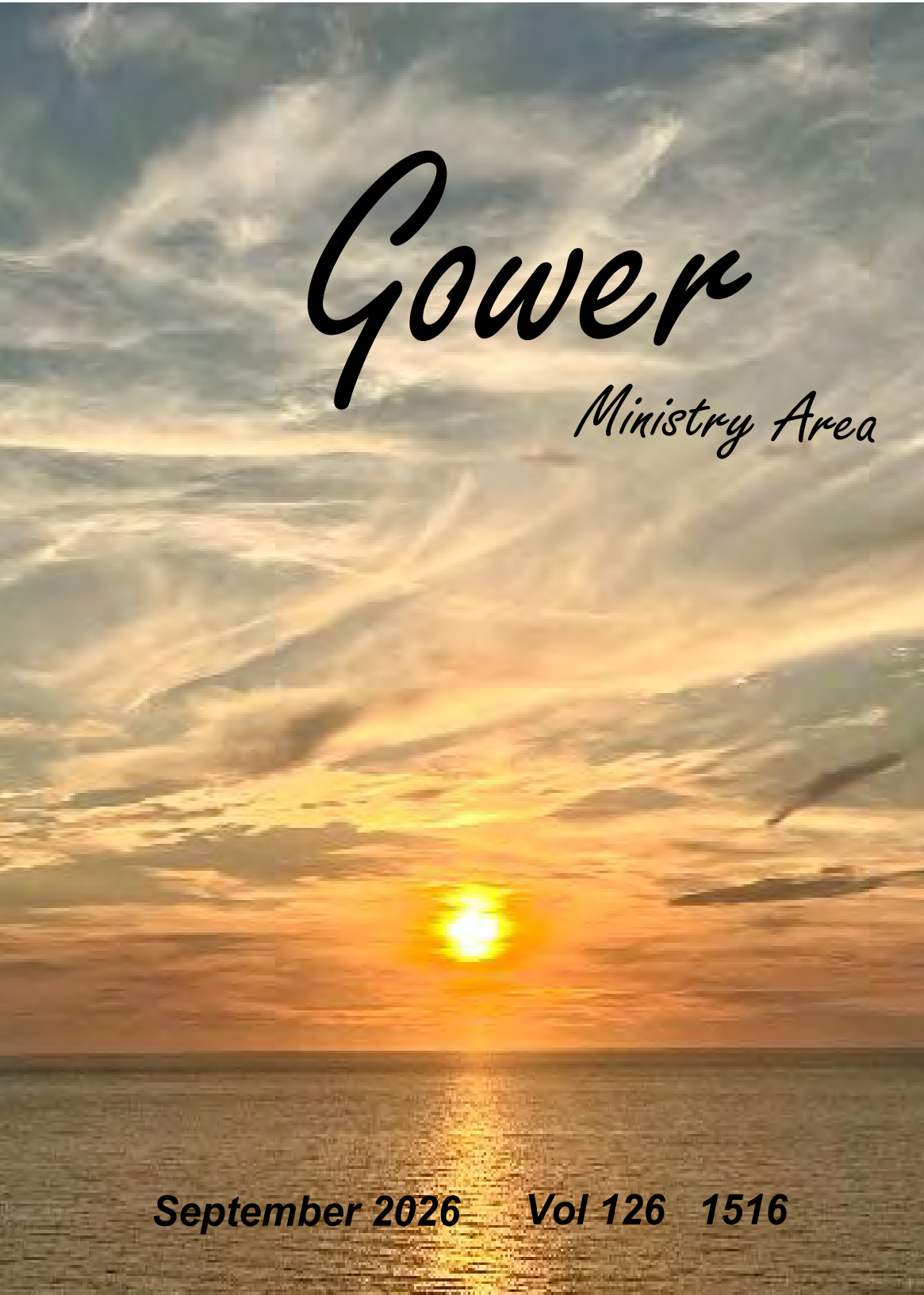




Gower

Ministry Area

September 2026 Vol 126 1516

The Ministry Area Of Gower



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Inside this issue

Ministry Area Contacts	2
The theme for September "Giving God Thanks for the Past, Trusting Him with our Future" by Layfetta Masih	4-5
The WOW report	6-9
Ministry Area Update - Peter Lewis	10-12
Penrice Lecture for September	12
South West Gower Cluster	13-18
Three Cliffs Cluster	19-23
North Gower Food Hub – Appeal for volunteers	23
East Gower Cluster of Churches: Dunvant, Ty Coch, Killay	24-26
North Gower Cluster	
Gwernffrwd & Llanridian	27 - 29
Llangennith , Llanmadoc & Cheriton	30- 31
Lamplighter Cheese and Wine	32
Dear Children	33
Gower Church Magazine 100 years ago by Hugh Jones	34-35
Advertisements	36-45
Gower Churches – Pennard St Mary by Valerie Beynon	46
Church locations and postcodes	47

Advertising or Subscriptions

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The theme for September
**Giving God Thanks for the Past,
Trusting Him with Our Future**
chosen by Layfetta



As I celebrate three years since my licensing in the Gower Ministry Area, my heart is filled with gratitude. These years have brought many blessings, but also moments of sadness as we have said farewell to members of our congregations who have died, while others are no longer able to attend church because of age, illness or changing circumstances. We remember them with thanksgiving for their faith, friendship, prayers and service. As Scripture reminds us, **“The memory of the righteous is a blessing.”** (Proverbs 10:7)

This year, St Hilary’s celebrates its 100th anniversary, a wonderful testimony to a century of worship,

witness and prayer. Yet anniversaries also remind us that the Church is always changing.

We are grateful for those who have faithfully carried the Gospel before us, but we also recognise a real concern across our Ministry Area: in some of our churches, we are not welcoming new young families quickly enough to replace those we are losing through death and declining health. This is not a reason for despair, but a call to prayer, courage and renewed mission.

There are, however, signs of hope. Through Bubble Church and Sunday School, new young

families have become part of our church family, while thanks to our faithful team of volunteers, our thriving Tots group is creating wonderful opportunities to welcome children and parents into a loving Christian community. These ministries remind us of the words of Psalm 145:4: **“One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.”** Our calling is to cherish what we have inherited while creating space for the generations who are yet to come.

I am particularly conscious of this in my own family. When we arrived in the Gower Ministry Area, Malachi was in Year 11; he is now beginning his second year at university. Joel and Joshua were in Year 10 and are about to start Year 13, while Salomey was a tiny Year 4 pupil and is now preparing for Year 7. Nabeel and I sometimes look at them, deep in mature conversation, then look at each other and smile with gratitude. We cannot know what their futures will hold, but we trust them to the God who goes before them. **“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”** (Hebrews 13:8)

So, as a Ministry Area, let us give thanks for the past without becoming trapped in it, and face the future without fear. Let us pray boldly for our churches, our communities, our children and young people. Let us be willing to welcome, to change, to try new things and to share the good news of Jesus with those who may never otherwise cross the threshold of a church. The words of Isaiah encourage us: **“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?”** (Isaiah 43:19)

My prayer is that we will continue to be a people who remember with gratitude, serve with faithfulness and look forward with hope. God has been faithful to the Gower churches for generations, and He has not finished with us yet. May we trust Him with our future, confident that **“those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.”** (Isaiah 40:31)

Rev. Layfetta Masih
Gower Ministry Area





Gower Wonder of Wellbeing

creating inviting spaces for renewal and hope

WOW's Summer Programme!

Our five-week Summer Programme has provided a rich variety of opportunities for people to come together, explore the Christian faith, and experience connection, creativity, and wellbeing. From family events and hands-on activities, pilgrimage, retreats, art workshops and quieter spaces for reflection, the programme has offered something to inspire and engage everyone who has taken part right across Gower.

In a nutshell, we have facilitated or supported the delivery of...

- * The Gower Show – a day of music, puppets, prayer & children's craft activities
- * 5 Mini Mindful Moment children's sessions at Three Cliffs Holiday Park
- * 3 Ebb & Flow Walks on Rossilli Beach as well as 3 Prayers on the Beach at Port Eynon
- * 5 Cuppa & Chat mornings at St Mary's Church, Rhossili to interact with visitors to the Summer Art Show
- * 3 days of fun for Faith in Families at Port Eynon Beach
- * A Withdraw & Explore day retreat for Zac's Place at St Mary's
- * An Art Workshop at the Lamplighter
- * 3 mini retreat workshops in Pennard, Oxwich & Port Eynon
- * 2 Sauna, Swim & Spirituality sessions
- * Section's 4 & 5 of the Gower Pilgrimage Way
- * Wild Church breakfast at Pwll Du Beach
- * Bat Walk at Ilston Church in partnership with Gower National Landscape
- * Fr Nigel and Judith Doyle spoke of the Church History of Tractarianism at St David's on the Marsh
- * A facilitated retreat for female Cleric's
- * A Celtic Music evening at St Cenydd's, Llangennith
- * 3 Sessions of Prayers on the Beach at Oxwich

A Few Highlights...

Mini-Mindful Moments @ Three Cliffs Holiday Park

A peaceful space for children and families to unwind through crafts and gentle conversation. It's been wonderful connecting with both locals and

holidaymakers visiting the Gower Peninsula for some well-deserved rest and fun. We've loved hearing the children's excitement about their summer adventures and the upcoming school year, seeing families thrive together, and sharing how local churches are serving the Gower community.

Faith in Families @ Port Eynon Beach

We had the privilege, once again, of providing fun-filled activities this year for Faith in Families three community cwtch's – with each hub (St Teilo's, Bonymaen and Clase) visiting us on a different day. There were a selection of arts and crafts, parachute games and a brilliant sandcastle competition with medals and certificates awarded too!

Thanks to the generous gifts donated by many churches and individuals this year, there were 45 separate families that were able to come to Port Eynon – many for the very first time - and included 95 children! Much to the children's sheer delight, each day was also finished off by lollipops and ice creams, paid for again by the kindness of others. What an incredible demonstration of coming together to serve others.

The Gower Show 2026: Volunteer, Marian Williams

"This has always been a highlight of the year for the farming community in Gower, set in the spectacular surroundings of Penrice Castle Park. I had often attended as a visitor, but being there as a volunteer with the Wonder of Wellbeing team was a completely different experience. Setting up on Saturday afternoon with Revd. Peter, Dan and Natalie created a real sense of belonging alongside Revd. Sue and Megan from the Lamplighter and the other exhibitors. Thanks to Rach and Chloe, the organisation was superb.

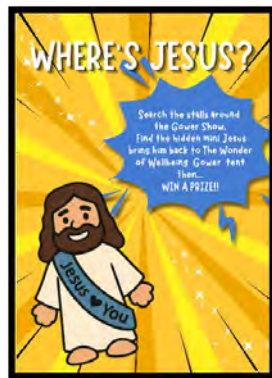
"The sunshine allowed us to open the sides of the marquee, inviting people in to enjoy live music from His Nameless Birds, children's crafts, the art show, and pilgrimage information. The Steps of Faith puppet show, balloon modelling, bubble making and interaction with visitors were a real bonus, and Meg's Gower Activity Book proved



popular. The chaplains, including Revd. Pete, Archdeacon Peter, Ross and Penny, maintained a welcoming presence across the showground, engaging visitors, stallholders and community services throughout the day.

It was useful to be able to draw on experience of Wild Church, the Rhossili Art Shows and the Pilgrimage Way when discussing these events with visitors as Natalie and I had participated in many of these activities, we could support Dan when he was busy with other conversations. The Assembly Bangers slot was an excellent idea for those of us of a certain age knew all the words and the actions! I remember singing Father Abraham when all the Sunday Schools went to Brecon Cathedral to meet Bishop Dewi Bridges. The midday service was well attended, with every seat taken and Louise supporting Revd. Pete. It was also good to see Patrice from Gower New Life Church joining us.

"Penny and Rach's "Where's Jesus?" scavenger hunt was a huge attraction and, for me, the highlight of the day. Children searched stalls for hidden figures and received Love Hearts when they brought them back to the marquee. Some even chose to re-hide them for others to find, while stallholders were delighted to see families visiting their stands as part of the hunt."



Creative Conversations @ St Mary's: Who What Why

Our summer art show - Who, What, and Why: The Basics of Christianity was created to invite visitors to Rhossili to investigate, be curious and discover more of the Christian faith.

- *Who is God?
- *Who are 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?

We hope that something from this experience, even a small idea, thought or insight will have stayed with visitors and been meaningful to them in some way. We also believe reflection is an important part of the journey, so we



invited participants to pause, think and respond to the two questions below.

? If Jesus were sitting beside you right now, what would you ask him?

? As you consider that question, what do you think he would say in response?

Reading people's reflections has been incredibly moving and our prayer has been that the Holy Spirit would reveal itself to them on their spiritual journey...

Some photos to capture activities over the summer...



HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT W6W?

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 click 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

Gower Ministry Area Updates from Peter Lewis.

Gower Walking Festival

The Gower Walking Festival is Sept 5-13, and the Wellbeing Team have organised four of these. Each costs £7 per person & you MUST book on the festival website (gowerwalkingfestival.uk):

Sat 5th Morning walk from Llanrhidian to Ilston to Oxwich stopping at the 3 churches of St Illtyd.

Mon 7th A easy slow morning walk from Llanrhidian across the marsh road to Wernffrwd church.

Fri 11th A circular morning walk from Rhossili church to Llanddewi church and back.

Sat 13th A family friendly walk around Port Eynon in the morning.

Gwasanaethau Eglwysig boreol yn yr Iaith Gymraeg. Welsh Services.

Does dim gwasanaethau Cymraeg ym mis Medi, ond mae dau ar y gweill ar gyfer mis Hydref. Cynhelir y gwasanaeth Cymraeg nesaf ar 9 Hydref ar gyfer Emynau'r Cynhaeaf am 11 y bore yn Eglwys Santes Fair, Pennard; yna, cynhelir gwasanaeth Cymraeg ar gyfer Gŵyl yr Holl Eneidiau yn Eglwys St George, Reynoldston am 11 y bore ar 30 Hydref. Mae croeso i bawb, waeth beth fo'u gallu yn y Gymraeg – byddwn yn canu, yn gweddïo, yn myfyrio ar yr Ysgrhythur ac yn cymryd y Cymun Bendigaid yn Gymraeg, ond bydd Saesneg yn cael ei ddefnyddio i gynorthwyo lle bo angen.

We have no Welsh Language Services in September, but we have two in October. Our next Welsh Language service is on October 9th for Harvest Hymns at 11am in St Mary's Pennard, then we have an All Soul's Welsh service at St George's 11am

on October 30th. 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.

Sabbatical

Clergy are allowed to apply for a sabbatical from duties and the Bishop has granted this for Ministry Area Lead Peter next year which means that he will be off from New Year through to 13th March, which is 10 weeks. Given the responsibilities for the MA and wellbeing project, he is going to be working 1/2 day most weeks in order to prevent overload on his return. He is intending to use the time to undertake studies for the next level of British Sign Language and to do some volunteering in local wildlife projects.

Bats in Belfries

We have three church towers which are being used to increase the populations of local bats: Oxwich, Ilston and Bishopston (and we hope to start this in Rhossili in 2027). We held a bat detection night at Ilston churchyard and 35 people were instructed in using bat detectors and identifying species. It was amazing to see lesser horse-shoe bat after bat diving out of the tower into the woods and we detected 3 other species in abundance. The partnership of the National Landscape team and willing parishoners to give permission has resulted in increased biodiversity. We've now been given 10 bat detectors so that we can organise our own detection events.

Ministry Area Wave of Prayer

On Sept 9th we've a ministry area wide

wave of prayer, with all our churches hosting a time of prayer – and we'll have material to help people at home join in too. We have a timetable of when a prayer session will start at each church, which darts around the clusters so that meetings that usually take place on Wednesdays can be included in the wave of prayer. All of these little services will have a common pattern, and there is space for each church to mark their time of prayer in different ways. So, some areas maybe inviting prayer requests from their community or church visitors through the week, some may have an extended time of quiet after the shared service, some may have various prayer activities and keep the church open. We want to create a time where all our congregations can pray for church mission and life around the ministry area, around the world and for the people and places that God is putting on our heart.

This prayer initiative is part of the 24/7 Prayer Network which is encouraging groups to use that week of September as a time to gather.

Port Eynon church will start its service at 2.30pm and will then remain open all afternoon, night and through to 8am on Thursday the next day to provide a chance for people to drop in to pray for those who'd like to experience an extended time of prayer. In Port Eynon, there will be a programme with different approaches to prayer (music, icons, prayer soaking with background songs, Taize, silence) at different times, as well as a link to the 24/7 Prayer Room online. The entire wave of Prayer will finish with a prayer walk at St Mary's Rhossili at 8.15am on Thursday 10th September followed by breakfast together at The Look Out café.

9am	The Lamplighter, Bishopston	930am	St David's Llanddewi
9.45am	St Mary's Pennard	1030am	All Souls Tycoc'h
11am	St Cenydd, Llangennith	1130am	St Hilary's Killay
Midday	St Illtyd's Oxwich	12.30pm	SS Rhidian & Illtyd, Llanrhidian
1pm	St John Penmaen	130pm	St Mary Rhossili
2pm	St David on the Marsh	230pm	St Cattwg Port Eynon
3pm	St Teilo Bishopston	330pm	St Andrew Penrice
4pm	St Martin Dunvant	430pm	St George Reynoldston
5pm	St Madoc Llanmadoc	530pm	St Nicholas Nicholaston
6pm	St Cadoc Cheriton	630pm	St Illtyd Ilston
7pm	Bethel chapel, Penclawdd		

Everyone is invited to gather for Prayers over WALES at Swansea Minster

The 'Seven Cities Pilgrimage' seeks to gather the Church of Wales (all denominations) into unity, prayer, and mission through seven strategic prayer gatherings across Wales' seven cities.

This initiative flows from the heartbeat of the 24-7 Prayer movement: to awaken the Church to pray, to mobilise intercession, and to dream again with God for cities and nations. Psalm 126

acts as the prophetic lens for the pilgrimage, giving voice to a spiritual return, renewal, and awakening: ‘When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dreamed.’

The Seven Cities Prayer Pilgrimage is both a symbolic and practical act of unity: calling the Church together, city by city, to mark what God has done, to bless what he is doing, and to prepare for what he will do.

In Scripture, Ebenezer stones were established as markers of remembrance and faith. The altar in 1 Samuel 7 was built as a declaration that ‘Thus far the Lord has

helped us.’ But these stones spoke not only of remembrance, they activated faith for what God would continue to do in the future.

The Seven Cities Prayer Pilgrimage embraces this dual posture: gratitude for the past and faith for the future. Leaving permanent prayer altars in each city serves as a prophetic statement that intercession belongs in the public square and not merely within church buildings. Events in Swansea Minster are on Friday October 2nd... more details in our churches during September.

St Andrew’s Church, Penrice SA3 1LN

An Illustrated Talk

Churchyards of Gower

Rev Peter Lewis



Wednesday 2nd September 2026 at 7.00 pm

Entrance and refreshments: £10 payable on door

Proceeds in aid of St Andrew’s, Penrice

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 SEPTEMBER

Every Tuesday	9.00am	Morning Prayer	Reynoldston
Every Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Communion	Llanddewi
Every Thursday	8.15am	Prayerfulness Walk	Rhossili
Sunday 6 Sept	8.30am	Holy Communion	Penrice
Trinity 14	9.30am	Holy Communion	Reynoldston
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Oxwich
	5.00pm	Holy Communion	Port Eynon
Sunday 13 Sept	8.30am	Holy Communion	Penrice
Trinity 15	9.30am	Holy Communion	Reynoldston
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Oxwich
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Rhossili
	5.00pm	Evening Service	Port Eynon
Sunday 20 Sept	8.30am	Holy Communion	Penrice
Trinity 16	9.30am	Morning Prayer	Reynoldston
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Oxwich
	5.00pm	Holy Communion	Port Eynon
Sunday 27 Sept	8.30am	Morning Prayer	Penrice
Trinity 17	9.30am	Holy Communion	Reynoldston
	10.30am	Morning Prayer	Oxwich
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Llanddewi
	5.00pm	Blessings Café	Port Eynon

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 5th and 19th September. Everyone welcome.

Bat Detection Evening Held at St Iltyd's, Ilston, on 17th August, this was a wonderful event enjoyed by people of all ages from across Gower. After a fascinating talk in the church, we went outside and with specialist equipment were able to hear Pipistrelle bats and the rare Horseshoe bats which roost in the church tower. Our thanks to the organizers, especially the Gower National Landscape team. We have now been given ten bat detectors to use in Gower churchyards.

REPORTS FROM THE CHURCHES

St David's, Llanddewi

The tower cracks are filled, but other repairs remain to be done, presenting financial challenges. Meantime, the small window on the north side of the tower has had swift boxes installed by Gower National Landscape. Swallows have used the boxes installed last year in the porch. The talk about bio-diversity projects managed by Gower National Landscape in our churches was enjoyed. We watched the lunar eclipse before the talk began, and cold drinks, tea and cake were available; we appreciated the support of Jane Miles.



Contemplating 'Giving thanks to God for the past, trusting Him for the future', life for all of us has

its ups and downs: it is often through the trials that we are challenged to look beyond our own intellect and strength, and later recognise that we have been carried and blessed – we see the second pair of footsteps in the sand. I had a blissful childhood and am thankful for the love, rich experiences and values I was given then. Any expectations for a comfortable future were to give way to a very different way of life with new challenges when I chose to come to Britain. I gradually came to appreciate fresh blessings: the beauty and peace of Gower, the kindness of local communities, and so much more.

I am especially grateful that God gave me a new family, whose fellowship and teaching have challenged me to explore faith and relationship with the risen Lord Jesus, leading to believing that God's purposes are good, that he loves the world and engages with us to care for it (and for one another!) with His love, joy, peace, wisdom and strength.

It becomes increasingly clear that life on earth is vulnerable. God's ways are higher than our ways, and His

thoughts than our thoughts. I believe that through prayer we will find the best ways forward, and that we can trust Him for the future. May we all be secured in a deep sense of belonging to God and to the church, through Jesus, the Christ.

Penny Henderson

St Illtyd's, Oxwich

Life for us all is full of ups and downs - happy celebratory times interspersed with times of sadness and depression. Living on Gower we have much to be thankful for in comfortable houses set in beautiful scenery with glimpses of the sea. We give thanks to God for all these positive aspects and turn to him too when we need strength and support to cope with life and its problems. He is knowing where to turn for help which is important.

So much unhappiness in the world is created by people's behaviour. Man's greed for power and land causes war in which ordinary mortals are the losers. In our personal lives much upset is created by our reactions to situations and relationships. It is all too easy to dwell on hurt caused by others' behaviour towards us.

Forgiveness is at the centre of our Christian faith, for God gave his only son Jesus so that all our wrongdoings may be forgiven. In the Lord's Prayer this point is most

important – 'Forgive us our trespasses'. Without forgiveness we carry the burden of guilt and it will stifle us and prevent us from returning to Jesus. He is our Saviour and wants us to be saved. He wants us in his Kingdom forever. We are too prone to dwell on perceived hurts from other people, making our lives miserable instead of full of contentment.

One of the major sacraments of the Catholic Orthodox Church is that of repentance and confession, comprising three components. Catholics confess to themselves, to have made mistakes. They confess to God that they have sinned and need forgiveness. Confessing to the Father, they receive absolution. Maybe this is a pattern which we should follow to find peace and contentment and be able to cope with life's difficulties.

Rosemary Wigley

St Andrew's, Penrice

The church has been open at weekends throughout August which appears to have been a success. There have been several messages of thanks in the Visitors Book so we are now considering opening for a longer period. When the church is open we have replaced the brass cross and candlesticks with a superb wooden cross which John Davies of Middleton (Cathy Dorran's

brother) made for us. The cross is of plain design and very effective in its simplicity.

The last lecture for this summer will be on Wednesday 2nd September. The lecturer needs no introduction as the Revd Peter Lewis will be speaking on 'Churchyards of Gower'. The lectures are a great source of income for us but can really only be held in the summer months due to the difficulty of parking if the weather is bad. We appreciate the support of so many local people who attend regularly and many who come from further afield and of course our very grateful thanks to our speakers.

We continue with the 1662 Order of Service on the first Sunday of each month. It has proved popular with our congregation and with visitors who have joined us.

The theme this month is 'Giving God thanks for the past and trusting him for the future'. So many of us will have, at some time, been desperately worried about some event or situation in our lives, for everything to be alright in the end and learnt, with age, to accept and trust His plans for us in the future.

It is sad to hear that Valerie Beynon is leaving the area. Valerie has supported St. Andrew's at many services and events over the years. Her invaluable help in organizing the Plant and Cake sale and her help and advice in the contributions to the

Church Magazine have been much appreciated. She will be very much missed and we send her all good wishes for the future in her new home.

This summer many records have been broken as the long days of heat and lack of rain must be unusual. Hopefully we have all benefited from the good weather and will be ready to face the challenges of the winter months ahead.

Angela Barnett

St Cattwg's, Port Eynon

A wonderful team of villagers set to and cleared masses of overgrowth from the churchyard walls, ivy, brambles and much more, including the fuchsia which most hope will regrow next year. Grateful thanks, team. At the same time, a hard-working group from Caffi Cattwg served cake and coffee throughout that weekend of the 'Prince Ivanhoe' exhibition in the Village Hall, adding to the caffi's revenue. All comers are always welcome to the fortnightly Saturday morning sessions of the caffi in the church. Many thanks to everyone who works so hard, especially the cake makers, who provide it all at their own expense.

'Giving God thanks for the past, trusting him with our future.' We certainly must thank God for the past, as he created the world and set it going, to see what we would make of it. He has been there

from our own personal start in life, giving us families, homes, health, food and, for the luckier ones, a degree of prosperity. He gave his son to die for our sins, and offers grace and mercy, forgiveness, protection from evil and solace when we suffer. What can we do to deserve these gifts?

We can thank God day and night for his multiple gifts and demonstrate by our way of life that we follow Christianity and its tenets. We can help less fortunate people with their family difficulties, provide food to the needy and material comforts to those who lack them, consolation to those who are suffering and the best protection we can to any who are being threatened. We need not doubt that God will always be there for us, whatever our need, but we mustn't neglect those things that are in our power to do for others, in God's name.

Susan Morris

St George's, Reynoldston

Sunday 9th August saw members of the congregation at St. George's experiencing a complete change of venue and a different style of service. An invitation had been extended for us to join the members of the Methodist Church for Holy Communion, led by the Minister, Andy Walker. St. George's was well represented at the service which included some rousing

hymns, an interesting and challenging address from Andy, and, of course, a warm welcome. There is so little that separates us.

A Religious House in

Reynoldston? The Revd J.D.

Davies, the Rector of Llanmadoc and Cheriton (1860-1911), published an article in the Gower Church Magazine titled 'The White Lady of Brynfield'. In his article he attempted to explain the legend in Reynoldston of the apparition of a lady dressed in white seen frequently on the road near Brynfield (the house at the crossroads as you enter the village off Cefn Bryn) and also at the church gate. Davies goes on to explain the origin of this story, focusing on Brynfield. Sir Gardner Wilkinson, an eminent Egyptologist, had come to live at Brynfield in the 1860s, discovering that it had been a house of considerable size before parts had been pulled down. There was evidence of a large window and close by Wilkinson discovered pieces of painted glass, one with ER painted on it. Lady Wilkinson (Caroline Lucas) considered that Brynfield was originally a religious house, inhabited by a sisterhood of the order of St. Clare, whose habit was grey. A cottage in the village was called White Ladies and one of the village wells was called White Ladies Well. Davies concludes: 'The account of

the apparition probably grew out of this sisterhood of St. Clare, whose grey habit was doubtless often seen in the neighbourhood in pre-Reformation days. The story is not devoid of interest although it lacks the confirmation of historical proof. The disappearance of the community would date back to the suppression of all the monasteries and religious houses in the time of Henry VIII.'

A reminder that St. George's hosts a Holy Communion service in the Welsh language on the last Friday of the month at 11.00am, alternating with St. Mary's, Pennard. This service attracts participants from across the Ministry Area. Revd Peter Lewis conducts a service which is also very easy to follow for non-Welsh speakers or those with a limited knowledge of the language. Best check with Peter or Hugh Jones (07368338615) as to dates as sometimes these can vary (September 18th at Pennard at 11.00am).

Hugh Jones

St Mary the Virgin, Rhossili

Our August monthly service was led by Father Nigel Doyle who remembered that he hadn't preached in St Mary's since before Covid. This long interval was surely of some regret for everyone there, as he gave a most articulate and persuasive insight into the biblical, telling of Jesus walking on water on the Sea of Galilee. With great pleasure the congregation sang,

listened, prayed and took Communion with Nigel, and he remarked at the end how much he had enjoyed the occasion. Let's hope he comes to Rhossili again soon.

Two recent letters to St Mary's have expressed thanks for the church being open and available for all people at all times: a thankful someone who left a prayer at the Lady Altar asking for help, found that her family's troubles were resolved soon after; and a letter from an appreciative school headmaster with a group of Duke of Edinburgh students whose transport was delayed on their last leg, and were invited to shelter inside the cool church on a blistering hot day. It is validating to have positive feedback about such topics, and these in addition to compliments from visitors about the atmosphere and peace in the church, and their interest in the latest art display.

As in some of the other Ministry Area churches, a new Goodbox gift payment machine is being trialled in St Mary's over the summer, and it is hoped that sufficient gifts are transacted to prove it is worth making this option permanently available to visitors. There is almost no connectivity to internet, mobile signal, or broadband at the church, which is a significant challenge to be solved. It is work in progress, and we are grateful to all those who are helping to establish a stable environment for the payment machine to operate continuously (without frequent intervention) as designed.

Caroline Johnson

Three Cliffs Cluster of Churches

Bishopston, Ilston, Pennard, Penmaen, and Nicholaston

Sunday Services:

Ilston at 9:30 am: September 6 (Eucharist); September 20 (Morning Prayer)

Bishopston at 9:30 am September 6 (Morning Prayer); September 13 (Morning Prayer); September 20 (Eucharist); September 27 (Eucharist)

Pennard Church at 11:00 am: September 13 (Eucharist); September 20 (Morning Prayer) September 27 (Eucharist)

Pennard Community Hall at 11:00 am September 6 (Family Worship)

Penmaen at 10:00 am September 13 (Eucharist)

Nicholaston at 11:15 September 6 (Eucharist); September 27 (Eucharist)

Weekday Services:

Wednesdays at Pennard 9:45 am on September 2, 9, 16, 23, 29

Thursday Celtic Communion services at the Lamplighter 9:30 am on September 3, 10, 17, 24

Pennard Church St Mary's

Catherine Thomas writes: “Giving God Thanks for the Past and Trusting Him with Our Future.” A few years ago when our younger son, Geraint, was making his choice of my late father’s paintings he came across a familiar scene. He and his partner had visited the Lake District a few weeks earlier and had sat on the seat in the picture. I was able to confirm that it was a view of Ullswater from the village of Glenridding and that my parents had also sat on that seat about 60 years before them. The painting is now framed and hangs in Geraint and Kat’s sitting room.



In 1939, soon after the outbreak of the Second World War, The Leas, a boy's prep school in Hoylake, Wirral, where my mother taught Music, was evacuated to Glenridding for the duration of hostilities. Four years later my father arrived from Ireland to join the school staff for a few months before leaving to join the Royal Navy in April 1944. If it had not been for a chance conversation with another member of the congregation after church one Sunday morning my father would not have gone to Glenridding and my parents would never have met. My father had spent much of his childhood in Antwerp, where his schooling had been in French. After the family returned to Ireland my grandfather ensured that his children kept up their French. The person my father had the conversation with was the headmaster of The Leas, who was visiting relatives in Dublin in the school holidays, and who was anxious to find a French teacher because his previous one had left unexpectedly at the end of term. The rest, one might say, is history!

Colin and I recently stayed in the hotel which had housed the boys and some of the staff during the War. We went for a pleasant walk along the lakeside and, with the help of directions from Geraint, we searched for the spot where my parents had sat and talked about the future they hoped for in that most uncertain of times. Of course we cannot be 100%

sure but we are fairly confident that we found it.

August's 100 Club winner was Colin Thomas!

In last month's magazine I announced a Welsh service at the end of August. This was a mistake on my part and I apologise. There isn't one in September either but the next service will be Friday 9th October in St Mary's Pennard

Funerals

20th August – Fiona Jessica Williams

27th August – Conrad Morris

27th August – Iori Richards (Llanelli Crematorium only)

28th August – Valma Jones

News from Nicholaston & Penmaen

Frances Owen-John writes:

Services during September: 1st

Sunday, 6th September, 11.15 am at Nicholaston 2nd Sunday, 13th,

September, 10 am at Penmaen, 3rd Sunday, 20th September, No service.

4th Sunday, 27th September, 11.15 am at Nicholaston.

Services from October 2026:

From October there will be 2 services a Month at Penmaen; 1st and 4th will still be at 11.15 am at Nicholaston.

2nd and 3rd will be at 10 am at Penmaen. The 3rd Sunday, 18th

October will be the first of this new service day and will be the commissioning as Lay Worship Leader of Lorraine (Loz). It will also be our Harvest Festival and will be followed by a "bring and share"

harvest lunch at Penmaen and Nicholaston Village Hall, to which all are welcome.

Work at Penmaen Church: The work has been completed and letters of thanks have been sent to those who gave grants towards the work: Diocese of Swansea and Brecon, Grants for Repair, Extension, or Provision of Places of Worship; Benefact Trust; Swansea Welsh Church Act Trust Fund; Garfield Weston Foundation. The Gower Society is also making a grant. The members of the Church Council thank everyone for their support in this great project.

Church Opening: Penmaen Church has been open every day through August. We have a card reader installed, but the signal is not good enough for it to work properly. Hopefully this will be resolved. Nicholaston church has been open from 10 am until 4 pm every Saturday from 25th July to end of August. Thank you to those who volunteered to "Church sit" on those Saturdays. The visitors book shows people from Germany, New Zealand and various locations in Wales and England.

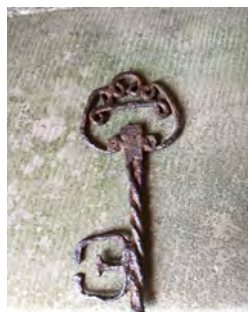
Church Council Meeting: A Church Council Meeting was held on Sunday 9th August and various other jobs that now need attention were discussed. David Harry was thanked for all the effort he has put in to get everything completed.

Easyfundraising: Thank you to those who have registered as supporters of 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. If you have signed up, please remember to click on the scheme each time you purchase on line. To date we have raised £114.54, so it is well worth while and a great way to contribute to our church funds, without having to pay anything yourself! 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, 5th September 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.



Saint Teilo – The Saint Behind Bishopston's Welsh Name

David Ball writes: Many of us know that Bishopston is called Llandeilo Ferwallt in Welsh, but how many of us know the story of the saint whose name the village bears?

According to Welsh tradition, three great Celtic saints—Saint David, Saint Padarn, and Saint Teilo—undertook a pilgrimage to Jerusalem to visit the Patriarch. There they were consecrated as bishops, each receiving a special gift. Saint David was given an altar, Saint Padarn a pastoral staff and choral cope, and Saint Teilo a remarkable bell. Legend says that the bell would ring of its own accord, exposing wrongdoing while also bringing healing to those in need.

Teilo is thought to have been born at Penally, near Tenby, around AD 500. As a young man he studied alongside Saint David at the monastery school of Saint Paulinus at Llanddeusant. The village name means "Church of the Two Saints", recalling the meeting and close friendship between these two remarkable men.

After returning from Jerusalem, Teilo spent some time in Cornwall before crossing to Brittany to escape the devastating Yellow Plague that swept through Britain during the sixth century. There he joined another celebrated Welsh saint, Saint Samson, at Dol, where his ministry continued among the Breton people.

The stories told of Saint Teilo in Brittany have all the richness of Celtic tradition. One tells of a wealthy lord

who promised Teilo all the land he could ride around between dusk and dawn. By riding a hart, Teilo was able to encompass a far greater area than anyone expected. Another tradition says that Teilo and Saint Samson planted an orchard nearly three miles (4.8 km) long—a reminder that the saints were remembered not only for prayer and preaching but also for transforming the communities in which they lived.

Saint Teilo died around AD 560, and the Church commemorates his feast day each year on 9 February, celebrating not an ending but his birth into eternal life. When his tomb was opened in 1736, those present discovered the remains of a bishop, together with fragments of a pastoral staff, a crozier and a chalice—fitting symbols of the ministry he had exercised so many centuries before.

His memory is still very much alive in Wales. Churches throughout the country are dedicated to him, and here in our own community his name lives on in the Welsh name of our Gower village: Llandeilo Ferwallt. Llandeilo simply means "the Church of Saint Teilo". The second element, Ferwallt, may preserve the name of an early abbot, Merwallt, although some suggest it refers instead to the nearby Fairwood.

The lives of the Celtic saints are often woven from both history and legend. Yet behind the stories lies a deeper truth: men and women whose faith, courage and devotion helped establish the Christian Church in Wales and beyond. As we remember Saint Teilo,

we also give thanks for the Christian heritage that continues to shape the

places where we live and worship today.



St Teilo riding on a hart in Brittany and above him the bell gifted to him in Jerusalem. Below one of the apple trees he planted along with Saint Samson of Dol. From the Stained-Glass window in Saint Teilo's Church, Bishopston. Photos by kind permission of Mike Whiffin



North Gower Food Hub

Volunteer Drivers needed

Could you spare a couple of hours on Friday mornings to deliver food parcels locally?

- Be part of a great team
- Full training given
- Generous mileage allowance paid
- Own car is required

Please email northgowerfoodbank@gmail.com or call 07989 214487 for more information

East Gower Cluster of Churches

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

Worship in September 2026

Every Wednesday	10:30am	Holy Eucharist	All Souls, Tycoch
Every Thursday	11:00am	Holy Eucharist	St. Hilary's, Killay
Sunday Sept 6th	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 Sept 13th	10:00am	Lay Led Service	St. Martin's, Dunvant
	9:30am	Holy Eucharist	All Souls, Tycoch
	2:00pm	Centenary Service	St. Hilary's, Killay
Sunday Sept 20th	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 Sept 27th	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 September 20th Battle of Britain Memorial Service at St. Hilary's
Time to be confirmed.

Marian Williams writes:

Giving God Thanks for the Past,
Trusting Him with Our Future



Although this is something we should
always do, the theme couldn't be be
more appropriate for St. Hilary's

Church at this time. In the
original register of services it
states, "Killay Parish Church
dedicated to St. Hilary of Poitiers
and Consecrated on Tuesday
August 10th 1926 at 3pm by the
Lord Bishop of Swansea and
Brecon." The collections that day
amounted to the following:

£.	s.	d.
57.	00.	07
	4.	10.
	27.	12.
	89.	03.
		11

This was collected in cash and cheques during the first service and the second service at 7:00pm led by Vicar David Lynne-Davies and Venerable Harold Williams, Archdeacon of Gower. At that time during the great depression this was a phenomenal amount of money, which demonstrates the faith of the people of Killay at that time. According to online calculators this would be worth approximately £7,271 today. If a new church were consecrated in August 2026, I wonder how much the collection would amount to.

Bishop John will lead the official celebration of our Centenary on Sunday September 13th at 2:00pm. However, we felt that the actual date was so important that it should be celebrated, so a working group was created, led by several people who had devoted much of their lives to our church. Weeks were spent collecting, sorting, mounting and collating photographs which showed so many past events in the life of St. Hilary's. Sally Bowen had an almost encyclopaedic collection of photographs, service booklets, parish magazines and artefacts due to her lifelong membership at St. Hilary's plus the other items - placemats, coasters, painted pebbles, holding crosses and personal photographs of so many church organisations and social events supplied by many members of the congregation. Anne Llewelyn's floristry expertise was utilised fully with the assistance of Margaret Thomas. Special thanks must be given to Sylvia Powell for her organisational skills and the tireless work ethic of the whole team in ensuring that everything was completed in time for the

exhibition on Saturday August 8th and Sunday August 9th. This was a great success, and it was wonderful to welcome visitors who shared their stories and memories with us.



During the last two weeks, it has been a great pleasure for me to join Rach, Chloe, Dan and Meg, the wonderful members of the Wonder of Wellbeing Team, plus Peter Lewis, Mandy Bayton and volunteers from the Gower churches. We spent our time on the beach at Port Eynon where we welcomed the Faith in Families Groups from Bonymaen, Clase and Portmead, all going back to our childhoods by building sandcastles, playing parachute games, collecting shells, colouring and looking for buried treasure in the sand trays, before enjoying ice cream and lolly pops.

Today was just as much fun on the beach at Pwll Du, this time with Wild Church when we shared the story of the Miraculous Draft of Fish and thought of the times when we needed to trust God and be led by him, even when it didn't seem to make sense.

We shared a joint picnic on the beach, making new friends and enjoying conversations. Thinking of past events, I have no doubt that we should put our

future in God's Hands. I am reminded of a favourite hymn:

When we walk with the Lord
In the light of his word,
What a glory he sheds on our way!
While we do his good will,
He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

*Trust and obey,
for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus,
but to trust and obey.*



Gogledd Gŵyr-North Gower group of churches

St. David's Church, Wernffrwd; Ss Rhidian & Iltyd Llanrhidian

St David's Church Wernffrwd

Barry Fox writes:

Church News

The congregation and supporters of our church are very generous with their time and money. Our annual Gift Day is held in September and is a regular request to support our church. We get donations from people within and outside of the church. Their support is very much appreciated. Last year we raised £1,483 which included the 25% bonus of Gift Aid from the Chancellor. Each £10 donated is worth £12.50 to the church

Many people of North Gower know Tony Cross our milkman who delivers in all weathers and at an awful time of night. As I am at the start of his round and me being a "night owl" we often have a chat past midnight. In early October Tony will be 60 and I am going to put out a card of thanks on Sunday 5th October. Tony, Kate and Will are generous supporters with milk for events and with time and donations. Good, kind church people.

Kate's parents Jill and Paul who live up the lane from the church

celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in August. We wish them a longer and continuing happy marriage. Jill is a talented artist and calligrapher and donated a lovely painting of St David which we proudly hang by the altar. She is also excellent at writing scripts for our remembrance book and presentation bibles we give to newlyweds and at christenings.

We recently had a visit to a Sunday service by Ewan Rees who is walking around the Wales Coastal Path in aid of the Brain Tumour Charity. He had only 2 days to walk and finish his walk in Swansea. Ewan works at the newly opened Totalbodyfitness Gym which is based at the Crofty Trading Estate and run by David Senger and the heavy weight boxer Moses Jolly. Typical of our generous congregation many people gave him a donation there and then. We also prayed for him in our intercessions. Ewan is a fine example of young people today.

David Senger is our Eucharistic Assistant and is in church most Sundays to help administering the wine. I asked him recently what his official title was but admitted he

had forgotten it. He said jokingly, I am the church “Sunday Wine delivery Man”. Thanks David for your commitment and humour.

Jean Hamer a long time and regular attendee at church and all events is to leave church due to a move to Clydach to be nearer her children. This follows the passing of her devoted husband Wynford earlier this year. We all wish Jean a happy life being close to her family. We will miss her.

Monthly Theme

This month’s theme chimes with my fascination with history and like most men an interest in maps. I often go on-line to the National Library of Scotland Side by Side Maps. This shows two screens, one side for today’s Google Earth maps and another side by any published map of Britain. My favourite is the OS One inch 1885-1900.

The old map does not show St David’s church and none of the many roads we now take for granted like the B 4295 from Penclawdd to Llanrhidian. It is easy to show why St David’s was built. The history of the church states that the church “a chapel of ease” was built for

those living on the spot who cannot in rough weather go to either church of Llanrhidian or St Gwynour’s. It does not mention the flooded tracks at high tide. I thank God and those people who raised the money to build our “Little church on the marsh”.

When I visit and worship at other even older churches on Gower, I sit and wonder of the workmanship and commitment of those in medieval times who financed and built them, and for centuries worshipped in them. It is now a privilege for us all to continue that history.

And, what of the future? We are an ageing church population and may not want to physically visit a church to worship, and just like in Covid times, we could drop into any suitable local church or from around the world. A friend used to do this often and confessed that some Sunday’s he felt jet-lagged from his on line travelling. In future will it be Hologram Peter Lewis or Fr Tim or even “An Droid” Layfetta? I hope not as they are all delightful people to meet in the flesh, and it is spiritually rewarding to speak and commune with friends in church.

Ss Rhidian & Illtyd Llanrhidian

Pam Meakins writes: On the 9th of August in Llanrhidian Church we celebrated Mary Sumner Day, held in memory of Mary Sumner, the Founder of the Mothers Union, with prayers and the lighting of candles. We thanked God for the help and support of the Mothers Union to families over the last 150 years and prayed for its future growth.

‘God of peace, we commit the Mothers Union today and for generations to come, into your loving care.’

In September the Mothers Union will mark the strong connection with the Community of the Cross of Nails, Coventry; a network of churches and peace building organisations. This Community

has been drawn together by the story of Coventry Cathedral and is committed to work and pray for peace, justice and reconciliation. We will pray the prayer central to this theme ‘Father Forgive’.

From the Registers

Saturday, 1st August: Wedding of Elaine Tucker & Oliver Dineen

God bless their future life together.

September services

Holy Eucharist: Sunday, 13th September at 4pm

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



A SPECIAL SERVICE
Celebrating God's Creation
St Cenydd's Church
Llangennith
11.15, Sunday 30 August 2026

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
**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 screwed up our eyes in the August sunshine, taking pleasure in the happiness it brought holidaymakers and scholars on their break from studies, even as we had a care for the parched crops and meadows and for the thirsty livestock. Timely, then, that as this was being written we have been preparing at St Cenydd's for a special service on 30 August in celebration of the animals that share our lives, as pets, working animals, livestock and wildlife.



A SPECIAL SERVICE
Celebrating God's Creation
St Cenydd's Church
Llangennith
11.15, Sunday 30 August 2026

Meanwhile at the start of the month Llanmadoc and Cheriton held their annual Church Fête, a great success as ever. Congratulations to all concerned.

Many thanks go to the Revd Canon Keith Evans, Revd Peter Barnett and to worship leaders Veronica Shenston and John David for their Sunday ministry in Llanmadoc and Llangennith during Revd Tim Ardouin's holidays.

House fire in Llanmadoc

In mid August fire, unrelated to the drought, destroyed one of a row of cottages in Llanmadoc, and damaged its neighbours. Tenders attended from several Fire Service stations to douse the flames, while family and neighbours attended to the shocked householders. Our thoughts

and sympathies attend them,
and our prayers that the trauma
they have suffered may be
healed.

Looking ahead

Church and community
activities this month include:

**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
gowerceramics@gmail.com.

**Monday 07 Sept at
18.00-20.00 at Llanmadoc
Shop:** Open Evening, with
refreshments and special
discounts.

**Thursday 17 Sept at 18.00 at
the Kings Head, Llangennith:
Pints of View.** First of a
monthly series of open
gatherings (third Thursdays
monthly) hosted by Fr Tim

Ardouin for anyone who has ever
found themselves pondering life,
God, the universe, of the everyday
mysteries that tug at the edges of
our attention.

**Saturday 26 Sept at 19.30 at
Llangennith Parish Hall:
concert by Luke Concannon
(Nizlopi).** Lead singer and co-
writer with no1 UK chart act
Nizlopi (best known for the JCB
song) who deeply influenced a
young Ed Sheeran, Luke is now a
solo artist whose 2025 album
midnight bloom received rave
reviews. Tickets at [https://
www.ticketsource.com/
llangennithconcertseries/](https://www.ticketsource.com/llangennithconcertseries/)

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

**Debbie Lloyd, Llangennith
church committee**

07973 759230



**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,

What do you want to be when you grow up?

It is the people who *know* what they want to be who are the lucky ones. They see what they are supposed to be doing and they find happiness doing it. Their lives have meaning and purpose.

It took me a long time to find what I am supposed to be doing. It took me until I was nearly sixty! Still, I am better off than some others who *never* find what they are supposed to be doing and whose lives are full of frustration because of this.

But I shouldn't be worrying you with this right now. You are too young. You need to learn an important lesson first. You need to learn that it isn't all about you – it really isn't. I know that grown-ups tell their children how special they are and they like to say that they can get whatever they want by persistence and hard work. This isn't bad advice... but, believe me, it isn't just about you. We share everything with the people around us. They are important too. If you doubt me, consider how many boys and girls your age would like to be Premier League footballers. And then ask yourself if Wales really *does* need another 20,000 of these every two or three years? It surely needs some plumbers too, doesn't it? And some people to work in supermarkets; and some accountants who are good at sums as well. You see, what the rest of the world needs really is important to everyone. We depend on each other.



And the secret of your individual happiness is finding how whatever *you* are good at doing can be useful to those around you.

Once upon a time, long ago, people used to wonder what God wants us to do. This may be a bit old-fashioned but it is worth a thought! When bad things happen we often ask God to sort the bad things out. Poor old God! So many problems! He fixes them by telling people what he wants done and showing them how they can do it. This hasn't worked badly in the past.

I honestly believe that knowing what you are supposed to be doing is the *same thing* as knowing what God wants you to do. And, if I am right, doing it isn't going to be boring in the slightest. It is going to be a source of happiness and fulfilment - filling your life with meaning and purpose. You will end up being one of the lucky ones.

Nigel

P.S. Even if you *do* become a Premier League football player you still won't succeed all on your own. You'll only succeed as part of a team.

The Gower Church Magazine

One hundred years ago – September 1926 by Hugh Jones



This edition of the magazine contains a number of reports about the various parish trips away from Gower, arranged through July and August. The elder scholars and teachers of **Llanrhidian Sunday School**... *started early as they were to cross the sea to Ilfracombe. The greater part went later to the Mumbles where they thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The advantage of not taking the children as far as usual was found in the fact that they were not tired out. They returned to Llanrhidian full of life and spirit. Llandewi with Knelston Sunday School* chartered a charabanc and a bus to take them on a picnic at Barry Island. **Gwernffrwd** embarked on a Wye Valley Tour (175 miles), taking fifty-four via the Vale of Neath... *leaving behind us the bricks and walls, the din and traffic and the bustling streets. In the Vale there were grazing on fine large meadows many scores of pit ponies which were greatly admired.* The tour took in Crickhowell, Abergavenny and Monmouth... *as we had to*

economise time, we only made a brief stay at Tintern Abbey, then off to Chepstow, then supped at Cardiff and home for Bedford. Two charabancs and one large bus were booked to *take the Gwernffrwyd Sunday Scholars to Cardiff... a short delay was occasioned by a spent magneto as we reached Aberavon and most of the passengers were transferred to the other two conveyances and the remainder in another bus. We all had a happy time in Cardiff.* The Sunday School treat at Reynoldston was a visit to Porthcawl... *we travelled, numbering 67, in a Transport "super" charabanc and a Vanguard "de Luxe" bus, both of them the last word in comfort. There is always no lack of diversions at Porthcawl but as though the shops, shows and cinemas were not enough for us, there were soldiers in camp and a very big "fire" in town, which impressed the children greatly.*

The entry for the Parish of Penrice contained a most interesting account of the replacing of the

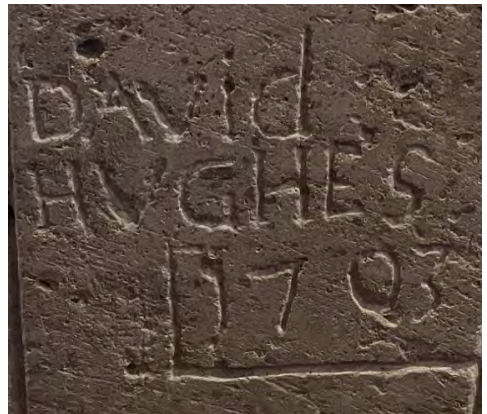
Font. *At the suggestion of Lord Blythswood and with the consent of the church authorities concerned, the modern Font in Penrice Church has been removed, and the ancient one, in a restored form, is going to be put in its place. The former was a gift of the late Miss Talbot when she restored the church some 35 years ago. It has been given to the new church of S. Hillary at Killay and suits its new surroundings admirably. The ancient Font is pronounced by an expert archaeologist to be an early one remodelled in the 15th or beginning of the 16th century. The ancient Font, when it stood in the unrestored church, had a large piece, almost half of it, on one side broken off.*



Miss Talbot had the piece rescued during the restoration and... the broken part well mended and matched. By this time the new Font had been ordered or erected and so the old one was set up in the Vestry, where it has since stood.

On one of the panels there is a carved inscription “David Hughes 1703”. An explanation is that David Hughes was a builder, restoring the church at that time.

The initials D.H. and the figure 17 are to be found on a stone in the porch at Llanddewi Church. This shows us that the late D. Hughes was a past master in the modern art of advertising.



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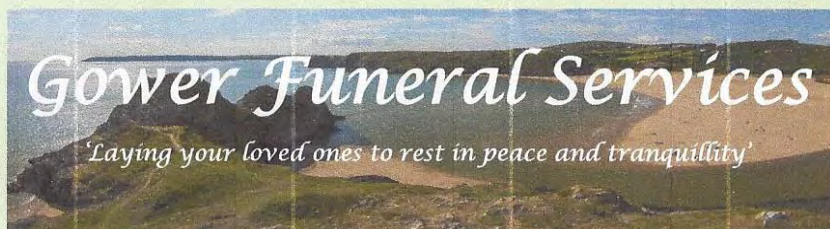
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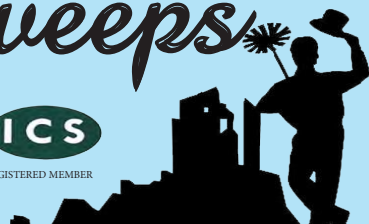
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More about Gower Churches

Ilston St Iltyd's

Ilston Church, is dedicated to St Iltyd, one of the great saints of the Celtic Church, who may have been associated with the original C6 monastic cell on the site. Much of the present building in the Early English style, dates from the early C13 when the Norman John Le Breos, having been granted the Lordship of Gower, built the chancel and the massive embattled Tower with a saddleback roof. The Nave was added later in mediaeval times and is markedly out of line with the earlier structure. The patronage was held by the Knight Hospitallers of St John of Jerusalem until the dissolution at the time of the Reformation and after being held by the Crown until C19 it was bought by Thomas Penrice of Kilvrough. Major restoration took place in 1847 but many original features remain. In the north wall of the chancel is a burial niche which probably held the effigy of the founder of the church. There are several windows of different age, size, design and ornamentation, some of which contain stained glass. The porch on the south side of the nave contains a holy water stoop. The Tower houses two bells, dated 1716 and until 1974 there was also a C15 bell.



Because of a crack this is now on a small platform in the nave. A Millennium project which received a Civic Trust award, involved the re-opening of the base of the Tower into the church to reveal a beautiful chantry chapel.

In 1649 John Miles was installed as the Cromwellian Minister but was ejected after the Restoration. He then built the first Baptist Chapel in Wales a mile further down the valley but in 1663 when dissenting assemblies became illegal, he left with his followers and established the settlement of Swanzev in New England. A memorial to him was unveiled on the Ilston site in 1928 by David Lloyd George.

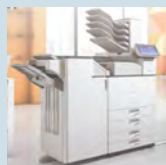
Valerie Beynon

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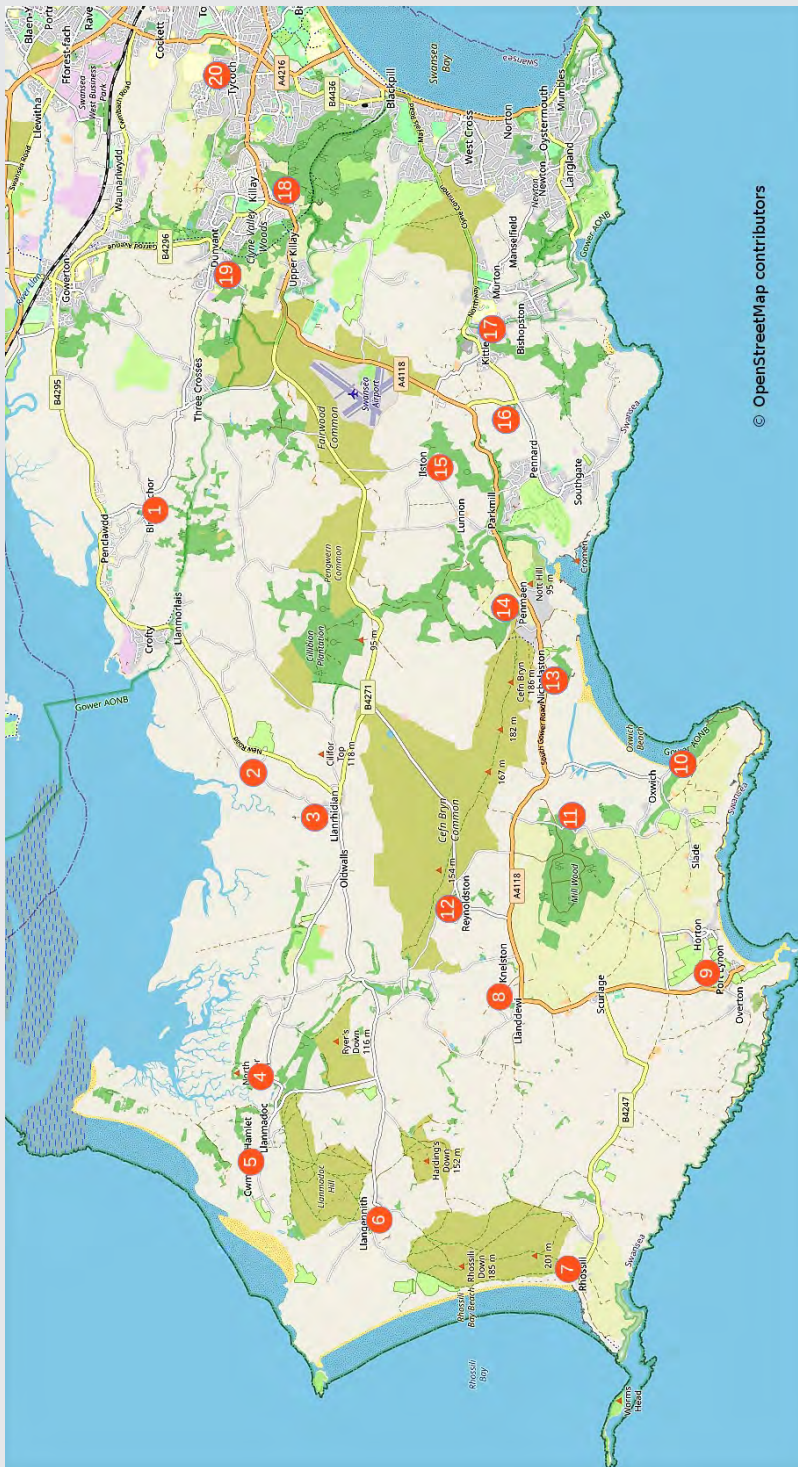
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Church Locations

- 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

When we walk with the Lord
In the light of his word,
What a glory he sheds on our way!
While we do his good will,
He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

*Trust and obey,
for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus,
but to trust and obey.*

John Henry Sammis

