

Gower

Ministry Area



The Ministry Area Of Gower



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The theme for August
"Wish you were here"
 ... postcards from Bible Stories
 chosen by Peter Lewis



Wish you were here... (in which bible story would you like to have been present?)

We might be used to sending or receiving postcards in August saying, *"Wish you were here."* They usually arrive from somewhere sunny, scenic, or memorable: a beach, a mountain, a cathedral city, a place where someone has stood and thought, *"You would love this."*

But what if the message came not from a holiday destination, but from a Bible story?

Imagine receiving a postcard from the shore of Galilee: "Wish you were here — Jesus has just called four fishermen to leave their nets and follow him." Or from the hillside where five thousand people are being fed: "Wish you were here — there is somehow enough bread for everyone." Or from the road to Emmaus: "Wish you were here — our hearts are burning within us as he opens the Scriptures."

One of the great gifts of the Bible is that it does not merely

ask us to observe from a distance. It invites us in. We hear the voices, notice the dust on the road, smell the lake air, feel the fear of the storm and the amazement of the miracle. Scripture is not a museum cabinet full of interesting religious objects; it is a living word that draws us into God's story.

Standing in the crowd

What might be a familiar storyline in the Bible that you would like to have been part of... or could imagine being a part of today. For example, in the feeding of the 5,000: the hungry are fed, the baskets are filled, and Jesus is revealed as the generous provider. But pause for a moment and what happens when you put yourself there?

You have followed Jesus out to a lonely place. The day has been long. You are tired, hungry, and perhaps beginning to wonder how practical this whole business of discipleship really is. The disciples are anxious. The crowd is large. The resources are laughably small: five loaves and two fish. Then

Jesus takes what is offered, gives thanks, breaks it, and shares it. Somehow, as it passes from hand to hand, there is enough.

If we were there, where would we stand? Would we be among the disciples doing the sums and seeing only what is lacking? Would we be the child offering a small lunch, not knowing what Jesus might do with it? Would we be in the crowd, surprised to receive bread we had not earned and could not provide for ourselves?

Imaginative reading is a way of paying attention. When we imagine ourselves within a Bible event, we begin to notice details we may otherwise miss. We ask fresh questions. What would I have heard? What would I have feared? What would have challenged me? What invitation might Jesus have spoken to me?

A simple way to try it

Choose a Gospel passage and read it slowly. Then read it again, not as a spectator but as someone present in the scene.

Notice the place, the people, the sounds, and the silences. Ask yourself where you are standing and why. Listen for what Jesus says, not only to the people in the passage, but to the part of you that has stepped into the story.

You might like to ask three questions: What do I notice? What surprises or unsettles me? What might God be inviting me to do, trust, receive, or offer?

Sharing with others

The things about a summer holiday postcard ‘Wish you were here...’ is that they’re rarely kept and sent to ourselves! No, they are to be shared, and I wonder in what way our imagined encounters with Scripture are not only for ourselves, but might be an encouragement or message for others.

Are there times when we share something of our spiritual lives with others? It might be within a church group like The Mothers’ Union, a bible study, or it might be that if you can spend sometime in prayerful reflection entering into a

Bible story, that someone comes to mind with whom you can share something of the experience. For example in the feeding of the 5,000, you might have noticed the fear in the disciples, the generosity of the child, the patience of Jesus. This sharing does not need to be polished or dramatic - the Holy Spirit can inspire us to share in a conversation with someone and there we are, practising a gentle kind of testimony — not claiming that our imagination is the only way to read the passage, but saying honestly how God has met us through it.

For the truth is, in the story of God’s love, we are not only readers. By grace, we are invited participants — and witnesses who can help one another recognise the living Christ in the pages of Scripture and our own lives.





Gower Wonder of Wellbeing

creating inviting spaces for renewal and hope

Shoreline: Exploring Faith By The Sea

We launched our new free 4-week seeker friendly course for the spiritually curious to explore Christian faith through gentle practices in outdoor settings at Port Eynon and Oxwich Bay. It was a wonderful time with participants coming from Ammanford, having seen our social media posts as well a few from other expressions of the Christian faith wanting to go deeper. We've had some wonderful feedback too...



"I only came because my wife wanted to - however, I after the first week I felt such a presence of God that I was really looking forward to coming tonight!"

"After last week's session I felt incredible peace and contentment. I'm realising God is looking out for me."

"It's been wonderful spending time talking about faith and spirituality with other interested people!"

Wild Church: Mill Wood, Penrice

This month a number of Ordinands joined in with regulars and new faces to consider justice for the land, and for our neighbours. Considering the history of Mill Wood, the Penrice Estate and the current work going on to scale back the diseased and dying Ash Trees, as well as clearing the non-native Rhododendron's which were planted there but are in fact blocking the sun from the forest floor which is wiping out spring wildflowers like bluebells and wild daffodils.



We then walked up to St Andrew's Church to consider the 'murder stone' there, the idea of waiting for justice, and how to meet the needs of those who may be forgotten or dismissed in society. This gave us all time to think about our role in

looking after God's creation, including the natural landscape and our fellow man reflecting on Genesis 2:15 and Mark 12.

NOW ON: WOW's Summer Programme Across Gower!

Our Summer Programme is jam-packed with opportunities for people to connect, explore, and enjoy time together. From creative activities and family events to opportunities for reflection and wellbeing, there's something for everyone. Places on some activities are limited, so be sure to book early to avoid disappointment. If you have any questions, please get in touch – we'd love to hear from you! See the poster at the end of this article.

Who | What | Why - The Basics of Christianity: Art Installation @ St Mary's Church

This new art show invites you to investigate, be curious, go deeper, take notice, and discover more! At first glance, what you'll encounter are the basics, the first questions many people ask:

- ? Who is God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the devil?
- ? What is church? What is sin? What is the Bible?
- ? Why do people pray?
- ? Why is it called Christianity?
- ? Why are there different expressions of worship?

Each artwork offers an introduction, a glimpse and a doorway into understanding these ideas in their most essential form.



We believe that reflection is an important part of the creative journey, so we are also inviting people to take a moment to pause, think, and respond to two questions:

1. If Jesus were sitting next to you right now, what would you ask Jesus?
2. And thinking about the questions, what do you believe He would say in response?

We are praying that visitors will take time to reflect, wonder and explore the Christian faith – please pray also.

“Seek and you will find”

Matthew 7:7

HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT WoW?

Contact us: wowadmin@churchinwales.org.uk

Stay connected: 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 the link below where you can fill out a short form to let us know your preferences:

<https://forms.office.com/e/L6Q67UAR0z>

The Wonder of Wellbeing Team



THE WONDER OF WELLBEING GOWER

FREE SUMMER EVENTS

MINI RETREAT WORKSHOPS

HEARING GOD IN A BUSY WORLD

25TH
JULY

A spiritual refueling as you take notice of life's demands with an invitation to pause & encounter God afresh.
St Illtyd's Church.

2-5PM OXWICH

PRAYER, HEALING & BLESSING

15TH
AUG

Become more familiar with the practices we use of invoking God's blessing on others & over our own life.
St Mary's Church.

2-5PM PENNARD

GOD WITH US IN HARD TIMES

25TH
AUG

Become more familiar with the practices we use of invoking God's blessing on others & over our own life.
St Cattwg's Church.

7PM PORT EYNON

15TH & 29TH
AUG

Enjoy a sauna, swim & spiritual refreshing
9am on the 15th & 8am on the 29th

SAUNA PRAYERS

OXWICH BAY £12 PP

TALKS AND EVENTS

CELTIC MUSIC

26TH
AUG

Enjoy an evening of music in featuring traditional melodies & songs that inspire reflection, joy & a sense of spiritual connection.

7PM LLANGENNITH

ART EXHIBITION, COFFEE & CHAT

EVERY
FRIDAY

Join us in St Mary's Church for a free coffee & chat. Explore our summer interactive art exhibition with a magnifying glass!

10AM - 12PM RHOSILI

GOWER HISTORY OF THE TRACTARIAN MOVEMENT

22ND
AUG

Listen to how Victorian Gower clergy shaped Church Tradition focusing on the life of Rev'd JD Davies.

2-5PM WERNFFWRD

22ND
AUG

Bring your own breakfast & join us for a time of community on the beach as we reflect on a story of Jesus.

SELF-LED AND FACILITATED

BESPOKE DAY RETREATS

29TH JULY
5TH, 12TH
19TH & 26TH
AUG

Take time out this summer exploring spiritual practices like pilgrimage, contemplation, creative prayer & more.

BEACH PRAYERS

EVERY
THURSDAY

Amidst the sound & scene of the beach, join an early evening gathering for short prayerful reflections.

6:15 PM OXWICH

PILGRIMAGE

13TH, 20TH,
27TH JULY
17TH & 24TH
AUG

Join us to walk a section of the Gower Pilgrimage Way exploring what pilgrimage means in 2026.

WILD CHURCH

10:30AM PWLL DU

Congratulations to Peter Townshend

- honoured by King Charles

Back in March, we were delighted to hear that Peter had been chosen to receive Maundy Money from the King at St Asaph Cathedral.



Peter has, quietly and gently, been a shining star for Church in Wales over many years. Just to pick one of his roles, he has been the Gower Ministry Area Treasurer – our ‘Chancellor of the Exchequer’! His patience, wisdom, knowledge and understanding have provided quiet leadership in this difficult job. We rejoiced when we heard that he was getting recognised in this way.

But, alas, it seemed that he was going to miss out because he just couldn't be in St Asaph on Maundy Thursday. What bad luck!

But he didn't miss out- not entirely. He still gets the money even if not directly from the King. Here he is getting it from our +John.



Maundy money is a special set of silver coins distributed by the British monarch each Maundy Thursday. It consists of four small silver coins: a penny (1d), twopence (2d), threepence (3d), and fourpence (4d). Each recipient receives a complete set in a white leather purse, alongside a red purse containing modern coins. This year 77 men and 77 women were chosen to be honoured in this way because the King is 77.

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

Facebook: South West Churches in Gower Ministry Area

WORSHIP IN AUGUST

Every Tuesday	9.00am	Morning Prayer	Reynoldston
Every Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Communion	Llanddewi
Every Thursday	8.15am	Prayerfulness Walk	Rhossili
Sunday 2 August	9.30am	Holy Communion	Reynoldston
Trinity 9	5.00pm	Evening Service	Port Eynon
Sunday 9 August	8.30am	Holy Communion	Penrice
Trinity 10	10.30am	Holy Communion	Reynoldston Methodist Ch
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Oxwich
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Rhossili
	5.00pm	Evening Service	Port Eynon
Sunday 16 August	8.30am	Holy Communion	Penrice
Trinity 11	9.30am	Morning Prayer	Reynoldston
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Oxwich
	5.00pm	Holy Communion	Port Eynon
Sunday 23 August	8.30am	Morning Prayer	Penrice
Trinity 12	9.30am	Holy Communion	Reynoldston
	10.30am	Morning Prayer	Oxwich
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Llanddewi
	5.00pm	Blessings Café	Port Eynon
Sunday 30 August	10.30am	Holy Communion	Oxwich
Trinity 13			

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 8th and 22nd August. Everyone welcome.

Congratulations to Revd Peter celebrating 30 years as an ordained vicar in the Church in Wales. Also ‘hats off’ for his part in the recent National Prayer Breakfast with more than 200 MPs in the UK Parliament. This was followed with a related workshop with the Bible Society where he was able to extol the virtues and successes of the Wonder of Wellbeing project which is connecting people to spirituality through nature, art and wellbeing here in this beautiful land of Gower.

Sunday August 2nd - The Gower Show. Numerous activities including a service at 12 noon will take place in the Church Tent. Well worth a visit!

The Gower Music Festival’s 50th Anniversary was celebrated with world-class musicians, including Bryn Terfel, and outstanding concerts in the wonderful acoustic of our churches. It was a Festival to remember.

REPORTS FROM THE CHURCHES

St David’s, Llanddewi

Scaffolding is again erected at the west end of the church, and we hope that work will be done soon to make the church watertight.

Swallows have occupied the boxes in the porch – lovely to have them back, hopefully safely, rearing another generation there. We are looking forward to hosting a lecture to be given by the officer from the City Council’s Gower Landscape who are providing nesting boxes for swifts, swallows and bats and promoting habitats for biodiversity in Gower, including our churches. Entry will be free, and refreshments will be available. Do join us for what should be an interesting evening about an important subject of caring for wildlife. The recent second heatwave this year, and the impact it has on all living things, makes climate change increasingly evident, and we need to

be helped to know how we can respond well.

It's difficult to choose one story about being present with Jesus. I have chosen the occasion when Jesus healed the demon-possessed man. What must it have felt like stepping out from a boat with him onto the shore, and to have been met by a demon-possessed man, naked with a broken chain hanging off his limbs, shouting at Jesus? Luke tells us that for a long time he had lived in the tombs, chained hand and foot and kept under guard, yet had broken his chains and been driven by demons into solitary places. What an utterly dreadful state this isolated, lonely and hopeless, feared and fearful man was in, so controlled by the force of demons!

They recognized and confronted Jesus as Son of the Most High God. Jesus cast out the demons and when

folk from the neighbouring town came to see what was happening, they found the man from whom the demons had been cast out 'sitting at Jesus feet, clothed and in his right mind'. What amazing transformation! As an onlooker I would have run the whole gamut of sheer fear to astonishment, peace and new-found basis for trust in Jesus: this healing of body, mind, spirit and social circumstance makes explicit the reality of his unique, divine nature and authority, and his amazing love.
Penny Henderson

St Illtyd's, Oxwich

We finally said our farewells to Canon Roger a couple of weeks ago. This followed one of his thought-provoking sermons.



Liza had made a beautiful cake decorated with a shepherd and his sheep which we all enjoyed, washed down with various drinks. A few informal

speeches were delivered in appreciation of Roger's time with us. Roger responded by saying that he had greatly enjoyed his time with all six churches. May God bless Roger in his retirement with health and happiness. We live in the hope of future visits as he will be living only a stone's throw away in north Gower.



Considering this month's topic in choosing a biblical situation in which we would have liked to have lived, I opened My Daily Prayer by Nick Fawcett, which just happened to turn up a page on Habakkuk. Be this by chance or good fortune but this is the prophet that the Wednesday study group has been looking into at the King Arthur which I have been finding quite difficult.

Nick Fawcett thinks Habakkuk very refreshing in the way that he tackles the enigmas of life. No pious acceptance that every event

must somehow be God's will and no tortuous attempt to find a spiritual explanation for whatever happens. The world presents deep puzzles for which we attempt to find answers. He believes God prefers an honest cry of confusion to a faith that deals with life's riddles by sweeping them under the carpet.

Rosemary Wigley

St Andrew's, Penrice

As I write this the sun is shining and not a cloud in the sky, cyclists and motorists are making their way down to the beach and I can hear children in the sea. After such a long wet winter it is such a good thing that so many can enjoy the outdoors without watching for rain clouds and carrying water proof clothing. For those of us that remember the heat wave of 1976 this seems so much hotter and to be lasting longer.

Canon Roger took his last Service with us on 28th June. We have enjoyed all his sermons, his good humour and his kindness and now we wish him and his family a long and happy retirement in their new home.

We have had much discussion about keeping the church open as up until now it has always been locked, mainly due to the

isolation of the building. The surrounding cottages are holiday homes so nobody is there on a regular basis to keep an eye out or be prepared to open and shut morning and evening. Having recently spent a lot of time and money on repainting the church we are nervous about any vandalism. It was decided to try it for a trial period during the summer months.

Congratulations to Revd Peter for taking part in the Macmillan Walk. The Macmillan Nurses are well known to provide a service that many families have benefited from, as they not only give nursing care but help and support the families too.

It was sad news to hear that Digs, the electrician, had died after a very short illness. He had helped many of us with electrical problems over the years and had done a lot of work at St. Andrew's. He will be deeply missed and to his partner and family we send love and deepest sympathy.

Angela Barnett



The new cross at St Andrew's

St Cattwg's, Port Eynon

Both happy and sad news from our area. The wedding of William and Molly took place on a lovely July day, with the bridal pair walking back across the beach to Horton. Congratulations to them both and best wishes for a long and happy marriage.

To everyone's shock and grief, the sudden death of popular local electrician and family man, Wallace Cole, known as Diggs, was announced on July 7th. Our deepest sympathy to all his family.

Very best wishes and good luck to Lleisiau Gŵyr, our local choir who practice in St. Cattwg's. They are to compete as Welsh learners and first-timers at the National Eisteddfod on August 6th.

If I'd been in the Temple at Jerusalem, I would have written home about the boy of 12 debating with the Elders! Jesus had come there at Passover with his parents and got left behind when they returned to Nazareth. (Luke 2:41-52). It resonates with all parents' dilemma of giving a child freedom, and then being embroiled in terrible worry when he can't be found, culminating in a feeling of anger that the child has put them to such stress. Less restrained parents than Mary and

Joseph might well have slapped the child soundly. It must have been especially hard for Joseph to hear Jesus say, 'Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?', when they finally tracked him down after three days. Though Mary had had previous intimations of the status of her son, it's possible that Joseph had not absorbed the full implications. It would be good to know how long it took for the family to regain its equilibrium, and also what other upsets occurred in their lives during Jesus' teenage years and early adulthood. The Bible tells us no more.

Susan Morris

St George's, Reynoldston

Funeral: Monday 8th June Anna-Leena Collins of West Cross.

On Monday 22nd June Iain and Sian were married at St. George's.



We have got to know the couple well in recent months as they frequently attend our Sunday services. Both serve in the military hence the Guard of Honour and a Piper!

Billed as a Comedy Showcase, the production by Gower Players at Reynoldston Village Hall certainly lived up to its name. The audience was really entertained with some highly amusing sketches and monologues along with an excellent meal. Prominent amongst the cast were Peter Lewis and John Mahoney both playing many parts including criminals, a driving instructor, doctor and Max Boyce! We are not sure which one played the ape?

We were so pleased to welcome Ross Davies to St. George's when she conducted our Morning Prayer service in July. We are also so fortunate to have Pam Dennis conducting our Morning Prayer services on a regular basis. We look forward to Sunday 9th August as we have been invited to join the members of the Methodist Church in Reynoldston for their Communion Service.

Congratulation to Sian and Paul of Gower Reels who have produced such an interesting range of films about the life in Gower in the past, including the history of the Tucker family. There will be another

showing in the Village Hall on Friday 28th August.

Hugh Jones

St Mary the Virgin, Rhossili

Even more visitors have been to St Mary's this month to view the 'New Beginnings' Wonder of Wellbeing exhibition of local artists: comments are complimentary and affirming. At the end of June, several local volunteers joined the Wellbeing team to welcome people into the church during the Macmillan Mighty Hike on Gower, offering a moment of peace or prayers, a listening ear, or just to pause.

Very well done to Revd Peter, Natalie, Dan and Marian for their sponsored walk which raised £1800 for the cancer support charity.



A one hundred-strong audience filled the church to overflowing for a superb afternoon concert by the world-renowned Carducci Quartet during Gower Festival.

Performances of Mendelssohn and Debussy were made all the more memorable by bright sunny weather and, of course, unforgettable views of Rhossili Bay.

Three Cliffs Cluster of Churches

Bishopston, Ilston, Pennard, Penmaen, and Nicholaston

Sunday Services:

Ilston at 9:30 am: August 16 (Eucharist)

Bishopston at 9:30 am August 2 (Family Service); August 9 (Eucharist);
August 16 (Eucharist); August 23 (Eucharist)

Pennard Church at 11:00 am: August 9 (Morning Prayer); August 16
(Eucharist) August 23 (Eucharist)

Pennard Community Hall at 11:00 am August 2 (Family Worship)

Penmaen at 10:00 am August 9 (Eucharist)

Nicholaston at 11:15 August 23 (Eucharist); August 30 (5th Sunday Joint
Eucharist service for all this cluster)

Weekday Services:

Wednesdays at Pennard 9:45 am on August 5, 12, 19, 26

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

St Illtyd Ilston

Jen Griffiths writes: Mrs. Beryl James has been a regular parishioner at St. Illtyd's for many years and we would like to congratulate her on her 94th birthday. Happy birthday Beryl and we hope you enjoyed your family tea party.

The Armadillos annual charity concert was held in the Ebenezer Chapel, Dunvant on the 4th July. They were disappointed not to sing in Ilston this year but still made a very generous donation to church funds. We thank them very much for this kind gesture.

Hopefully they will be back to perform in Ilston next year.

We are hopeful for a date for the start of repairs and maintenance work on the roof and rainwater goods very soon.

As the Gower Show is on Sunday 2nd August there will be no service in church but there will be a service on the third Sunday 16th August as usual.

Please continue to pray for peace where war is still continuing in different parts of the world.

God Bless.

St Teilo's Bishopston

Mike Whiffin writes:



Children from Bishopston school were taking part in 'A Rocha's Churches' count on nature. Guided by Dan Edy from the Wonder of Wellbeing team and using the workbook developed by A Rocha, they looked at plants, trees and flowers in the Churchyard and also listened for birds.

Because the weather wasn't great they also spent time in Church looking for nature in our windows. They were told all about Arthur Bear's visit to St Teilo's on the Gower Pilgrimage, It was a really good interactive time, enjoyed by all.

A big thank you to Megan Rosser and Dave Ball for opening the Church and looking after our visitors.

The Tower

A faculty has successfully been returned allowing us to start work in the Church Tower in relation to the welfare and protection of the bats.

Work will include windows of the tower being fitted with special entrance boxes for the bats and a new trap door for access onto the rooftop. We are intending to start the work middle to end of October after the breeding season has finished.

Community Cinema

There will be no film in August due to a short summer break. It will restart on September 8th, with "Mother's Pride" starring Martin Clunes. We look forward to your continued support.

Gower Festival

In July St Teilo's opened its doors to the Gower Festival and a full Church was entertained with music by Morgan Szymanski.



From the Registers

23rd May: Wedding between Laura Cullen and Johnathan Bowen

14th June: Baptism of Wilma Maeve Bewhay daughter of proud parents Samuel and Hannah

5th July: Baptism of James Malcom Harris son of proud parents Malcom and Carolin

News from Nicholaston & Penmaen

Frances Owen John writes:

Services during August: 1st Sunday, **2nd August No service due to Gower Show**, 2nd Sunday, 9th August, 10 am at Penmaen, 3rd Sunday, 16th No service. 4th Sunday, 23rd August, 11.15 at Nicholaston. 5th Sunday, 30th August. (please see details elsewhere).

Work at Penmaen Church: Most of the work has been completed and was in time for the wedding on Saturday, 28th June.



The bride sent these words of thanks to Rev. Peter Brooks:

Thank you so much for everything. You were absolutely incredible, and everyone said it was the best wedding they had ever been to. You were so wonderful with Theo and made us all feel so comfortable and cared for.

From day one, you've made us feel so welcome, and we'll definitely be coming back. We're so grateful that you were the one who married us it made the day even more special.

Thank you also to everyone at the church who spent hours cleaning and preparing everything. It was all so beautiful, and we truly appreciate the love and care that went into making our day perfect."

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for everything you've done for us. We feel so blessed to have met you and to have shared such an important day with you.

Church Opening: Penmaen Church should be open everyday for visitors from now until the end of August. Nicholaston church will be open from 10 am until 4 pm every Saturday from 25th July to end of August. Thank you to those who have volunteered to "Church sit" on those Saturdays.

Church Council Meeting: It is planned to arrange a Church Council Meeting to follow the service at Penmaen on Sunday, 9th August. Agenda will be sent soon.

Easyfundraising: I have registered Penmaen & Nicholaston Churches as a Charity on this fund raising site. If you have not yet signed up as a supporter. Please do so if you buy on line. The scheme includes a large number of organisations that offer on line shopping. Just go to easyfundraising web site and sign up to support Penmaen and Nicholaston Churches. Thank you.

Web Site: Penmaen and Nicholaston Village Hall now have a web site which includes information regarding both Churches.

Coffee morning Next coffee morning will be on Saturday, 1st August 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.

Loz Harry writes: In which bible story would you like to have been present?' Imagine receiving a postcard from the shore of Galilee!

We choose the story from Mark 4 verses 37 to 39, where Jesus calms the storm.

"We've had an incredible day. We've been out on the lake in the boat because there were so many people gathered to hear Jesus. It was like the biggest festival we've ever been to: way better than Glastonbury or the Isle of Wight! We heard the parable stories which really caught our imagination, and thankfully, Jesus did explain them to us, as sometimes we didn't really get the point. The most awesome part though was in the evening, when it was just us, and a huge storm literally whipped up, blowing a right hooley. We were scared and thought that was it.....but Jesus told the wind and the waves to "be still"and it was all quiet. Slightly terrifying but completely awestruck..... Wish you were here!!!"

Pennard Church St Mary's

Catherine Thomas writes: Jane Evans was the 100 Club winner for July. A well-deserved win after her years of organising it!

The indoor stage of our building renovation project was completed a few days before the Gower Festival concert on 9th July but everything was still covered in a generous layer dust! A fantastic team of our church members worked really hard on a very hot day

cleaning and tidying to ensure St Mary's Pennard was looking its best for the occasion.

We are now enjoying our renovated vestry and the new kitchenette makes it so much easier to prepare and serve refreshments.



Please note that the Book of Remembrance, the record of all whose cremated remains are interred in Pennard churchyard, has been moved from the back of the church and is now situated in the sanctuary, near the altar.

On the Sunday morning when the Swansea Ironman and resultant road closures, Pennard Carnival weekend and Sea Sunday coincided it was Churches Together in the carnival marquee for those who were able to get there.

Funerals

23rd July – Shirley Anne Smith

29th July – Rhidian David Lewis

The funeral of Fiona Williams will be held in St Mary's Pennard on 20th August at 10.45 am.

A memorial service for Gwen Watkins will take place in St Mary's Pennard on 12th September at 2pm.

Gwasanaeth Cymraeg/Welsh Service, 11am, Friday 28th August, St Mary's Pennard. Mae croeso i bawb/everyone welcome.

For this month's magazine Rev Peter Lewis asked us, "In which Bible story would you like to have been present?" I asked some members of my family. My husband said, "The parting of the Red Sea," while my daughter's choice was The Wedding at Cana. My sixteen-year-old granddaughter would like to have been with the women who discovered the empty tomb on Easter Day and her six-year-old sister would opt for seeing Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey on Palm Sunday.

When I was a child we had an Advent calendar which depicted Joseph and Mary and the little donkey which, of course, does not in fact feature in the Biblical version of the story, on a long, winding road to Bethlehem past little houses, shops and farm buildings with numbered doors and windows. The pictures revealed as these were opened were a bit of a disappointment: a bell, a bauble, a sprig of holly, and the like - when what I wanted to see was what was happening inside those little buildings. However, the final scene of the Nativity, revealed when the double doors were opened on

Christmas Eve, was worth the wait.

The Advent calendar was carefully put away with the Christmas decorations to reappear every December for several years and I would gaze at it whilst imagining walking up that winding road to Bethlehem following in the footsteps of Joseph and Mary to the stable. Many years later my daughter introduced me to 'The Christmas Mystery,' a novel by Norwegian author Jostein Gaarder, which tells the story of Elisabet, a little girl who leaves her home town in Norway to make a strange, mystical journey towards Bethlehem, travelling across Europe and simultaneously further and further back in time, in the company of an ever growing band of fellow travellers including sheep, angels, shepherds, wise men and a Roman Governor. It's not everyone's cup of tea but if I have whetted your appetite I recommend a chapter a night from the start of Advent.



The Morgan Szymanski concert in the newly refurbished Pennard Church July 9

East Gower Cluster of Churches

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

Worship in August 2026

There will be no mid-week services in August.

Sunday August 2nd	11:00am	Joint Eucharist	St. Hilary's, Killay
	9:30am	Bubble Church	St. Hilary's, Killay
Sunday August 9th	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 August 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 August 23rd	9:30am	Joint Eucharist	All Souls, Tycoch
	6:00pm	Café Church	St. Hilary's, Killay
Sunday August 30th	11:00am	Joint Eucharist	St. Hilary's, Killay

Sunday August 9th 6:00pm

There will be a joint Songs of Praise with the churches in Killay, held in Killay Precinct. All welcome.

Marian Williams writes:

In which Bible story would you like to have been present?

“You won’t believe what happened to me today. As you know, I have always hated large social gatherings of any kind and always try to avoid crowds. I prefer to wander in the opposite direction on my own, frequently following unknown paths, not with any great expectation, but always enjoying the journey. There is nothing better than being in the open

air in the countryside or on the seashore with nothing but nature for company. It was already hot, so I decided to go into the hills where it would be peaceful except for the animals. In the distance there was a crowd gathering on the lakeside, so I was certain that I had made the right decision.

“As I watched, I saw Jesus and a group of people approaching and walking slowly up the hill.

They stopped and sat down, which made me curious. As usual, the crowd followed them, until they also sat. They looked very ordinary to me, no sign of any officials or wealthy people, just people from the area.



Jesus began to speak, but in such gentle tones that I crept forward to listen. I expected to hear another parable, told in such a way that everybody would understand the hidden meaning. However, this was different.

“In some ways, Jesus talked about the right way to live our lives, yet this was so much more. He said, 'I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose,' Matthew 6:17. Yet what He said was about looking at ourselves and making us think about how we should reconcile ourselves with others before we can live our lives as we should.

Personal reflection is more important than following the law blindly, because it is the law. Humility, love, mercy and thirst for justice and peace are the key attributes to achieve. I couldn't believe that the words were about ordinary people stressing that we all need to take responsibility for our actions and their impact upon others, before we think about ourselves. Every time we think of 'The Sermon on the Mount', hear or read the words of the Beatitudes, we should ensure that we think deeply about their meaning.

St. Hilary's Church, Centenary August 10th 1926 – August 10th 2026

Over the centenary weekend, Saturday August 8th from 10:00am – 4:00pm and on Sunday August 9th from 12:00 noon – 3:00 there will be an exhibition in the church and in the church hall, to mark this special occasion. Please join us to mark this occasion if you are able to pop in, all will be very welcome.



*The very first Register of services for
St Hilary's - 1926*

Gogledd Gŵyr-North Gower group of churches

St. David's Church, Gwernffrwd; Ss Rhidian & Illtyd Llanrhidian

St David's Wernffrwd

Barry Fox writes: The brief this month is: 'Which bible story you would like to have been present?' My choice is the wedding at Cana, John 2:1-11. I have free styled this as a guest at the wedding who writes to his cousin who missed the event.

*Hi Jacob,
You missed a great family wedding at Cana. As usual it was a big family event with loads of friends and both families. You know how we love a celebration.*

Also attending was Joseph, Mary and their son Jesus who I have not seen in a long time, we had a great catch up on what he was doing. You must remember Jesus, he was a bit younger than us. He was very serious and studious, always reading the Torah and hanging out at the Synagogue and talking to the elders. We all thought he was going to end up as a Rabbi.

Well he hasn't!

He is still a serious person but now he has 12 followers in tow. Very nice guys, a few of them were fishermen and another a tax collector, a motley crew especially the tax collector, no-one likes a tax collector.

At day three the wine ran out, bad news!!! Mary asked Jesus - asked him to help and at first he was very dismissive to her. But Mary told the servants to do what Jesus tells them. You know, Mary can be quite determined when it comes to Jesus. Jesus told the servants to fill the six large water jars to the brim with water. They were not best pleased as it would take some time and effort to get the water from the well. Eventually it was done.

Jesus said to a servant to take a cup of the water to the Master of the Feast. The look on the servant's face was priceless!!! The Master took a sip and was delighted as the water was now wine and very good at that. He praised the bridegroom for keeping the best wine until last, mostly the best wine is served first and the plonk comes later when we are all the worst for wear.

I did not know how Jesus did it, I was there and could not see how. Thankfully I was one of the few to see what had happened, just imagine if the word had got out and everyone wanting their water at home turned into wine. The motley crew were also astounded but kept quiet about it.

*Hopefully see you at the next wedding.
Best Wishes Menahem.*

CHURCH NEWS

Fast forward over 2,000 years to the wedding of Emma Richards and Drystan Jones which was held at our church on the 11th July. The church was beautifully decorated and the weather was hot so much so, Marie from our church gave out cold fruit squash to the waiting guests, a considerate thought. It was a lovely village wedding with the reception being held at the nearby Llanmorlais Community Hall just a short ride by classic double decker bus for the short trip. What style. Our love goes to the happy couple. It is a tradition that we give the couple an inscribed bible as a memento of the day. Our friend Jill Usher is skilled at doing inscriptions, many thanks.

Since the lovely redecoration of the interior of the church we are now proud to have events at the church. Thanks to David Senger and his team for the redecoration earlier this year.

Our Church Fete was held on the 18th July and was a great success thanks to the volunteers who organised it and worked hard on the day. The weather was very hot which may have accounted for the lower than normal attendance.

It is my sad duty to record the death of Margaret Coppin who

died on the morning of the Fete. She was a regular and devoted member of our church for decades and attended until she entered a care home due to her frail health. Her husband Derrick was the youngest lay reader in the Diocese, a record of which he was very proud. For decades He was a great help to all the vicars at the church and is fondly remembered. They are both now at peace.

Ss. Rhidian & Illtyd, Llanrhidian

Pam Meakin writes: We thank everyone who supported the fundraising concert held on a lovely evening on 18th July. Beautiful music was played by Leslie Sheills - flute and Tom Vine - classical guitar. Jacqueline and family served sweet strawberries and cream and bubbly Prosecco - so very apt for a warm summer evening. It is hoped to have other fund-raising events soon.

Laurence Oliver's private funeral was held on 23rd July. We offer our condolences to Marilyn and all the family. He will be missed after years of service to the people of Llanrhidian at the Heron Garage.

We hold in our prayers the couples who are to be married at Llanrhidian in August - happy future life together.

Service - Sunday 9th August 4 pm.
On this day we remember Mary

Sumner, founder of The Mother's Union. We celebrate her legacy - 150 years of faith in Action, offering practical help and spiritual support to women and families. Lord, awaken in us the same compassion and courage that Mary Sumner showed. Help us Lord to love as you have loved us.

Please remember all who need our prayers at home or in hospital.

Llanrhidian Mothers Union.

Jill Mcpherson writes: Our Branch met in July and enjoyed lunch together at the

Dolphin in Llanrhidian, we are now on our Summer break. After a wonderful, memorable celebration of our 150 year anniversary at St. Pauls Cathedral in June we continue our celebrations into August when Mary Sumner Day falls this year on a Sunday. Branch members will take part in the 4pm. service at Llanrhidian Church on August 9th. There will be an Archdeanery Festival at St. Catherines Church Gorseinon on September 22nd.
(time to be confirmed) The Branch will recommence our meetings on September 1st with a Eucharist at Llanrhidian Church.

Hugh Jones came across a letter published in the first edition of this Magazine – in 1900. It is from the Bishop of St David's – then the Bishop responsible for Gower. He says: "It will be interesting and encouraging for each parish to see what the other parishes... are doing. One of the most important principles of the Church of Christ is we are 'members of one another'" Interesting that!

Letter from the Lord Bishop of the Diocese.

ABERGWILI PALACE,
CARMARTHEN, Dec. 4th, 1899

MY DEAR FRIENDS IN GOWER,

I cannot decline the request made that I should address you a short letter in the first number of the "GOWER CHURCH MAGAZINE," I am very glad that the Magazine is started, as I believe it will be of very great advantage to the Church in Gower. It will be interesting and encouraging for each parish to know what other parishes in the Rural Deanery are doing. One of the most important principles of the Church of Christ is that "we are members one of another" (EPH. iv. 25). This principle reaches very far indeed, and makes the welfare of the whole Church the personal concern of each member of the Church. Each of us ought to care more, work more, and pray more for the spiritual welfare of the Church than for our own individual interests. It will be a great help for you to grasp the deep and broad meaning of

the truth taught by the Apostle of the Gentiles, if each parish in the Rural Deanery learns to take a real interest in the welfare of the whole Deanery. Rural Deaneries date back from ancient times in the history of the Church, and are said to be older than our parishes. It ought to be specially easy for Gower Church people to take an interest in the progress of the Church in all Gower, for your love as Gower people for your beautiful peninsula is very natural and honourable to you. The pleasant visits to Gower which I have had make me hope, under the Divine blessing, for the steady progress of the Church in Gower in the years to come. I am sure that this progress will be greatly helped in many ways if every Church family in Gower takes in a copy of the "GOWER CHURCH MAGAZINE." Praying that by this and all other means the spiritual work of the Church among you may be blessed more and more,

I am,
Your faithful friend and servant in
the Lord,
J. ST. DAVIDS.

Llangennith, Llanmadoc and Cheriton Churches
Members of the Gogledd Gŵyr-North Gower group of churches
1st-4th Sundays at 09.30 (Llanmadoc/Cheriton alternate weeks) and
11.15 (Llangennith)

5th Sundays – joint service at one of the six Group churches

30 August, St Cenydd's, 11.15.

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:

Looking back

We had a happily busy June and July in our three churches and their villages, At Llanmadoc & Cheriton there were choral activities and fundraisers – the highlight being **the annual Llanmadoc and Cheriton Open Gardens Sunday**, with ten beautifully curated venues opened to an eager public. The event supported the two churches, The Old Mill Cancer Care project in Gowerton and Gorseinon Hospital's Parkinson's Disease Unit.

At St Cenydd's we marked the annual patronal celebration on 5th July with an extra special event. The villages' youth drama group staged a tableau of the life and legend of St Cenydd, specially written and produced by their talented leader, Amanda de la Hey, with choral backing from Côr Meibion Clwb Rygbi Llangennith, and the flying of the festal (model)

gull from the church tower. Secular celebration followed with song and sustenance at The King's Head.



Côr Meibion Clwb Rygbi Llangennith support the Masant celebrations at St Cenydd's

Later that week we were delighted to **welcome back the Gower Festival and their Patron Catrin Finch to St Cenydd's** for a summer evening of virtuoso harp music from around the world. In ninety minutes Catrin transported us from Wales by way of France

Russia, Japan and South America back to Wales, and from the eighteenth century to the twenty first. “I had a lovely time playing again in St Cenydd’s,” she said afterwards. “Hopefully I will be back before too long to play in your beautiful church!”



Catrin Finch at St Cenydd's, July 2026 – photo credit Ian Parsons

The church was once again packed when the **Revd Peter Lewis married Tom Evans (Cockstreet Farm) and Louisa Fletcher** at St Cenydd’s on a sunny Saturday (has there been any other sort of day in the past weeks?). Congratulations and all good wishes go to the happy couple, to proud parents of the groom, Gaynor and Ian Evans at Cockstreet Farm, and to Louisa’s parents in Abergavenny.

Return of a true community publication

When Canon Peter Williams arrived in Llangennith in the nineties, he founded a successful Parish Magazine, initially for his then parishes of Llangennith, Reynoldston and Penrice. After the reorganisation of parishes in 2005, Reynoldston began its own community magazine under the editorship of the indefatigable Hugh Jones, and Canon Peter handed over magazine responsibility for the new group of Llangennith, Llanmadoc and Cheriton to my late husband, Peter Lloyd, and me. It was a pleasure and a privilege to produce the monthly ‘gazetteer for the villages’ for the next twenty years or so, a valuable piece of outreach from church to whole community, with a circulation of more than 400 copies monthly to the parishes’ households, and electronically and by post beyond.

I was sad to have to give up last year: health problems have got the better of me. So it is with great delight that I bring you news that the Parish Magazine has a fine new successor. This month a production team of half a dozen talents in Llanmadoc, Cheriton and Llangennith have

issued the first of what promises to be a hugely successful Magazine of North West Gower, carrying the community's news and events, items from many of the former contributors, including Fr Tim Ardouin, and the prospect of all sorts of new angles, too. Many congratulations to Rob Lewis and his team.

Looking ahead

Church and community activities this month include:

Sat 01 Aug at 12.00-16.00 at Llanmadoc Village Hall: Church Fête supporting Llanmadoc and Cheriton Churches.

Sun 30 Aug at 11.15 at St Cenydd's, Llangennith: Joint Service for the North West Gower,

featuring a celebration of the animals that share our lives, as pets, working animals, livestock and wildlife. A service for the whole community, of all ages, of all faiths and of none.

Do come and join this special celebration.

Friday 04 Sept at 17.00-19.00 at Llanmadoc Village Hall: Ceramics Exhibition featuring work of the Ceramics Class led by potter Christian Miller. More from Christian at gowceramics@gmail.com.

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

Debbie Lloyd, Llangennith church committee

07973 759230

The Lamplighter Needs Your Support

The Lamplighter has been serving our community for many years, but we now need your help to continue this important work.

In the past, the owner of the premises generously waived the rent.

Following the owner's death, the property now has a new landlord and we must pay rent.

If 25 people committed to giving £5.81 per week the problem would be over

If 50 people committed to giving £2.91 per week the problem would be over

If 100 people committed to giving £1.45 a week the problem would be over.

The Lamplighter is more than a shop. It is the church's welcoming presence in the heart of Bishopston —a place where people can meet, find support, and experience the church's care for the community.

**The Lamplighter
Fundraising Concert &
Cheese & Wine Evening**

Saturday 10th October 2026

Starting at 7pm

**St Teilo's Church Hall
The Glebe, Bishopston**

**Music by
Echoes in Harmony**

Tickets only £10 per person

**Tickets available from
The Lamplighter & St. Teilo's Church**

(Includes 1st Glass of Wine)

Dear Children

Dear Children,

"Wish you were here!" A postcard from Palestine coming from the past.

Mark tells us in his gospel that, in Capernaum: *"The whole town gathered at the door and Jesus healed many who had various diseases."*

I have a friend. What I really wish is that my friend could be at the door with those sick people. Then Jesus would heal him. You see my friend has a big problem. His insides don't work the way yours do and mine does. He can't eat ordinary food. Instead, every two or three hours he has to pour a specially prepared liquid into a pipe that goes into his stomach. My friend is eight years old. He has learnt to read and do sums. He likes to play with other children. He is comfortable talking to grown-ups. He has a great sense of humour.

But he will never enjoy a proper meal.

We know why my friend is different from everybody else. The instructions for making him, coiled up in his DNA, have a small mistake in them. How could this be? Surely God doesn't make mistakes? But mistakes are, in fact, essential to life. Every time a new person is made - every time a new rabbit is made - or a new elephant - or a new oak tree there is a chance for a mistake. This how there have come to be: elephants and rabbits and trees and people. This is how God has made us the way we are. Scientists know about 2 million species of animals, plants, and fungi - and there are certainly millions more



that they *don't* know about. If God hadn't used mistakes to make them, there would be just one type of life: a single-cell creature floating in the ocean. How boring is that?

The really important thing to know is that God loves all he has made including the mistakes. This is what Jesus came to show us. He came and showed his love by living among us and sharing with us. He shared the consequences of the decisions he made about us when he created the world. While he was with us, he made it quite clear that he loved not just the strong and successful. He loved those who were disadvantaged too. Maybe he loved them even more. When he listed those who were blessed, he mentioned the poor, and sad, and weak - not the rich and prosperous. Whenever he came across someone who was disabled he went out of his way to put their problem right. It caused all sorts of problems. In Capernaum, so many sick people wanted his help that he couldn't get out of the house!

I am sure Jesus would have cured my friend.

Nigel

P.S. I think, maybe, he loves him especially.

The Gower Church Magazine

One hundred years ago – August 1926

by Valerie Beynon



A Quiet Afternoon was arranged in Reynoldston for the Parishes of the Rural Deanery, more especially in preparation for the Missions to be held in them from November 14th to 21st next. It was kindly conducted by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese. The first address was given at 3pm, the second at 6pm. The attendance ...was wonderfully good... but it was not representative of all the parishes concerned. Our Diocesan's addresses were full of help and encouragement, and many must have wished that his appealing words on purity could have reached a larger audience.

Penmaen reported that it was a great joy to have our Missioner with us on Sunday, July 11th in the person of Canon Joyce. He came as a pioneer of the Mission and, in his sermons, directed our thoughts to the advent of the Mission, and what he had to hope for spiritually from Christ's special pleading and pleasance amongst us at that time. There is a prevalent notion in the minds of a number of people that the first aim

and object of a mission is to convert sinners; but, such a notion can only be partially true, for the first aim and object of a mission is to strengthen the souls of the faithful in Christ Jesus and, through them and their example, to call sinners to the throne of grace and 'compel them to come in' to the fold of the Church.

Three churches reported the visit of the Bishop on July the 18th. Reynoldston said It was very gratifying, in spite of a threatening thunderstorm, to find such a large congregation present in the morning, on the occasion of our Bishop's second Sunday visit to us. His Lordship preached upon the great topic of the World Call, the nature and claims of which he set before us in a very arresting way. We have not been altogether neglectful of Foreign Mission in the past, but we trust that what we heard will spur us all on to greater and more personal efforts in the immediate future.

At Penrice, his Lordship's arrival at the Church in the afternoon coincided with a terrific thunderstorm and downpour. It was a great disappointment to us all, but the Church was far from empty and the Bishop was pleasantly

surprised to find that there was a congregation. He told them that their presence bore good testimony to their churchmanship. As at Reynoldston, but from a different point of view, he preached upon the World Call. We must try to do our small part in answering it. The Lord Bishop concluded his visit at Llandewi where he read the lesson and preached at Evensong. The Choir rendered the musical part of the Service most beautifully, including the anthem "I was glad when they said unto me". Needless to say we very much appreciated his visit.

Summer is the time for exchanging and visiting clergy. Bishopston reported that the Rev. J. E. Lloyd, Rector of Llangynidr, Breconshire officiated here on June 20th and on Sunday 3rd July, the Rev. N. L. James, M.A., Vicar of St John's, Swansea, preached at Evensong. We greatly appreciated the services of these visiting clergy. Penmaen said Our grateful thanks are due to the Rev. J. E. V. Bode for officiating for three Sundays in June. He was succeeded by the Rev. T. J. Williams, Chaplain to the Madras Diocese, South India, for the months of July and August.

Llanrhidian announced two lectures to be presented. The Rev. R. W. Lockyer will present : 'The Call of the Moslem World' on Sunday evening, August 22nd and the Rev. H.W. Heaviside will present

'The Call from India' on Sunday evening September 12th. Penmaen kindly reminded our parishioners and others that an Italian Fair and Fete will be held on Thursday, August 19th, at Penrice Castle, in aid of payment for the construction of the Parish Hall. All the usual attractions will be there....The Swansea Amateur Players will entertain at certain times ... and the Penclawdd Silver Band will be in attendance. Bishopston Sunday School's Annual Outing took place on July 20th. We went by Charabanc to Porthcawl. The weather was all that could be desired and everybody had a thorough good time. We are greatly indebted to Mr Taylor (Swan Bus) and Mr Jenkins (Bishopston Motors) for their kindness. Also may we thank all kind friends who gave us assistance towards the expenses of the Outing.

Oxwich was still unable to say what the net profits from the Fete will be...but the gross amount banked is over £330. Penclawdd reported that the new organ has been erected and will be dedicated and formally opened on Sunday August 15th. Mr D Lewis, Professor of Music, Swansea, assisted by soloists, will give a recital at 3pm.

At Bishopston the lady collectors of the Quota have done their work splendidly and the 154 subscribers have also done their part. The total amount received was £58. But we

must not be contented till all wage-earning communicants do their duty towards the financial burdens of the church.

Pennard and Ilston listed the detailed Account of the Receipts and Expences of the Fete held on June 24th. Total of the Gross Receipts was £317.0.6 and total Expenditure was £12/8/0, giving Total Net Receipts of £304.

Cheriton reported that The Rev. D. Latimer Davies, M.A., Vicar of Ilston and Pennard, who is the Examiner in Religious Instruction for the National Schools in Gower, recently visited Llanmadoc School to test the Scholars in Religious Knowledge. The Summary of his Report says: 'The Upper Standards of this School maintain their standard of efficiency. I am glad to report that there has been marked progress in the work of Standards II and III'. Port Eynon's Report of Religious Instruction said Our 2nd School was inspected on June 2nd. We congratulate the teachers and

scholars in the very good report received. In his general remarks the Diocesan Inspector says "I am glad to see that the progress reported last year continues to be maintained."

The August entry had begun with an announcement about 'Our Diocesan Orphanage'. It is not generally known in Gower that our own Diocesan Orphanage is situated in Thistleboon, Mumbles. There is room for 36 little Boys and Girls of the respectable working class. Most of the Staff give their services voluntarily, and the children are brought up in a happy home-like way. The Home has worked for over 35 years for these children of the Church in South Wales. The Bishop of Swansea and Brecon says in his Quarterly Leaflet "Any Diocese may be proud to have such a work carried on within its borders." Money is needed to support our children and you are earnestly requested to send a subscription (however small) or application for a Collecting Box.

The Editor writes: Very sadly I have to report that this is the last 'One hundred years ago' article from Valerie. As many of you know she will soon be leaving us for Chichester.

Valerie has worked tirelessly for the Gower Ministry Area Magazine for many years including writing this fascinating article each month.

She will leave many gaps in Gower but this 'One hundred years ago' article will continue because Hugh Jones has volunteered to take it on. He will write the September 1926 article. What will he find went on then, do you suppose?

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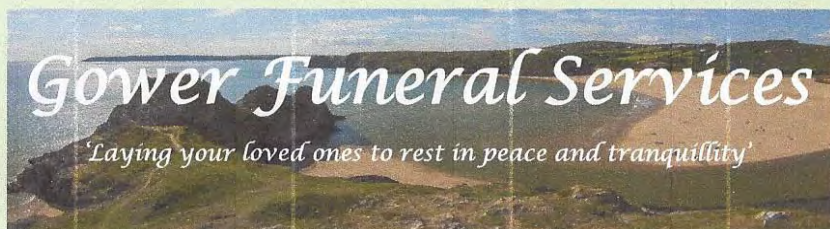
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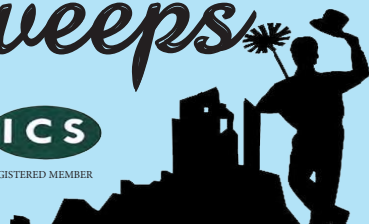
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Gower Churches

Pennard Church: St Mary's

Pennard, long attractive for settlement, has seen several churches on different sites since Celtic Christian times. When the first Norman Lord of Gower, the Earl of Warwick arrived in the C12th some Gower churches, including Pennard (then dedicated to St Cenydd) were granted to the Benedictine Abbey of St Taurin at Evreux in Normandy. By 1414 all links with Normandy were severed and in 1441 the revenues (tithes) were given as part of the endowments to the newly-built All Souls, Oxford, with which they remained until 1838 when Thomas Penrice of Kilvrough exchanged them with his lands in Northampton. In the C13th a church dedicated to St Mary had been built near Pennard Castle but, after several sand inundations, this was finally abandoned in the C16th. Its ruins can be seen today on Pennard Burrows. Thomas Penrice began some restoration after years of neglect but today's church contains work from many centuries. Windows in the Chancel area are decorated with 'dog-tooth' moulding, confirming an early C13th date



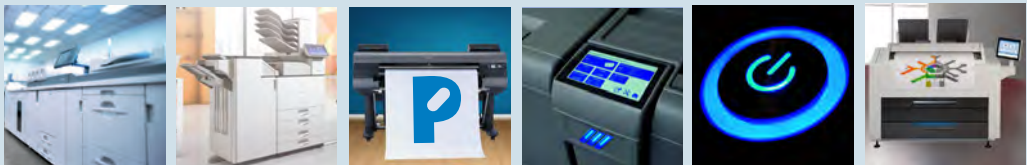
for this stonework. The 'dog rails' (altar rails) were introduced in 1644 by Archbishop Laud to protect the altar from 'defilement' from dogs which accompanied local gentry to church! The musicians performed in the west gallery which also housed a barrel organ, now in St Fagan's Museum. To mark the new Millennium a stained glass window was commissioned for the south wall and includes references to Gower's long Christian history and local views. Vernon Watkins who died in 1967 was a member of the congregation and is remembered with a tablet.

Valerie Beynon

Reprinted from 2021



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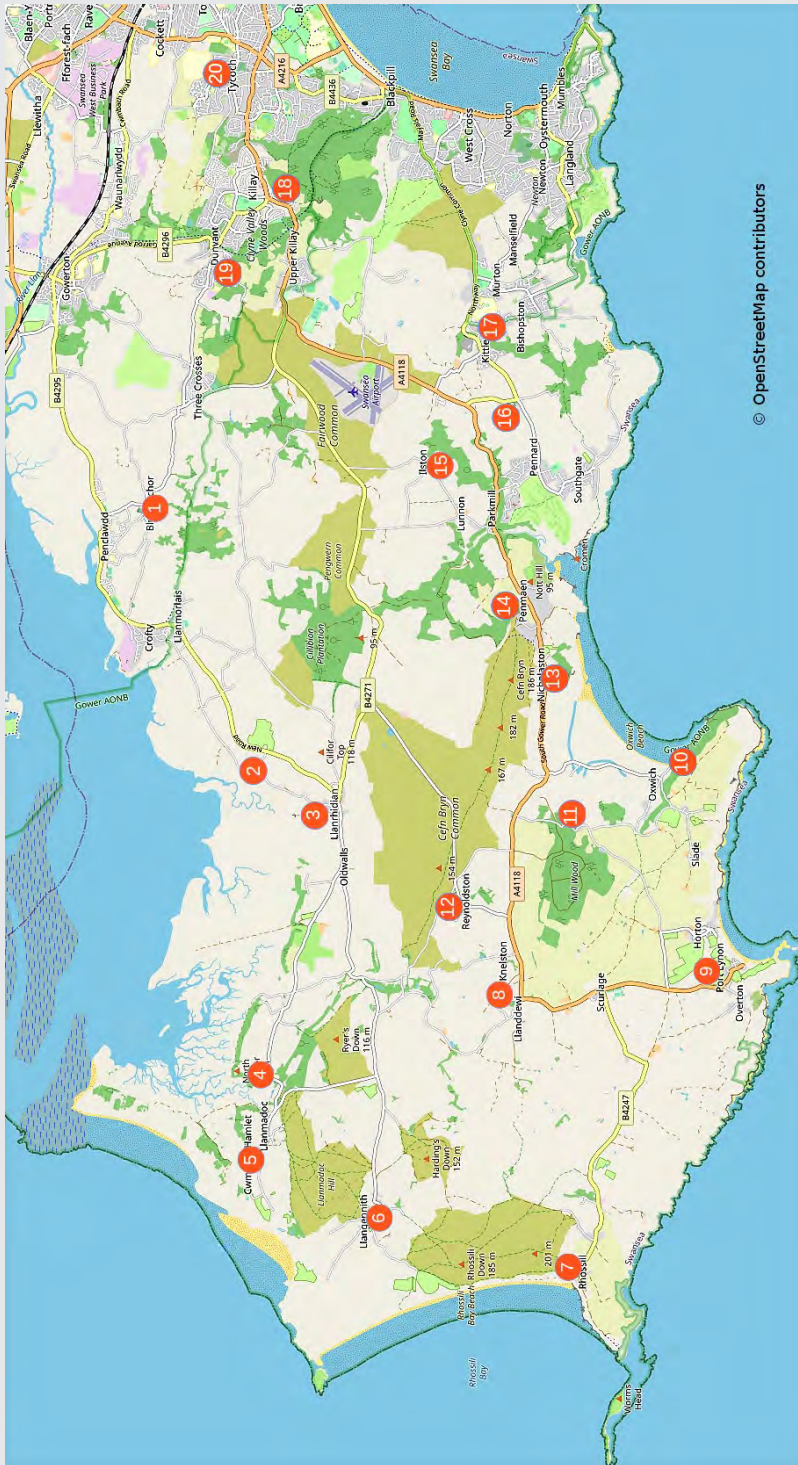
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Church Locations

- 1: St Gwynor, Penclawdd SA4 3JH 2: St David, Wernffrwd 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, Tycoc'h SA2 9LP



“We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish,” they answered.

“Bring them here to me,” he said. And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.

The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Matthew 14: 17-21