THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER for
St. Illtyd's Ilston, St. John the Baptist Penmaen, St Nicholas Nicholaston, St. Mary's Pennard, St . Teilo's Bishopston
Churches in the Gower Ministry Area
(Reg Charity No C10 1210801Website gowerma.org)
Sunday 15th November 2026 Second Sunday before Advent

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LIFE WITH JESUS IS BETTER THAN LIFE WITHOUT HIM

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

Dear Friend's

A Pilgrim's Prayer for the Gower Ministry Area
O Lord be our companion.
Our guide at that crossroads,
Our breath in our weariness,
Our protection in danger,
Our refuge along the way,
Our shade in the heat,
Our light in the darkness,
Our consolation when discouraged,
And our strength in our intentions.
So that with your guidance,
we may arrive at the end of our journey,
safe and sound enriched with grace, virtue, joy and hope.Let us pray that all the churches on Gower may journey together
and here we pray for them as they pray for us
We ask this in the name of Jesus our companion on the way

There will be a Celebration of the life of the late Catherine Hughes (Beynon) at 2.00 pm on 2nd December at St Illtyds Ilston. Bright colours to be worn please

We are sad to report the passing of Alan Jenkins husband of Barbara The funeral will be at 1.30 pm on Wednesday 25th November at St Teilo's followed by Llanelli Crematorium at 4.00pm.

Sunday15th November In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for the work of Safeguarding Officers, we also pray for the Iglesia de Chile and those who follow Jesus in Uzbekistan

Peace Prayer
A New Prayer for Peace from Lisa Lomax
You are our peace, o Lord. Let us hold you so close within us that we grow to be the peace-makers and peace-sharers that you would have us be, calming the rages of intolerance, envy and petty divisions that we encounter and that threaten our shared humanity. And let your peace come between us and each unworthy thought or wish that sneaks unbidden into our heads when we deviate from following you.

We ask this in the name of the Prince of Peace.

Amen

Services this week

Sunday 15th November 2nd Before Advent
9.30 am St. Illtyds Ilston Eucharist
9.30 am St.Teilo's Bishopston Eucharist
10.00am St John's Penmaen Eucharist
11.00am St Mary's Pennard Morning Prayer

Wednesday 18th November
9.45 am St Mary's Pennard Eucharist
11.00am Campion Gardens

Thursday 19th November
9.30 am Celtic Communion Lamplighter

Sunday 22nd November Christ the King
9.30 am St. Illtyds Ilston Eucharist
9.30 am St Teilo's Bishopstonn Eucharist
11.00am St Mary's Pennard Eucharist
11.15 am St Nicholas Nicholaston Eucharist r

Please welcome to Bishopston and Pennard this week Rev Layfetta Masih from Tycoch and Killay as part of our series of pulpit swaps across the Ministry Area

There will be
four Advent Bible Study sessions this year.
They will all be at 7:00 pm in the Lamplighter. Each will be based on one of the candles in the Advent wreath. Each will be led - so no preparation needed by participants! **But bring a Bible**.

November 25th (Wednesday) Hope
December 1st (Tuesday) Faith
December 9th (Wednesday) Joy
December 16th (Wednesday) Peace

December 1st is a Tuesday meeting to avoid clashing with the 'Carols on
the Cliffs' Service.

On the 28th November there will be a Celebratory concert held in aid of St John's Penmaen.
This will commence at 5.30 pm in the company of the Bishop of Swansea and Brecon.
Tickets will be £12.00 per head and can be obtained from David Harry davidharry@btconnect.com Lozharry@hotmail.com
An evening to celebrate what has been done so far at Penmaen and in anticipation of more to come

St. Mary's Church, Pennard

For many years the church gave Christmas gifts in the form of toys to Faith in Families. This form of giving stopped, at their request, as the organisers decided to give parents the opportunity to choose the presents - a wonderful idea. Since that time, we have accepted money in lieu of toys - cash/cheques (made payable to St. Mary's Church, Pennard) with great success. In later years we have spread the gift giving to include the Food Bank - food/cash only, with a wonderful response. The Food Bank is desperate for food items - Christmassy or otherwise but **PLEASE** no Advent Calendars as they will arrive too late.

The main Gift Service will be held in Pennard Community Hall on December 6th but, of course, Ailsa and I will receive gifts at any time. Thank you.

Eileen Thompson

Tearfund With the continuing problems in Israel and Gaza Tear Fund is in need of our support as they are part of The DEC in addition to our monthly contribution of £60 people can give their contributions to Sue Waite or put them directly into the Tearfund account. Sort Code: 30 90 89 Account No: 37039368
Here is a current list of what we need at West Cross Foodbank.
Tinned Custard Instant, packet pasta, Pasta/cooking sauces, Smash, Baked beans, Tinned potatoes Tinned Spaghetti, Pulses, Milk, Biscuits, Salt and pepper small pots Washing up liquid, Shampoo, Soap Drop off to Lamplighter or Church at Sunday Service or Linden Church Monday 11-30-2.30, Wed 9.30-12, Fridays 10-3.

Community Cinema next presentation
"NATIVITY"
Starring Martin Freeman, Ashley Jensen and Pam Ferris. Church Hall The Glebe Bishopston 7.00pm Tuesday December 8th

Sunday 15th November 2026

Third Sunday of the Kingdom

Heavenly Father, your blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; grant this for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A reading from Zephaniah (1.7, 12-18)

Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests.

At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, 'The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm.' Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.

The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 90. 1-8, 12

O Lord my God, in you I take refuge.

Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another. Before the mountains were brought forth, or the earth and the world were formed, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
O Lord my God, in you I take refuge.

You turn us back to dust and say: 'Turn back, O children of earth.' For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday, which passes like a watch in the night.

O Lord my God, in you I take refuge.

You sweep them away like a dream; they fade away suddenly like the grass. In the morning it is green and flourishes; in the evening it is dried up and withered.

O Lord my God, in you I take refuge.

For we consume away in your displeasure; we are afraid at your wrathful indignation. You have set our misdeeds before you and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

[**O Lord my God, in you I take refuge.]**

So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

O Lord my God, in you I take refuge.

A reading from 1 Thessalonians (5.1-11)

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape!

But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.

For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St Matthew (25.14-30)

Glory to you, O Lord.

'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

'The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

'After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master."

'And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master."

'Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents.

'"For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope: bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**