

# Gower

*Ministry Area*



**May 2026 Vol 126 1512**

# The Ministry Area Of Gower



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Cover photograph of the anchor by Roger Button

*The editor would also like to acknowledge that the photograph for the April issue was by Barry Fox*

### **Advertising or Subscriptions**

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The theme for May  
**'This hope...an anchor for the soul' (Hebrews 6:19)**  
chosen by Ross Davies



Question: Do you know your 'Danforth/Fluke' from your 'Grapnel? Or your Hall from your Byer's? Any seafarers amongst you may well know but it is knowledge I only acquired when preparing to write this article.

Answer: They are all just some of the types of maritime anchor. An anchor is a device, normally made of metal, used to secure a vessel to the bed of a body of water to prevent the craft from drifting due to wind or current. The Danforth/Fluke is ideal for use in muddy or sandy seabeds and the Grapnel is a small anchor for use on rocky bottoms!

So, why is the author of the book of the Bible known as 'The Letter to

the Hebrews' talking to his readers about an anchor? This is but one of the many questions about this letter and its background.

Who wrote it? It was almost certainly not Paul – the writing style is quite different. We can discern that the author must have been well-educated. He writes extremely polished Greek, is familiar with Jewish and Greek thinking and knows the Old Testament inside out. And who were the Hebrews addressed by the writer? They may have been Jewish or Gentile Christians or a mixture of the two although the name wasn't attached to the letter itself until the second century.

The writer is clearly confident that the intended recipients are familiar with the Old Testament and stories of the worship life of the Temple. Should we regard it as a letter or a sermon with a final blessing? The author describes it as a ‘word of exhortation’ or encouragement (13:22). Why was he (or she) writing? Like us, the readers of Hebrews lived in a multicultural, multifaith society. The Roman Empire was a melting pot; people moved about, taking their cultures and their faiths with them. They experimented with different faiths and the idea of one belief making exclusive demands was unfamiliar.

Against this backdrop, we can discern that the Christians/Hebrews were losing energy and enthusiasm. The theme emerges near the beginning of the book for in chapter 2:1 the writer expresses how anxious they are that the people are drifting from faith. This is just one of many examples of concern about their spiritual weariness.

Why were they losing heart? 10:36-37 refers to a common concern among early Christians, namely just when is Jesus coming back? Their experience of the gifts of the Spirit also seems to have taken place some time previously (2:4). The focus on defiance of death in chapters 11 - 12 may

suggest that persecution was also having an impact on the community.

Weary, doubtful, anxious about increasing alienation from their community – does this sound familiar? We may identify with some of those feelings. Fewer people coming to our churches, worries about repairs to our buildings, indifference even disparagement in our society. And then there is the apparently ever-growing suffering and conflict in the world around us. What answers did the writer offer to the Hebrews and to us now?

The core message can be summed up in four words: “hold on” and “take heart”. Why? The fundamental reason for not giving up is Jesus, the Son of God, the eternal priest in the heavenly Temple. In the Temple in Jerusalem the high priest offered yearly sacrifices to atone for Israel’s sin. Now, Jesus’ offering of himself once and for all is enough to deal with human sin. Jesus is also the mediator, the channel, of the new covenant. The writer of Hebrews quotes Jeremiah 31:31-34, reminding readers of the promise of a covenant written on hearts. This new covenant has come into being through Jesus, and he is the guarantee of its power to change lives through bringing us close to God.

So the message is: don't give up on Jesus, the sure and steadfast anchor of our souls.

The faithfulness of God is presented in Hebrews 6:18 as strong encouragement to lay hold of the hope that is set before us. Not only is God in ultimate control but the path to the very presence of God in the Holy of Holies is open and available to us. Jesus, as a forerunner, has already entered there as a priest to intercede for us. The forerunner, like the pioneer and trailblazer, is one who goes before. He opens the way for us.

As a result, the pressures of life and the persecution of evil people is not the ultimate word. We have a hope. Because Christ is that hope the author also describes him as an anchor for the soul. An anchor is designed to stop the drifting that the author warns against in Hebrews 2:1-3. Our anchor now, as it was in the time of the letter to the Hebrews, is sure and steadfast, secure and firm.

*Sacram anchram solvere* is a Latin phrase that translates to "to release the sacred anchor" or "to weigh the sacred anchor". It is a classical proverb used to describe retreating or resorting to a final, last-ditch hope and refuge in a crisis. The phrase originates from ancient

Greek and Roman maritime practices. Although ships carried several anchors, the largest and most crucial one - kept for severe storms or near dangerous shores - was known as the *sacra* (sacred anchor) or "sheet anchor".

And Jesus, this anchor of hope, ties Christians surely to the place of God's presence. Our hope cannot be shaken; it will not be swept away. We can rely on our anchor, Jesus Christ, whatever the world may throw at us.



*The Storm on the Sea of Galilee*  
(1633) by Rembrandt

# From Peter Lewis

## Ministry Area Lead

### **Gower Ministry Area Annual Vestry Meeting (AVM) 2026**

17th May 4pm St Cattwg's Church, Port Eynon, we're gathering for worship from 4pm, followed by our business meeting to review our Report and Accounts for 2025. Thank you to everyone who has had a particular role in our congregations over the last twelve months, especially our congregational wardens and at the Ministry Area Council level.

At the AVM we will receive the names from our congregations for their **congregational wardens**. We invite two people from each congregation to act as a congregational warden. This role varies between churches but is to provide two people who act as a link to the ministry area council, clergy and administration of Gower Ministry Area, as well as particular responsibilities for supporting the ministry and mission of the church. Anyone who is recorded on the electoral role of Gower Ministry Area can be nominated. They must be proposed and seconded by people who are recorded as being on the electoral role of Gower MA and who are regular worshippers at the said church. If required, an election will take place at a congregational meeting at the said church congregation prior to the AVM.

At the AVM we will have an election for two people to be our Ministry Area wardens. Anyone who is recorded on the electoral role of Gower Ministry Area can be nominated. They must be proposed and seconded by people who are recorded as being on the current electoral role of Gower MA. Both Marian and Pam, our current MA wardens are willing to stand for re-election. If required, an election will take place at the AVM.

At the AVM we will receive the names for our congregations Ministry Area Council (MAC) Congregational Representative. Prior to the AVM, each congregation is invited to elect one congregational representative, who will serve either a voting member of the MAC, in the capacity of a Trustee of the Gower Ministry Area Charitable Incorporated Organisation; or as a non-voting MAC visitor, with full participation in discussions.

How do we determine who becomes a MAC Trustee or MAC visitor? At the AVM, all MAC congregational representatives elected from the four Ministry Area clusters (North, South West, South East, and East), together with the duly appointed Ministry Area Wardens, shall meet by cluster in order to: agree two representatives

from each cluster to serve as Trustee members of the Ministry Area Council (Trustees of the Gower Ministry Area CIO); and designate the remaining representatives to serve as Ministry Area Council visitors. This governance arrangement has been in operation since January 2026. It ensures that every congregation is represented while maintaining a manageable and effective number of Trustees.

Following the AVM we will have a new ministry Area Treasurer, Alison Holland, to oversee our ministry area finances.

### **Gwasanaethau Eglwysig yn yr Iaith Gymraeg.**

Cynhelir ein gwasanaeth Cymraeg ym mis Mai ar 29 Mai am 11am yn Eglwys San Siôr. Ar gyfer mis Mehefin, byddwn yn cyfarfod am 11am yn Eglwys Santes Fair, Pennard, ar y 26ain. Cofiwch fod croeso i bobl o bob rhuglder wrth i ni ganu, gweddïo, myfyrio ar yr Ysgrythur a chymryd y Cymun Sanctaidd gyda'n gilydd.

Welsh Language Services. Our May Welsh Language service is on 29th May at 11am in St George's Church . On June 26th at 11am we will be at St Mary's Pennard. People of all abilities to speak Welsh are welcome – we'll be singing, praying, reflecting on Scripture and taking Holy Communion in Welsh, but with English used to assist as needed.

Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer services.

Before Easter, a number of people from our churches met up to consider creating a new booklet for the ministry area which will have various different patterns for non-Holy Communion services. We hope to have these published in June.

### **Thy Kingdom Come initiative**

In the spirit of Ascensiontide, the Thy Kingdom Come initiative is a powerful movement, inviting Christians across the world to unite in prayer for renewal and the coming of God's kingdom.

Rooted in the hope and anticipation that Ascensiontide inspires, Thy Kingdom Come encourages individuals and churches to seek the transforming presence of the Holy Spirit. In particular we are all invited to consider five people that we know, for whom we can daily pray from Ascension Day 14th May through to Pentecost Sunday 24th May. Like last year, all our congregations in the ministry area have the chance to use some special resources: a daily prayer guide, or daily reflections (written by the new Archbishop of Canterbury) – these are in our churches now.

What is the main purpose? Through this global wave of prayer, we seek God's blessing

on the FIVE people that we commit to our prayers. Use the resources from church, incorporate the Five into your daily prayer times, or come along to some special gatherings that are

organised for us to grow in confidence of praying, and pray with others who resonate with a longing for justice, peace, and spiritual awakening.

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### Ascension Day 14th May:

7.30pm Holy Communion and Breakfast at St David's on the Marsh, Wernffrwd.

### Ascension Day 14th May

6.30pm, Prayers on Cefn Bryn . As Jesus went up a mountain to pray, we pray over the ministry area communities. Meet at the ridge's car park.

### Sunday 17th May

4 pm our annual vestry meeting worship at St Cattwg's Port Eynon will focus on Thy Kingdom Come

### Monday May 18th

at The Lamplighter café/ shop in Bishopston – explore some new approaches to prayer with creative practices that you can then use at home.

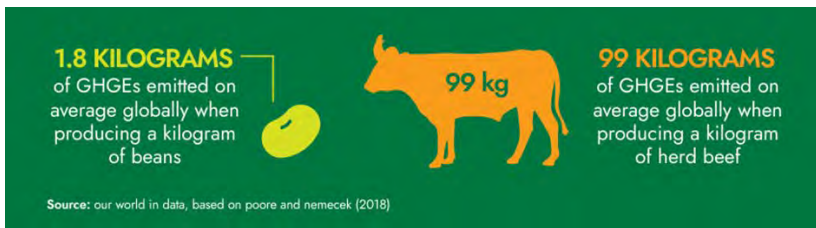
### Saturday 23rd May

WILD CHURCH – outdoor approaches to prayer (details to be decided)

**Pentecost Sunday** – at our churches' services

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## This month's Eco Fact and Eco Tip



### Eco Fact:

Beans, [including lentils and peas] are a real-life superfood. They are a triple win, scoring highly for health, climate and affordability. A rare example of a food that delivers on multiple fronts.

### Eco Tip:

If you are a meat-eater, replace one meat dinner a week with a bean-based meal. Just Google 'bean-based meal recipes' for literally hundreds of recipes. If you are a vegetarian, try to be more adventurous with a range of different beans - and recipes!



# Gower Wonder of Wellbeing

*creating inviting spaces for renewal and hope*

## Retreat: Water & Wonder

*“Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” John 7:37-39*

Rach and Chloe had the absolute joy of hosting WoW’s very first women’s retreat, Water & Wonder - and what a beautiful day it was! We were so grateful to collaborate with Christian wellbeing coach Rachel Edwards, who led us so gently and thoughtfully throughout the day. Inspired by the theme of water, we spent time reflecting on:

- spiritual thirst and true refreshment
- purification and new life
- water in creation
- God’s provision and protection

On Caswell Beach, we entered into reflective practices allowing the rhythm of the waves and the beauty of the shoreline to draw us into stillness and deeper connection – surrendering our fears, disappointments and challenges into the loving hands of Jesus. Through gentle movement, we experienced what it means to ‘soak in the Spirit’ - slowing down, breathing deeply, and becoming more aware of God’s presence with us.

We then moved into a time of art and prayer with watercolours, led by Chloe – a gentle Lectio Divina-inspired practice, where the focus wasn’t on the outcome, but on the process, allowing colour and brushstrokes to become a form of prayer, inspired by the beauty around us. We ended the day with breath prayer and guided reflection, creating space to reconnect body, mind, and soul. Some lovely feedback included:

- ✓ “Every activity was pitched at a level that anyone could participate in – any ability or comfort level.”
- ✓ “It wasn’t just the activity, but the depth and wisdom behind it.”
- ✓ “I’d come again.” and “Do another one please!”



## Wild Church: Lenten Trail at Cwm Ivy Woods

This month, Dan led a gentle walk into the dunes and along Oxwich Bay, reflecting on the moment when Jesus was confronted by the crowd who came to arrest Him. Even in that dark and difficult hour, hope remained - mercy, grace, peace-making, and

love continued to shine through Him. This was a reminder for us too, that in our darkest times, there is always hope found in Christ.



## Easter Messy Church: St George's and Methodist Chapel, Reynoldson

In another shared project with Rev Andy Walker and volunteers from the Methodist Church and some of our beloved volunteers from St George's, St Hilary's and St David's, we facilitated a fantastic few hours of fun for Bishopston and Knelston Primary School pupils. Exploring the journey of Jesus, they saw a table overturned with silver coins flying, made palm trees and paper crosses to take home, and even made an edible tomb with a donut! It was so joyful to continue to develop relationships with the children and staff, having spent time with them at the Stable Trail and Open the Book sessions.



## Easter: Mirror Poems

Marian Williams led us brilliantly in writing poetry with a simple, yet powerful, technique of exploring key characters from the Easter story in a new way by reflecting on just how they must have felt at such a desperate time in what they might have been thinking, feeling or doing. One great example of this was created by Nia Edy, titled **'The Criminal'**:

*When the criminal looked in the mirror  
He saw his life flash before his eyes  
A man who had lived for himself  
Rightly sentenced to die.*

*When the criminal looked in the mirror  
He saw Jesus dying for his sin  
Undeserved, breathing his last  
Perfection hanging on a tree.*

*When the criminal looked in the mirror  
He saw everything he had ever done  
A man in desperate need of saving  
But this life was not the one.*

*When the criminal looked in the mirror  
He saw a man forgiven  
A reflection of a man made perfect with  
his saviour today in paradise.*

## Creative Conversations: Stations of the Cross

A chance to pause during Holy Week, to experience our latest art instillation at St Mary's, Rhossili. We spent time engaging with the Stations of the Cross through the work of artist Scott Erickson with each piece opening up space for honest reflection - some stretching and challenging us, others quietly filling us with hope.

Together, we shared our thoughts and responses, writing them onto tags and hanging them on the beautiful cross that Roger Button so kindly made for us as a simple, but powerful act of laying things down. To finish, we created small willow wreath crowns, weaving in red ribbon to represent the passion of Christ, and delicate gypsophila flowers to symbolise His purity and humility.

As Marian William's reflects - *"I had seen this installation before, but had only looked at the artwork as pictures, without really seeing or understanding Erickson's work inspired by Stations of the Cross and the symbolism in his portrayal of the events of Holy Week. Having watched Scott's video on YouTube, it made me realise that this was something not to be missed.*

*The guidebook gave insights to each station, each of them depicting a cross in the design. Spending time looking at each station in turn, reading the reflections and linking them to aspects of our own lives was extremely powerful. For the first time I saw the thirty pieces of silver used to depict the cross in Station 2, Jesus is betrayed. At the base of Station 4 when Jesus is mocked, I saw a noose around the droplet of blood or was it a tear? Station 6 appeared to show dead leaves on the ground, but without leaves and seeds falling to the ground, new life is impossible. After looking at all the stations, we were invited to write a prayer and hang it on one of the nails hammered into the wooden cross at the foot of the Chancel*

*The final activity was the one I was dreading (as I have found creative art activities threatening), crafting a willow wreath to represent the crown of thorns. Following clear instructions, to my amazement and with a lot of help and encouragement the team, I managed to do it. I left with my willow wreath in hand, a huge smile and a great sense of achievement."*



## Residential Workshops: St Maddoc's

Over the next four months we will be delivering creative wellbeing sessions with eleven primary schools who are on residential stay at St Maddoc's Christian Youth Centre. This month Chloe and Dan spent a wonderful morning with Cilffriw Primary School, enjoying a calm and creative collaging session exploring the theme of belonging through Acts 2:44 - 47, reflecting together in a simple and meaningful way.

*All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*

After a busy couple of days, it was such a special opportunity for pupils to slow down, breathe, and focus in the peaceful environment of the Chapel. Each child shared something beautiful about the images they created, and it was lovely to see the teachers getting involved too!

### Art on the Move!

Across four churches around Gower, we display two selected pieces from each past exhibition. This means that visitors, including those walking the Gower Pilgrimage Way, can continue to enjoy the artwork as part of their journey. We felt it would be a shame to keep these beautiful pieces hidden, so this is our way of sharing them more widely with new audiences and different communities around Gower. For the next month, you can still enjoy the most recent exhibition *Surrender* by the wonderful local artist and friend of WoW, Liliane Davies.

- St Mary's, Pennard
- St Hilary's, Killay
- St Cadoc's, Cheriton
- St Rhidian & St Illtyd, Llanrhidian



### HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT WoW?

Contact us: [wowadmin@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto:wowadmin@churchinwales.org.uk)

Stay connected: [www.wonderofwellbeinggower.org](http://www.wonderofwellbeinggower.org)

Instagram & Facebook: [@wonderwellbeinggower](https://www.instagram.com/wonderwellbeinggower)

If you'd like to hear more about what we're offering, please visit <https://forms.office.com/e/L6Q67UAr0z> and fill out a short form to let us know your preferences:

**The Wonder of Wellbeing Team**

# THE SOUTH WEST 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](http://gowerma.org)

**Facebook:** *South West Churches in  
Gower Ministry Area*

## WORSHIP IN MAY

<b>Every Tuesday</b>	9.00am	Morning Prayer	Reynoldston
<b>Every Wednesday</b>	9.30am	Communion	Llanddewi
<b>Every Thursday</b>	8.15am	Prayerfulness Walk	Rhossili
<b>Sunday 3 May</b>	8.30am	Holy Communion	Penrice
<b>Easter 5</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion	Reynoldston
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Oxwich
	5.00pm	Holy Communion	Port Eynon
<b>Sunday 10 May</b>	8.30am	Holy Communion	Penrice
<b>Easter 6</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion	Reynoldston
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Oxwich
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Rhossili
	5.00pm	Evening Service	Port Eynon
<b>Sunday 17 May</b>	8.30am	Holy Communion	Penrice
<b>Easter 7</b>	9.30am	Morning Prayer	Reynoldston
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Oxwich
	4.00pm	Annual Vestry Meeting	Port Eynon
<b>Sunday 24 May</b>	8.30am	Morning Prayer	Penrice
<b>Pentecost</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion	Reynoldston
	10.30am	Morning Prayer	Oxwich
	1.00am	Holy Communion	Llanddewi
	5.00pm	Blessing Café	Port Eynon
<b>Sunday 31 May</b>	10.30am	Holy Communion	Llanddewi
<b>Trinity</b>			

## Bible Study Groups

- At King Arthur Hotel, Reynoldston, every Wednesday at 3pm.
- 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 2nd, 16th and 30th May.

Everyone welcome.

## **Annual Plant and Cake Sale - May 2nd, 10.30 – 12.30, Port Eynon Hall.**

We look forward again to seeing the usual good attendance at this annual event that raises excellent funds. This year the proceeds will be given to the Sisters of Mercy charity for their work offering meals and an overnight stay to the homeless in Swansea.

### **REPORTS FROM THE CHURCHES**

#### **St David's, Llanddewi**

During the continuous rains at the start of the year, our little church suffered severe leaking across the west arch, which opens into the tower-vestry. The floor and chairs were sodden, and buckets needed daily emptying to get them dry. However, we were blessed by spells of drier weather just when we needed them, which encouraged the gatherings for beautiful worship and contemplation at Llanddewi for our special occasions including Good Friday.

We have received quotations for repairs, which exceed what we had expected on the basis of the Quinquennial report. Our very small, scattered congregation is challenged: we need to secure grant aid, arrange fund-raising aid and find other forms of giving and support to keep this ancient, homely, accessible place open, to offer peace, comfort and welcome for anyone and everyone.

A talk that is likely to be interesting and lively is to be given by Revd Lynne Busfield, who trained with Revd Pete: she will speak about

her experiences as a hospice and hospital chaplain on 20 May in Llanddewi Church. Entrance is £10, including refreshments which will be served afterwards.

*'This hope...an anchor for the soul'*. Our Christian hope rests on God's promise of an eternal home in the presence of a Creator who knows and loves us, and whose will is that we should know and love him. We live in a world that is beset by a power that opposes anything that expresses what love really is. True love is expressed sacrificially, when it withstands that opposition, breaking through hatred, deceit, selfish ambition, offering new life, hope, and joy as light breaks into the darkness, and truth is revealed in its beauty. Jesus has done all of that for us: He is the reason for our hope.

*Penny Henderson*

#### **St Illtyd's, Oxwich**

The Book of Hebrews presents the sufficiency and superiority of Christ and was written to Hebrew Christians who may have been considering a return to Judaism. This might have been due to persecution, both socially and physically from Jews and or

Romans. These people needed reassuring of the truth of Christianity and that Jesus was indeed the Messiah.

Strict Judaism was a demanding belief, requiring regular worship, much ritual and devotion to God. The sacred temple only allowed the Chief Priest annual access to The Most Holy of Holies where he pleaded for the sins of the whole nation. This was covered by a curtain to obscure this most sacred place from everyone in the Holy Place, the outer area of the Temple. The ritual involved the spilling of animals' blood. Christ is in God's presence at all times, not just once a year, and his death on the cross and the spilling of his blood, gives us everlasting forgiveness.

The Book of Hebrews was written to Jews who were finding this new message difficult to accept. Although they had sought the Messiah for centuries, the coming of Christianity presented difficulties which they had to overcome in their worship as regards the commandments, the Prophets and rituals. Christ came fulfilling the Law and the Prophets, conquering sin, shattering all barriers to God and freely providing eternal life. It is this which we have inherited.

*Rosemary Wigley*

### **St Andrew's, Penrice**

The Easter Day service, which was conducted by the Revd Peter was well attended with visitors and regular members of the congregation being present.

Amanda Mellor played the organ, which is a real pleasure for us as we do not usually have music.

After much discussion about the colour, the Chancel has now been painted with very pleasing results. Apart from the painting of the lintel over the organ our renovations are almost complete and are very satisfactory. We hope they will be enjoyed and appreciated for many years to come. We are so glad to hear that Canon Roger will be with us for a little longer but wish him and his family good luck in their search for a comfortable and suitable home.

The Plant sale will be held in Port Eynon Hall on Saturday 2nd May. If you read this in time please support the event as Cathy Dorran has put much time into growing and supplying the stock. All the proceeds are going to a Swansea Charity.

The first lecture for this summer was on April 15th. Ian Prothero spoke on Geology in Gower, combined with some historical information. His enthusiastic and knowledgeable talk was much enjoyed making the evening a

great success both informatively and socially. The next talk on May 13th will be given by Professor Prys Morgan on ‘John Brett: a Pre Raphaelite-Painter in Gower in 1887’.

We send love and thoughts to all those suffering a bereavement and to those struggling with ill health at home or in hospital.

*Angela Barnett*

Peter Lewis adds:

*While redecorating the walls at St Andrew's Penrice, we discovered the presence of a very different paint material under the existing white at the chancel. The congregation investigated various materials and colours to pursue a good match and are delighted to see the chancel (and only the chancel area) now restored to that historic colour.*



*The chancel in Anglican churches can be painted a different, typically richer colour than the nave to highlight it as the "holiest*

*part of the building, separating the area of divine sacrifice from the congregational space. This tradition stems from medieval design and was heavily reinforced in the Victorian era to focus attention on the Eucharist and the clergy.*

### **St Cattwg's, Port Eynon**

There was a good congregation for the Easter Sunday service and everyone was offered an Easter egg to take home. The altar was beautifully decorated with lilies.

The Annual Vestry Meeting on May 17th will be reported next month, as will the annual Plant Sale, which is to take place in the Village Hall on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

‘This hope is anchor to the soul.’ It is hard to interpret this line from Hebrews, Chapter 6, but several readings suggest that God wishes his people to be patient, diligent and faithful, but no longer, as it were, stuck in the mire of ancient doctrine. God has promised blessings on his people but only if they help each other and take every opportunity to demonstrate love, while being patient. They should not stick lazily to ancient precepts, but move beyond the former doctrines. If they reject Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit after originally listening to him and professing belief, that would be an insult to Christ, leaving them

unable to repent and therefore beyond redemption.

Port Eynon History Group is preparing a two-day exhibition on May 24th and 25th about the 1981 wreck of the steamer 'Prince Ivanhoe' and would like to invite readers to contribute any reminiscences, photographs or artefacts which they may have. Please contact Jeff Payne on 07854 389 909.

*Susan Morris*

### **St George's, Reynoldston**

The Church and the Chapel in Reynoldston were filled with the sounds of excited groups of children from Bishopston and Knelston Primary Schools who were experiencing the story of Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter. The all-day event was organised by Revd Peter and the Wellbeing team with activities involving palm leaves, eggs, bubbles, biscuits, water and stones alongside some quiet moments.

We were so pleased to learn that Canon Roger will be with us for a few months more but changes are already here with a 9.30am start to our services and we look forward to Pamela Dennis joining us to assist with some of these services.

We expect the churches and the graveyards of churches close to the sea to reflect the dangers and tragedies encountered by those who

'take to the sea in ships' but Reynoldston also has memorials to those from the village lost at sea.

In the graveyard here:

**In Affectionate Remembrance of John Morgan who was drowned off Cape Horn South America, 30 July 1883 age 36.** (His wife Sarah had died eight years previously, having just lost a baby daughter of 2 days).

**In Remembrance of William Henry Davies, Chief Engineer of the SS Lovaine. Age 31 years. The Lovaine Supposed To Have Foundered With All Hands During A Severe Storm In The Atlantic April 1887**

His wife Eleanor had died two years previously aged 27.

From the tablets in the church commemorating those who fell in the two World Wars:

**Daniel James Taylor RN** - Lost in HMS Good Hope 1914 at the Battle of Coronel.

**Winston Holland** - Lost in the Mediterranean when, as a prisoner of war, he was being transported from North Africa to Italy.

*Hugh Jones*

### **St Mary the Virgin, Rhossili**

Following the installation of a people counter in the porch of St Mary's we have been surprised how many hundreds of folk have

have visited the church and continue to do so. The church continues to host art displays assembled by the Wellbeing team. These change over the weeks and months and the art works are often circulated to our sister churches in the Ministry Area. The current display featuring the Stations of the Cross is due to be replaced by an exhibition featuring the works of local artists. The Wonder of

Wellbeing team are currently working hard to bring this together, Our Easter Sunday service was well supported with grandparents, parents and children getting involved with the telling of the Easter story beautifully portrayed by Canon Roger. Beginning in May our services move to 11.00 am.

*Roger Button*

St David's Church, Llanddewi

Reflections from a former  
Hospice Chaplain  
on spiritual care at the end of life

Rev Lynne Busfield

Rev Lynne (who trained with Rev Peter Lewis 30 years ago) has alternated parish ministry with hospice and hospital chaplaincy. She enjoys any opportunity to reflect with others on what the dying have to teach us about living. She is currently attached to St James Church, Shirley, near Birmingham, during an inter-regnum.

Wednesday 20 May at 7pm

£10 includes entrance and refreshments

*Proceeds in aid of St David's Church, Llanddewi*

# Three Cliffs Cluster of Churches Bishopston, Ilston, Pennard, Penmaen, and Nicholaston

## **Sunday and Easter Services:**

Ilston at 9:30 am: May 3 (Eucharist); May 17(Eucharist)

Bishopston at 9:30 am May 3 (Eucharist); May 10; May 19 (Family Service); May 24 (Eucharist); May 31 (Joint service for all the Three Cliffs Cluster.

Pennard Church at 11:00 am: May 10 (Morning Prayer); May 17 (Eucharist); May 24 (Eucharist)

Pennard Community Hall at 11:00 am May 3 (Family Worship);

Nicholaston at 11:15 May 3 (Morning Prayer); May 24 {Eucharist)

Penmaen at 10:00 am May 10 (Morning Prayer)

## **Weekday Services:**

Wednesday Eucharists at Pennard 9:45 am on May 6, 13, 20, 27

Thursday Celtic Communion services at the Lamplighter 9:30 am on May 7, 14, 21, 28



*Palm Sunday Service for all the Three Cliffs congregations.*

## **Pennard Church St Mary's**

*Catherine Thomas writes:* On 1<sup>st</sup> April we held our midweek service at Heatherslade Home where we shared Palm Sunday readings and hymns and Peter handed out palm crosses to the residents.

On Palm Sunday itself we were joined by our friends from the other churches in Three Cliffs Cluster for our celebration of the triumphal entry into Jerusalem

The following Sunday seventy adults and ten under eighteens celebrated the miracle of Easter in Pennard Community Hall.



The 100 Club was drawn and Lynda James was the winner for April.

I am pleased to report that the work on the outside of the church building is finished and the scaffolding has been removed.

Ellen O'Neil has presented us with her painting of St Mary's Pennard. We hope that the swifts will take the hint and return to the nesting box on the tower this summer.



*Ellen O'Neil's painting of St Mary's Pennard*

I am delighted to announce that St Mary's Pennard has achieved a Bronze Eco Church Award.



## **News from Nicholaston & Penmaen**

*Frances Owen-John writes:*  
Services during May 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May 11.15 am at Nicholaston, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> May 10,am at Penmaen (repair work allowing) 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> May No service. 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> May, 11.15 at Nicholaston. 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> May Joint service for all Three Cliffs at Bishopston.

Easter Services. Both the Good Friday service at Penmaen and Easter Sunday at Nicholaston were well attended. Both churches had had a spring clean, so thanks to everyone who helped with that. The flowers at Nicholaston were lovely, so thanks to everyone who contributed to that



*Decorated for Easter Sunday*

### **Work at Penmaen Church:**

Work has started on the back of the church

**Condolences:** We have had the very sad news that Sian Chathyoka, daughter of Margaret Owens, has died. Our sincere condolences to all the family.

Our condolences also to Mike Cavendish and his family on the death of his father last month.

**Coffee morning** Next coffee morning will be on Saturday, 2nd May at Penmaen and Nicholaston Village Hall.

Please continue to pray for the sick, the bereaved and those having and recovering from, operations, and peace to those countries at war.

### **St Teilo's Bishopston**

*Mike Whiffin writes:*

#### **Building Work**

It's been a frustrating few months trying to start work on the tower repairs. We've had delays due to bats roosting and breeding, as well as problems with our faculty application. However, as I write these notes, I have received notification that our faculty has been passed. Unfortunately, we will have missed our window of opportunity until after the breeding season.

Hopefully we can now start to plan the much needed work, repointing and repairing cracks which have appeared throughout the tower.

**Community Cinema**

The next film to be shown will be - Hamnet (2025), on Tuesday May 12th at the Church Hall, The Glebe, Bishopston. Starring Jessie Buckley and Paul Mescal.

A big thank you to all for your support.

**From the Registers**

Funeral

12th May Joan Brown

Joan was a regular member of our Sunday Eucharist for many years and a great supporter of all our fundraising events.

*Mike Whiffin*

**Three Cliffs Mothers' Union**

*Catherine Thomas writes:* At our April meeting we were entertained by speaker, Cerys Deverill, who told us about her career as a

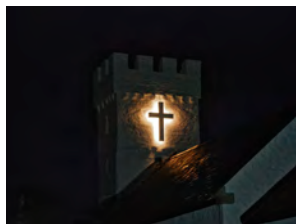
professional singer and sang songs which held particular significance for her.

I had the pleasure of enrolling Louise Rigdon as a Mothers' Union member.



Congratulations to three of our members on the following anniversaries of their enrolment: Mary Gibbons, 60 years; Dwyryd Townsend, 50 years and Betty Hughes, 40 years.

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*Two celebratory pictures of Pennard without the scaffolding by Archdeacon Peter*

## East Gower Cluster of Churches

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

#### **Worship in May 2026**

Every Wednesday	10:30am	Holy Eucharist	All Souls, Tycoch
Every Thursday	11:00am	Holy Eucharist	St. Hilary's, Killay
Sunday May 3rd	11:00am	Holy Eucharist	St. Martin's, Dunvant
	9:30am	Holy Eucharist	All Souls, Tycoch
	9:30am	Bubble Church	St. Hilary's, Killay
	11:00am	Lay Led Service	St. Hilary's, Killay
Sunday May 10th	10:00am	Lay Led Service	St. Martin's, Dunvant
	9:30am	Holy Eucharist	All Souls, Tycoch
	11:00am	Holy Eucharist	St. Hilary's, Killay
Sunday May 17th	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 May 24th	11:00am	Holy Eucharist	St. Martin's, Dunvant
	9:30am	Holy Eucharist	All Souls, Tycoch
	11:00am	Holy Eucharist	St. Hilary's, Killay
	6:00pm	Café Church	St. Hilary's, Killay
Sunday May 31st	11:00am	Joint Eucharist at St. Hilary's, Killay	
Thursday May 14th	11:00am	Ascension Day Eucharist at St. Hilary's	
Sunday May 17th			Ministry Area AVM at St. Cattwg's Church, Port Eynon at 4:00pm

*Marian Williams writes:*

‘This hope ... an anchor for the soul.’

This theme is taken from Hebrews which follows Paul's letters in the Bible. It is suggested that whoever the author of Hebrews was had a first hand relationship with Jesus' disciples as it relates to the teaching of the apostles. It can be assumed that the intended audience would have had a secure knowledge of the Torah and

the scriptures contained in it. At the beginning of the first chapter it says, ‘In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.’

Jesus is compared to key people and events. He is superior to the angels,

greater than Moses, the High Priest of a new covenant. There follows a series of warnings and acknowledgement of human frailties where we might choose to abandon Jesus. However, there is security in the knowledge that if we strive to follow the teachings of our Lord, have hope and live our lives in service to him through faith, we will be encouraged.

The chorus of the well-known hymn ‘Will your anchor hold,’ reinforces this.

*We have an anchor that keeps the soul  
steadfast and sure while the billows roll;  
fastened to the rock which cannot move,  
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour’s love!*

At our midweek Eucharist service at St. Hilary’s Church on April 9th, we were joined by members of the Killay Branch of the Mothers’ Union who received the torch from members of the Cockett Branch to mark the 150th anniversary of the organisation. Fran Steadman, the Killay branch leader introduced the service with an overview of the work of this worldwide organisation – the Blue Army as it was known. Mary Sumner would have been very proud that their work still continues across the world. The torch was taken to Swansea Minster the following day where it was received by Kathleen Snow, the Worldwide President of the Mothers’ Union.



On Palm Sunday, I watched Songs of Praise broadcast from St. Asaph Cathedral and was mesmerised by Peter Barnes’ sculpture of the Last Supper. Many years ago, I visited Santa Maria delle Grazie in Milan to see Leonardo da Vinci’s fresco on the wall of the refectory. This was impressive, but the sculpture which is currently displayed at Swansea Minster is incredible. Whilst the subject matter is the same, with Christ at the centre, this is completely different. I was intrigued by the planning which must have been necessary in order to place some 50,000 individual computer keyboard keys so meticulously on a 3D sculpture, to spell out well known verses and phrases from scripture together with so many religious symbols. One of the words which is much in evidence is Hope. The choice of materials is deliberate because the keys are the symbol of modern communication used to create a sacred narrative which is so familiar. This sculpture will be in Swansea until August.



St. Hilary's Church, Killay celebrates its centenary in August this year. If you or any members of your family have any connection at all with St. Hilary's,

we'd really appreciate hearing from you. Any information or reflections you have will be appreciated greatly.

*Marian Williams*

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Gogledd Gŵyr-North Gower group of churches  
**St. David's Church, Gwernffrwd;  
Ss Rhidian & Illtyd Llanrhidian**



Barry Fox writes: This month's theme looks very simple but it is more profound than it looks:-

*"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind*

*the curtain, where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. "*

The spiritual anchor of hope and the belief that faith in Jesus will see us through the bad times of life is a fundamental of our faith.

At times, life is not easy and we all rely on hope to get us through the tough times of grief and worry. Who has not had an accident or a bad diagnosis of illness to test our faith but the anchor of hope gets us through. We hope for the best, pray for life to get better, and when it does, it brings continuity to our faith and belief. Jesus went through many tests with the final of test of all, the cross.

Our church had the offer to be a Sanctuary church for pilgrims of faith walking the Gower Pilgrimage Way as we have a kitchen and toilet. A facility not common in many churches and our congregation were very insightful many years ago to provide this facility. The offer was rejected by a majority of the congregation. I have met many pilgrims who have been people of faith just like us on Gower. I once escorted 22 pilgrims from the churches in Macclesfield, one was a GP and another a trustee of the Youth Hostels Association. They stayed at the hostel in Port Eynon, where else! Many had never been to Gower before and were impressed by our churches, hospitality and scenery.

You can have an anchor of hope or a physical anchor. An anchor is a safety device to keep the ship in place of safety. When I go to

to our church I pass a large anchor placed at the front of the garden of a smallholding. I often think of where it was built and where did it go on its travels and when was it tested to save its ship. My grandparent's house had a magnificent view of Swansea Bay and docks. As a youngster, I used to watch ships anchor up in the bay and wait for the tide to enable transit into the docks. Sometimes the wind and rain were very intense, with large waves blowing over the West Pier and possibly the crew would hope that the anchor would hold.

Currently there are approx. 20,000 seamen and over 2,000 ships at anchor, trapped in the Persian Gulf awaiting permission to transit the Strait of Hormuz and all the danger that it could bring. They must be living in hope for their safe passage and we must pray for their safe trip out of danger.

Sandra Davis who retired as Warden in January has received a certificate of commendation and thanks from the Bishop for her long service and dedication, it also thanked Sid for his service to the church. An award well deserved.

A very good friend of the church Paxton Hood Willams died in

in March. He was the husband of Pat from our church. Paxton was the Lord Mayor of Swansea for 2024-2025 and Pat the Lady Mayoress, a duty there were proud to perform. His obituary notice was most fitting "A good and Caring Man, Loving and much Loved". Our sincere condolences to Pat and the family.

### **Ss. Rhidian & Iltyd, Llanrhidian**

*Pam Meakins writes:* We give thanks this Eastertide for new life and new beginnings. May our lives be lived completely for Jesus and everyday may we find new ways to love and serve him well.

We are very grateful to Fr. Tim and Fr. Nigel for celebrating Easter services. Many thanks to those who donated flowers and worked so hard to enhance the beauty of the church and grounds for all who visited at

Easter. We look ahead now to Ascension Day on Thursday 14th May and Pentecost on 24th May.

Risen, ascended Lord, we thank you that you did not leave us comfortless but assured us of the gift of your Holy Spirit. May that Spirit guide us in serving you as channels of your peace.

We hold in our prayers all those who will be married in our churches in this spring and summer. We think of all young people around us who are working so hard, facing the challenges that lie ahead in the next few months, to reach the goals they have set themselves. We wish them good luck and happiness.

Date of Service at Ss. Rhidian & Iltyd Sunday 26th April at 4:00 pm

Please pray for all who need our prayers especially those ill at home or in hospital.

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Gogledd Gŵyr-North Gower group of churches

## **Llangennith, Llanmadoc and Cheriton**

1st-4th Sundays at 09.30 (Llanmadoc/Cheriton alternate weeks)  
and 11.15 (Llangennith)

5th Sundays – joint Eucharist at one of the six Group venues.  
St Cenydd's, St Cadoc's and St Madoc's churches are open daily for private prayer and contemplation.

St Cenydd's is a receiving point for contributions to the N Gower Food Hub.  
We welcome everyone coming to the sites of all our ancient establishments.

*Debbie Lloyd writes:*

### **Easter renewal**

Easter Day was celebrated with the hope and joy that the day brings, at St Cadoc's with Fr Tim while at St Cenydd's the Revd Peter Barnett officiated at the Eucharist and led the congregation of some forty souls in the renewal of our baptismal vows.

### **Fabric renewal**

St Cenydd's church committee are exploring recent proposals for roof and tower repairs and refurbishment of the church bells, and re reaching out to the wider community to be part of these heritage projects.

### **Looking ahead**

Church and community activities this month include:

**Sat 02 May at 10.00-14.00 at Llanmadoc Village Hall: Tabletop and Plant Sale, Coffee and Cake** "supporting the local churches".

**Wed 06 May at Llanmadoc Village Hall 19.30: Llangennith, Llanmadoc and Cheriton Community Council** meeting. Also on Zoom (contact Clerk for link).

**Mon 11 May at Llanmadoc Village Hall at 19.00: North Gower History Society – AGM** plus a presentation by Ivor Williams, asking "Why are some buildings listed?"

**Sat 16 May at 11.00 at The King's Head, Llangennith: Cake and Coffee in aid of the forthcoming Macmillan Mighty Hike in Gower.** All proceeds to this excellent cause.

**Sun 17 May at 11.15 at St Cenydd's, Llangennith: Village church service.**

A church service with a special slant towards the whole community, of all ages, of all faiths and of none. Do come and join this special celebration.

**Sun 24 May at 11.00-14.00 at Llangennith Parish Hall: Spring Market** featuring the very best of local and regional artists, crafters and producers – plus delicious refreshments.

**Sat 30 May (provisional) at 18.30 for 19.30 start, at Llangennith Parish Hall: Llangennith Film Club.**

Monthly world cinema on our village doorstep. £6 for adults; £3 under-18s.

### **Further ahead**

**On Sunday 05 July at 11.15 at St Cenydd's, Llangennith: Patronal Service at Cenydd's church,** and the legendary flying of the ceremonial gull, marking Cenydd's miraculous rearing by the birds of the Gower shore in the sixth century. This year by special arrangement **the Saturday Drama Club, Llangennith will be performing "St Cenydd and the Seagulls",** a special telling of the legend.

**On Friday 10 July at 19.30 at St Cenydd's, Llangennith** harpist Catrin Finch performs a programme of her pieces 'closest to her heart.' Part of the Gower Festival 50th anniversary summer season. Tickets via <https://www.gowerfestival.org/>

Greetings to you all from the church congregations of north west Gower,

**Debbie Lloyd, Llangennith church committee**

07973 759230

# CHURCH FUND RAISING

by Alan Glass

St Illtyd's Church, Oxwich, used to be locked, with a sign outside advising that a key could be borrowed from Oxwich Bay Hotel, which resulted in a trickle of visitors. In 2025, the decision was made to leave the church unlocked throughout August, except for the tower (kept locked for safety, and so as not to disturb the resident bat population), and the vestry (where record books and all brassware is kept secure). Ecclesiastical Insurance actually encourages churches being left open, so we were not negating our insurance policy. No problems were experienced, so the church has been left unlocked since the beginning of August. Any of us calling at the church during the week, and especially on Saturdays, is likely to encounter visitors who say they have been to the church often over the years but never been able to look inside (they clearly have not visited on a Sunday morning when it is always open for a service!).

On the outside of the main church door, but within the porch (previously locked) is a collection box, but this was inaccessible most of the time. It is now accessible, and takings have greatly increased. However, in 2026, many people do not have cash in their pockets when they are out for a walk, but most will have a credit or debit card, or this facility will be programmed into their mobile phone. By arrangement with Revd Pete and the M.A. Administrator, Andy, Oxwich has been the first church in the M.A. to trial the use of card-to download data from the reader and pass it on via Vodaphone. Early results are promising – in the first few weeks it has

taken nearly £200. The door-box will presumably yield less, but it is difficult to quantify the reduction.

Another scheme which Oxwich has adopted is “Easyfundraising”. We are trying to persuade church members, and non-church-going villagers who value the church, to sign up on-line with Easyfundraising, naming “St Illtyd's Church, Oxwich”, as their chosen beneficiary. What they then need to remember, when they shop on-line, is to do so via the Easyfundraising website. Most major retailers seem to be signed up to the scheme, so having logged onto the Easyfundraising website, there is search box for retailers that logs straight through to their website for ordering as usual. Any purchases result in a small commission from the retailer to the beneficiary, paid in tranches every few days, at no cost to the purchaser except a small amount of time going via another website. Tesco and Sainsbury are both signed up, so the weekly on-line shop can result in a small commission being paid – it may be small, but if it is regular, it will mount up. I understand that holidays booked with Tui pay quite large commissions, and other stores like Argos fall between, in the percentage paid. Easyfundraising have now produced an app for a mobile phone which allows in-store shopping in Tesco to qualify for a commission, and this is being extended to other retailers, so it will be useable for more than just internet shopping.

Why not consider these fund-raising measures ?

*Alan*

# The Lamplighter

by Wendy Burge



Summer is around the corner and hopefully the weather will be kind, encouraging us all to get out and enjoy our surroundings.

When you're out and about in Bishopston, Swansea, why not call into The Lamplighter on Bishopston Road (opposite side of the road to The Co Op, just past the junction with Wellfield).

It's a lovely, welcoming small café and shop. It serves all the usual favourite coffees; latte, cappuccino, etc. provided by the Gower Coffee Company.

Not a coffee fan? Choose from hot chocolate, standard teas, herbal/fruit

teas or soft and cold drinks. There is always a selection of locally sourced cakes available.

As well as the café, the shop sells an extensive range of beautiful greeting cards, suitable for all occasions, together with gift wrapping items and many unique gifts produced by skilled local crafts people. The shop stocks fair trade confectionery, and Gower Coffee for use at home. It is also a Foodbank drop off point which is greatly supported by the local community, a refuse bag collection point, and a place to regularly meet local councillors

and our PCSO at “Cuppa with a Coppa”!

Coordinated by Louise Rigdon, the Lamplighter is staffed entirely by volunteers. It is affiliated to The Church in Wales and hosts a Celtic Communion on Thursdays at 9.30am and a prayer meeting on Tuesdays at 9.15am, both prior to the normal opening hours.

But be assured there is always a warm welcome for EVERYONE, irrespective of religion or beliefs.

And whilst on the subject of being open to ALL - The Lamplighter hosts a thriving and vibrant craft group. The group meets on Tuesday and Friday mornings 10am till noon. But crafting is definitely not a

necessity. Some of the group attend just for a cuppa, cake and a good old chat.

As a nice side effect, the craft groups support several charities both by providing handmade items, sponsorship challenges and an optional monetary collection each session.

So, on behalf of all at the Lamplighter, I extend an open invitation to every reader to come and see for yourselves what is on offer at this community hub. A very cordial welcome awaits (and also a really decent cuppa and cake!).

90 Bishopston Road,  
SA3 3EW

Tel 01792 232912 (or follow us on Facebook)

Opening times: 10am to 3.30pm Tuesday to  
Friday, 10am till noon Saturday.

Closed Sunday, and Monday and all Bank  
holidays.

Dear Children,

## Dear Children

I am trying to learn Greek because the stories of Jesus were written in Greek. I'm not very good at it, I'm afraid. It doesn't have the same alphabet that we do and the words in Greek sentences come in a strange order.

For many years it was considered that anyone wanting to take big decisions on behalf of other people absolutely had to learn Greek rather than the subjects you learn in school today. Times change. I am not saying you should give up Information Technology for Greek but you really do need to understand why it was thought so important in the past.

You see, with knowledge of Latin and Greek, people had access to thousands of years of stories about how men and women react in different circumstances. This gave them shared wisdom that was very useful. It really could help with decision making. Let me teach you just one word of Greek to show what I mean. The one word is ὕβρις – 'hubris'.

'Hubris' means something like 'arrogance' but it is more than arrogance. It is an extreme pride which leads powerful people to think that they are invincible – that they can do anything they want to do.

Hubris always brought disaster. The Greeks would have said that powerful people get to think they are better and cleverer than the gods and the gods don't like this, so they punish them. The arrogant weaver, Arachne, got turned into a spider by Athena. Serve her right! And things didn't go well for Xerxes either. He thought he could build a bridge across



the Bosphorus but Zeus ended up destroying his whole army. Serve him right!

Of course, we don't believe in the gods that the Greeks believed in and the God we *do* believe in isn't childish and jealous as those imaginary gods were. But the idea of powerful people stupidly thinking they are invincible is very much alive today. People lucky enough to get a lot of power sometimes refuse to listen to anyone else because they think that their opinion is the only one that matters. Then they make foolish decisions that challenge everything that is good and sensible and right and proper. And disaster strikes. Ask your parents if they know anybody like that.

Now I am not saying that if Napoleon and Hitler had known Greek they would have been nicer people; but knowing about hubris might have made both think twice about leading their armies - as they did - to disastrous defeat in Russia. It might have helped them be more sensible, don't you think?

*Nigel*

P.S. These days you don't need to learn Greek to get power. All you need is 'street-smarts cunning' and luck. Should this happen to one of you, watch out for hubris I beg you. Hubris always brings disaster.

# The Gower Church Magazine

## One hundred years ago – May 1926

by Valerie Beynon



A Notice at the beginning of the May edition announced *A Missionary Convention will be held in St Mary's Church, Swansea on Thursday, May 6th at 7pm. The Editor has made arrangements with Mr George Taylor of the 'Vanguard' to run a late bus at 10.30pm to Rhossili, and also to Llangenydd and Llanmadoc. We hope a large number will avail themselves of this opportunity.*

Penclawdd's magazine entry said *We hope that as many as possible will attend this Convention.....The subject is 'The Call of the World to the Church'. The Dean of Hereford will preach. No tickets required.*

Bishopston reported *The Lord Bishop of the Diocese dedicated the new beautiful Chapel (at the Diocesan House of Mercy at Eastmoor) in the presence of a crowded congregation...The Chapel has cost £2000 and there only remains about £500 to clear it of debt. Many of the Chapel appointments were private gifts or memorials to departed friends.*

Reports of the Easter Services and Easter Vestries dominated the entries from all the churches. To name a few : Llandewi, *The Church looked very bright for our Easter Festival. The new carpets and curtains were used for the first time and added greatly to the appearance of the Chancel and Sanctuary.... The special offerings together with the ordinary collections amounted to £19 13s 8d. The number of communicants was the highest for at least 12 years and of these close to a half attended the early Service.* Llanrhidian reported that *The Services were well attended during Lent and the daily Morning and Evening Services during Holy Week. There was a large number of communicants on Easter Day. Services were bright and the musical portions were well rendered. The following Sunday afternoon, A Sacred Service of Song, entitled 'St Paul' was rendered by the Sunday School Scholars. They went through the work successfully. At Reynoldston There was a good attendance at the Three Hour Service on Good Friday and the day was passed in the village with a quietness suitable for the solemnity of so sacred an*

*anniversary. The number of communicants on Easter Day just reached the previous highest record of one of the years of the War. The Church.....looked in the sunshine quite at its best.*

Easter Vestry Meetings were reported from most churches. Pennard's Churchwarden's Account showed a balance of £78. It was reported that five more parishioners had joined the envelope Free Will Offering scheme. This has been the secret of our financial stability, and we would like everyone who is not on the list to give the matter again serious consideration. The Church Rector's and People's Wardens plus Sidesmen were re-elected. At Port Eynon's Vestry Meeting the Rector was presented with the Easter Offering, which was gratefully acknowledged. Votes of thanks were accorded to all the church workers for their splendid services.

Easter seems to be a good time for performance of plays. At Llandewi, two plays were presented by some of the young people. The junior members of the Women's Institute performed 'Faces and Fortune'. The parts were very well played. The second was 'Mrs Tubbin's Cat'. The acting was splendid and caused roars of laughter. Port Eynon's Choral Society held a Social Evening when presentations were made of a watch to Mr E Clement and a gold cased fountain pen to Miss Morgan. Both recipients

*returned thanks and said the work had been a great pleasure for them. Reynoldston's Amateurs were congratulated on the excellent evening's entertainment on Easter Tuesday. They first performed a little play 'Waiting for the Bus' which was admirably presented. Then there followed the well-known farce, 'Ici on parle Francais'. This depends entirely for its success on clever acting... which proved to be in no way lacking ...and entirely captivated the house. Special mention was made of Mr Lee, the producer and stage manager to whom we and they are greatly indebted. Gwernffrwd announced that popular Swansea man, Mr Jock Denoon, well-known goalkeeper of the Swansea Town Soccer Team and member of the young Men's Christian Association, will deliver an address at the Church Hall, Penclawdd. The lecture is entitled 'Brotherhood in Sport and innocent recreations viewed from a Christian standpoint'....His lectures have made a delightful impression upon all who have heard him as they are chockfull of sentiments that are of absorbing interest. Sunday School Scholars at Bishopston, Llangenydd and Rhossili Churches celebrated Egg Sunday on April 18th when a total of more than 1500 eggs were collected and later taken to Swansea Hospital.*

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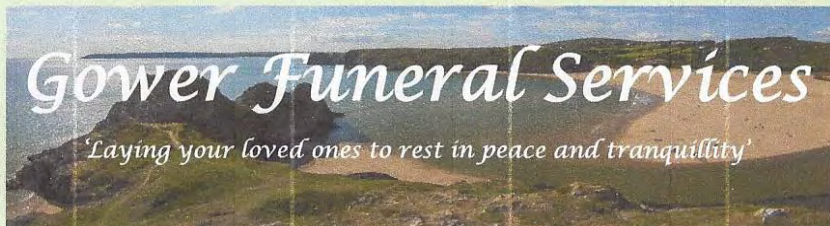
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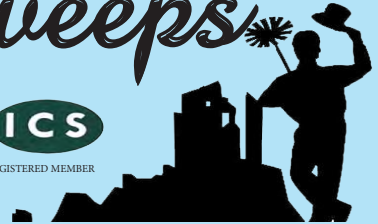
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# More about Gower Churches

## Gwernffrwd: St David's



Opened as a new Mission Room at Easter 1898 by the Bishop of St David's 'The Cambrian' weekly newspaper described the church as a "very compact, well-finished little building and will be a great convenience for those living on the spot, who cannot in rough weather go to either the parish church at Llanrhidian (2miles) or the chapel of ease at Penclawdd (3miles) away. May success bless their efforts."

North East Gower being less attractive for farming than south and west Gower was sparsely populated so little was known about the area until the C19. But as in Penclawdd, by the late C19, the opening of mines with better quality coal in the Morlais valley plus the arrival of the railway to Llanmorlais in 1867 had led to population increases in Llanmorlais, Crofty and Gwernffrwd and neighbouring hamlets. In many households, incomes were supplemented by the women, 'going to the sands' of the Bury estuary, on their donkeys or ponies and flat carts, to gather cockles, sold not only in Swansea Market but also throughout South Wales. On completion of the church building a considerable sum of money had already been collected through the generosity of the local community and, with contributions from Miss Emily Talbot and others, St David's was almost free of debt.

By 1924, the church joined with St Gwynor's, Penclawdd to form the new parish of Llanynnewydd with Gwernffrwd.

Prominent in the interior of the small church are two Victorian stained-glass windows- the West window depicts St David and was the gift of Revd D W E Brunson, a former Vicar of Llanrhidian and the East window, showing Christ in Majesty was possibly moved from All Saints Pontardawe. It is thought that the altar table was made by a former Vicar of Penclawdd and Gwernffrwd, Revd Ben Evans, well remembered by many of us.

The essential church furnishings and very many adornments given, and often made by members of the congregation in memory of their loved ones are listed in the Church guide.

Two memorial tablets on the west wall were removed from nearby Penuel Presbyterian Chapel, on its closure in 1988 and these commemorate the service of men from the Llanmorlais and Gwernffrwd area in the 1914 to 1918 war.

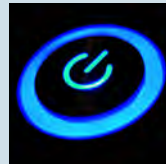
Outside in the small neat churchyard is a cremated remains plot.

*Valerie Beynon reprinted from 2022*



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### Church Locations

- 1: St Gwynor, Penclawdd SA4 3JH 2: St David, Wernfrwd SA4 3TR 3: St Rhidian & St Iltyd, Llanrhidian SA3 1EH
- 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, Tycoch SA2 9LP



*The Storm on the Sea of Galilee (1633) by Rembrandt*