



Llansilin Newsletter

Church, Chapel and Village News

**Number 44
Winter 2003/4**



The cost of printing this issue has been met by Llansilin Community Council

Times of Worship

Who's Who?

Llansilin Parish Church

1st Sunday	Holy Communion in English	10.00am
2nd "	Matins	10.00am
3rd "	Holy Communion in English	8.30am
4th "	Holy Communion in Welsh	9.00am
	Evensong	6.30pm
5th "	Family Service	10.00am

Llangadwaladr Church

2nd Sunday	Holy Communion	2.30pm
4th "	Matins	2.30pm

Rhiwlas Mission Church

1st Sunday	Holy Communion	2.30pm
3rd "	Matins	2.30pm

Llangedwyn Church

1st Sunday	Evensong	6.30pm
2nd "	Holy Communion	8.30am
3rd "	Family Service	10.30am
4th "	Holy Communion	10.30am
5th "	Holy Communion	8.30am

Please contact the vicar to arrange home communion, visiting or special services

Gofalaeth Bro Llansilin a'r Cylch

Rhag

7	Parch Stanton Evans	Cefnfanol	6.00pm
	Pregeth a thrafodaeth		
14	Parch Gwilym O Jones	Bethesda	2.00pm
	Gwasanaeth Nadolig Seion		
21 (Parch Stanton Evans	Soar	2.00pm
28 (Rhiwlas	2.00pm
	Gwasanaethau arbennig y Nadolig i'w trefnu yn agosach at yr amser		

Ion

4	Parch Stanton Evans (C)	Bethania	2.00pm
	Gwasanaeth yr Ifanc		
11	Miss Rhoswen Charles	Cefnfanol	2.00pm
18	Cyfarfod gweddi	Salem	6.30pm
25	Mr Gwilym Jones	Rhiwlas	2.00pm

Chwe

1	Parch Stanton Evans (C)	Soar	10.00am
	Gwasanaeth dan ofal y Brodyr		
8	Parch E Elfyn Richards	Cefnfanol	2.00pm
15	Cyfarfod gweddi	Bethania	6.30pm
22	Parch R Dyfan Thomas	Rhiwlas	2.00pm
29	Mr Moelwyn Jones	Salem	2.00pm

(C) Cymun

Gweinidog

Parch Stanton T Evans
20 Croeswylan Lane, Croesoswallt
Ffon: (01691) 654 682

Vicar

The Revd C F Carter
Y Ficerdy, Llansilin, Oswestry SY10 9PX
Tel: 01691 791 209 Mobile 0777 313 4858

Churchwardens, St Silin's

Deborah Hill-Trevor Tel: 791 402
Mary E Morris Tel: 791 223

Gofalaeth Bro Llansilin A'r Cylch

Ysg Wyn Davies Tel: 791 395
Trys Carys Evans Tel: 791 240

Organist, St Silin's

Morfydd Williams Tel: 659 369

Parochial Church Council Secretary

Valerie Burton Tel: 791 274

Parochial Church Council Treasurer

Esther Milner Tel: 791 323

Covenant Secretary, St Silin's

Graham Moss Tel: 791 528

Bellringing, St Silin's

Tower Captain, Eric Avery Tel: 791 298
Steeple Keeper, Chris Burton Tel: 791 274
Ringling practice on Wednesdays at 7.30 pm

Rhiwlas Mission Church

Contact Marjorie Evans Tel: 600 228

Llangadwaladr Church

Contact Vera Evans Tel: 791 471

The newsletter is produced by Carys and Emyr Evans (Welsh news), tel: 791 240, and Val and Dave Talbot.

Distributor: Christine Williams, tel: 791 563. You can get your newsletter by post for a year by sending 4 stamps to Christine at 4 Maesyllan, Llansilin, SY10 7QE

Items for inclusion in the Spring 2004 issue please by the end of January to: Graigwen Cottage, Wernddu, SY10 9BL. Email: val@daval.demon.co.uk Tel: 791 310

Dear Readers

When we talk to one another, very often we mention the weather – to be too cold or too hot, etc. I suppose we can all say about this last summer: “what a wonderful summer we have had,” or “what a blessing it was to have such good weather for the National Eisteddfod at Meifod.”

In the 10th chapter of John, verse 22, we read: “It was the feast of the Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter and Jesus was walking in the temple.” Our Lord Jesus was experiencing winter weather with his enemies, facing opposition galore.

As we approach another winter, we wonder whether it will be a hard one. It can be said that the Church in our land is experiencing a hard winter and we often ask why. Could it be us and our own spiritual climate?

Climate makes a vast difference to a country; so also our own particular climate makes a vast difference to us, to the community and the Church. The mean person who is cold and chilly creates a climate which blights others but, if we carry with us a warmth of feeling and kindness, we will meet charming people and somehow drop in for all sorts of happy little surprises which never come the way of churlish folk because their climate is not right.

I remember reading some years ago of a congregation gathering for the evening service in an English country village. Outside, the sky was black, and freezing sleet was driving through the village. Even the warm lights of the church could not disguise the kind of night it was. The few who had braved the weather waited, damp and perhaps a little depressed, for the service to begin. Then, with a smile, the minister announced the first hymn and you’d never guess in a hundred years what it was. Why, the cheeriest and brightest of all hymns, “Summer suns are glowing over land and sea.” By the time the congregation sat down they simply didn’t care about the weather.

Isn’t it true that, even when it’s winter here, summer suns are glowing elsewhere? What’s more, doesn’t it mention clouds and dark skies in the third verse (number 673 in the Methodist Hymn Book)?

*Lord, upon our blindness
Thy pure radiance pour,
For Thy loving kindness
Makes us love Thee more
And when clouds are drifting
Dark across our sky
Then, the veil uplifting,
Father, be Thou nigh.*

As we approach Christmas once again, may we feel the warmth of the Christmas message: The Emmanuel – God with us.

Stanton Evans

Winter Diary Dates

December

- 5 Annual traditional Welsh Plygain at St Silin’s, 7.30pm
- 6 Festive buffet lunch to mark “last chapter” of Llansilin book group in the Memorial Hall, 12pm for 12.30pm.
- 7 Gymanfa nadolig (Christmas carol festival) at Bethania Chapel, School Lane, 6.30pm *
- 9 PCC meeting in the ringing chamber, 7pm
- 19 Concert by Llansilin Choir at St Silin’s (time be announced) *
- 24 Candlelit communion at St Silin’s, 11.15pm
- 25 Christmas morning service at Llangedwyn Church at 9.30am (no service at St Silin’s)
- 28 Carol concert at St Silin’s, 6.30pm
* *in aid of Llangadwaladr Church appeal*

January

- 13 PCC meeting in the ringing chamber, 7pm
- 25 Christingle service at St Silin’s at 6.30pm: a children’s service on the theme of light in aid of the Archbishop’s Fund for Children in Wales

February

The Lent Study Course will be on the subject of “The Hard Sayings of Jesus”. Details will be made known as soon as they are available.

Looking ahead to March

- 6 Coffee morning 10am to 12pm in the Village Hall in aid of church funds



*Baptism of Rhiannon Emily Tansley in August
Baptism of Lydia Ruth Evans in September
Marriage between Karen Lesley Williams and Alan Ivar Yarn Tomlinson, both of Llansilin, in August
Death of Richard Hubert Morris of Llansilin in August
Death of Brian Maddocks of Llansilin in October
Death of Walter Stephenson Ashton, cremated in Liverpool in October
Clarification: the baptism entry in the Autumn newsletter should have read Jessica Rose Roberts Morris and William David Roberts Morris.*

GWEINIDOGAETH BRO

Mewn pwyllgor o'r Ofalaeth Bro, gofid mawr i bawb oedd bod ein Gweinidog, Y Parch Stanton Evans, am ymdeol ddiwedd y flwyddyn. Mae wedi bod yn weinidog rhan-amser arnom ers Ionawr 1991, ond mae am gadw cysylltiad agos a ni fel eglwysi gan bregethu unwaith y mis, ac mae'n barod i wneud unrhyw orchwylion eraill a fydd eu hangen. (*See below for English translation*)

O Ionawr ymlaen bydd trefn y gwasanaethau yn newid. Dalier sylw yn y plan am y drefn.

Medi 7fed, a dyma lond bws ohonom yn mynd ar ein pererindod blynyddol. Eleni fe aethom i weld Capel Coffa Henry Rees yn Llansannan. Yna ymlaen i Langernyw i weld cerflun o'r Swper Olaf, a hefyd cael gwasanaeth byr yno. Wedyn yn ein blaenau i gartref William Morgan, Ty Mawr, Y Wibrnant, cyfieithydd y Beibl i'r Gymraeg. Diddorol oedd gweld yr holl Feiblau mewn gwahanol ieithoedd â oedd wedi eu rhoi i'r hen gartref gan fobl oedd wedi gwerthfawrogi'r lle hynod yma. I orffen y daith cawsom bryd o fwyd mewn gwesty yn Nhrefriw. Y cyfan wedi ei drefnu'n ddi-fai gan ein gweinidog Y Parch Stanton Evans.

Cawson Wyl Ddiolchgarwch fuddiol iawn gan ddechrau gyda Chyfarfod Gweddi a phregeth gan Y Parch Eric Green, Y Bala, ym Methania. Yna cyfarfod dan ofal yr ieuentid, pryd y gweinyddwyd y Cymun Sanctaidd. Cafwyd gwasanaeth ddwy-ieithog yng Nghapel Cefn Canol, gyda anerchiad gan Y Parch Stanton Evans a gair o gyflwyniad gan y Rheithor David Crawford, Rhydycroesau. Ac i gloi yr Wyl, bu pregeth yng Nghapel Rhiwlas gyda'r Parch R.G. Jones, yn gwasanaethu.

Noson agoriadol y Gymdeithas Ddiwyllianol oedd perfformiad o 'NANSI' gan griw o ddisgyblion Ysgol Uwchradd Llanfyllin. Noson ragorol i agor ein gweithgareddau am y gaeaf.

It was with great regret that we, the members of Gweinidogaeth Bro (Area Ministry), in our last committee meeting, learnt that our minister, the Reverend Stanton Evans, expressed his wish to retire at the end of the year. He has been our part-time minister since January 1991, but the good news is that he intends to keep a close relationship with the chapels by preaching once a month and that he is ready to perform any other duties which may be necessary.

OUR SCHOOL IS SAFE – SO FAR

It is great to hear that Powys County Council is no longer planning to close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith. We all know that rural services are under threat but that would really have been one cut too far. It's good to know that every now and then a local community can fight back and win – or at least win the first round!

The local community has responded magnificently to the threat of closure. The public meetings with Powys CC and with local politicians, Martyn Jones and Karen Sinclair, were very well attended and left no-one in any doubt about our feelings on the matter. Barry Jones did a first-class job in presenting our case to councillors. The headmistress, Mrs Smith, staff and governors would like to thank everyone for supporting the school to the hilt..

The Powys committee meeting on 3 November was pure drama. The Director of Education, Mike Barker, recommended that Llansilin School should be saved for "geographical reasons", but the future looked bleak for Llangedwyn. Step forward Cllr Harry Hughes, who managed to persuade the committee to change its recommendation for an "area school" for Llanrhaeadr to a "replacement school" so that Llanrhaeadr would get the new school it so desperately needs but Llansilin and Llangedwyn would carry on as before.

This is not quite the end of the story. The committee decisions could, perhaps, be overturned at the full Council meeting later this month. With Michael Barker and the committee members on our side we are in a strong position, but we cannot relax until the Council confirms that our school has survived.

Brian Smith,
Chair of Governors

NEW LOOK CHURCH GATES

The big main gates and the small village gate have been painted - many thanks to Lynn and Terry Yates of Penybontfawr. Lynn has many connections with the area and church going back many generations and was pleased to donate time and effort to the place well known to her ancestors.

INDUCTION LOOP AND SOUND AUGMENTATION

It's not easy to make a discreet installation of modern equipment into an ancient and historically important building! Months of research and planning into the best and most appropriate system have been eventually rewarded with approval from various preservation bodies and the Diocese.

The big snag now is finding the several thousand pounds required for the equipment. We would welcome contributions from the Parish to add to any grants we are trying to find. Installation will take place in the next year and we look forward to welcoming people to the improved sound at services, concerts and special occasions.

CYMANFA NADOLIG Capel Bethania, Llansilin

A bilingual Christmas carol festival
with Plygain parties

Nos Sul Rhagfyr 7fed 2003 am 6.30 o'r gloch
Sunday 7th December 2003 at 6.30 pm

CROESO I BAWB - ALL WELCOME

Collection in aid of Llangadwaladr Church appeal

UPDATE ON LLANGADWALADR CHURCH

Good progress is being made. The architect has drawn up plans for pipework to drain rainwater away from the foundations. The entries in the new visitors' book have been heartening. Support from the surrounding communities with concerts to raise money has been so encouraging. There will be two concerts in December, on the 7th and 19th.

Grants permitting, it is hoped that 2004 will see the start of major restoration of the building.

Summer Supper

Deborah Hill-Trevor generously hosted a most successful supper at Plas Lledrod, on a fine summer evening, with lots of good food and wine. £400 was raised for church funds.

HELP VICTIMS OF TORTURE AT CHRISTMAS



Amnesty International's popular Greetings Card Campaign is coming up again in time for the festive season. This gives us the chance to help victims of torture and human rights violations by sending cards or letters directly to them. This not only gives them hope and support but also tells the imprisoning authorities that what they are doing cannot be hidden from the outside world. Here is how one prisoner was helped by last year's campaign.

N'ssi Luanda Shandwe, a human rights worker in the Democratic Republic of Congo, was detained because of his human rights activism. He became ill with malaria but was refused treatment. Supporters of AI sent many cards to him in prison and he was released without charge on 23 January 2003. In his own words: "*You cannot imagine for one moment the courage, moral comfort, protection and good spirit that the cards gave me.*"

For more details, with names and addresses to write to, contact Anneli Thomas on 791 239. Simple messages are best: it's the drip, drip, drip of the messages arriving that makes all the difference.

Amnesty International Wales

This is a Welsh speakers' group and its aim is to respond quickly and efficiently to calls in Welsh, increasing the contribution of Amnesty International Wales to the Welsh media on subjects such as refugees and asylum seekers, trafficking, laser guns and other topical issues. If you are interested and would like to know more, please contact the new AI Wales office in Cardiff, tel: 029 2037 5610. The nearest regional group is in Wrexham, tel: 01978 365108.

CHURCH HARVEST CELEBRATIONS

What a lovely evening! First there was the harvest service in St Silin's, beautifully decorated on the theme of harvest and attended by villagers from Llansilin and Llangedwyn, very much a community event. Then followed a splendid three course supper for over 80 people in the Memorial Hall. Surplus income of £130 was donated to Hope House.

LLANSILIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The September meeting was presided over by the chairman, Cllr D Sockett, assisted by the clerk, Mr H Hughes.

- Members were informed that no decisions regarding local schools would be made before November.
- Improved signposting in Llansilin and Rhiwlas would be provided.
- A planning application to renew existing 11 KV overhead lines was approved.
- It was agreed that a housing survey would be undertaken among all householders in the parish.
- Powys CC regional waste plan was received.
- Friends of the Earth Cymru have requested all areas to be designated GM crop free.
- Powys CC draft Arts Strategy was received for consultation.
- Members agreed to contribute £60 to pay for the winter issue of the Llansilin Newsletter and requested that copies be available at Rhydycroesau post office.

Action would be taken on the following complaints:

- New stiles needed at Maesyllan and Bryn Dentyr.
- Protruding kerb near Bwylchyriw.
- Slow sign needed at Bwylchyriw.
- Improved visibility at Derwendeg junction.
- Communal refuse bin needed at Lloran Isa junction.
- Dilapidated caravan on car park.

The continued parking problems in Llansilin were again discussed and it was agreed to invite the Community Police Officer to the next meeting.



USED POSTAGE STAMPS



It is a pity to throw away used stamps when they can help to raise money for guide dogs for blind people. Please leave about half an inch of envelope all round the stamp and place in the box in the church porch.



MURAL FOR THE MEMORIAL HALL

A new mural has been painted in the Memorial Hall. The work, by David Goodman, is made up of twelve separate scenes of views and buildings around Llansilin, including eight chapels and three churches, grouped around a central image of Sycharth. The mural was commissioned by the Memorial Hall Committee after the Llansilin Choir had performed at Llanfechain Village Hall and admired the mural there painted by Mr Goodman. A period of community consultation followed before the scenes depicted were chosen. The work was carried out in August and completed in early September.



LLANSILIN WALL HANGING

Another most welcome addition to the Memorial Hall is now in place above the entrance. The rag rug wall hanging is a beautiful depiction of this much loved part of our landscape. Kate Beecroft co-ordinated a group of dedicated villagers, who met regularly over two years to do amazing things with a rich collection of fabrics, textures and colours. Alison Beeston, Dot Renshaw, Norma Garment, Mo Denny, together with Kate, made up the core group and there were others who came from time to time to lend a helping hand and admire the hanging as it took shape.

The wall hanging was unveiled in September by Grace Garment who, at 103 years of age, takes a great interest in village life and even had a go at rag rugging herself. Alison gave a potted history of the project with special thanks to Pam Johnson for the use of the Old Vicarage and for her constant supply of tea and encouragement. Emyr Evans thanked the group for their gift to the village and paid tribute to their wonderful achievement. This was wholeheartedly echoed by everyone there.

In the hall many local people displayed their crafts, giving demonstrations and making us realise what a wealth of talent there is in, and around, the village.

The next project will be to create a large hessian angel for the church. Please contact Alison (791262) or Dot (791279) if you would like to be involved, whether on a regular basis or just occasionally.

CROWN OF LIGHT

This year, instead of the Tree of Light, there will be a Crown of Light on top of St Silin's tower, out of reach of the vandals who have attacked the tree in previous years. Bulbs can be bought at £3 each from Margaret Lloyd (791472) or Joan Williams (791313). Proceeds will go to children's charities, appropriately for Christmas, divided between Alice Ward at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Hospital and LOST.

LOST is a Welsh charity, run by the vicar of Llanidloes and his wife, the Revd Bob and Janet Pitcher, to help orphans in northern Uganda. They believe *"that it is through the opportunity of a good education that tomorrow's children will get the chance that many of today's children have been denied through the ravages of AIDS, conflict and poverty."*

Llanfyllin and District Community Strategy Forum

The October meeting addressed the concerns of young people in the area and they themselves decided to present 4 messages through the medium of drama:

- ◆ drugs
- ◆ bullying
- ◆ physical violence in the home
- ◆ feelings of powerlessness and lack of choices in the face of authority

This was a novel and thoughtful attempt to show how they view the important things going on in their lives. They felt there was nothing to occupy themselves with outside school. What they wanted above all was a community facility for themselves, a place they could call their own and which they would be responsible for - outdoors, a basketball pitch, with a shelter, well lit and safe; indoors, several rooms for different activities, a kitchen and games room, and possibly a youth café run under adult supervision. At school they felt they needed someone independent they could turn to with problems, such as a counsellor or youth worker, rather than having to go through the formal institutional structure.

The next meeting will be on 8 or 15 January to discuss health issues and community safety. Posters will be put up on the village notice board with the final date. If anyone has an issue they would like to raise, this would be a good opportunity to do so.

EMPOWERING WOMEN IN GHANA

St Silin's sponsors a community project in Bawku, Ghana through ActionAid. Fati Musah has sent a very moving letter. She says: *"You have helped to bring something very important to my community - peace. I am so thankful and want to tell you about all the good things that have happened."*

Since Ghana's independence in 1957 the two tribes in Bawku have fought each other. Many people have been killed, and schools, hospitals and livelihoods destroyed. Fati, together with other women, decided they must try and do something about it. They didn't know what to do as women are not used to be listened to there but ActionAid had come to Bawku to help bring peace and they gave the women the confidence to organise themselves. Slowly, they managed to get the two tribes together to negotiate and eventually the Bawku peace agreement was signed.

Again, in Fati's own optimistic words: *"We can now live free from the fear that has brought so much pain and sadness to Bawku. We women will continue to work to solve the problems that we are left with but we do this with confidence because we have already achieved so much and we have ActionAid's support."*



Flower and Cleaning Rota at St Silin's

December

7, 14, 21 Advent: no altar flowers. Clean only 10am to 12 noon

22 & 23 Decorate for Christmas
28 Christine Williams

January

4 & 11 Margaret Lloyd and Mary Morris
(Remove decorations on 5th)

18 & 25 Deborah Hill-Trevor, Rosemary Powell

February

1 Mary Morris and Mary Cunah

8 & 15 Eileen Bignall and Dot Renshaw

22 & 29 Esther Milner and Dorothy Jarvis
(28th is Lent so no altar flowers)

Thank you all once again for your enthusiasm and loyalty with cleaning and flower arranging of the church during the past year - this was much appreciated by one and all.

Village Activities

and other useful bits of information



Aelwyd - Welsh League of Youth: from September on Fridays 7.30 - 10 pm in the Memorial Hall. Contact Emyr Evans: ☎ 791 240

Bowls Club 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall on Mondays. Contact Ray Deney ☎ 791 434

Community Council meets every second Tuesday on alternate months 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall. Contact Harry Hughes ☎ 657 972

Cymdeithas Ddwylliadol Llansilin (Welsh Cultural and Literary Society) Mondays 7 - 9 pm September to April in the Memorial Hall. Contact Sarah James ☎ 791 346

Drawing and Painting for all at Rhiwlas Community Centre Tuesdays 10 am - 12 noon. Run by the North Shropshire College.

Garage Shop Monday to Friday 9.30 am - 6 pm
Saturday 8.30 am - 1 pm

Closed for lunch 1 - 2 pm

Llanfyllin Group Practice Patient Participation Group
Comments and questions regarding any aspect of medical care and practice to Rob Ellis ☎ 791 214

Llansilin Mixed Choir practice weekly in the Memorial Hall. Contact Henry Evans ☎ 791 410

Llansilin Playscheme for after-school activities in sport, drama, arts and crafts. Contact Sian on ☎ 791 371

Local History Society: contact Chris Burton ☎ 791 274

Meals on Wheels: contact Olive Jones ☎ 791 363

Memorial Hall and The Institute: Secretary and Booking Clerk Arthur James ☎ 791 346

Mothers Union meets in the Institute every third Thursday at 2.15 pm. Contact Glenice Jones ☎ 791 296

Over 60's Club meets alternate Tuesdays at 2.30 pm in the Institute. Contact Nesta Morgan ☎ 791 219

Parochial Church Council meeting: every second Tuesday monthly at 7 pm in Church

Playgroup: 9.30 am to 12.30 pm term time on Mondays and Thursdays in the Memorial Hall. Contact Judith Marston ☎ 791 482

Police	Powys	648 222
	West Mercia	0345 444888 (local rate)

Post Office	Tuesday	8.30 am - 2.30 pm
	Thursday	8.30 am - 12.30 pm

Rhiwlas Community Centre: contact Will Thomas ☎ 680 451

Rhiwlas Gardening Club every third Wednesday in the Community Centre at 7.30 pm. Contact Debbie Taylor ☎ 600 329

Rural Car Service for visiting the doctor, dentist, chiropodist etc. Contact Christine Williams ☎ 791 563 between 8 - 9 am and 6 - 7 pm unless in an emergency.

Shopping/Mobility Bus every Friday £1 return. Leaves Llansilin 10.30 am and returns from Oswestry at 1 pm. Suitable for wheelchair user. Contact Border Community Transport ☎ 01938 556 281

Whist drive every second Wednesday September to May, 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall. Contact Emyr Evans ☎ 791 240

Women's Institute: every fourth Wednesday at 7 pm in the Institute. Contact Pam Johnson ☎ 791 345

YFC: contact Richard Evans ☎ 600 228

Youth Club meets Thursdays 7 - 9.30 pm in the Hall. Contact Youth Leader, Elena Jones ☎ 780 315

Please help to keep this list up-to-date