

WERN CCV

NUMBER 3

LLANSILIN PARISH CHURCH

with RHIWLAS MISSION CHURCH and
LLANGADWALADR CHURCH

N E W S

ISSUED QUARTERLY

SEPTEMBER 1993



McCormick Corn Binder - 1930's - 1940's

C H U R C H S E R V I C E S

LLANSILIN

| | | |
|------------|---------------------|------------|
| 1st Sunday | Holy Communion | 10.00 a.m. |
| | Sunday School | 10.00 a.m. |
| 2nd Sunday | Matins | 10.00 a.m. |
| 3rd Sunday | Holy Communion | 8.30 a.m. |
| | Cymun Bendigaïd | 10.00 a.m. |
| 4th Sunday | Matins | 10.00 a.m. |
| | Evensong (Sept/Oct) | 6.30 p.m. |
| 5th Sunday | Family Service | 10.00 a.m. |

LLANGEDWYN

| | | |
|------------|----------------|------------|
| 1st Sunday | Family Service | 11.15 a.m. |
| 2nd Sunday | Holy Communion | 8.30 a.m. |
| 3rd Sunday | Sunday School | 11.15 a.m. |
| | Evensong | 6.30 p.m. |
| 4th Sunday | Holy Communion | 11.15 a.m. |
| 5th Sunday | Matins | 11.15 a.m. |



... but I don't think that's really necessary for the Harvest Festival dear.

LLANGADWALADR/RHIWLAS CHURCHES (Services alternate between these two Churches from these dates)

| | | |
|----------------|------------------------|-----------|
| 5th September | Rhiwlas Mission Church | 2.30 p.m. |
| 12th September | Llangadwaladr Church | 2.30 p.m. |

VICAR: Rev Christopher Carter, The Vicarage, Llansilin.
Tel:209

C H A P E L S E R V I C E S

| | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|--------------|------------|
| Medi 5ed | Y Gweinidog | Salem | 10.00 a.m. |
| Medi 12fed | Parch Harri Parri | Cefn Canol | 2.00 p.m. |
| Medi 19fed | Y Gweinidog (Cymun) | Bethesda | 6.30 p.m. |
| Medi 26ain | Parch I R Wright | Soar | 2.00 p.m. |
| Hydref 3ydd | Mr Arthur Hughes | Cefn Canol | 10.30 a.m. |
| " " " | Y Gweinidog | Rhiwlas | 6.30 p.m. |
| Hydref 10fed | Parch A J Tudno Williams | Bethania | 2.00 p.m. |
| | | Salem | 6.30 p.m. |
| Hydref 17eg | Y Gweinidog | Cefn Canol | 2.00 p.m. |
| Hydref 24ain | Parch Eifion Roberts | ap N Roberts | |
| Hydref 31ain | Parch Brifathro Elfed | Bethesda | 2.00 p.m. |
| | | Soar | 10.30 a.m. |
| Tachwedd 7fed | Y Gweinidog | Rhiwlas | 2.00 p.m. |
| Tachwedd 14eg | Parch Isaac Jones | Bethania | 10.30 a.m. |
| Tachwedd 21ain | Y Gweinidog (Cymun) | Salem | 2.00 p.m. |
| Tachwedd 28ain | Parch G Lloyd Davies | | |

Gweinidog/Minister: Y Parch Stanton Evans, 20 Croeswylan Lane, Oswestry. Tel: 654682.

T H E V I C A R ' S L E T T E R F O R H A R V E S T - T I D E

(The approach of the holiday season demands that this magazine must be "put to bed" in July to appear in September, so I am faced with having to write my Autumn letter in the garden on a warm summer afternoon with "Test Match Special" droning away in the background.) By the time that you read these words the leaves will have begun to turn, and the Harvest Festival season will be upon us. I wonder how many times I shall find myself "ploughing the fields and scattering", in English and Welsh, this year? It occurs to me that if present trends in agricultural policy continue the words of our traditional harvest hymns may have to be altered. On Llangedwyn's recent visit to our twin village in France we couldn't help noticing that many fields in the neighbourhood which were growing crops on our last visit two years ago are now being left uncultivated under the E.E.C. Setaside scheme. Perhaps we shall soon find ourselves singing "Don't plough the fields or scatter the good seed on the land. The weeds God feeds and waters will soon get out of hand"! But of course our harvest-tide hymns and prayers and readings interweave the thanks-giving for the harvest of soil with a celebration of that other harvest which Jesus referred in so many of his parables inspired by peasant life in Galilee - the bountiful or meagre crop which springs from the word of God taking root in a human soul. There is no danger that we shall ever find ourselves embarrassed by an unwanted glut of any of the "produce" grown from that seed, or of the "fruits of the Spirit" listed by St. Paul: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. The world is unlikely to be encumbered by a surplus of love, or have to find room for peace-lakes or mountains of kindness. We're more likely to suffer from shortages of all these qualities - which won't stop selfish people from seeking to limit their production, or trying to keep what little there is for themselves. Woe betide us if for any specious reason we leave fallow those fields in which the fruits of the Spirit can grow: they are likely to sprout a crop of weeds far more noxious than those with which God clothes the unsown acres of Europe.

God grant us all such a rich and bountiful growth of mind and spirit as may yield a harvest of eternal life in that land where thanksgiving never ends.

Christopher Carter

HARVEST SERVICES

| | | | |
|----------------|-------------|------------|--|
| Llansilin | October 1st | 7.00 p.m. | Revd M Gudgeon, Newtown |
| Llangadwaladr | " " 5th | 7.00 p.m. | Revd M Roberts, Chirk |
| Llangedwyn | " " 8th | 7.00 p.m. | Revd D North, Whittington |
| | " " 10th | 11.15 a.m. | Children's Service |
| <u>Rhiwlas</u> | " " 22nd | 7.00 p.m. | Revd Mair Jones, Llangollen (provisional) |

CHANGED.

THE ORIGIN OF THE HARVEST FESTIVAL

Thanksgiving for the harvest is one of the oldest and most joyous festivals that man has created. It is the fulfilment of his urgent need to provide the means of life for himself and his family - the relief of seeing the fruition of the crops he has so lovingly and fearfully planted under the supervision of auspicious gods. Most of the pagan customs that gathered round the harvest season have either disappeared or have radically changed. Today the climax of the season is the picturesque but genteel Harvest Festival celebrated in churches. Farmers proclaim that all is safely gathered in, often after the worst harvest in living memory.

The present form of celebration is little more than a hundred years old. It is a Victorian innovation, started by the Rev R R S Hawker, vicar of Morwenstow in Cornwall who, in 1843, invited his parishioners to receive the Sacrament in 'the bread of the new corn'.

However innocuous harvest rites are today, they are a relic of the great drama of the season when the fruits of the earth were collected.

The leading role in the drama was taken by Ceres, the Roman corn-goddess. In Britain she was later known by several names: the Maiden, the Harvest Queen, the Kern or Corn Baby, the Kern Doll - just to mention a few. Sometimes she was simply the stalks of corn; sometimes she was represented by a sheaf dressed in many-coloured clothes which were decorated with flowing ribbons and the finest lace. Whatever her form, she dominated the banquets or harvest suppers of early times.

The harvest supper was the culmination of the farming year. It was the farmer's expression of thanks to all his workers for their efforts to bring the harvest to a successful conclusion. All distinctions between master and servant were forgotten for this evening as everybody settled down, under the guardianship of the Kern Baby/Corn Dolly, to eat and drink their fill of ham, roast beef, vegetables, fruit, puddings and an unlimited supply of beer and cider. The farmer's wife and the prettiest girls of the village served the food. Afterwards there were songs, games and gifts for all, and a sense of good fellowship pervaded the proceedings.

When the feast was over the Kern Baby/Corn Dolly was taken to the farmhouse and kept there until the next harvest supper. The symbol of the previous year's harvest was ceremoniously burned in the farmyard.

Geoffrey Palmer and Noel Lloyd - A Year of Festivals.

B R E A D O V E N S

How many readers have an old bread oven at one end of an inglenook?. When we bought Llygad-y-Dyffryn (or Bwlch Cottage as it then was) a Triplex grate jutted into the living room. But behind the brick and plaster surround we discovered first a small Victorian fireplace and then, when this was removed, the original inglenook, complete with bread oven and vast tapering chimney space above. With hindsight I very much wish that I had tried out the oven before the chimney space was closed up.

As a child staying at Cartrefle in the village I was familiar with the bread oven in the 'front kitchen', as the living room was called, but the base of the inglenook was taken up with a double range, carefully black leaded each Saturday and the shiny bits made even brighter with Brasso. Taid had replaced the iron door of the old bread oven with one made of wood, behind which candles and dry kindling were stored.

The back kitchen had no inglenook but there was a large, brick lined bread oven of a different kind, with a fire underneath it when in use - which it was, each week.

While in Llansilin one Summer holiday, about 1930, Nain and my mother took my sister and me to Hafodty, above Plas Newydd, and our arrival coincided with the firing of the bread oven. A vast amount of dry hawthorn and pine twigs had been gathered and stuffed into the oven where a lighted match set it burning. The heat was tremendous as flames and smoke leapt from the open door and up the chimney space. Meanwhile the dough had been kneaded and lay in tins on the hearth to rise. When the flames died down the hot ashes were raked out and the risen dough put in on the oven bottom and the door securely shut. Inside a crust quickly formed and, under it, the dough expanded and cooked as the temperature fell. In due course we fed on warm fresh bread, home produced salt butter and boiled eggs - free range, of course - we knew no other.

A few years later, staying with Nain, I was amazed and amused to see her reaction to a thunderstorm approaching round the Gyrn from Moelfre. She placed a stool in front of the oven in the back kitchen and, climbing on to it, opened the oven door and drew herself inside as far as she could, leaving only her petticoat and dangling feet to be seen.

I'm sure modern ovens are more convenient, but is it nostalgia, or was the bread just that much better?

Brian Jones

SUNDAY SCHOOL

This quarter we are pleased to have a new member, Stephen Sockett, with us. We all enjoyed playing our part in the family service on Whit Sunday. We read, we prayed, we sang, we took the collection and the bread, wine and water to the altar; and Mrs Ashley said the prayer for old people!

There is no Sunday School in August - we'll go on an outing instead. Likewise in September we are all going to a Deanery Sunday School day based on the Philippines, at Llanwddyn on the 4th. In October we will meet in the Church with our harvest gifts then in November it is business as usual.

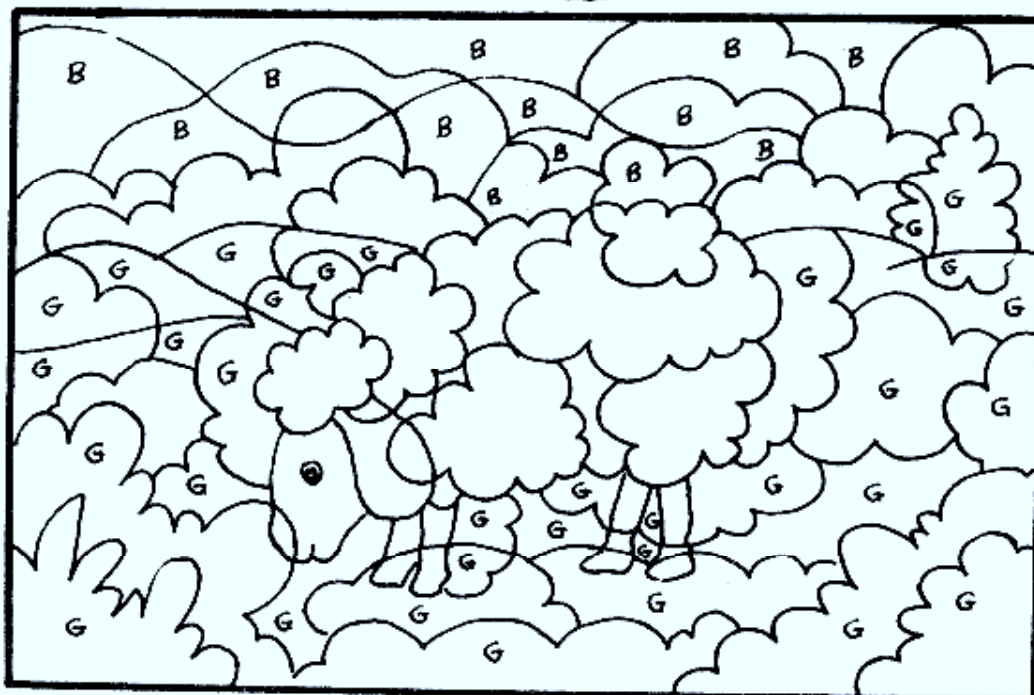


Next spring - probably one weekend in May - we will hold a plant sale. Could you please pot-up some herbaceous plants and shrub cuttings this autumn especially Michelmas Daisies - mark what colour - and herbs? The money we raise by selling 'growing-things' will help Koffi to learn how to get things to grow better in his part of Ghana. If 30 people sell 10 plants each for 40p that's £120, and it won't have cost us anything!!! PLEASE.....THANK YOU.

Children have you got your crayons ready?

IF YOU COLOUR IN ALL THE **B**'S BLUE
AND ALL THE **G**'S GREEN...

Read about a lost one in Luke 15:1-7.



... YOU WILL FIND AN ANIMAL JESUS KNEW WELL.

S T I R U P S U N D A Y (21st November)

The Sunday before ADVENT, when the Church of Wales collect begins; 'Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people, that they plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works' - irreverent choirboys parodied this with:

Stir up, we beseech thee
The pudding in the pot
And when we do get home tonight
We'll eat it up all hot

while housewives took the prayer as a reminder to stir up less spiritual fruit - the mixture for Christmas puddings and mince pies, in order to give these time to mature before the great day.

The custom is still kept up in many households, the rule being that all present must take part: mother, father, children in order of age, including babies, and any visitors or servants. A wooden spoon (in honour of Christ's wooden crib) must be used, and stirring must be done in the lucky sunwise or clockwise direction, with eyes shut, and while making a secret wish.

A D V E N T (28th November)

Advent, the season of preparation for Christ's coming which opens the Church's year, begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day. Formerly, its great festivals were 6th December (the day of St Nicholas, patron saint of children) when cathedrals and other churches elected a chorister 'boy bishop' to rule the Christmas celebrations - a custom recently revived at Edwinstowe, Nottinghamshire and elsewhere, and St Thomas's Day (21st December) when needy women (and, by a tradition applying to this day only, even the quite well-to-do) went begging from door to door for Christmas 'goodenings'.

Nowadays, however, two recently imported Advent customs are sweeping all before them. Almost every family with small children makes (or more generally buys!) an Advent Calendar, whose little windows are opened in succession on each day of the season, to reveal religious or Christmas pictures, these were introduced from the USA during the 1950s, having originated in Germany. From Germany and Scandinavia, too, came Advent Crowns. Made from greenery and tinsel, these rings topped by semi-circular hoops carry four red candles (one to be lit on each of the four Advent Sundays) and one larger one on Christmas Day.

Charles Kightly - The Customs and Ceremonies of Britain

POINTS TO PONDER

You are young and useful at any age if you are still planning for tomorrow.

We believe that there is a rhythm to God's creation, like a drum beat; when we lose the beat, or the drum is damaged, the music is out of tune.

The above was taken from the Christian Aid Service and given in by Mrs Wilkes - her pacemaker was wrong at the time and she knew exactly what it meant. It's good to have you back with us in Church Mrs Wilkes.

WORD SEARCH

'Animals of the Bible'

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | B | F | D | R | A | P | O | E | L |
| C | O | T | A | O | G | E | D | F | C |
| X | L | E | M | A | C | Y | E | G | A |
| S | H | J | K | L | M | E | E | N | T |
| H | L | N | O | I | L | K | R | F | T |
| E | A | B | O | L | P | N | L | Q | L |
| E | K | R | E | S | T | O | U | V | E |
| P | C | Z | W | A | W | D | X | Y | Z |
| B | A | C | D | E | R | F | G | H | J |
| G | J | K | L | M | E | S | R | O | H |

| | |
|---------|---------|
| BEAR | GOAT |
| CAMEL | HORSE |
| CATTLE | JACKAL |
| DEER | LEOPARD |
| DONKEY | LION |
| FOX | SHEEP |
| GAZELLE | WOLF |

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

During Christian Aid week two fund raising events were held. A well supported 'Coffee Evening' with a Bring and Buy stall and Raffles was held in the Memorial Institute. In charge of the coffee were Mrs M M Jones and Mrs Christine Williams helped by the Girl Guides. Mrs Dilys Hughes and Mrs Phyllis Hughes were in charge of the grocery stall, and Mrs Kaye Hughes and Mrs Margaret Lloyd the plant stall. Raffles were kindly given by Rev C Carter, Mrs Nancy Williams, Mrs Phyllis Hughes and Mr John Jones. Lucky winners were Mrs Rhiannon Lewis, Mrs Ann Roberts and Mrs L M Jones. The Rev C Carter introduced the speaker Mrs Lis Perkins of Bangor, North Wales organiser of Christian Aid, who gave a most informative bilingual talk and film on her recent visit to the Philipines. The vote of thanks was proposed by Rev Stanton Evans who also gave the Benediction. The proceeds of the evening amounted to £122.

On Sunday evening a well attended Gymanfa Ganu was held at the Parish Church under the baton of Mrs Iona Jones. Miss Morfudd Williams was the organist. Musical items were given by Llansilin Mixed Choir. The service was led by the Rev C Carter with a reading and a prayer. The collection amounted to over £100.

The organising secretary Mrs Rhiannon Lewis wishes to thank for their generosity during Christian Aid week. The total amounted to £506.82.

CHARITY SHOP

A big THANK YOU to all helpers and givers for our Charity shop (Saturday 3rd July) especially to Mr C Jarvis of Messrs C E Williams. We raised £75 and any clothes not passed on to the Spastic shop (Margaret Lloyd helps there) will be sent via Avril Jones to Chernobyl. It's nice to think we can help our Church funds and the people there at the same time.

SPONSORED KNIT IN AND SILENCE

A sponsored 'Knit In' and Silence was held at the Memorial Institute on Wednesday 7th July when 21 adults and 4 children took part. A Raffle was held and refreshments were served. The evening was very successful and much enjoyed by all. The proceeds were towards the production of the Church Newsletter and, at the present time the total is £240.00. We are most grateful to all who took part - 'the silent ones', the enthusiastic knitters and the persons who gave raffle prizes and refreshments. Last but not least to all our sponsors, our very sincere thanks for your contributions. We hope you will enjoy future Newsletters.

COFFEE EVENING

Members of the Church organized a most successful 'Coffee Evening' at Lloran Ganol. The proceeds which amounted to £428.04, were divided equally between the Cobalt Unit and Hope House. A big 'Thank You' to all our helpers, too numerous to mention. We are most grateful to everyone who supported these worthy causes and especially to Dan and Glenice for opening their home for this event - our sincere thanks to you both.

MOTHER'S UNION



Members and friends enjoyed their visit to both the Flower Festivals at Llanfyllin and Llanyblodwel Churches. The Annual Outing was to Preen Manor Gardens when a coach load of members and friends spent a most enjoyable afternoon, this was then followed by an evening meal at the Bradford Arms at Knockin.

The September meeting will be held at the Memorial Institute on Thursday 16th at the new time of 2.30p.m. when the winter programme will be discussed.

Future meetings unless otherwise stated will be held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 2.30p.m.

C A L E N D A R O F E V E N T S

SEPTEMBER 1993

Thursday 2nd 7.30p.m. P.C.C. Meeting Memorial Institute
Saturday 25th 2.30p.m. Autumn Fayre Memorial Hall

OCTOBER 1993

Wednesday 6th 7.00p.m. Annual Harvest Supper Memorial Hall

NOVEMBER 1993

Sunday 14th Rememberance Service
Wednesday 24th 7.00p.m. Christmas Coffee Evening
Memorial Institute
Sunday 28th 6.30p.m. Deanery Advent Service Llansantffraid

P A R I S H R E G I S T E R S

June 27th at Llangadwaladr Church BAPTISM of Thomas James Dowle
Oswestry - Grandson of Mr and Mrs Eccleston Fachgynan

MANY THANKS to Mr Bignall, Ty Croes for giving us 2 stone gate posts for the gates opposite his home.

WHEEL CHAIR available locally for free short term loan. In return please make a donation to the fund for the education via Action Aid of Koffi - our 7 year old Ghanaian boy - Tel: 274

Thank you to all the men who have made such a good job of the churchyard. A special thanks to Brian Thomas for his Truck - this really made a big difference when it came to shifting the grass. THANK YOU ALL - your pints were certainly well earned!!

Our THANKS once again to Jac Jones and Trefor Jones for brushing the Church hedges.

We would be grateful if in future all dead flowers etc could be removed from the churchyard - THANK YOU.

In the last issue the date of St.Swithin's Day was incorrect, it should have been July 15th - apologies. S.A.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE VICAR if you would like home Communion, special prayers or if you know of anyone who is in hospital or ill at home.

THANK YOU to all who have contributed to this newsletter.

The next Newsletter will be produced on 1st December. If anyone would like to contribute, or has any useful suggestions or information, do please contact Mary Morris, Tynwydd (Tel: 223) before 6th November.