

Llansilin Newsletter

Church, Chapel and Village News



Lisa Jones
age 6

Number 52
Winter 2005/6

This edition has been funded by Llansilin Community Council

Times of Worship



St Silin's, Llansilin

1st Sunday	Holy Communion in English	10.00am
2nd "	Matins	10.00am
3rd "	Holy Communion in English (alternating with St Cedwyn's)	10.00am
4th "	Holy Communion in Welsh	9.00am
	Evensong	6.30pm
5th "	Family Service	10.00am

St Cadwaladr's Church, Llangadwaladr

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

Rhiwlas Mission Church

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

St Cedwyn's Church, Llangedwyn

1st Sunday	Evensong	6.30pm
2nd "	Holy Communion	8.30am
3rd "	Holy Communion (alternating with St Silin's)	10.00am
4th "	Holy Communion	10.30am
5th "	Holy Communion	8.30am

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

Gofalaeth Bro Llansilin a'r Cylch

Rhag

4	Parch Stanton Evans (Pregeth a thrafodaeth)	Llansilin	6.30pm
11	Mr T M Ellis (Carolau. Seion, Croesoswallt 6.30pm)	Cefnancol	10.00am
18	Dathlu Gwyl y Geni	Rhiwlas	2.00pm
25		Llansilin	2.00pm

Ion

1	Parch Stanton Evans (C) (Gwasanaeth yr Ifanc)	Cefnancol	10.00am
8	Parch E Elfyn Richards	Rhiwlas	2.00pm
15	Parch Glyn Morgan	Llansilin	6.30pm
22	Mr Gwilym Jones	Cefnancol	2.00pm
29	Parch Ddr Elfed ap Nefydd Roberts *	Rhiwlas	2.00pm

Chwe

5	Parch Stanton Evans (C)	Llansilin	6.30pm
12	Miss Rhoswen Charles	Cefnancol	2.00pm
19	Mr T M Ellis	Rhiwlas	10.00am
26	Parch Rhys ab Ogwen Jones*	Llansilin	2.00pm

* Pregethwr o Seion, Croesoswallt (C) Cymun

Gweinidog

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

Acting Rural Dean

The Revd M Balkwill Tel: 648 306

Churchwardens, St Silin's

Vicar's Warden: Esther Milner Tel: 791 323
People's Warden: Mary Morris Tel: 662 569

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

Communion Assistant

Margaret Lloyd Tel: 791 472

Parochial Church Council Secretary

Valerie Burton Tel: 791 274
email: vmb@envex.demon.co.uk

PCC Treasurer and Gift Aid Secretary

Graham Moss Tel: 791 528

Press Secretary

Mary Cunnah Tel: 791 386
email: marycunnah@yahoo.co.uk

Bellringing, St Silin's

Tower Captain, Eric Avery Tel: 791 298
Steeple Keeper, Chris Burton Tel: 791 274

Ringing 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 Val and Dave Talbot and the Chapel news by Carys and Emyr Evans (791 240)

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 the Spring 2006 issue by the end of January to: Val Talbot, Graigwen Cottage, Wernddu, SY10 9BL. Email: val@daval.demon.co.uk. Tel: 791 310

AN ADVENT MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING RURAL DEAN

By now you have bade farewell to Mr Carter as he enters retirement having ministered amongst you for 25 years. I call to mind the happy weekend of celebrations you held in May to mark this significant event. It was an excellent occasion to look back on and give thanks.

During December we have the season of Advent in the Church calendar which helps to prepare us spiritually for the celebration of Christmas. Advent is regarded as the Church's New Year and points us towards an attitude of hope and expectancy, looking forward to the birth of Our Saviour.

This spirit of hope and expectancy is appropriate too in the life of your local church and parish, as you look forward to the appointment of a new priest to minister alongside you. Just as Advent is a period of preparation and waiting, so you now find yourselves in the competent hands of your church officers and PCC. I am sure they will work very hard to maintain church life during the interregnum and will ensure that a parish in good heart welcomes whoever is appointed as your next parish priest.

I am sure everyone will give their full support and co-operation in achieving this, as indeed I do. The Bishop of St Asaph has appointed me to be acting Area Dean and I have offered your churchwardens any help and guidance I am able to give, as I have also done to the other parishes in the Deanery who are without a parish priest at this time.

This coming New Year, like any other, will undoubtedly present changes and challenges and I, therefore, commend the season of Advent to you as an opportunity to wait with faithful, prayerful and expectant hearts. We know in the Christmas message that God was faithful to us in sending His Son to be our Saviour. May we for our part remain faithful to Him and His Church as we seek to make the "Good News" known through our lives.

I wish you and yours every Blessing and Peace this Christmastide.

The Reverend Michael Balkwill
Llanfyllin Rectory

DIARY DATES

Church services will remain the same (as on page 2) apart from the 3rd Sunday in the month when Holy Communion will be held at 10.00 am at St Silin's and St Cedwyn's alternately, with St Silin's in January, and so on.

December

- 2 Llansilin Plygain 7.30 pm
- 18 Carol Service 6.30 pm at St Cedwyn's (No Holy Communion)
- 24 Holy Communion 11.15 pm at St Silin's, with the Revd A Sadler
- 25 Holy Communion, 9.30 am at St Cedwyn's, with the Revd Ann Stratford

January

- 15 Holy Communion 10 am at St Silin's (no service at St Cedwyn's)

February

- 19 Holy Communion 10 am at St Cedwyn's (no service at St Silin's)

Looking ahead

Formal opening of the Parish Community Room (date to be announced)

Flower and Cleaning Rota at St Silin's

December

- 4 & 11 Valerie Burton and Lynnette Moss
- 18 & 25 Joint decorate for Christmas
- 31 Christine Williams

January

- 7 & 14 Margaret Lloyd and Mary Morris (remove Christmas decorations)
- 21 & 28 Esther Milner and Margaret Jones

February

- 4 & 11 Deborah Hill-Trevor and Valerie Burton
- 18 & 25 Anneli Thomas and Mary Cunnah



2005 has been a momentous and memorable year for all of us in many different ways. A very big thank you to everyone who is involved in the cleaning and the arrangement of flowers in the church: as always, your enthusiasm and loyalty are very much appreciated. We all now look forward with much anticipation to 2006.

OUR FINAL FAREWELLS TO THE VICAR

BELLS RING OUT FOR THE VICAR



On Saturday 22 September a quarter peal was rung on the bells of St Silin's to commemorate the retirement of the vicar and recognise his great support for getting the bells going again in Llansilin

The ringers were all senior members of the North Wales Association of Church Bell Ringers, of which a number of Llansilin ringers are also members. The ringers in ringing order were:

- Treble – Ron Miers, Ringing Master of the NWACBR
- 2 – Ian Danby
- 3 – David Raggett
- 4 – Clive Cullen
- 5 – Richard Lewis (Conductor)
- 6 – Fred Miers

The quarter peal consisted of 1400 changes of Doubles (ie on 5 bells with tenor behind) using 1 principle (Stedman) and 3 methods (Reverse Canterbury, Plain Bob and Grandsire)

THE VICAR'S FINAL SERVICE

With the bells ringing by our own band of ringers, we made our way to church for the Evensong farewell service of our vicar. On entering the church, we were welcomed by four very artistic displays, with flower arrangements depicting some of the vicar's many interests – morris dancing, books and birds, bell ringing and quizzes, including the famous black chair! (With thanks to Sheila, Gwyneth, Christine and the C.R.A.F.T. group)

The church was well attended and the congregation rose as the Revd. Kit Carter came in, accompanied by his friend, the Revd. Glyn Morgan. Hymns, readings and prayers were personally chosen, with special significance for his ministry of 40 years. Deborah Hill-Trevor read a lesson and Morfudd Williams accompanied the singing on the piano as the organ is out of use while the building

work is going on. The collection was taken by the church wardens, Esther Milner and Mary Morris, and light refreshments were served after a moving and memorable service.

A TRIBUTE FROM THE CHAPELS

I feel honoured and privileged as ex-minister of Llansilin and District Welsh Chapels (Gweinidogaeth Bro Llansilin a'r Cylch) to write these words of appreciation for the happy years spent working as servants of God with the Llansilin vicar, Kit as he is known to many of us. I can honestly say it has given me much pleasure to minister with him in that vineyard.

Looking back, it was always a pleasure to arrange the united services – for Christian Aid, St David's Day, Remembrance Day and the Shelter House Service on Christmas Eve at either Rhiwlas Chapel or Rhiwlas Mission Church. Again, whenever there was a funeral of one of the Chapel members to be arranged, knowing any one of the Chapels to be too small to hold the expected congregation, the vicar would kindly lend us the church, saying that "you can borrow the church but it will be your service."

Diolch yn fawr, Cit, a phob bendith,
God bless,


Stanton

A JOLLY GOOD SEND OFF



At the village annual concert, Councillor Harry Hughes presented the vicar with his farewell gift of a cheque for £750, a magnificent sum and testament to the high regard in which he is held by his parishioners and friends and their appreciation of his 25 years among them. There will be a fair few birds watched, books read, steam trains kept on the track and no doubt many other activities enjoyed in his well-earned retirement.

GAYNOR AND HOWARD BRING THE HOUSE DOWN

Gaynor and Howard  Ellis were the star attractions at this year's annual concert. The hall was packed, the tickets had been sold out and there was an air of excited anticipation. The Llansilin Mixed Choir sang with verve, conducted as usual by Iona Jones. Emyr Evans introduced the evening, while Hywel Davis proved to be an entertaining MC with a stream of jokes to keep everyone in the hall laughing.

Gaynor and Howard, who sang pieces from both opera and musical shows, were superb. Gaynor, of course, is Llansilin born and bred, and her performances are a source of great pride and pleasure to the village. Before their final duets, we all joined Howard in wishing his father-in-law, Llew Ellis, "Happy Birthday", and the evening finished with a virtuoso performance by the singers which brought the house down!

The evening was also the occasion for a farewell speech and presentation to the Revd Kit Carter by Councillor Harry Hughes, with yet more joke telling!

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

in the Institute Room

Saturday, 26 November 10.30 am onwards

Cakes, produce, Christmas decorations, etc
Festive refreshments

Tickets £1, including a free raffle ticket

CHURCH ARCHIVE RESTORATION

The church has a most interesting big record book, in which, since 1917, a succession of secretaries has written an account of each year at St Silin's. Not surprisingly, after 88 years, it is starting to show signs of wear and actual damage.

Since there are enough pages for a further 50 years of secretaries' entries, it has been taken to Oswestry's very own bookbinder, George Miller, for repair. He has made a wonderful job of strengthening the spine, re-covering the outer covers in half natural hide, replacing the original marbled end papers and the original 1917 leather label.

Further generations of secretaries can now add St Silin's annual reports right up until the 2050's, making it a valuable and interesting record covering some 140 years!

PARISH ROOM PROJECT

The PCC has received many favourable comments about the quality of the stonework on the new extension and first reports suggest that the window frames and door frames continue the excellence. At the time of writing the new heating system is connected to the pipework in the church and is ready for commissioning and testing. We hope to have heating back on in the church very soon! The re-arrangements of the pews has also been done, so another milestone reached. Some aspects of the project have been undertaken by our own willing volunteers – what would we do without them?

Shortly we shall see the construction of the doorway between church and extension, completion of the plastering and, when the building has dried out and the timber acclimatised, installation of the oak flooring.

Unfortunately, progress has not been quite as rapid as initially hoped and, as a result, the PCC has decided to hold the official opening early in 2006, rather than this autumn. Much of the planning for this event has been completed. We can look forward to a memorable occasion, as well as having a new resource of great quality available to the whole community.

GWEINIDOGAETH BRO

Mae'r tymhorau yn hedfan heibio. Wrth ysgrifennu hwn rydym newydd orffen y Gwasanaethau Diolch am y cynhaef yn y gwahanol gapeli. Cawsom wasanaethau hyfryd iawn yn y Rhiwlas, Cefn Canol ac yn y Llan.

Y Sul cyntaf ym Medi yw ein Sul i bererindota. Eleni fe aethom i ymweld ag Eglwys hynafol iawn yng Nghlynnog. Yno cawsom sgwrs gan y Canon Idris Thomas, ac fe gansom emyn adnabyddus "O Fy Iesu Bendigedig" gan Ebern Fardd. Yn y bws fe gawsom hanes Ebern Fardd gan Marian Roberts.

Yna ymlaen i Benygroes i ymweld a Chapel newydd sbon, capel hyfryd ac fe gawsom groeso mawr yno, 'roedd paned yn ein disgwyl ac fe gawsom sgwrs arall, y tro hwn gan Ifor Baines. Ar y ffordd adref cawsom fwyd blasus iawn yn y Bryncir Arms.

Cawsom noson arbennig i agor rhaglen y gaeaf o'r Gymdeithas Ddiwylladol, sef Mair Penri a'i chriw o ardal y Bala. Noson o ddoniau cefn gwlad ar ei gorau.

Da yw clywed bod Llew Ellis yn gwella ar ôl triniaeth ar ei benglin yn Ysbyty Gobowen ac y bydd yn rhedeg o amgylch y dre cyn bo hir. Edrychwn ymlaen nawr at y Nadolig gyda'i phlygeiniau.

LLANSILIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The September meeting was presided over by the Chairman, Cllr D W Davies, assisted by the clerk, Mr H Hughes, who reported that the Highway Authority had agreed to provide village name signs in Cefn Canol and to replace the missing "Bend" sign. Improvements were scheduled to be implemented regarding water on roads near Hafod, Rhiwlas and Tynycelyn, Llansilin.

A response from Shropshire County NHS outlined the procedures when Shrop Doc is contacted in times of emergency, but this did not appear to address matters of local concern.

The following planning applications were supported:

- ◆ erection of garage and porch at 8 Bryn Dentyr
- ◆ erection of dwelling and conversion of existing barn to garage at land at the rear of Ty Croes

Correspondence received included: Cymdeithas Tai Clwyd annual report; Society of Local Council Clerks notification of 31st annual conference; PAVO local action group for over 50's and request for information regarding local newsletters; Shropshire County Council and Oswestry Borough relating to the draft statement of community involvement in the local development framework; Montgomeryshire Community Health Council suggesting there should only be one Community Health Council in Powys; Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service proposed changes; Powys County Council notice of liaison meetings with Town and Community Councils.

Following the recent agreement to be responsible for the administration of the public conveniences in Llansilin, it was agreed that these should remain open during the winter months of 2005-6.

Concerns were expressed regarding the future funding of village halls in Powys and proposals that Town and Community Councils should part fund them. It was reported that a meeting between hall representatives and a county council officer had been convened on 15 September to discuss the matter.

The clerk was asked to report the following complaints:

- ◆ Pot hole by Rossett
- ◆ Uneven surface of road to Tyddyn Cynar
- ◆ Damaged manhole near Memorial Hall
- ◆ Overgrown hedge near Lledrode
- ◆ Mirror at the top of the village needs re-aligning
- ◆ Damaged "Stop" sign near the Old Hand inn

PREMIERE OF "CHRONICLE OF CYNLLAITH"

The premiere of the film of the "Chronicle of Cynllaith" was shown in the village hall on Saturday, 22 October to a packed audience. Chris Burton had spent weeks editing the 24 hours of film footage and the end result was enthusiastically received by everyone there. It was also a good opportunity for a reunion of cast and crew.

During the interval, the following presentations were made from the substantial amount raised:

Melangell Foundation £100
Hope House Children's Hospice £150
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith (Llansilin primary School) £50
Llansilin Chapels £100
Llansilin Historical Society (to complete the Owain Glyndwr village sign) £250
Severn Hospice £100
Llansilin Choir £50
Llansilin Drama Group £50
Niger Disaster Appeal £100
Flower tubs for the village fountain £50
The rest of the proceeds will go to St Silin's Church

"CHRONICLE OF CYNLLAITH"

Performed at St Silin's Church 2 and 3 July 2005

THE VIDEO

is now ready on VHS cassette tape or DVD

Price £10 each (or £11 by post)
in aid of St Silin's Church

Available in Llansilin Post Office or by contacting
Margaret Lloyd (791472) or Chris Burton (791274)

Ideal Christmas present for that distant relative!

HARVEST FESTIVAL



The Harvest Festival service at St Silin's Church was held on Sunday, 9 October, when the Revd. Andrew Evans, Methodist Minister at Ellesmere, took the service.

This was followed by a sociable bring and share lunch in the Memorial Hall. On the menu were locally produced beef and ham, and the delicious puddings were either made with British fruit or Fairtrade ingredients. In this way, we could give support to our own farmers and those in the developing world by making sure that the money spent went directly to them - while at the same time enjoying their top quality produce.

A BUSY YEAR FOR THE C.R.A.F.T. GROUP

Llansilin C.R.A.F.T. group has now been going for 2 years, having evolved from Kate Beecroft's Rag Rug group. The banner which they made to mark the Chronicle of Cynllaith was carried proudly into the church to start the pageant off and is now resident there, bringing back happy memories of that exciting weekend.

The group then went straight on to this year's fountain dressing. Like the banner, the 4 boards depicted scenes from the pageant and was again made entirely from natural materials. It was a bit of a rush to get it finished in time for the village show and members had to work overtime in the final week. The end result was much admired and appreciated by villagers and visitors alike.

Without pausing for breath, they turned their attention to a contribution towards the vicar's final service: a miniature Mastermind chair with a wise owl perched beside it.

The group is currently looking ahead to Christmas and working on figures in paper sculpture. If anyone would like to join them on Monday mornings in Norma Garment's front room, they would be very welcome and should phone Alison Beeston on 791262.



Don't hide your light under a bushel!

This is a very busy village. There's always something going on and now we have our very own Press Officer who is making sure it appears in the local press. So, if you have any news to report please contact:

Mary Cunnah
Pen-y-Bryn, Llansilin, SY10 7QG
Tel: 791386
Email: marycunnah@yahoo.co.uk

Mary will also make sure it is forwarded to Val Talbot for the newsletter. Please keep the news rolling in - if we don't have it, we can't report it! Photographs are always a welcome addition.

CROWN OF LIGHT

The "Crown of Light" will again shine out over the village from the church tower. The charities supported this year will be Hope House and the Severn Hospice. If you would like to "buy a bulb" costing £3 each, please see Margaret Lloyd, Esther Milner or Mary Morris.

MORE GOOD NEWS FROM ST CADWALADR'S

Friends of St Cadwaladr's are most grateful to Mr Richard Pugh, Ty Gwyn, for so kindly paying for the restoration of the vestry window. Time and the prevailing west winds really had taken their toll, some of the small pieces of glass were broken or missing and all the many panes have had to be re-set in the cast iron frame. The window is now in splendid condition and ready to face the winter gales.



The stone work surrounding the window is one of the few remaining features of the earlier building which survived the rigorous restoration of 1883. It was during that phase that the gallery at the west end was removed, no trace of it now remaining.

The next project will be to find a considerable sum of money for the re-roofing – the oak pegs holding the slates are giving way. Routine maintenance is keeping the rain at bay, but the job will have to be faced in due course.

The church was beautifully decorated for the Harvest Service, led by the Revd Paul West of Kinnerley. Services will continue and will be taken by a rota of visiting Ministers. The churchwarden is Vera Evans and she can be contacted on 791471.

YSGOL BRO CYNLLAITH

We are still collecting old mobile phones and ink cartridges for school funds

Also old postage stamps for Lupus research

After Christmas, please keep your Yellow Pages for us (new ones will be delivered about this time)

FRONT COVER

A special thank-you to Lisa Jones of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith for the delightful front cover. All the children in the school did a drawing for homework and they produced a remarkable number of excellent pictures, making it a very difficult task to choose just one. Well done - we obviously have another generation of talented artists coming up in the village.

Village Activities

and other useful
bits of information



Bell Ringing (6 bells, 5-3-0): practice on Wednesdays at 7.30 pm

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

C.R.A.F.T Group meets on Monday mornings 10 am - 12 noon. Contact Alison Beeston ☎ 791 262

Cymdeithas Ddwylliadol Llansilin Mondays 7 - 9 pm September to April, Memorial Hall, Sarah James ☎ 791 346

Drawing and Painting for all at Rhiwlas Community Centre Tuesdays 10 am - 12 noon.

Garage Shop Monday to Friday 8.30 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: Chris Burton ☎ 791 274

Meals on Wheels: Olive Jones ☎ 791 363

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

Mobile Library: every other Monday at Llansilin Church at 1.30 pm, then Moelfre layby 2.40 pm, Llangadwaladr 3.15 pm, Rhiwlas 3.45 pm. ☎ 01938 553001

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 Sarah James ☎ 791 346

PALS (Llansilin Drama Group) meets most Tuesdays at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall. Contact Alison Beeston ☎ 791 262

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

Playgroup in the Institute: Monday and Wednesday free education for over 3's 8.45 am to 11.45 am (over 2½ welcome for £3 a session). Ti a fi Monday 9.30 am to 11.30 am (£2.50).

Police	Welsh	0845 607 1001
	English	0845 607 1002

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

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 and 9 am and 6 and 7 pm unless an emergency

Shopping/Mobility Bus every Friday £1 return, free to bus pass or token holders. Leaves Llansilin 11 am and returns from Oswestry at 1.15 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 second Friday at 7 pm in the Institute. Contact Tanya Jones ☎ 791 580

YFC: contact Richard Evans ☎ 600 228

Youth Club meets Thursdays 7 - 9.00 pm in the Hall. Contact Youth Leader, Elena Jones ☎ 780 315

Thank you to everyone who helps to keep this list up-to-date. Please carry on checking.