the Vicarage!

The next vicar was the Rev. Mervyn Davies. During his Ministry he appointed my mother Elizabeth Beynon as the first female Vicar's Warden in the parish.

After the Chancel had been enlarged in 1926 to install a fine organ plus choir stalls and vestry, a large robed male choir led worship in the Church for many years. In the 1950's Mr Bidder was the choir master and he walked from Gowerton and back each Sunday to lead the Choir! A Ladies Choir was established and we enjoyed singing at the special festivals mentioned above.

The church had a wonderful location on a hill above the wide Morlais valley with fine views towards the far west of Gower. Each year as the days became longer and when we sang the beautiful hymn 'The day thou gavest' at the fourth verse 'the sun that bids us rest is waking our brethren 'neath the western sky', I would always take a quick look out of the window to catch the setting sun on Whitford Point! Following three happy years of teaching in Canada many years ago, I still fondly recall my close friends in the West when singing those lines!

In the 1950's there were a number of activities for all ages of Church people and these usually took place in the fine Church Hall which had been built in the centre of Penclawdd.

In addition to a mid-week Service, this was where many other groups met. There was a large, active Mothers' Union, which continued until not many years ago, a Men's Group, Harvest and special Suppers as well as numerous fund-raising events. For some years there was an active Youth Club and I recall summer trips including one to Ilfracombe on the daily summer crossing from Mumbles Pier.

The Band of Hope was very active and annually produced an operetta in the Hall. I remember, vividly, being a rather large fairy in a production of the popular 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs'. Snow White was played by Rev. Peter's mother, Gloria, who had a beautiful voice and always took the soprano lead in the Band of Hope performances.

The Prince Charming was Ron Lloyd. He later became the 'Precentor' of Christchurch Cathedral! In retirement he now lives near Burford where he enjoys reading the Gower Church Magazine every month!

A highlight of the year for young people was on Whit-Monday when the main road through Penclawdd was closed and the Sunday Schools from the Church and three Chapels formed a procession along the main road from the east end of the village at Abercedi to the West End.

Although the Llanyrnewydd building will now stand empty, it will always be a symbol of hundreds of years of church life and, more importantly for many of us, a reminder of the Church community and wonderful memories of worship and fellowship from an important stage in our lives.

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Your problem

You may not realise it... but you have a problem. At least, you have a problem if you care about what happens in this part of the world next year and the year after that.

You see, the Church may, quite soon, be no longer here! Honestly! It could disappear! Everyone agrees that we need to pay for the leadership of full-time clergy but everyone thinks someone else will provide the funds. They won't. Not anymore, they won't.

Will you all please consider your regular giving and see if it could be more? Our Gower parish share pays for our Gower clergy team. Let us, please, make sure that we keep the team that we have. It is no great secret that other parts of our Diocese are not paying their share. They may not realise what they are doing. No one wants to say it - but if there is not enough money there will have to be fewer clergy. Please make sure that we keep the clergy we have.

We rejoice, don't we, in the place where we live? We rejoice in the cliffs and beaches. But, above all, we rejoice in the people around us. We share with our neighbours so many stories and so many memories. We are greatly blessed by what we share.

Most of what we share is Christian heritage. You and I know that Christianity has made a huge

difference to the way we think about each other. Humanity is not naturally loving and caring. It can be vicious and cruel. But Jesus told us to love and care for each other. He told us to go two miles to help others even if we could easily get away with only going one. He told us that it really doesn't work to take a swipe at someone who has punched you. It is better to turn the other cheek. And he practised what he preached, didn't he? He accepted all kinds of abuse without returning it.

Of course, absolutely nobody lives up to what Jesus said and did all the time. But enough people have been nudged in the right direction enough of the time for our world to be, now, much better than the world that Jesus was born into. And it can improve. It can move closer to God. And we can help this happen. But we have to know what the Christian message is and we have to share it with each other day-by-day. We need the Church.

We can't solve the problems of the world. We can't solve the problems of our Diocese but let us solve *our* problem and make sure that our leadership team is secure.

Please can you consider increasing your regular giving?

Nigel King

From Peter Lewis, MA Team Leader

Welsh Language Services

Mae ein gwasanaeth iaith Gymraeg ar gyfer ein hardal weinidogaeth ar 28fed o fis Tachwedd yn Eglwys Santes Fair ym Mhenard am 11am. Bydd croeso cynnes i unrhyw un sy'n dysgu Cymraeg.

Our Welsh language service for our ministry area is November 28th in St Mary's Pennard at 11am. Anyone learning Welsh will have a great welcome.

We need someone to take on the role of Ministry Area Treasurer

As we give thanks for Peter Townsend, who is now stepping down from this responsibility, the decision has been taken to share the duties of the ministry area treasurer between two roles: the Ministry Area Treasurer and the Deputy Ministry Area Treasurer. We are delighted that Diane Holohan from St Hilary's is our Deputy MA Treasurer but we are still looking for someone to take on the MA Treasurer duties. The MAC would like to show you a breakdown of the roles so that you might be able to think of someone who would consider that vacant position.

MA Treasurer: this person is co-opted on the Ministry Area Council (MAC) and attends the MA chapter meetings four times a year. They are the link between the diocesan financial team and the MAC; they oversee the Ministry Area bank

accounts (which, for example pay the ministry share to the diocese, receive our gift aid, deal with clergy expenses...); they support the congregational treasurers, for example assisting with the software package, My Fund; they create the MA annual accounts (which will be very straight forward when My Fund is in operation); and they report to the MAC on our financial situation. The workload has weeks with very little action, perhaps on average 2-3 hours a month, with a focus on pulling together the information on all the MA finances at the end/start of the year for the annual financial report.

Deputy MA Treasurer: this person primarily actions payments from the MA accounts through on-line banking, for example clergy expenses and one-off payments. They will also keep abreast of the duties of the MA Treasurer. We've set up new on-line bank accounts with Natwest and both Treasurers will be signatories along with two of the clergy and the Administrator for our Magazine account and the Wellbeing Project Lead for the Wellbeing account.

If you are interested, or know someone who might be suitable, please contact MAL Peter on peterlewis@cinw.org.uk.

Making our Ministry Area Council more manageable for business and representation

The MAC wants to ensure that all our 20 congregations have representation at the MAC and that these representatives are able to contribute to discussion and allow for a flow of communication between the MAC and their congregation. We currently have 27 MAC members, and all these are trustees.

Not all those elected to be representatives want to have the responsibilities that come with being trustees of a charity, and 27 is proving to be too large a number in terms of the business side of the charity. At our MAC meeting in October a proposal was accepted to change the working agreement of the Ministry Area to bring a new arrangement for the composition of the MAC and election of representatives. There is an opportunity for congregations to consider this proposal and at the MAC meeting on 24th Nov this proposal will be presented for amendment or adoption. Speak with your MAC rep if you would like to communicate contributions to the discussion.

In essence, the number of MAC members (who are the trustees) will be reduced and those congregations that do not have a

MAC member will have a representative designated as a MAC visitor – who can attend, discuss, bring agenda items, but not vote and will not have the trustee responsibilities. This is the proposal for the new MAC, where, following the Constitution, some members are automatically part of the MAC (ex officio), others are elected and others can be co-opted.

1. Ex officio clergy members.
Following the constitution of the Church in Wales, only stipendiary clergy will become ex-officio; house for duty and Non-stipendiary ministers will be MAC visitors.
2. Ex officio MA wardens.
The two MA wardens will continue to be MAC members.
3. Elected lay MAC members.
Each of our four clusters of churches will have a total of two lay MAC members (a cluster that has a MA warden will have one other lay MAC member). Thus, with 6 elected lay members and the two MA wardens, there will be a total of 8 lay MAC members (we currently have 15).
4. Elected lay MAC visitors.
Those congregations that wish to elect representation to the MAC (most, but not

all congregations currently send a representative) will elect a MAC visitor. They are not part of the MAC and are not trustees.

5. Co-opted MAC members.

Once formed, the MAC needs to have a lay MAC chair, a MA Treasurer and a MAC secretary. If none of the existing MAC trustees wish to take on such a role, then the MAC can co-opt someone to undertake that function and join the MAC. Currently, both the MA Treasurer Peter Townsend and the MAC secretary Caroline are co-opted. The MAC can also co-opt one lay reader to represent the lay readers in the ministry area. All those who are co-opted are trustees and members of the MAC.

This new working agreement would bring the MAC down to 13 to 15 people depending on the required co-opted members. Many rural ministry areas with 15 to 28 different church congregations have their own arrangement to create a manageable number of trustees; our proposal was affirmed by our MAC in the October meeting because it allows for a continued representation of every

congregation with each church having a delegate to contribute to any discussions.

Elections will continue in a very similar manner to the present arrangement: Each congregation is invited to elect their own representative to the MAC meetings.

Those names will be brought to the Annual Vestry Meeting (AVM). Church members wishing to stand as our MA wardens will be elected at the AVM and they will automatically function as MAC members from their cluster churches. At that point, knowing which two clusters will need one additional MAC member and which two clusters will need two MAC members, an agreement will be made from all the representatives elected from each particular cluster as to who will act as a MAC member (trustee) and who will act as a MAC visitor. If the representatives from a cluster cannot come an agreement, then they will vote amongst themselves, and if needed, the Ministry Area Lead will assist in the decision making.

THE SOUTHWEST GOWER CLUSTER OF CHURCHES

*St Andrew's, Penrice; St Cattwg's, Port Eynon;
St David's, Llanddewi; St George's, Reynoldston;
St Illtyd's, Oxwich; and St Mary's, Rhossili.*

Website: gowerma.org

Facebook: *South West Churches in Gower
Ministry Area*

WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER

Every Tuesday	9.00am	Morning Prayer	Reynoldston
Every Wednesday	9.30am	Communion/Bible Study	Llanddewi
Every Thursday	8.15am	Prayerfulness Walk	Rhossili
	10.30am	Prayers at Reynoldston	Methodist Church
Sunday 2 Nov	8.30am	Communion 1662	Penrice
All Saints Day	10.30am	Morning Prayer	Reynoldston
	11.00am	Harvest Communion	Oxwich
	5.00pm	Harvest Communion	Port Eynon
Sunday 9 Nov	10.30am	Joint Remembrance	Reynoldston
Remembrance		Service	
Sunday 16 Nov	8.30am	Communion 1662	Penrice
Kingdom 3	9.15am	Holy Communion	Rhossili
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Reynoldston
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Oxwich
	5.00pm	Holy Communion	Port Eynon
Sunday 23 Nov	8.30am	Holy Communion	Penrice
Kingdom 4	9.30am	Holy Communion	Llanddewi
Christ the King	10.30am	Holy Communion	Reynoldston
	11.00am	Morning Service	Oxwich
	5.00pm	Blessings Café	Port Eynon
Friday 30 Nov	10.30am	Joint service of	Penrice
St Andrew's Day		Holy Communion	

Bible Study Groups

- In Llanddewi church every Wednesday following the mid-week Communion service at 9.30am.

- At Highmead, Overton Lane, Port Eynon, every Wednesday at 10.30am for 11. Further information from Richard Herbert on 01792 390300.

Caffi Cattwg in Port Eynon Church: Saturday 1st, 15th and 29th November, 10.30am to 12 noon. Everyone welcome.

Condolence It was with great sadness this week that we learned of the death of Peter Davies, one of the most faithful members of St Illtyd's and much appreciated Treasurer of the South West Gower Churches.

Peter was a man of service in all aspects of his life. A High Sheriff of West Glamorgan some years ago, he also held several positions in the Diocese of Swansea & Brecon and in Swansea University. With a background in banking he was eagerly sought after and served as Treasurer for St Illtyd's for many years and latterly for the South West Gower Benefice. As a Reader and Worship Leader his services were very eloquently led.

Rest in Peace, Peter and sincere sympathy to Jean and all your family.

REPORTS FROM THE CHURCHES

St David's, Llanddewi

Harvest was celebrated twice in our little church in a farmyard. The first time was a Sunday Harvest Thanksgiving, when people from our communities drew together in a joyful celebration led by Vicar Peter. A music band helped to lift our voices, the church was decorated with flowers, sheaves of wheat, barley and oats, vegetables, apples, and tinned and dried food, and the sun shone through the windows. We felt truly blessed. Tea was served afterwards. The following Wednesday, Peter led four consecutive mini-services with Knelston school pupils. They listened attentively to Peter's explanation of the meaning of harvest, watching the videos projected onto the wall, seeing the produce decorating the church, learning of our dependence on farmers for food, of God who created the world for us to care for, and of our need to share with others. They enthusiastically joined in the harvest songs and carried food packages to the table. The donated food was taken to Goleudy.

God's rich tapestry. Our lives are marked with threads of experience, stitched together to create coloured

seasonal patches: dark shades reflecting periods of difficulty, patches that are light and bright marking easier, happy times. The dark times can be valuable times of learning, when we search for meaning, recognise our weakness, dig deeper to find the strength, hope and possibilities of a way forward; learn how to put ourselves into the situations of others, re-assess what really matters, and recognise our need to be part of a bigger picture. As we find kindness, truth, wisdom, and the true meaning of love, then the brightly coloured threads are stitched into our tapestry, expressing healing, goodness and joy. Our threads cannot hold together on their own: they need backing fabric with integrity to hide the messy knots, hold the stitches and reveal the meaningful picture of our lives that is meant to be seen and valued. That's what God does ...

Penny Henderson

St Illtyd's, Oxwich

At this time, Paul was in prison in Rome and therefore he could not travel to Colossae, a town in Asia Minor, east of Ephesus. The church there had not even been visited by him in the past but had been established by

workers whom he had sent from Ephesus. Nevertheless he felt responsible for this Christian community. Paul had learnt that certain heresies were being bandied about. Circumcision was encouraged, food rituals were to be observed and many other strict rules were to be obeyed.

This prompted Paul's letter to the Colossians, delivered by Tychicus. Paul tells the people of Colossae to hold fast to basic Christian truths and although he had never met them he is praying for them and wants them to 'focus on a tapestry of love' and to have minds, confident, focused on Christ and God's great mystery. Jesus Christ is able to give full salvation and other beliefs and practices only lead away from him. Through Christ, God created the world and through him is bringing it back to himself. Only in union with Christ is there salvation. This should be our message too so that everything we do and believe in should be enveloped in love.

Rosemary Wigley

St Andrews, Penrice

November always seems to be a grey, sad month, a time of remembrance, thoughts of Christmas still seem in the far distance. Our Harvest inspired service was held in October and the goods contributed were taken to the Food Bank. It was not so long ago that the church would have been fully decorated with fresh fruit and vegetables and the harvest loaf, baked especially, would have been on the altar. But in these times non-perishable goods are more practical.

We are holding our Harvest Supper on November 14th at The Britannia which in all probability will be a happy and social evening. Apart from Storm Amy it has been a fairly quiet autumn with glorious colours all around us in hedgerows and woods. As yet, we have not put the heating on in the church, but it is noticeable that the congregation is coming to church in warmer coats. At 8.30am on Sunday morning the temperature is far from warm from now on.

The chosen theme this month is 'God's Rich Tapestry'. Many of the big palaces and great houses of this country and Europe had magnificent tapestries decorating their walls. They served a practical purpose of preserving warmth and providing decoration but also the threads of silk or wool would tell a story from the Bible or family history. The lives we lead are often complicated with negative and positive times but each thread represents a different experience or angle to our life and the whole image completes a picture or tapestry of our life as ordained by God.

The Penrice Calendar 2026 will be available shortly and further details will be in next month's magazine. We look forward to welcoming members of the other churches to the joint service at St. Andrew's on November 30th which is our patronal festival. We hope that many will attend and join us in celebrating St. Andrew.

Angela Barnett

St Cattwg's, Port Eynon

Harvest Festival was marked at St. Cattwg's on October 5th with little ceremony, as we were to share Llanddewi's celebration on October 12th. On October 19th we had a bonus celebration, with apple juice and apple cake, and the Vicar's meditation on apples in the Bible, attended by a larger congregation than usual.

We have said a reluctant farewell to Hugh and Kirstine Dunthorne, who have moved away to find a new home. Hugh has been churchwarden for many years, also stalwart supporter of many village enterprises, providing music in church and his excellent acting abilities to the Port Eynon Players, as well as artistic talents to the village Art Group and effort to the Yoga class. They will both be sorely missed.

God's Rich Tapestry. It is a cliché to speak of 'Life's rich tapestry' yet, in autumn, surrounded by bright leaves and rich colours in flower borders, the words are apt. However, there is more to life's tapestry as sewn by God than the natural beauty with which we are surrounded. From birth to death we add our own stitches to the huge work of art, the clean, bright threads of happiness, family and friends and the gloomy colours for our times of anxiety and illness; maybe grey or black threads for when we sinned or suffered or encountered bereavement. Some threads are lumpy and twisted, there may even be the sharp points of forgotten needles still embedded in the cloth, representing unresolved problems or actions of which we are

ashamed but have failed to make good. We have to be ready for set-backs, even for unpicking and getting help. God is always embedded in his intricate tapestry to listen and advise, as long as you ask.

Susan Morris

St George's, Reynoldston

For the Harvest Thanksgiving Service, the church had been simply decorated with flowers as well as the food and toiletry items to be contributed to the Salvation Army. With the generous donations from Penrice Church members, plus the gifts brought to the supper later that evening, a large estate car was needed to deliver all the offerings to Swansea the next day. Many thanks are given for the generosity of all those who had contributed.

The Harvest Supper was a great success with over 80 people, some of whom we were pleased to welcome from other West Gower villages. After the usual delicious supper we were entertained by members of the Reynoldston Drama Group to a play-reading of an excellent story called Foul Play at Reynoldston Fair. Written and directed by Revd Peter, it was difficult to decide which one of the distinguished dinner guests was guilty of the murder of the Lord of the Manor and of course it was one of the least suspected. The guests were barely disguised names of well-known C19 local and visiting people such as the Revds J. D. Davies and Francis Kilvert, Adelina Patti and Allan Duncan. It was excellent entertainment and repeated in Oxwich later in the

week. Many thanks to the Revd Peter and the cast for giving us such a novel and interesting story.

Valerie Beynon

St Mary the Virgin, Rhossili

A true friend to St Mary's.



This glorious picture in St Mary's church captures Peter and Jean in 2018 on the first occasion when Peter preached in his robes after becoming a Licensed Reader. He was thrilled to have reached this pinnacle moment in his Christian life.

Peter often led our worship – just one of many commitments he made to us. Despite not living nearby, he was closely involved with Rhossili's Christian activities, outreach and initiatives, and was a staunch member of the church committee. When I first met him, Peter was treasurer here. He

favoured Rhossili for local preacher cover on lay Sundays, and was a real constant in our lives. His 'sermons' were honest and thought-provoking, encouraging us to think beyond our daily living.

Peter used his professional skills as treasurer for the Benefice of South West Gower at that time, consolidating all the six churches' accounts and submitting them for audit every year, as well as managing the budgets and expenses for the group and clergy throughout the year. And of course, he was on the Diocesan Board of Finance too.

Amongst Peter's many talents – about which you will be reading in this month's magazine – was his superb tenor voice and music-reading ability. He was the stalwart of the tenor section of the South West Gower choir under the conducting baton of Carl Johnson. Indeed, many difficult pieces could only be performed because Peter was so reliable. He had eclectic tastes and would attempt most genres of music, but I do remember his grumpy response after performing Karl Jenkins' *Healing Light* – where the tenor line was a repetitive 2-bar phrase of Lay Lay Lay-ah Lay for the entire 10 pages of the piece with no rest and no variation. 'Lay off' I think he said.

A most lovely man – accomplished, astute, a dedicated Christian, mentor and friend: on behalf of everyone in Rhossili, may I say it was an outstanding pleasure to have known Peter and received his love and kindness.

Caroline Johnson

Three Cliffs Cluster of Churches

Bishopston, Ilston, Pennard, Penmaen, and Nicholaston

Sunday Services:

Ilston at 9:30 am November 2 (Eucharist); November 16 (Eucharist); at 10:00 am November 30 (Joint Service for all Three Cliffs Cluster).

Bishopston at 10:00 am November 2 (Eucharist); November 9 (Remembrance Sunday); November 16 (Morning Prayer); November 23 (Eucharist)

Pennard Church at 10:45 am November 9 (Remembrance Sunday); at 11:00 November 16 (Eucharist); November 23 (Eucharist)

Pennard Community Hall at 11:00 am November 2 (Family Service)

Nicholaston at 11:15 am November 2 (Eucharist); November 23 (Eucharist)

Penmaen at 10:00 November 9 (Remembrance Sunday))

Weekday Services:

Wednesday Eucharists at Pennard 9:45 am on November 5,12,19,26

Thursday Celtic Communion services at the Lamplighter 9:30 am on November 6,13,20,27

Pennard Church St Mary's

Catherine Thomas writes: Our Harvest Thanksgiving Service was held in the Community Hall. The congregation's generous donations were very gratefully received at the Foodbank where they were taken by Ailsa and Eileen.



Over to Eileen, “A few weeks ago, I made a harvest appeal on behalf of the Food Bank and the result was wonderful as we were given bags of food and £300.00. The Food Bank volunteers were absolutely delighted. In that appeal I did mention that I was like Oliver Twist, who asked for more . . .

On Sunday, December 7th, we will be holding our Gift Service. If you remember, years ago, members used to buy toys for the Faith in Families organisation but these days we give money and parents are given vouchers which they exchange for toys with a Swansea distributor. Imagine how those parents feel being able to choose Christmas presents for their children?

"The Food Bank has also made an appeal to us for 'Christmassy' items as treats - selection boxes, stockings etc. but are equally happy to receive money.

"Are you willing to give, in some way? At the service there will be 2 marked boxes in which to put your donation - (any cheques should be made payable to St. Mary's Church, Pennard) and a table ready to receive your food gifts. If you are unable to attend that service, please feel free to contact Ailsa Howell on 232490 or myself on 234232.

"Please be generous and, perhaps, think of it as a way of thanking God for the gifts we have received. Thank you."

October 100 Club winner, Annika Nicholas.

Thank you to the fantastic team of volunteers who cleaned the church on Monday 20th October, between the departure of the builders and in time for the funeral. You are stars!

Please note that the venue of Mothers Union meetings will be the Small Hall (Parish Hall) until the completion of building work at the church. The speaker at our October meeting was Sarah Davies who told us about 'Care in the Community' and encouraged us to apply for what we are entitled to. Liz Barry will be making a return visit for our next meeting, Tuesday 18th November at 2.30pm. This time Liz will tell us about 'Antartica and Chilean Fjords.'

Dates for your Diaries

Friday 31st October - A Memorial Service for the late Myra Howells of Belvedere Close, Kittle will be held in church at midday.

Sunday 2nd November, Community Hall, 11am - A Service for All Souls Day and All Saints Day. An opportunity to remember those who have gone before us.

Sunday 9th November, 10.45 Remembrance - we meet at the memorial in Vennaway Lane where we will observe the 11am Act of Remembrance which will be followed by our Remembrance service in church. 'At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.'

Friday 28th November - Gwasanaeth Cymraeg for the start of Advent, St Mary's Pennard, 11am.

Wednesday 3rd December - Advance notice of Carols on the Cliffs, with the Salvation Army Band and a lantern parade.

Funerals

20th October - David Peter Lloyd Davies

23rd October - Margaret James

News from Nicholaston & Penmaen

Frances Owen-John writes:

Services during November.

1st Sunday, 2nd November 11.15 at Nicholaston. 2nd Sunday, 9th November 10 am until 11 am at Penmaen Remembrance 3rd Sunday, 16th November, no service; 4th Sunday, 23rd November, 11.15 at Nicholaston. 5th Sunday, 30th November - joint service at Ilston at 10:00 am.

Looking ahead to December, at the recent Church Council Meeting the

services for December were agreed as:
Sunday 7th December, St Nicholas
Feast at 11.15 am at Nicholaston.
Tuesday 9th December Carol singing at
Penmaen Church at 7pm followed by
wine and mince pies. Sunday, 21st
December service of 9 lessons and
carols at Penmaen Church at 10 am..
Christmas Eve 7 pm at Penmaen
Church. Christmas Day, 10.30 am at
Nicholaston Church.

Magazine subscription renewal for 2026. Yes, it is that time again to let me know if you wish to continue receiving the magazine in 2026 and in which format. Hard copies will still be at £12 for the year and e copies will still be at £6 for the year. Preferably payment directly into the bank account: Account name: Parish of Penmaen and Nicholaston, Bank: Lloyds, code: 30 95 46. Account number: 00236152. Reference your name, please.

Caldy Retreat: Earlier in October, David Harry and Loz went on retreat to Caldy. David has written an account which is printed separately.

Coffee morning Next coffee morning will be on Saturday, 1st November, at Penmaen and Nicholaston Village Hall.

Please continue to pray for the sick, Cheryl Reeve who is making good progress and Gilda Jones, who has broken her ankle, the bereaved and those having operations, and peace to those countries at war.

St Illtyd Ilston

Jen Griffiths writes: Our Harvest Festival took place on 5th October and our grateful thanks to everyone for their contribution to the Harvest Service. The flower arrangements were beautiful and the readings, singing and music made it a very special occasion and we were very pleased to receive the generous food bank gifts. We know people are committed all through the year to providing food and money to the food bank which we are sure is gratefully appreciated.

We were really pleased to see Cheryl at the service following her accident. She explained progress had been slow due to her many injuries but she has now started Physiotherapy and is hopeful that she will be able to do much more soon. She has not lost her sense of humour and is extremely strong in determination to get better. Our love and prayers for her to make a full recovery.

There will be no Remembrance Service at Ilston this year but a joint service for the Three Cliffs cluster will be held in church at 10.00 am on 30th November. This is in addition to the usual first and third Sunday services held at 9.30 am.

Please continue to pray for peace around the world. God Bless.

East Gower Cluster of Churches

St. Hilary's, Killay; St. Martin's, Dunvant; All Souls, Tycoch

Worship in November 2025

Every Wednesday	10:30am	Holy Eucharist	All Souls, Tycoch
Every Thursday	11:00am	Holy Eucharist	St. Hilary's, Killay
Sunday Nov 2nd	11:00am	Holy Eucharist	St. Martin's, Dunvant
	9:30am	Morning Prayer	All Souls, Tycoch
	9:30am	Bubble Church	St. Hilary's, Killay
	11:00am	Lay Led Service	St. Hilary's, Killay
Sunday Nov. 9th	10:00am	Lay Led Service	St. Martin's, Dunvant
	9:30am	Holy Eucharist	All Souls, Tycoch
	10:55am	Holy Eucharist	St. Hilary's, Killay
Sunday Nov. 16th	9:00am	Holy Eucharist	St. Martin's, Dunvant
	9:30am	Lay Led Service	All Souls, Tycoch
	11:00am	Holy Eucharist	St. Hilary's, Killay
Sunday Nov. 23rd	11:00am	Holy Eucharist	St. Martin's, Dunvant
	9:30am	Holy Eucharist	All Souls, Tycoch
	11:00am	Holy Eucharist	St. Hilary's, Killay
Sunday Nov. 30th	11:00am	Holy Eucharist	St. Hilary's, Killay

There will be one service in the Eastern Cluster.

St Hilary

Marian Williams writes:

God's Rich Tapestry.

This quotation from Colossians 2 verses 2-4 tells us how we should all be encouraged and knit together by strong ties of love. We should all have complete confidence in God's plan for each one of us because God has the ultimate knowledge and wisdom to direct our thoughts and actions if our faith is strong.

The idea of Tapestry suggests to me all

the various parts, possibly crafted by individuals or a variety of people with different skills and different backgrounds being woven together as one. The finished piece being a representation of the time, effort and love being given to produce it. I remember seeing the Bayeux Tapestry for the first time and years later the Overlord Embroidery in Portsmouth. Both of these commemorating historical events some 878 years apart but reflecting on the human condition which remained similar.



The National Museum of Wales at St. Fagan's has a collection of samplers, often made by young girls learning to sew and representing the important features in their lives, often featuring the alphabet and numbers as teaching tools.

The recent Citizens Cymru training event organised by Rev'd Peter and held at St. Hilary's demonstrated people working together to bring God's plan to fruition. This event had a focus on the key principles and tools of Community Organising, building trust across difference in our diverse communities, developing leaders and strengthening



who we are as a church. This served as an excellent example of what can be achieved when we have the confidence and faith to trust God, in order to strengthen His Rich Tapestry on Earth in our communities.

At St. Hilary's we recently celebrated our Harvest Festival, when we came together to bring our offerings to help those who rely upon support from the charity Goleudy. As is traditional, a working party decorated the church beforehand and the children from Sunday School proceeded to the altar with the offerings at the beginning of the service.



HARVEST SUPPER – Saturday 11th October 2025



Nigel Fletcher writes: Over 60 members of St Hilary's, St Martin's, All Souls and friends from the Ministry Area joined together in the Parish Centre for an evening of good food, good company and excellent entertainment.

The evening got off to a foot tapping, finger clicking and clapping start with the Swansea u3a Ukulele Big Band. The band of over 20 ukulele musicians played for over an hour with a repertoire that spanned tunes written over 100 years. Not forgetting the band was ably assisted by the one and only Mike Powell on the cajon (a Peruvian percussion instrument!)

The audience was encouraged to sing along to many varied songs including: Reet Petite (Jackie Wilson), When you walk in the room (The Searchers), Here Comes the Sun (The Beatles), Sway (Dean Martin) and a rendition of Hymns & Arias (Max Boyce).

To demonstrate their versatility, they sang a version of a 1992 classic Friday I'm in Love by The Cure and the 2005 hit by the Stereophonics called Dakota.

Layfetta confessed to receiving text messages from Nabeel asking her to dance, although we didn't get to see their "Strictly" routine.

By this time, we were all ready for our Harvest Supper. The catering staff,

Sylvia, Nancy, Geraldine, and others (too numerous to mention) swung into action, serving up bowls of homemade cawl and fresh bread in double quick time.

And if that wasn't enough, it was followed by generous portions of homemade trifle.

Judging by all the empty dishes the meal was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Then an army of volunteers stepped up to clean up and give the new dishwasher a thorough test.

Layfetta thanked everyone who had contributed to organising an extremely successful event.



The Gogledd Gŵyr-North Gower group of churches



St Gwynour Llanyrnewydd

Pages eight to ten of this magazine are devoted to memories of St Gwynour' Church from the past.

This month Diane Cornelius writes:

Warmest wishes were given to Gill when she celebrated her 80th birthday in September coupled with congratulations to Keith and Mary on the birth of their second granddaughter Connie.

Birthdays remind us of the gift of time, both the years already given, and the days yet to come, for that we give thanks.

Our Harvest Thanksgiving Service takes place on the 26th. Oct. at the usual time of 11.15am. Harvest donations will be passed on to the North Gower Food Hub.

Prayers for the continuation of peace in the Middle East were led by Father Tim at two services at the Penclawdd Memorial Garden.

Pilgrims from across the border with links to Ilston were warmly welcomed as they followed Arthur's Pilgrimage.

November 30th - Joint Eucharist Service led by Rev. Peter Lewis for the parishes of North Gower. Everyone will be very welcome.

Burial.

September 19th - Gordon Jenkins of Penclawdd

Burial of ashes

October 16th - Colin James Mauder Gowerton.

Ss. Rhyddian & Iltyd, Llanrhidian

Pam Meakins writes: Perhaps the most famous tapestry the world over is the Bayeux Tapestry. It was made on the orders of Odo, the Bishop of Bayeux, William the Conqueror's half brother, shortly after the conquest of England in 1066. It is a band of embroidered linen cloth (not woven as the word tapestry implies) about 231 ft by 20 inches. It is a pictorial account of the Battle of Hastings marking the start of Norman rule in Britain. In the rebuilt Coventry cathedral, consecrated May 1962, is a most magnificent tapestry, which takes the place of the traditional east window. It was designed by Graham Sutherland. It is huge, about 72 feet by 38 feet, and was woven in France, taking about 30,000 hours to make. It depicts Christ in Glory with panels showing the four-headed beast from Revelation. I know in Wales there are two tapestries about St Caradog. One in the church of St Caradog, Lawrenny, made in the 1970s-80s, showing scenes from his life, was created by Katherine Lort-Phillips. Another is at St David's Cathedral. Designed by Amanda Wright in 2014, it shows Caradog as a patron of harpists and references the hounds that he tamed during a violent storm.

We are woven together throughout the world by the beauty of music and the arts. We are so grateful for all the talented people who beautify our world.

We all enjoyed the visit of Llanrhidian school who held their harvest service on October 14th in the church. We gave thanks for the seeds that grow into the harvest to give the blessing of food for people.

Dates: Llanrhidian Village Supper – Friday 28th November. Tickets – Adult £10 Child £5.

Christmas Quiz – Friday 5th December.

Please support these fun events which raise much needed funds to support the village hall, a great asset for the village.

2026 magazine subscriptions: £12 hard copy, £6 email version.

Please pray for all ill or at home in hospital.

Llanrhidian Mothers Union.

Jill Mcpherson writes: Our next Branch meeting will be held on Tuesday 18th. November when we will meet for lunch together before holding our AGM at the Community Hall.

The Archdeaconary Festival will take place at St. Cynog's Church Ystradgynlais on Monday November 10th at 11am. Our Diocesan Chaplain Revd. Sarah Harris will lead our Festival Service.

Jill. Branch Leader.

Caldey Retreat October 2025

by David Harry and Nigel Doyle



photo by David Harry



photo by Nigel Doyle

David Harry writes: After an exhilarating ride on the Caldey Island fast R.I.B. made necessary by storm Amy we arrived at St. Philomena's Retreat welcomed by our hosts Oscar and Daria who had prepared the first of many delicious meals for us.

There followed two days of enchantment, exploring the beautiful island which we had to ourselves - no visitor boats because of the sea conditions. The first morning Rev. Tim led us with a short bible reading and meditation in St. Illtyd's church, next to the Old Priory, the site of the original 6th century Celtic monastery. The Priory was home to the Benedictine monks who lived in medieval times. The present Cistercian monks now live lower down in the new Abbey built in 1913.

In the afternoon we went to the present-day Abbey where Brother David, after a brief description of his path in life before joining the monastery, read some his poems from his latest book 'Shelter From The Storm'.

He gave us an insight into his inspiration for some of his poems.

In the evening, we all made our way to the Abbey church for the last service of the day at 7-35pm 'Compline'.

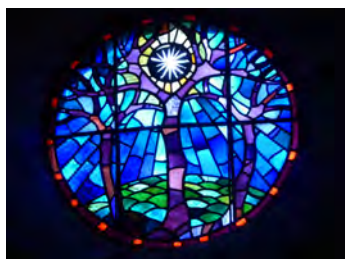
Our final day started for a few of us at 3-30am, an enlightening insight into the monks call for prayer and dedication, with sung liturgy to start followed by psalms interspersed with two bible readings. They aim to cover all 150 psalms during the year. There follows a day of services, with periods of prayer and meditation, along with work around the Abbey and gardens, together with domestic chores, which Brother Gildus is in charge of.

Brother Gildus an accomplished artist and historian, who became a monk on Caldey 42yrs ago when there were 18 Monks there, gave us a talk on the heritage of the site from the times of a pre Christian Celtic cell. Gildus told us of the many archaeological finds mainly from the caves along the north side of the island.

Fr Nigel writes: An essential part of a retreat on Caldey Island is to go with the natural flow of the Abbey prayer time. With services starting with Vigils at 3.30am and ending at 8pm with Compline, there are many opportunities to join with the Community in prayer in the eight daily offices which punctuate the balance between work and prayer and spiritual reading.

What do the Monks do in between the offices? Well, like any household, there is the house to clean, the garden to maintain, the fruit and vegetable garden and chickens to be cared for, laundry work, food to be prepared, the chocolate factory to run etc. The life of the Cistercian Monk is one where to work is to pray and to pray is to work.

The Abbot, Fr. Jan, took us on a journey through the daily life of the Cistercian Monk of prayer and work as set down in the Rule of St Benedict. And... we had time to reflect and enjoy the quietness of the island's natural environment.



*The Tree of life window at St Davids Church
Photo by Nigel Doyle*

The sea-swell continued for all our time on the island and consequently there were no day-boats and we had space and time to just be and listen to the 'still small voice'; an opportunity to be with each other in contemplative stillness and shared thoughts. With everything focused on the opus Dei - the work of God. The Community is secluded, but not excluded from the world, prayer requests are received by letter, email and left by day visitors in the island churches and the Abbey. Guests staying in St Philomena's and the Abbey Guest House are received and can share their worries and troubles (and joys too) with the Guest Master.

We had a prayerfully fulfilling and peaceful time together and came away spiritually and physically refreshed, by the morning Caldey post boat (sadly not the exciting speed boat ride). All who went on the retreat would commend the experience to anyone thinking of joining a future Gower Ministry Area retreat to Caldey Island.



Photo by David Harry

'Holy Ground' by Anna Burgess

The sea splashes on the rocks,
The wind whispers in the tree tops,
Sea birds cry.
Blue skies, clouds, rain, mist,
The tide creeps in and out, day after day.
Timeless.

There, tucked away twixt wooded headland and sea,
The narrow stone church at Oxwich.
Named for a long forgotten Celtic saint
St Illtyd.

Around the church the graves lie close by the paths
And scattered up the hillside.
The tombstones bear many names,
Thomas, Martha, Hywel, Jane, Henry, Arthur.....
Maybe once proudly carried into church
In christening robes.
Walked joyfully back down the path
As husband and wife.
Borne there, finally, silently in a coffin
To be laid to rest
And become part of the sleeping earth,
In the quiet graveyard.

And people go there still
To raise their voices in song,
To murmur in prayer and hear the preacher's word.
They eat flapjacks now, and drink coffee in paper cups,
Smiling, laughing, sharing news and views
As they have always done.

Amongst the graves, in little clumps,
Snowdrops and primroses spring up new each year.
Life goes on.....
Centuries pass -
Sheep are grazed, land is farmed,
Laws are made, wars are fought,
Kings and Queens come and go.
And the little stone church at Oxwich,
Tucked away under the hillside;
Where mortal souls meet the eternal;
Still stands.

And the sea splashes on the rocks,
The tide moves in and out,
The wind stirs the tree tops
And the gentle rain falls softly on the earth.

Penclawdd at War

by Ann Roberts (Nicholls)



Edgar Nurse, first on left

Edgar Nurse came to South Wales from Gloucestershire in the early 1880s to work in the Penclawdd tin plate works as a pickler and he bought the east-end terrace house in Station Row for seventy pounds. He became known in the village as 'Nurse the Pickler'.

On his retirement, he established himself as a coal merchant, and later erected a petrol pump in the garden at the side of his property. The pump attracted the village children and Edgar, finding them a nuisance, discouraged them by shouting "Go away! This is Nurse's Corner!" Henceforth, the area became known as 'Nurses Corner' and it is still called so today.

Edgar's grandson, also called Edgar, lived in his grandfather's house. He recalled, "I spent some time in the ATC (Air Training Corps) in Penclawdd, but when I was enlisted, I chose the navy.

I joined the destroyer, HMS Tarter. Tribal Class destroyers were built before the war and named after various

tribes – Nubian, Zulu, Maori, Sikh, Punjabi, Ashanti, Bedouin, Eskimo, Somali and Tarter. Only two survived and Tarter was one of them. In August 1942, we were on the Malta Convey. The fourteen merchant ships were protected by a vast convoy of about thirty destroyers, ten to twelve cruisers and about five aircraft carriers but despite the size of the convoy, the German U-boats went in and only two merchant ships arrived in Malta.

The Siege of Malta was a terrible thing. A chap from Penclawdd, Thomas John Bennett was there. I think he lost his life because of it although it was not given as cause of his death. He got through it alright, got demobbed, and came home. But after that something took him. When he was supposed to be in work, he wandered around the old Berthlwyd Colliery area all day and then went home. It must have affected him badly. He left Penclawdd and went to London. The next thing I heard was that they found him in a park, dead. He was such a gentleman.

We sailed through the Straits of Gibraltar under the cover of darkness. The next morning, our first sight was one of our carriers, the HMS Eagle, toppling over and sinking. We were bombed day and night.

We took the damaged HMS Foresight on tow, having rescued the crew, but it impeded the manoeuvrability of our ship and the remainder of the convoy. Our Commander St. J. Tyrwhitt took it upon himself to sink the ship. He was court marshalled for it but then acquitted.

We went on the Russian Run and by November, 1942, were in the North African invasion. This was followed by the invasion of Pantelleria, an island off Malta. We had a rough experience there: one of our hospital ships was hit; it was a lit up and so was a sitting target, but being a Red Cross ship, the Germans were not supposed to attack it. We could hear the hysterical screams of the nurses on board. We did our best and managed to pick up a few survivors.

We bombarded Siracusa in Sicily and sailed through the Straights of Messina to Salerno, where we stayed for about a month.

I went home and then took part in the invasion of Normandy in 1944. We sailed around the French coast on sweeps by night, intercepting the enemy shipping on the coast.

We were then sent to Ceylon where we did more sweeps. Then the news came through of the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and that the Japs had given in.

We landed in Singapore and did a bit of marching after the war.

I had a couple of jobs: I was a tanky – issuing food allocations; and I did a bit of butchery. At eleven thirty each morning we were issued our tot of rum and we would hear ‘Up Spirits’. Some didn’t draw their tot and had three pence instead.

We always broadcasted our birthdays and would have a draw from each tot and afterwards would be flat on our backs. We cleaned the ship in daytime. My position on action station was a 4.7 Y gun on quarterdeck.

It was terrible going back after leave. Actually, I wasn’t too bad, but my mother would be awfully cut up. Coming home was good; I was on top of the world; but going back was a different matter.

I finished in 1946. The only thing I have to show for it are my war medals: Italian Star, Burma Star, African Star, Atlantic Star, Malta Cross, Russian Convoy, French Star, War Medal and 1939-1943 Star.”

Gower Church Magazine

One hundred years ago - November 1925

by Valerie Beynon



The celebrations of the recent Harvest Festival Services were again the highlights of the reports below. Most churches held a weekday as well as a Sunday Thanksgiving Service, usually with visiting preachers on both occasions. Port Eynon's *special preacher on the Wednesday was from Rosemarket in Pembrokeshire....A very nice rendering of the Anthem 'Be thankful unto Him' (Caleb Simper) was given by the choir, but we are told that it was better still on the Sunday Evening following. The fruit and vegetables, of which there was an abundance, was sent to the Blind Institution at Swansea. Llanrhidian's services were well attended and there was a large number of communicants at the two Celebrations of Holy Communion. On Wednesday the Rev.T Harries-Williams, St Thomas, Swansea preached very thoughtful, able and appropriate sermons. On Sunday morning a very interesting sermon, which was well received, was preached by the Vicar of Penclawdd and at the Evening Service the Venerable Archdeacon of Gower preached a very*

forcible and eloquent sermon to a crowded congregation.

Llanmadoc reports : *The little church - and it is on such occasions that we realise that it is the smallest in Gower - was of necessity very full in the evening....quite a few of our people 'considerately' stay away, owing to the lack of accommodation. The services were very hearty, and the choir are to be congratulated on the rendering of the Anthem (by Maunder) as indeed of the whole of the musical portion of the service. We desire to thank the Rev. Latimer Davies, MA for coming to preach and for his helpful sermons. The gifts of fruit and flowers were abundant, not only from Church people alone but also from parishioners in general.*

At Nicholston and Oxwich churches *it was felt that our thank offerings should in no way benefit ourselves as a parish either directly or indirectly; they were devoted to Christian Missions and have been given to the SPG. The collections from the two churches were remarkably even: £3 12s 7d from Oxwich and £3 12s 9d from Nicholaston, making a total of £7 5s 4d.*

Llandewi marked St Luke's Day on October 18th with a morning Holy Communion and later a full house for Evensong. *The two sermons and the Sunday School lesson all had references to the 'beloved Physician'.*

Bishopston collected *Health envelopes*... which brought in over £4 for the support of the S.P.G Medical Mission.

Oxwich decided to treat ourselves to a Harvest Home Supper at 2/- per head, open to all residents in the parish and it certainly was a great success. A motor was provided to bring the older folk from and to their homes, and we sat down to supper in the best of spirits, 87 strong, and enjoyed a good round meal of beef and ham, pork pies and a great variety of sweets. After the toast to the King, the Rector proposed the health of the District Council Member, Mr Andrew Stephens ...who proposed the toast to those engaged in agriculture.The floor was cleared for the younger ones to enjoy the inevitable dance. Thanks to Mr Rowland Edwards for the loan of his beautiful gramophone. Llandewi also reported that Our new venture (the Harvest Supper) was quite a success – more so than we had dared hope. As the vicar said in his speech, it was very cheering to find Church people and Nonconformists uniting to 'Rejoice in thy Feast. After clearing away the tables, the young people spent the rest of the evening dancing.

Reynoldston's Harvest Dance was a new departure and was greatly enjoyed. Besides the usual modern dances, a good exhibition was given of the old Gower dancing, to the strain of a real Gower fiddler. Seven prizes were given for the best costumes depicting the Harvest. The fiddler was Mr Richards, Llangennith, who was kindly brought over by Col. Helme and the Langland

Bay Orchestra were engaged for the evening.

Port Eynon were pleased to see the organisation of a Choral Society which promises to be a great success. Already there is a large membership. The members are very fortunate in having the services of such a capable conductor as Mr Ernest Clement, Reynoldston. Port Eynon also announced details of a Hall Library. Books will be distributed on Friday evenings. For Children at 4.30pm. Adults 5.30 to 6.45pm.

The Gower Church magazine was originally part of a monthly national publication of articles and stories. The Section *The Church Life* today highlights *Some points of Current Interest* from the Anglican Church worldwide. To give a flavour of the scale of operations : *The Rector of Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada is the only Church of England clergyman in an area of 17,000+ square miles. In Victoria, Australia the Rector has a 'parish' of 70 miles by 80: such a district is not uncommon in the Australian Bush.*

The annual report of the British and Foreign Bible Society showed some interesting figures. *The Bible is now printed in no fewer than 572 languages...in one fresh language, on an average, every six weeks. For the third time in its history, the Society has issued over ten million volumes in a year. One curious fact is that out of every ten books sold about four went to China.*

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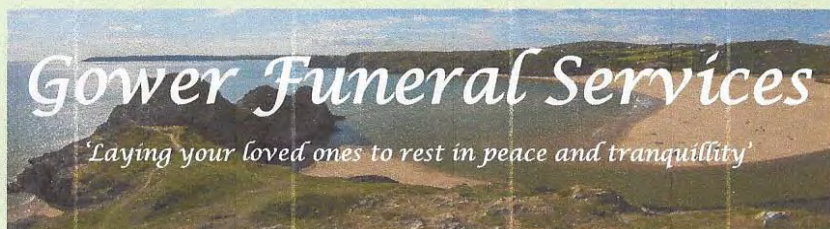
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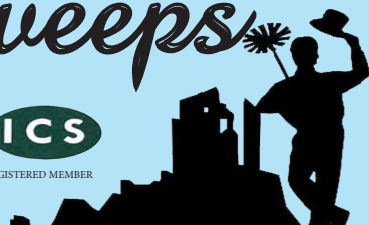
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Gower Churches

St Gwynour, Llanyrnewdd

The church of Llanyrnewdd, Penclawdd is dedicated to St Gwynour after a Breton Saint - Eneour. On Speed's map of Glamorganshire in 1610 it is written 'Llannynwere' and it was a Chapel of Ease to the church at Llanrhidian. This was situated not in the main village but south of today's Penclawdd on an ancient hilltop route from Swansea across North Gower, with fine views across the Morlais valley and the Burry Estuary. By 1850 this was unfit for use and a large church in the Early English style was built near the site of the old one to meet the needs of the growing industrial population. The church consists of a chancel, nave and tower with a spire and unlike other Gower churches, is entered through a porch underneath the tower. The total cost was £700 of which £300 was raised by local subscription. In 1924, numbers having grown, St Gwynour became with St David's Gwernffrwd, a separate parish. The chancel was enlarged in 1926 to accommodate a large choir and organ chamber.



A vestry was also added. The local benefactors were Mr and Mrs G Baker Haynes who paid for the cost of the internal work and gave additional ground to the churchyard. After their death their house became the Vicarage. They are commemorated in the 1935 fine carved reredos and panelling. Recently the plaster on the west wall was removed to reveal the original sandstone. It now has two fine stained glass windows by church member Liliane Davies as well as a beautiful carved wooden cross by Robbie Evans.

Valerie Beynon

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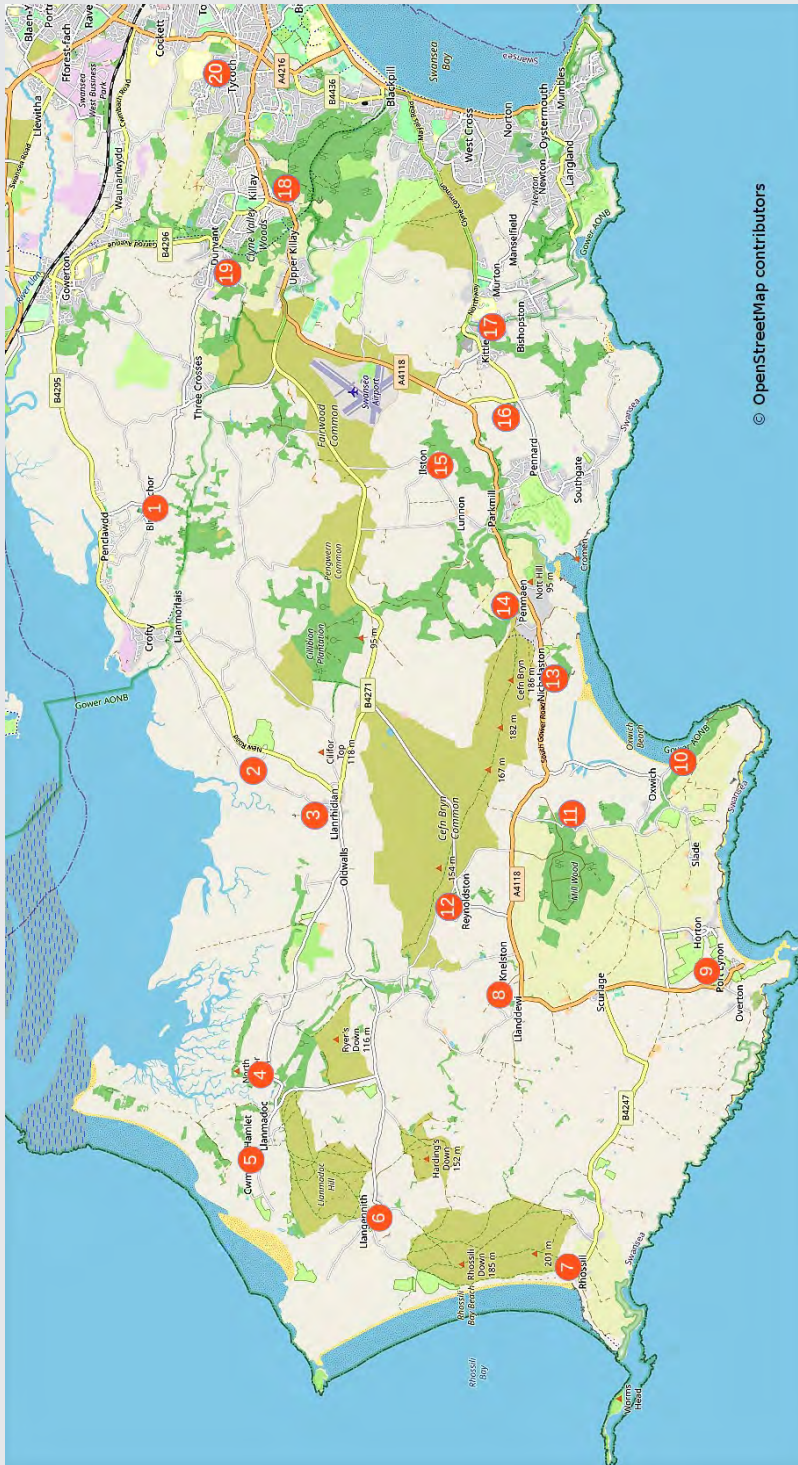
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4: St Cadoc, Cheriton SA3 1BY 5: St Madoc, Llanmadoc SA3 1DE 6: St Cenydd, Llangennith SA3 1HU
7: St Mary's, Rhossili SA3 1PL 8: St David's Llanddewi SA3 1AU 9: St Cattwg's, Port Eynon SA3 1NL
10: St Iltyd's, Oxwich SA3 1LS 11: St Andrews, Penrice SA3 1LN 12: St George's Reynoldston SA3 1AA
13: St Nicholas, Nicholaston SA3 2HL 14: St John the Baptist, Penmaen SA3 2HQ 15: St Iltyd's, Ilston SA3 7LD 16: St Mary's,
Pennard SA3 2EA 17: St Teilo's, Bishopston SA3 3JT 18: St Hilary, Killey SA2 7DZ
19: St Martins, Dunvant SA2 7UL 20: All Souls, Tycoc'h SA2 9LP



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*Come, ye thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home;
all is safely gathered in,
ere the winter storms begin.
God our Maker doth provide
for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home.*