



ABERCONWY

CYLCHGRAWN ARDAL GENHADOL

MISSION AREA MAGAZINE

Rhagfyr ac Ionawr/December and January 2024/25



Light shines in the Darkness

The Revd Sarah Hildreth Osborn writes:

As a child there is nothing like attending the official Christmas light switch on in the town where you live. In the midst of the depths of winter when life is at its coldest and darkest the council workers arrive and between the shops string up the lights and then with the appropriate ceremony on they pop!!!! And that light changes things. It lifts the mood, helps everyone begin to look forward to a brighter day, that time in the year when the days lengthen and spring is in the air once again.

The church certainly knew what she was doing when she decided to fix the celebration of the birth of Jesus slap bang in the middle of the darkest time of the year! There are a number of suggestions as to when the celebration of the Incarnation became part of Christian tradition. It would appear that it was as early as 336CE, this new Christian celebration replacing Pagan festivals.

Light is incredibly important to us as human beings. Vitamin D that we get from the sun helps us avoid rickets and sunshine is also good for our mental health (too many grey days do us no good at all!) As a child I was grateful to my Mam and Dad for making sure there was always



a light on the landing at night time because I was one of many who grew up afraid of the dark. Who knew what might have been waiting for me under the bed or on the way to the loo?! At least if the light was on I'd have prior warning before anything awful happened.

Jesus steps into our world as a helpless, vulnerable baby, born to a poor couple in the back of beyond and yet with him, in these bleak circumstances God shatters the darkness of our world with the light of his love and with the hope that life, lived with God can be different, it can be life in all its fullness.

Perhaps with all that is going on our world this Christmas we need to hear the good news of the coming of the light who is Jesus more than ever. Perhaps as you embark on another Christmas, this time of year feels difficult for whatever reason. Let's remember that first Christmas was nothing like the Christmas cards would have us believe. God didn't send the light of his love to this world when all was peaceful and perfect!

Whatever your circumstances are as we open our hearts to the coming of the light of Christ if we but take a few moments whilst stirring the gravy, listening to the Kings speech or making

Exploring Faith and Worship, sharing Christ's Love with the Community

All Saints, Deganwy • St Cystennin's, Llangystennin & Mochdre • St David's, Penrhyn Bay
St Ffraid's, Glan Conwy • St Grwst's, Llanrwst • St Hilary's, Llanrhos • St Martin's, Eglwysbach
St Michael and All Angels, Llandudno Junction • St Paul's, Craig-y-Don

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£1 - ar-lein am ddim/online free

sure all the wrapping paper is being recycled, let us keep an eye out for Gods light, always seen in his great gift of love.

Just as our local communities are lit up with light that brightens the darkness so may you and all who you love and pray for know the warmth and comfort of the light of Christ this Christmas as you celebrate his coming just where we are, just as we are!



Light of Christ, burn brightly in our Church this Christmas.
Light of Peace, heal the bitter wounds in our community.
Show us the path of forgiveness and love.
Light of joy, fill our homes with happiness.
Cast out the darkness of conflict or worry.
Light of comfort, strengthen the sick, the needy,
the prisoners and all those who cannot be at home on Christmas Day.
Light of hope, guide our way forward as we begin a New Year.
Light of the world, teach us to love you and other people more each day.
Light of Christ, shine in our lives this Christmas and always.

Pray for Ukraine, Israel and Gaza, and all the places in the world where war is a constant presence and Peace seems a long way off::

God our Father, we come before you with open hearts, confessing that we too have blamed and accused, siding with one side or the other, and losing sight of your love, compassion and mercy for all those who are suffering in wars across the world. Help us, as your Church, to be bold enough to be those who call out atrocities wherever they occur.

Help us, as your Church, to be bridge builders and peace initiators.

Give us, as your Church, the love, courage, and steadfastness to speak truth to power and challenge hate and fear. Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer. Amen



MISSION AREA CLERGY:

Revd Huw Bryant - 07779 655949 (Day off Monday)

Canon Juliet Fraser - 01492 490391 (Day off Thursday)

Revd Sarah Hildreth-Osborn - sarahhildreth-osborn@churchinwales.org.uk

01492 702330 (Day off Friday)

Revd Sue Storey - (Day off Friday) 01745 346273

PARISH OFFICE: Penrhyn Beach East, Llandudno, LL30 3NT - 01492 541615
office@aberconwy.church

The Parish Office is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 10am to 12.30pm
Please note that emails will only be read during office hours.

THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FOR A FORTNIGHT OVER CHRISTMAS from 23rd December - re-opens on Tuesday 7th January.

For anything urgent out of office hours please contact one of our clergy team or the Acting Lay Mission Area Leader on 01492 879997.

For other contact details please see back page

Gwasanaethau rheolaidd yn ein heglwysi

Regular services in our churches

Croeso i bawb - All welcome

Regular Sunday Services:

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| 8 am | Holy Eucharist at St David's (every week except 29th December) Holy Eucharist at St Hilary's (1st and 3rd Sundays) |
| 9.30 am | Holy Eucharist at St Cystennin's (Morning Prayer on the 2nd Sunday) Holy Eucharist at St Michael & All Angels |
| 9.45 am | Holy Eucharist at St Grwst's |
| 10.30 am | Holy Eucharist at St Paul's |
| 11 am | Holy Eucharist at All Saints, St David's and St Hilary's |
| 11.15 am | Holy Eucharist at St Ffraid's |
| 2 pm | Holy Eucharist at St Martin's (<i>please check in January as this may alter</i>) |
| 6 pm | Cymun Bendigaid at St Hilary's (4th Sunday) Café Church in St David's Hall (last Sunday - not in December) |

Please note that on **29th December** there will **not** be services at St Cystennin's, St David's, St Hilary's or St Michael's - the congregations are invited to join the services at St Paul's at 10.30 am or at All Saints at 11 am. Services in the valley churches will be as usual.

OTHER REGULAR SERVICES, GROUPS etc.: (Further details on other pages) *Please be aware that regular patterns may be disrupted over the Christmas period, please check the calendar pages.*

Holy Eucharist: Wednesday 10 am All Saints; Thursday 10.30 am St Paul's; Friday 10 am St David's

Service of Holy Eucharist at St David's Hospice, Abbey Road, every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 2 pm
Healing Service - 1st Tuesday 11.30 am at St David's

Whosoever J3:16 - LGBT+ community and friends service: 14th December and 18th January at All Saints Deganwy - contact SarahHildreth-Osborn@cinw.org.uk for details

Hub Club: After school club (term time only) for children aged 4-9 3.30-5 pm Tuesdays at St David's

Happy Saturdays: A monthly group for children/adults with learning difficulties, 3-4 pm on a Saturday at St Grwst's. Details from Revd Sarah SarahHildreth-Osborn@cinw.org.uk 01492 702330

Julian Group - 8 pm Mondays (not 23rd or 30th December) by Zoom lindamaryedwards@yahoo.co.uk

WhatsApp prayer group: for prayer and to share reflections - contact julietfraser@cinw.org.uk

St David's Church open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 10-12 noon (Not Christmas or Boxing Day)

St David's Church Hub Prayers - 11.00 am on Tuesdays

All Saints' House Group 7.30 pm Tuesdays fortnightly contact e.fl.james@hotmail.co.uk for details

Study Groups at St David's - 11-12 noon every Wednesday (not 25th December or 1st January) and also at 7 pm from 8th January.

3C (Cuppa, Chat and Community) 2 pm at St David's twice monthly

Warm Welcome Bereavement Group fortnightly at St Paul's Church Hall 10-12 noon

Mothers' Union at All Saints and St Ffraid's, and **Fellowship Group** at St Paul's - see back page for contacts and calendar pages for meeting dates

Online

We continue our online presence on the Mission Area Facebook Page www.facebook.com/aberconwyMA and individual church Facebook pages. **ST PAUL'S** stream their 10.30 am Sunday morning service and this can be found via the link <https://www.facebook.com/stpaulscraigdon>

COVID

Please continue to take any sensible precautions that you wish.

The common cup has been restored but as always communion in one kind remains valid and no communicant should feel compelled to take the common cup.

Mis Rhagfyr 2024 - CALENDAR - December 2024

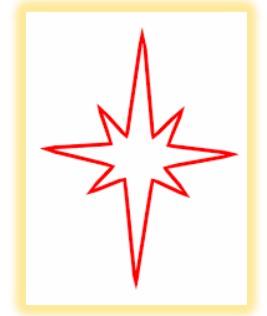
| | | Services | Other events |
|-----------------------|-----------|---|--|
| ADVENT SUNDAY | 1 | SEE SERVICES LIST: Also Mochdre Civic Service 1 pm St C; St Grwst's Christmas Tree Festival until 4th January | |
| Monday | 2 | Julian Meeting 8 pm by Zoom | 3C 2 pm St D |
| Tuesday | 3 | Hub prayers 11.00 am St D; Service of Wholeness & Healing 11.30 am St D; Advent Compline & Reflection 7 pm St G | Hub Club 3.30- 5 pm St D |
| Wednesday | 4 | HE 10am AS; Celtic Advent Eucharist 10 am Sff; Ysgol Bodafon carols 5 pm St P | Start of Christmas Tree Festival St Ff; Bible Study 11 am St D; |
| Thursday | 5 | HE 10.30 am St P | Community Afternoon Tea 2 pm St D Hall; Christmas Bingo 7 pm St Ff Church House; MAC Zoom meeting 7 pm |
| Friday | 6 | HE 10 am St D | Warm Welcome Bereavement Group 10-12 noon St P Hall |
| Saturday | 7 | Act of Witness 2 pm Penrhyn Bay Co-op | |
| SUNDAY | 8 | SEE SERVICES LIST: | |
| Monday | 9 | Julian Meeting 8 pm by Zoom | St Paul's Fellowship Christmas meeting 2.15 pm in St P hall; |
| Tuesday | 10 | Ysgol y Gogarth Carols 10.15 am St P; Hub prayers 11.00 am St D; Advent Compline & Reflection 7 pm St H | AS Mothers' Union 2 pm in church; St Ff Mothers' Union 2 pm Church House; Hub Club 3.30-5 pm St D; AS House Group 7.30 pm |
| Wednesday | 11 | HE 10 am AS; HE St David's Hospice 2 pm; Blind Veterans Carols 3 pm St P; Carol Service 7 pm St C | Bible Study 11 am St D |
| Thursday | 12 | HE 10.30 am St P | |
| Friday | 13 | HE 10 am St D; St David's College Carols 12 noon St P; Town Carol Service 6.30 pm Holy Trinity | Ysgol Bodafon Christmas Fair at the school |
| Saturday | 14 | Whosoever service 11.30 am AS | |
| SUNDAY | 15 | SEE SERVICES LIST: Also Carol Service 5 pm St H | |
| Monday | 16 | Ysgol Glanwydden 10 am & 5 pm SD; Therapy Dog Service 11 am St D; Julian Meeting 8 pm by Zoom | 3C 2 pm St D |
| Tuesday | 17 | Hub prayers 11.00 am St D; Carol Service 7 pm St D and 7 pm St Ff | Shoppers Carols 10-12 Llanrwst Square Hub Club 3.30-5 pm St D; Warm Welcome Bereavement Group 6-8 pm St P Hall |
| Wednesday | 18 | HE 10 am AS | Bible Study 11 am St D |
| Thursday | 19 | HE 10.30 am St P; Carol Service 6 pm St Ma and 7 pm AS | |
| Friday | 20 | HE 10 am St D | |
| Saturday | 21 | | Happy Saturdays 3 pm St G |
| SUNDAY | 22 | SEE SERVICES LIST: Also Carol Services 4 pm St M, 6 pm St P and 6 pm St G | |
| Monday | 23 | | PARISH OFFICE CLOSED ALL WEEK |
| CHRISTMAS EVE | 24 | Hub prayers 11.00 am St D | For services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day please see page 6 |
| CHRISTMAS DAY | 25 | | |
| Thursday | 26 | (St Stephen) - no services | |
| Friday St John | 27 | HE 10 am St D | |
| Saturday | 28 | (Holy Innocents) - no services | |
| SUNDAY | 29 | SEE SERVICES LIST FOR VARIATIONS FROM NORMAL PATTERN | |
| Monday | 30 | | 3C Pantomime trip |
| Tuesday | 31 | Hub prayers 11.00 am St D | |

Mis Ionawr 2025 - CALENDAR - January 2025

| | | Services | Other events |
|------------------------|-----------|---|--|
| Wednesday | 1 | (No service) | |
| Thursday | 2 | HE 10.30 am St P; Plygain 7 pm St G | |
| Friday | 3 | HE 10 am St D | Warm Welcome Bereavement Group 10-12 noon St P |
| Saturday | 4 | | |
| EPIPHANY SUNDAY | 5 | SEE SERVICES LIST: | |
| Monday | 6 | Julian Meeting 8 pm by Zoom | 3C 12.30 pm St D |
| Tuesday | 7 | Hub prayers 11.00 am St D; Service of Wholeness & Healing 11.30 am St D | PARISH OFFICE RE-OPENS Hub Club 3.30- 5 pm St D; AS House Group 7.30 pm |
| Wednesday | 8 | HE 10am AS | Bible Study 11 am and 7 pm St D; |
| Thursday | 9 | HE 10.30 am St P | |
| Friday | 10 | HE 10 am St D | |
| Saturday | 11 | | |
| SUNDAY | 12 | SEE SERVICES LIST: | |
| Monday | 13 | Julian Meeting 8 pm by Zoom | St Paul's Fellowship New Year's Party 2.15 pm in St P hall; |
| Tuesday | 14 | Hub prayers 11.00 am St D | St Ff Mothers' Union Lunch out; Hub Club 3.30-5 pm St D |
| Wednesday | 15 | HE 10 am AS; HE St David's Hospice 2 pm | Bible Study 11 am and 7 pm St D |
| Thursday | 16 | HE 10.30 am St P | |
| Friday | 17 | HE 10 am St D | |
| Saturday - | 18 | Whosoever service 11.30 am AS | WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY BEGINS |
| SUNDAY | 19 | SEE SERVICES LIST: | |
| Monday | 20 | Julian Meeting 8 pm by Zoom | **MAGAZINE COPY DATE** 3C 12.30 pm St D |
| Tuesday | 21 | Hub prayers 11.00 am St D | Hub Club 3.30-5 pm St D; AS House Group 7.30 pm |
| Wednesday | 22 | HE 10 am AS | Bible Study 11 am and 7 pm St D |
| Thursday | 23 | HE 10.30 am St P | |
| Friday | 24 | HE 10.30 am Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service St D | |
| Saturday | 25 | | |
| SUNDAY | 26 | SEE SERVICES LIST: Also Holocaust Memorial Day Service at Holy Trinity Llandudno | |
| Monday | 27 | Julian Meeting 8 pm by Zoom | |
| Tuesday | 28 | Hub prayers 11.00 am St D | Hub Club 3.30 pm St D; MAC meeting 7 pm (venue tbc) |
| Wednesday | 29 | HE 10 am AS | Bible Study 11 am and 7 pm St D; |
| Thursday | 30 | HE 10.30 am St P | |
| Friday | 31 | HE 10 am St D | |

KEY: HE - Holy Eucharist; AS – All Saints; St C – St Cystennin's; St D - St David's; St Ff - St Ffraid's; St G - St Grwst's; St H - St Hilary's; St M – St Michael's; St Ma - St Martin's; St P – St Paul's

Gwasanaethau Nadolig Christmas Services



“Joy to the World!”



Carol Services in December

| | | |
|----------------|------|--|
| Wednesday 11th | 7 pm | St Cystennin's Llangystennin (with Cantamus Choir) |
| Sunday 15th | 5 pm | St Hilary's Llanrhos |
| Tuesday 17th | 7 pm | St David's Penrhyn Bay (with Beulah Brass Band) |
| | 7 pm | Crib and Carol Service St Ffraid's Glan Conwy |
| Thursday 19th | 6 pm | Lessons and Carols St Martin's Eglwysbach |
| | 7 pm | All Saints Deganwy |
| Sunday 22nd | 4 pm | Crib and Carol Service St Michael's Llandudno Junction |
| | 6 pm | Nine Lessons and Carols, St Paul's Craig-y-Don |
| | 6 pm | St Grwst Llanrwst |

Christmas Eve Crib Services

(all at 4 pm)

All Saints Deganwy
St Cystennin's Llangystennin
St David's Penrhyn Bay,
St Hilary's Llanrhos



Christmas Eve Eucharists

| | |
|----------|---------------------------------|
| 6 pm | St Ffraid's Glan Conwy |
| 6 pm | St Michael's Llandudno Junction |
| 8.30 pm | All Saints Deganwy |
| 8.30 pm | St Grwst's Llanrwst |
| 11.30 pm | St David's Penrhyn Bay, |
| 11.30 pm | St Hilary's Llanrhos |



Christmas Day Eucharists

| | |
|----------|------------------------------|
| 8 am | St Hilary's Llanrhos |
| 10 am | All Saints Deganwy |
| 10 am | St Cystennin's Llangystennin |
| 10 am | St David's Penrhyn Bay |
| 10 am | St Martin's Eglwysbach |
| 10.30 am | St Paul's Craig-y-Don |
| 11 am | St Hilary's Llanrhos |



Tymor yr Adfent - the season of Advent

Advent is certainly a time of preparation - the hustle and bustle of Christmas shopping, planning the Christmas food, writing the cards, sending the presents - but do we allow ourselves time to properly prepare and ready our hearts for the arrival of Christ at Christmas?

Try to take some time out to be quiet and to calm all those busy thoughts so that we can properly appreciate the wonder of God's amazing gift of love to us at Christmas.

There will be services of **Advent Compline** with a reflection on **Tuesdays 3rd and 10th December** (at 7 pm at St Grwst's and St Hilary's respectively) and also a **Celtic Advent Eucharist** at St Ffraid's at 10 am on **Wednesday 4th December**. Our Sunday services will build up to Christ's coming as they do every year, and the Advent wreath candles will be lit to mark the different phases of our preparation.



Every year our Bishop sends a message to us to mark the beginning of Advent, and this year he is focusing on hope. If you were in church on Advent Sunday you will have heard or seen it, but it is also reproduced here.



ESGOB LLANELWY
THE BISHOP OF ST ASAPH

It's good to have the opportunity to communicate with you once again this Advent Sunday, and to reflect about how our life as a diocese has been developing, both in the year past and in the year ahead.

In the diocese we've been living into our three foci – Growing Faith, Bringing Hope and Demonstrating Love. This year, I'd like to focus on Bringing Hope. One of the great saints of the Church, St Augustine of Hippo, spoke about the festival of Easter. It maybe a surprise to be talking about Easter in Advent, but he said to his churches, "We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song." We are an Easter people and "Praise to God" is our song.

Christians should be bearers of Hope. We should be people who warm the hearts of those we encounter; who create courage and positive feelings; who transform the world into being a more hopeful, better place.

So how can we do that in a world that is fairly grim; a world in which people are suffering, in which there are levels of anxiety and need, of homelessness and food poverty, a world in which there is greater war than we have seen

Mae'n dda cael cyfle i siarad â chi unwaith eto, ar y Sul hwn yn yr Adfent, ac i ystyried datblygiad ein bywyd fel esgobaeth, yn y flwyddyn sy'n dod i ben ac yn y flwyddyn sydd i ddod.

Rydym ni yn yr esgobaeth wedi bod yn ymroi i dair elfen ein harwyddair – tyfu ffydd, dod â gobaith a dangos cariad. Eleni, hoffwn ganolbwyntio ar ddod â gobaith. Efallai ei bod yn swnio'n rhyfedd i sôn am y Pasg yng nghyfnod yr Adfent, ond dyma a ddywedodd un o seintiau mawr yr eglwys, Awstin Sant, wrth ei eglwysi am wyl y Pasg, "Pobl y Pasg ydym ni ac Alelwia yw ein cân. Pobl y Pasg ydym ni a Mawl i Dduw yw ein cân."

Dylai Cristnogion ddod â gobaith i bobl; dylem gynhesu calonnau'r rhai y down ar eu traws, dylem wneud i bobl deimlo'n ddewr ac yn gadarnhaol, a thrawsnewid y byd i fod yn lle gwell a mwy gobeithiol.

Ond sut allwn ni wneud hynny mewn byd sy'n filain; byd sy'n llawn sefyllfaoedd eithaf difrifol; byd lle mae pobl yn dioddef; lle mae llawer o bryder ac angen, digartrefedd a thlodi bwyd; byd lle mae mwy o ryfel nag a welsom ers amser maith; lle rydym yn dal i

for a long time. We are still praying for peace in the Holy Land and peace in Ukraine. We are still seeing governments having to raise taxes and populations electing curious choices to be their leader. How do we bring hope in that situation?

I can tell you what brings me hope.

The first thing that brings me hope, is my belief that, in the end, as Christians, we affirm that God is in control. The message of the birth of the baby in Bethlehem is to say, "God has the work of salvation in hand. He is working to save us; He is working to put things right. He is our chief hope and stay in any situation". "God help us – Hosanna, Free us" is the cry of the Christian church. God really does give me hope.

The second thing that brings me hope is my love for the Christian disciple, that is, the real joy I see in the eyes and the hearts of members of the Teulu Asaph.

So what is my Advent Message to you this year? Quite simply, "Put your trust in God. Deepen your knowledge of God so that he may bring you hope, so that you may become a bearer of hope to others; someone who will encourage, someone who will stand alongside, someone who makes time to be with other people - so that we can become an Advent people and "Alleluia" can still be our song.

weddio am heddwch yn y Wlad Sanctaidd ac yn Wcráin. Yr ydym yn gweld bod llywodraethau'n dal i orfod codi trethi a phoblogaethau'n dal i wneud dewisiadau rhyfedd wrth ddewis arweinydd? Sut allwn ni ddod â gobaith yn y sefyllfa honno?

Gallaf i ddweud wrthy ch beth sy'n dod â gobaith i mi.

Y peth cyntaf sy'n dod â gobaith i mi yw fy mod yn credu ein bod ni fel Cristnogion yn cadarnhau mai Duw sy'n rheoli yn y pen draw. Byrdwn y neges am eni'r baban ym Methlehem yw bod iachawdwriaeth yn llaw Duw. Mae'n gweithio i'n hachub; mae'n gweithio i wneud pethau'n iawn. Ef yw ein prif obaith a chynhaliaeth mewn unrhyw sefyllfa. "Helpa ni Dduw – Hosanna, Rhyddha ni," yw cri'r eglwys Gristnogol. Mae Duw wir yn rhoi gobaith i mi.

Ond y peth arall sy'n dod â gobaith i mi yw cariad disgyblion Cristnogol – y gwir lawenydd a welaf yn llygaid a chalonnau aelodau Teulu Asaph.

Felly beth yw fy Neges Adfent i chi eleni? Yn syml iawn, ymddiriedwch yn Nuw. Ewch ati i feithrin adnabyddiaeth ddyfnach o Dduw fel y daw ef â gobaith i chi, ac y dowch chi â gobaith i eraill. Trwy annog pobl, cydsefyll â nhw, a gwneud amser i fod yn eu cwmni, gallwn ni fod yn bobl yr Adfent ac "Alelwia" fydd ein cân o hyd.



The wise men of Penrhyn Bay will set off from the porch on 1st December and meander within the 20mph speed limit towards the crib. Encouraged by the light of a star on the eastern wall, they will arrive at Epiphany.



Christmas Tree Festivals

The annual Community Christmas Tree Festival at **St Grwst's Church Llanrwst** opens up on **Saturday 30th November** and runs through to 4th January.

The Festival at **St Ffraid's Glan Conwy** opens on **Wednesday 4th December** with a Celtic Advent Eucharist at 10 am, followed by refreshments in Church House. Come along to both and see the wonderful array of displays presented by local people in a celebration for Advent and Christmas.



Carol singing

See page 6 for details of all our church carol services.

There will also be a **Christmas Act of Witness** at **2 pm on Saturday 7th December**, when you are invited to join with the Penrhyn Bay Presbyterian Church to sing carols in the Penrhyn Bay Co-op car park.

There will be **Shoppers Carols** in the market square at Llanrwst on **Tuesday 17th December 10-12**, and the **Llandudno Town Carol Service** organized by Cytûn will be on **Friday 13th December at 6.30 pm** in Holy Trinity Church, Llandudno.

Warm Hub Bereavement Group at St Paul's

Grief may resurface or be felt more keenly over the Christmas season, and sometimes we need reassurance that it is all right to feel sad even though the pressure is on to feel merry and jolly. This initiative at St Paul's is open to all, and it is hoped it will provide somewhere for those who may feel the need for support, whether they are newly bereaved or carrying the feelings of long term grief and loss. For more information please contact Sally (075110 97317 or allan396@hotmail.com). Do drop in to one of these sessions - on **6th December from 10 am, 17th December from 6 pm, 3rd January from 10 am**. (Look out for further dates in Pew News etc.) Coffee is served and there will be the opportunity to talk - or not - as you prefer. You are welcome to come as often as you like, or just to drop in occasionally.

"The last gift of love is remembrance"

May your memories bring you comfort
May your faith give you hope
And may God watch over you
Bringing light into your lives at this time of sadness

Prayer Intentions You may have noticed the Prayer Intentions on the Pew News - part of our effort to develop the prayer life of the Mission Area. Sometimes the intentions are topical, or related to the time of year, or may be something particularly on our minds, but it is hoped that we will be praying them together across the Mission Area. If anyone would like to suggest topics for prayer to be included, please send them to Dilys (MAL) or Mandy at the Parish Office.

Llandudno
Town Carol Service
Gwasanaeth Carolau
Tref Llandudno



Eglwys y Drindod Sanctaidd

6.30yh

Nos Wener Rhagfyr 13eg

Noddir gan Cytûn Llandudno

Holy Trinity Church

6.30pm

Friday 13th December

Whosoever/Pwy bynnag J3:16

The new name of the Service for the LGBT+ community and friends reiterates what the LGBT+ Chaplaincy stands for, that no matter who you are, you are welcome, you matter and in the heart of Whosoever you can find a place at Gods table!

Whosoever services will be on **Saturdays 14th December and 18th January**, at 11.30 am in All Saints, Deganwy.

More details from Sarah on Sarahhildreth-osborn@cinw.org.uk



St Paul's Fellowship

The Fellowship will be meeting next on **Monday 9th December** at 2.15 pm for their Christmas get together. If you want to join in with Secret Santa please buy, and wrap, a small item (no more than £5). There will also be bingo and refreshments. If you can, please bring some food for sharing. There will be the usual raffle (£1) - all welcome.

On **13th January** there will be the New Year's Party. It will be catered for by an outside caterer, so lots of lovely food, but they do ask for a contribution of £6 towards the cost. Please bring the money to the December meeting or contact Gina on 07970 616358.

The 3C Group

Sandra Williams writes:

The group has grown from its early days in the Spring. We now have an average attendance of about eighteen and things seem to be settling down quite nicely. We have a good mixture of church congregation and non-church attendees. The good thing is we are achieving our objective of a place to come for a chat, cuppa and crafting/interesting talks.

The Group will meet on **Monday 2nd December** at 2 pm for a Festive film with cookies and hot chocolate.

On **Monday 30th December** they will be going on a Theatre Pantomime trip (details to follow).

In **January and February** (1st and 3rd Mondays) timing will change to 12.30-2.30 pm and will be soup, sandwich and cake and fellowship time.

Mothers' UNION

Gofal Cristnogol i Deuluoedd

All Saints Branch

Pat Chapman writes:

At our November meeting Maureen Byatt spoke to us about Elsie's Alphabet. Elsie was Maureen's mother-in-law and she had a Bible verse for each letter of the alphabet - except Q! Some of the verses were familiar to us and others not so well known. The challenge was set to find a Bible verse starting with Q.

Daphne Laight, who was branch leader for 40 years, celebrated her 90th birthday at the end of November. We wished Daphne a very happy birthday with a card and flowers from Mothers Union.

Our Christmas meeting will be on **Tuesday, December 10th** at 2 pm in church. Please come along with a favourite reading or favourite Christmas Memory. This will be followed by mince pies. Our first meeting in 2025 will be on Tuesday 11th February. An opening service will be held followed by our AGM

St Ffraid's Branch

St Ffraid's branch also meet on **10th December**, at 2 pm in Church House, Glan Conwy, for Christmas-themed members' stories.

On **Tuesday 14th January** they will be going out for lunch together.

GAN Y GOLYGYDDION - FROM THE EDITOR

This is a combined issue for December and January so the next copy date is 20th January.

Please submit items to jastone@dunelm.org.uk



AFTERNOON-TEA

ST-DAVIDS-CHURCH-HALL

PENRHYN-BAY

THURS-5th-DEC

from 2-til 3.30pm

£5-PER-PERSON--PAY-ON-THE-DAY

**EVERYONE-VERY-WELCOME-TO-CALL-IN
FOR-A-DELICIOUS-TEA-&-LOTS-OF-FRIENDLY-CHAT**

All Saints House Group

The group continues to meet fortnightly on **Tuesdays**, at 7.30 pm at Glan Dwr, LL30 1NR.

It will meet on **December 10th**, and then **January 7th and 21st**.

Contact Andrew James on efl.james@hotmail.co.uk for details.

St Martin's Eglwysbach

The Sunday services will continue at 2 pm for the time being in December, but please check for times in January as these may vary slightly.

The Mission Area Conference

The MAC will meet for an extra (and hopefully short) meeting on Zoom at 7 pm on **Thursday 5th December**, and then for a regular face to face meeting on **Tuesday 28th January**, also at 7 pm, venue to be arranged.



St David's Hub Church

Although regular events continue largely as usual, please note that there will not be any evening Bible Study meetings during December (11 am continue).

There will not be a Café Church in December but there will be one at 6 pm on the last Sunday in January (26th).

Hub Prayers and Healing services will be as usual on Tuesdays, and the Hub club will meet on Tuesday afternoons 3.30-5 pm during term time.



JO's Workshop – A 'Men's Shed' in Penrhyn Bay.

Every Thursday, we meet in a shed in St David's Church grounds.

The kettle goes on at 9.58am, the doors open 10.00 - 12.00.

Call in to share some banter, come up with some project ideas, or just come along and have a brew (and biscuits).

All men are welcome.



PLEASE NOTE THAT THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD
Thursday 19th will be the last day that the office is open until Tuesday 7th January.

For any urgent matters please contact the clergy or the Mission Area leader
(contact details on page 2)

Light shines in the Darkness

The Revd Tim Hall writes:

Isaiah 9:6-7 (NIV)

*For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his
shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the Lord Almighty
will accomplish this.*

How familiar are these words! They have been part of our Christmas celebrations multiple times over the years, in our services and with selected words and phrases on Christmas cards, church notices and in our readings and carols.

And yet, how often have we paused to reflect on them? There are certain times in the history of a nation and the history of our world when it feels as though we are on a tipping point of ever-increasing crises. This feels like such a time with more extreme natural events related to climate change, wars and rumours of wars, aggressive politics, diminishing trust, cost of living challenges, social insecurity, health care under strain.

When optimism seems in short supply, hope must reign. Such hope is the unique offering of the Christian Church and the precious invitation to community and personal faith in the Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting father, Prince of Peace.

As we enter Advent, we prepare for the coming of the King of Kings, as we approach the season of Christmas we celebrate his birth; *"to us a child is born"*. In January, Epiphany provides us with a focus on the truth and reality of who this child is and what he came to earth to achieve.

May these seasons of celebration, with our Advent candles and calendars, our Christmas cards and carols, the Epiphany messages and

meaning, cause hope to reign in our hearts and minds. It is not about optimism replacing pessimism, it is all about the extraordinary hope resurging. Hope propelled by our faith in Jesus and the message of Good News we carry. The writer to the Hebrews waxes lyrical about this in chapters 11 & 12, *"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see"*. He then demonstrates this through a hall of fame of heroes who lived in the reality of this faith and the outworking of it for them. His remarkable conclusion is that we are placed in a far better place than all those amazing heroes of faith. He tells us to fix our eyes on Jesus and what we will find is that we are not left in a place of darkness, gloom and storm but the dwelling place of the living God, with the amazing worship of thousands and thousands of angels and Jesus at its centre.

In a world that feels so fragile and fickle may we know through the seasons of celebration in December and January that, *"Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end....that he will reign with justice and righteousness forever and that the zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this"*. This is our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ whom we worship and proclaim and one day at His Name every knee will bow and every tongue confess that He is Lord.

The writer to the Hebrews at the end of chapter 12 exhorts us, *"Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our 'God is a consuming fire'"*.

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders". Let faith grow and hope rise as we worship this child, celebrate his coming and recalibrate our perspective of the world on a future not yet seen, but of which we have been assured.



Paned a sgwrs/Cuppa and Chat

All welcome to these regular gatherings - but please be aware that they may not be happening over the Christmas period.

Glan Conwy Church House

Wednesdays 10.30-12 noon

St Grwst's Thursdays 10-12 noon

Eglwysbach (all in the Community Hall)

Monday Club (Chat & Craft) 1-3pm.

Village Hall 'Coffee Stop' Thursdays

10.30am to 11.30 am

Lunch Club (twice a month),

Fridays 1-3pm

St Paul's Craig-y-Don Thursdays in church at 11 am after the 10.30 am morning Eucharist

St David's Penrhyn Bay Fridays at 10.30 am after the 10 am morning Eucharist.



ISLAND REACH

The Revd Peter Marshall writes:

The 'Island Reach' former Royal Navy supply vessel is now well under way on its long voyage from Conwy to Madagascar. On a wet morning in mid October church members gathered on the quay at Conwy to pray, sing and wave goodbye. For the last three years teams of local Christians have been using their skills to paint and completely refurbish the vessel which is now a mini hospital ship with medical and dental facilities. It will travel up and down a canal in eastern Madagascar offering help to local needy communities as part of sharing the Good News of Jesus. Roads there are very poor and facilities minimal. It is part of a small group of YWAM (Youth With A Mission) medical ships). Next spring, local dentist Dr. Alison Foxall, who supervised the equipping of the dental room on the ship, flies out to Madagascar



Christus Natus Est!

Ganwyd Crist!

See over 200 Nativity Scenes from Britain and around the world. Nia and Garth Higginbotham have been collecting them for many years - small, large, modern and traditional- challenging and illuminating the Christmas story.

Come on **Sunday, December 8th** between 2 and 6 pm to 36, Abbey Road, Llandudno. Mince pies and mulled wine will be served.

Collection for Christian Aid, a charity working for justice, peace and hope for the forgotten.

Dewch i weld dros 200 o Bresebau o Brydain a thros y byd. Fe'i casglwyd gan Nia a Garth Higginbotham dros y blynyddoedd. Mae yna rhai bach a mawr, traddodiadol a modern o bob cyfandir.

Sul, Rhagfyr 8fed o 2 tan 6 yn 36, Abbey Road, Llandudno. Fe ddarperir mins peis a gwin speislyd.

Casgliad ar gyfer Cymorth Cristnogol, elusen sydd yn gweithio dros gyfiawnder,



for a few weeks to work there. It has been fascinating to follow the ships' voyage on the App 'Marine Traffic'. There is also a WhatsApp giving up to date reports. As I write the ship, which is very small (26 m long) is between Crete and Port Said, the Suez Canal. Special prayer is asked for when they are off the Somali coast, renowned for pirates! There are at least two local prayer groups who meet weekly to pray for Island Reach, as well as many Christians, local and further afield.

Please contact me (07740 081305) if you want up to date news.

Newyddion o'r Ardal Genhadol

News from the Mission Area

St Hilary's Church

Congratulations to Anna Jones who celebrated her 90th birthday in November. Friends and family joined her for a lovely celebration lunch which of course included birthday cake (seen in the picture with Anna and her daughter)

Also in November, there was a lovely concert in church when two of Jelena's former students Belle Wilson-Shaw and James Lovett sang 'The Music of the Musicals' - a tribute to the greatest duets from the West End and Broadway. Their performance was very professional and greatly enjoyed by the audience.



R.I.P. Geoff Clowes

We heard in November of the death of Geoff Clowes, who was in his nineties. Geoff was a very faithful, reliable and hardworking member of St Katherine's Bryn Pydew for many years and many will remember him. For some years he was churchwarden along with Mrs Maureen Pilbeam. His wife, Shirley, continues to live in Craig-y-don, a near neighbour of Robin and Joy Green. Canon Juliet Fraser took Geoff's funeral at St Asaph Crematorium on November 19th. Geoff was held in great respect and affection.



All Saints Strollers venture out to West Coast of Anglesey

Andrew James writes: In October the Strollers headed out for a wonderfully scenic walk starting in Rhoscolyn on Anglesey led by Linda Mary Edwards and Kathy Walls. I have to say that this walk is up there as one of the most beautiful walks that we have done. We started off at St. Gwenfean's Church which was established in AD 630 and thankfully was open for us to take a look around (maybe a lesson for us with our churches). The present church was built in 1875 and has benefitted from one major extension. At the start of our walk we had a laugh as Kathy wanted to follow one path and Linda Mary another only to find that both paths merged about 100 yards further on.

We were blessed with a lovely sunny autumn day which made the walk all the more enjoyable. The countryside was breathtaking as we headed north towards St. Gwenfean's Well. The well had drystone



walls and was the end of our outward journey. (Thankfully no one drank from the well as the water looked a tad turgid.) Rhoscolyn stands for 'The Moor of the Column' and on our way back we sighted the Column which was erected by the Romans to mark the outer extent of their territory. At the end of the walk we retired to The White Eagle for outstanding refreshments. We had

planned a final walk for last weekend but Storm Bert put paid to that so we look forward to further adventures in 2025.



Local Matters - Petha' Lleol



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north wales central.

Older People's Newsletter Cylchlythyr Pobl Hŷn

Topics this month include:

- Anti-Slavery statement - highlighting modern day slavery;
- The King's Speech - the Government Legislative agenda;
- The Companionship at Home service;
- Pension Credit take-up;
- Stereotyping of Older People;
- Unethical Sales Practices;
- Local events over the Christmas period;

Older People's Forums:

Llandudno:

Mondays 13/01/2025 and
10/03/2025, 2pm to 4pm

Llandudno Library, Mostyn Street.

Llanrwst:

- Thursdays 10am to 12pm
30/01/2025

Panad a Sgrws, St Grwst Church.

This newsletter is published by Age Connects North Wales Central. To receive a copy, via post or email, contact 01745 421 567 or alessandra.thomas@acnwc.org.

Cyhoeddir y cylchlythyr hwn yn fisol gan Age Connects Canol Gogledd Cymru. I dderbyn copi drwy'r post neu e-bost cysylltwch â 01745 421 567 neu alessandra.thomas@acnwc.org.

Conwy Food Bank

conwyfoodbank@gmail.com

[Conwy Food Bank | Colwyn Bay | Facebook](#)



Please give generously to your nearest collection point (there are boxes in our churches), or contact them by email or through Just Giving to make a financial donation (contact details above). Remember please - no fresh food, dented cans, or out of date food.



We help over 40 families each month with bags of shopping, but as well as donations **we desperately need more volunteers** to shop and deliver. If you could help us at all please let Juliet know (julietfraser@cinw.org.uk) or ring 07931 758331.

Please keep our families and volunteers in your prayers, thank you.

Conwy

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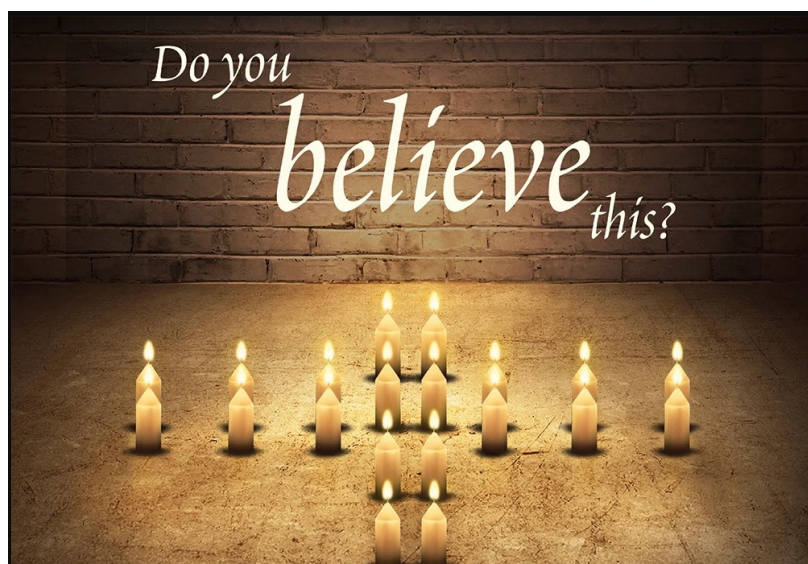


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Call CVSC's **COMMUNITY SUPPORT HUB** on **01492 523853** or **07429 503303** to speak to somebody in complete confidence.



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from the 18th to the 25th January – the octave of St. Peter and St. Paul. Services will be held in local churches every day - look out for details (includes Friday 24th 10.30 am at St David's Penrhyn Bay). For 2025, materials were prepared by the ecumenical community at Bose in Northern Italy. As we celebrate 1,700 years since the Council of Nicaea, the worship service has at its heart, the Nicene Creed. Reflecting this, the scripture readings for this year focus on belief and we are invited to reflect on the story of Martha's confession of faith in Jesus as narrated in John 11:17-27. Each is called to sit with Jesus' provocative question to Martha: "Do you believe this?"

Ways to have a sustainable festive season

The festive season is a time for joy, celebration, and connection. However, it can also be a time of waste, over-consumption, and spending worries. With a few adjustments, we can embrace the spirit of giving while treading more lightly on the planet and on our budgets. No-one is saying don't enjoy yourselves, but perhaps we can



find a more mindful way to celebrate. Don't compromise on traditions or miss out on the fun, but try finding creative ways to make the season more meaningful. Here are some ideas as to how you can be a conscientious consumer this year, whilst still caring for those you love.

Memories to last a lifetime - Give experiences like day trips, tickets to events or vouchers for workshops, which can create lasting memories without producing physical waste. Support local businesses, whether a class at a local art centre or a wreath-making workshop at a local florist, or **make your own personalised vouchers**, whether its cooking dinner for your family, babysitting for a friend or walking your neighbour's dog - these are a fun and budget-friendly way of tailoring gifts according to a recipient's needs and are an opportunity to express your skills.



Try making your own cards, presents, decorations, advent calendars or wreaths this year, or think about sending digital cards if it would be appropriate. Rather than focusing on expensive gifts, try to engage in budget-friendly activities that foster connection, like decorating the tree together, baking cookies with the children, or having a games night. You can also set limits on the number/cost of presents to keep the holiday spirit without the money stress.

Shop second hand - Charity shops are a treasure trove of unique items which can't be found in mainstream stores, and you'll be giving back to a good cause at the same time.

Plastic-free presents - Plastic production surges over the festive season and it can be hard to avoid but be aware. Old maps, fabric or newspaper make good alternatives to wrapping paper,

Plant your own Christmas tree - Try buying a living potted Christmas tree which you can water and later put in your garden after Christmas.

Sustainable Christmas lights - LED lights use up to 90% less energy and last longer. Don't keep them on for too long, and turn them off at night to avoid disrupting wildlife.

Provide a helping hand - Whether it's helping at a food bank, wrapping gifts, volunteering in a homeless shelter, chatting to an elderly neighbour – you can give back to your community and make sure someone has the support they need this year.

Festive food - Opt for more plant-based food to benefit your health and the environment. Look into buying local, seasonal produce – this supports your local farmers and has less impact on the environment. Be mindful of food waste. Be realistic with your food shop, or look up new leftover recipes to try.



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The Coffee Connection Bereavement Meet & Chat

Come and join us for a tea or coffee and meet other people, who like you, have experienced bereavement. We meet once a month on the third Thursday, between 10am and 12pm at **Providero, Upper Mostyn Street, Llandudno**

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