

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER for
St. Illtyd's Ilston, St. John the Baptist Penmaen, St Nicholas
Nicholaston, St. Mary's Pennard, St. Teilo's Bishopston
Churches in the Gower Ministry Area
(Reg Charity No C10 1210801 Website gowerma.org)
Sundays 21st and 28th December 2025 Advent 4 and Christmas 1

Contacts

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**LIFE WITH JESUS IS BETTER THAN LIFE
WITHOUT HIM**

God of Mission Who alone brings growth to your Church, Send your Holy Spirit to give Vision to our planning, Wisdom to our actions, And power to our witness. Help our church to grow in numbers, In spiritual commitment to you, And in service to our local community, Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday 21st December

9.30am St. Teilo's Bishopston Carol Service

10.00am St John's Penmaen Carol Service

11.00am St Mary's Pennard Carol Service

4.00pm St Illtyd's Ilston Carol Service

Sunday 28th December

11.15 St Nicholas Nicholaston combined service

**Sunday 21st December Advent 4 In
the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer**

we pray for all those who come into our buildings at Christmastide that they may be drawn into a living faith in our Lord Jesus Christ we also pray for the Anglican Church of Burundi and for those who follow Jesus in Nicaragua

**Sunday 28th December Christmas 1 in
the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer**

we pray for The Director of Ministry Jane de Gay we also pray for the Church of Canada and those who follow Jesus in Tunisia

Dear All

In January **Louise Rigdon** will not be with us in church services as she commences a placement in Swansea Minster as she further discerns her vocation to the ordained ministry.

We will be joined by Simon Davies from Killay for two Sundays a month as he too seeks to discern his calling from God.

Do hold them both in your prayers

**What's On and When Advent and Christmas
2025**

21st December. We will be holding a selection of wonderful Carol Services with Readings for the Season.

Bishopston 9.30 am

Penmaen 10.00 am

Pennard 11.00 am

Ilston 4.00 pm

December 24th Christmas Eve

3.00 pm Pennard Christingle Service

3.00 pm Bishopston Nativity

7.00 pm Penmaen Christmas Communion

11.00 pm at Pennard for Carols and Christmas Communion

December 25th Christmas Day

Carols and Christmas Communion

9.30 am Bishopston

10.00 am Ilston

10.30 am Nicholaston

For More details contact 01792 232928

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**This week we will light a candle and pray for
Love**

We lit the first candle to pray for hope. We lit the second candle to pray for peace. We lit the third candle to pray for joy.

We light the fourth candle to pray for love. We pray for the love which is patient and kind, and the love which goes on caring and believing. May we show this love to one another and be open to welcome the love of God into our hearts.

We pray for everyone who feels unloved, and for every time it is difficult to love others. May we see some sign of love that shines like this candle flame.

Lord Jesus Christ, you showed us that God is love. Help us to live in love, so that we live in God. Come close to us this Advent.

Amen

St Nicholas are looking forward to seeing worshipers from the other churches in our cluster on 28th December but they advise that car sharing is strongly recommended because parking will be in the two lay bays only as the fields are too wet

As usual **St Mary's Pennard** will be holding its Christingle service on 24th December at 3.00 pm. Here's a challenge...

Wear your loudest, brightest Christmas Jumper
Wear your most cheerful Christmas Hat!

More importantly.

If you have a baby Jesus figure from your crib at home or a small crib scene bring it with you for a special part of our service.

We look forward to welcoming young and old alike, young in years and young at heart !

Thank you to all in **St Teilo's** who have contributed to **Tear Fund** throughout the year. We have been able to continue our monthly contribution of £60 and have also been able to send an end of year contribution of £800. Thanks again for your amazing generosity to this vital work

Sue Waite and Chris Whiffin

St. Mary's Church, Christmas Appeal

Just to give you an update on the above — an additional £60 was donated for Faith in Families taking the total to £495.00 and £30.00 for the Food Bank taking that to £430. We handed over 20 bags of food.

Thank you, again.
Eileen

Tearfund With the continuing problems in Israel and Gaza Tear Fund is in need of our support as they are part of The DEC in addition to our monthly contribution of £60 people can give their contributions to Sue Waite or put them directly into the Tearfund account. Sort Code: 30 90 89
Account No: 37039368

Sunday 28th December 2025 The First Sunday of Christmas

Almighty God, you wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us by means of your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A reading from Isaiah (63.7-9)

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us, and the great favour to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

For he said, 'Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely'; and he became their saviour in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 148

Praise, O praise the name of the Lord.

Alleluia. Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights. Praise him, all you his angels; praise him, all his host.

Praise, O praise the name of the Lord.

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you stars of light. Praise him, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.

Praise, O praise the name of the Lord.

Let them praise the name of the Lord; for he commanded and they were created. He made them fast for ever and ever; he gave them a law which shall not pass away.

Praise, O praise the name of the Lord.

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps; Fire and hail, snow and mist, tempestuous wind, fulfilling his word;

Praise, O praise the name of the Lord.

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars; Wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and birds on the wing;

Praise, O praise the name of the Lord.

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world; Young men and women, old and young together; let them praise the name of the Lord.

Praise, O praise the name of the Lord.

For his name only is exalted, his splendour above earth and heaven. He has raised up the horn of his people and praise for all his faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Alleluia.

Praise, O praise the name of the Lord.

A reading from Hebrews (2.10-18)

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, 'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.' And again, 'I will put my trust in him.' And again, 'Here am I and the children whom God has given me.'

Since the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham.

Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St Matthew (2.13-23)

Glory to you, O Lord.

After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: 'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.'

Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazarean.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Heavenly Father, your blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help you Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**