

## **Messy Christmas**

Messy Church will be holding a Christmas celebration: 'Messy Christmas', on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December from 3.30 – 5.00 pm at Llandybie Parish Church. All are invited to join us for an afternoon of crafts and fun which will conclude with a simple Nativity Play. Children and adults are invited to dress up as angels, shepherds, farm animals and wise men.

## **Christingle Service**

We will hold our Family Christingle Service at Llandybie at 11.00 a.m. on Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2016. During the service items received in memory of Mrs. Evelyn Walters will be dedicated. Please encourage your friends and neighbours to come along.

## **Carol Services**

Ysgol Blaenau will hold their carol service at St. Marks, Cwmcoch on Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> December at 5.00 p.m.  
Llandybie Parish Church will have a service of lessons and carols on Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2016 at 5.00 p.m. This is a united service for the 3 churches of the Parish.

## **Stocking Fillers**

We have the following:-

- a) Torch Key rings - £2. 00
- b) Letter Openers - £2. 00
- c) Llandybie Biros £1. 50 and £1.00

All proceeds go towards Llandybie Church funds.

## **Mothers' Union**

The Deanery Advent Service will be held on Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2016 at 2.00p.m. at All Saints Church, Ammanford.

Anyone requiring transport please contact Annie (850558). Please meet at the Church Hall at 1.15 p.m.

The annual Christmas dinner will be held at the Red Lion, Llandybie at 12.00 noon on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2016.

## **Llandybie Male Voice Choir**

The Choir will hold a Carol Concert at the Parish Church, Llandybie at 7.00 p.m. on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> December. A collection will be made at the end of the evening to be shared between the Church and Wales Air Ambulance.

# **DECEMBER / RHAGFYR 2016**

## **Newsletter of the Parish of Llandybie with Llandyfân and St Mark's Cwmcoch**

From the Vicar / Oddi wrth y Ficer

The Christmas story is a very human tale. At its heart is a family trying to do their best for the young baby in their care in very challenging circumstances. Mary and Joseph found themselves having to travel to Bethlehem to take part in a census ordered by the Emperor Augustus. Mary would probably have rather stayed at home to give birth to her first child with her friends and family around her. Instead she ended up giving birth in a stable far from home – hardly ideal surroundings. As we think of Mary's experience we remember mothers around the world today who also give birth far from home and in difficult circumstances.

Joseph and Mary were forced to undertake another journey, soon after Jesus was born, after the wise men came looking for the baby born to be king of the Jews. When Herod, the king of Judea heard about this he sent his soldiers to kill all the boys under the age of two in Bethlehem and the surrounding area, hoping to get rid of this rival king. Joseph, having been warned by an angel in a dream, took Mary and Jesus to safety in Egypt under cover of darkness. The Holy Family lived as refugees in a foreign land until it was safe for them to return home following the death of Herod. As we think of the way in which Joseph acted to protect his family, we think of fathers fleeing with their families from persecution and violence today.

The Christmas story has a universal and timeless appeal, and many people can identify with the themes within it. The world has changed in many ways since Jesus' birth, and other rulers have replaced the Emperor Augustus and King Herod, but there are still people who are suffering as a result of orders given by some of those in authority, and the jealous and cruel actions of leaders who abuse their positions of power and trust. Let us remember them in our prayers this Christmas.

Gan ddymuno pob bendith dros yr Ŵyl / Wishing you every blessing for the Festive Season,

**Ann Howells Ficer / Vicar**

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Parish Website: <http://parish.churchinwales.org.uk/d171/>

### **United Service with the Chapels**

The joint Church/Chapel service will be held at the Parish Church, Llandybie at 11.00 a.m. on Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2017. The service will be bilingual Holy Communion. Please make an effort to support the Service.

### **January 2016 Services**

As in previous years there will be **NO** evening services at Llandybie Parish Church during January.

### **Remembrance Sunday**

Our Remembrance Service took place at 10.55 a.m. on Sunday, 13th November, 2016. The Vicar welcomed all to the Service, the wreaths were laid on the memorial Plaques by County Councillor Anthony Davies and Community Councillor Brian Rees. The words of the Act of Remembrance were spoken by the Vicar, followed by the last post and reveille, played on the trumpet by Laurie Sanders. The lesson from Chapter 5 of the Gospel of Matthew was read by Lay Reader, Ron Isaac. The collection was taken by Brian Hopkins and Emyr Rees. We were led in prayer by the Vicar. The sermon was given by the Vicar, in which she gave a short resume of some of the men from the Parish who had died in the Battle of the Somme in the First World War. The organist was Mrs. Elyth Morris. Some 46 persons attended this service to remember the fallen.

### **Coleg Sir Gâr Christingle Service**

The staff and students of Coleg Sir Gâr will be returning to Llandybie Parish Church for their Christingle Service on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 11.30 am. All are welcome to attend.

### **Plant Dewi Group Christingle Service**

You are invited to come along to Llandybie Church Hall for an informal Christingle Service with the Plant Dewi young parents' group on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 10.00 am.

### **Carols in the Pub**

If you like singing carols then you may want to join in carol singing at one of the local hostelrys (details to be announced when finalised). A practice will be held in Llandybie Parish Church on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00 pm.

## **FROM OUR REGISTERS / ALLAN O GOFRESTRU'R PLWYF**

### **BURIALS/CLADDEDIGAETHAU**

- 7<sup>th</sup> Nov Sandra Jean Owen – 73 years  
of Llandybie Road, Ammanford  
Service at Chapel of Rest, Betws, cremation at Llanelli
- 10<sup>th</sup> Nov Margaret Linda Roberts – 95 years  
Cae Coed, Llandybie  
Cremation at Llanelli
- 11<sup>th</sup> Nov Desmond Evans – 85 years  
Cae Coed, Llandybie  
Service at Chapel of Rest, Betws, burial at Llandybie
- 16<sup>th</sup> Nov Nancy Novello Mary James – 102 years  
Late of Bonllwyn, Ammanford  
Service and burial at Llandybie
- 24<sup>th</sup> Nov Janice Mary Rouse  
Garth Owen Home, Llandovery, formerly of Llandybie  
Service and cremation at Llanelli

**We offer our sympathies to their families in their loss.**

### **WEDDING/PRIODAS**

- 5<sup>th</sup> Nov Peter Brewin and Felicity Green of Erw'r Brenhinoedd,  
Llandybie

**We wish them every blessing in their life together**

### **Christmas Tree Festival**

This will be held at St. Twrog's Church, Llanddarog on:-

- Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> December - 1.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.  
Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> December - 11.00 a.m. – 8.00 p.m.  
Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> December - 11.00 a.m. – 8.00 p.m.  
Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> December - 11.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

### **Decorating Llandybie Parish Church**

We will be decorating for Christmas on Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> December from 2.00 p.m. onwards.

### **Silent Prayer Group**

There was a very positive response to our first meeting in November. If you would appreciate an opportunity to pray in silence together with others during this busy season, come along to Llandybie Parish Church on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00 pm.

### **Inviting all the baptised to share Communion**

The Church in Wales is changing its policy on admission to Holy Communion. From Advent Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> November 2016, all who have been baptised in the name of the Trinity will be welcome to receive Holy Communion if they wish, whether or not they have been confirmed. The only restriction is that the law on not giving alcohol to the under 5s should be respected and obeyed.

The implementation of the policy in the Parish was discussed at the PCC meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> November. Leaflets explaining the change will be available in each church for those receiving Communion for the first time. Those who do not wish to receive Communion may come to the altar rail for a blessing as usual (crossing arms or holding a service book would be a helpful sign). Children under 5 will be welcome to receive the bread. Parents or guardians of children over 5 may give permission for their children to receive the wine (in Llandybie Church this will be recorded in a book so that we don't have to ask each time). Gluten free bread is available – please mention your requirement to the Wardens before the service.

### **20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ordination of Women as Priests**

A special service will be held to mark this anniversary in St Davids Cathedral on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> January at 11.00 am. Parish choiristers are invited to robe and join a massed choir for the event. Please contact Rev'd Marianne Osborne for details of rehearsals: [marianneosbor@aol.com](mailto:marianneosbor@aol.com) 01834812375 All are welcome to attend.

### **Bishop Elect – Canon Joanna Penberthy**

Please keep our Bishop Elect and her husband Adrian in your prayers as she prepares to return to the Diocese to take up her new post. She will be consecrated Bishop on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2017 in Llandaff Cathedral and Enthroned at St Davids Cathedral on 11<sup>th</sup> February.

### **Jesse Tree Service**

The Archidiaconal Mothers' Union Jesse Tree service to celebrate 140 years of the Mothers' Union was held at Llandybie Parish Church on Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2016. Despite the wet and cold weather some 76 persons from various branches attended. Banners were carried through the Church and handed to Canon Bryan Witt (Diocesan Chaplain of the Mothers Union) and the Vicar who arranged them near the altar. Lessons were read by some members of various branches, whilst Mrs. Heather Witt gave a brief history of the Mothers' Union, and spoke about the Mothers' Union today, Diocesan Projects, Prayer and Spirituality and Action and Outreach. We were led in prayer by the Chaplain Canon Bryan Witt who also read the last lesson. The hymns were announced by the Vicar and the organist was Mrs. Elyth Morris.

### **News from Ammanford Foodbank**

2016 has been a particularly busy year for the foodbank, as we've already fed 1,445 people, 639 of whom were children. This compares with a total of 1,217 people fed in the whole of 2015, and this represents an increase of over 40%. We would have been unable to deal with this increase as effectively without your continued support and generous donations, for which we are truly grateful.

Whilst stock levels in general remain adequate, we do have shortages of certain items, currently we would welcome donations of tinned fruit, tomatoes, meat, rice pudding, sponge puddings, custard and fruit juice. As we look forward to the hectic Christmas period, we would also welcome donations of seasonal goodies, such as mince pies, Christmas puddings and selection boxes. As always donations of bags for life are always appreciated, and make our work very much easier.

On behalf of the foodbank team, heartfelt thanks for all your help, encouragement and support throughout 2016, and we wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy New year.

Blessings, Mydrim and the foodbank team.

## DECEMBER DIARY / DYDDIADUR MIS RHAGFYR

THURS, 1 <sup>st</sup> DEC	8.30 am Morning Prayer (E) (Lbie)	THURS, 15 <sup>th</sup> DEC	8.30 am Morning Prayer (E) (Lbie) 1.00 – 6.00 pm Christmas Tree Festival Llanddarog (see details in newsletter)
FRI, 2 <sup>nd</sup> DEC	10.30 am Healing Service with Holy Communion (E) (Lbie)	FRI, 16 <sup>th</sup> DEC	10.30 am Healing Service with Holy Communion (E) (Lbie) 2.00 pm Decorating Parish Church for Christmas
SUN 4 <sup>th</sup> DEC	8.30 am Cymun Bendigaid (W) (Lbie)	SUN, 18 <sup>th</sup> DEC	8.30 am Holy Communion (E) (Lbie)
ADVENT 2	9.45 am Bil Cymun Bendigaid (Ldfn)	ADVENT 4	11.00 am Morning Prayer (Lbie) 2.30 pm Baptism at Cwmcoch (Ccch) 5.00 pm Service of Lessons and Carols at Llandybie
	11.00 am Holy Communion (E) (Lbie)		<b>No service at Llandyfan to join service at 5.00 p.m. at Llandybie</b>
	2.30 pm Gosper (W) (Ccch)		
	5.00 pm Gosper (W) (Lbie)		
MON, 5 <sup>th</sup> DEC	10.00 am Plant Dewi Group – Christingle in Llandybie Church Hall	TUES, 20 <sup>th</sup> DEC	8.30 am Morning Prayer (E) (Lbie)
	2.00 pm Mothers' Union Deanery Advent Service at All Saints Church, Ammanford	WED, 21 <sup>st</sup> DEC	8.30 am Morning Prayer (E) (Ccch)
TUES, 6 <sup>th</sup> DEC	8.30 am Morning Prayer (E) (Lbie)	THURS, 22 <sup>nd</sup> DEC	8.30 am Morning Prayer (E) (Lbie)
	11.00 am for 11.30 a.m. Christingle Service with Coleg Sir Gâr at Llandybie Church	FRI, 23 <sup>rd</sup> DEC	10.30 am Healing Service with Holy Communion (E) (Lbie)
	7.00 pm Carols practice (Llandybie Church)	SAT, 24 <sup>th</sup> DEC	11.30 pm Midnight Eucharist (Lbie)
WED, 7 <sup>th</sup> DEC	8.30 am Morning Prayer (E) (Ccch)	CHRISTMAS EVE	
	3.30 – 5.00 p.m. Messy Christmas - Church	SUN, 25 <sup>th</sup> DEC	8.00 am Holy Communion (E) (Lbie)
THURS, 8 <sup>th</sup> DEC	8.30 am Morning Prayer (E) (Lbie)	CHRISTMAS DAY	9.00 am Holy Communion (E) (Ldfn) 10.15 am Holy Communion (E) (Ccch)
	12.00 pm Mothers Union Christmas Dinner at the Red Lion, Llandybie	TUES, 27 <sup>th</sup> DEC )	
FRI, 9 <sup>th</sup> DEC	10.30 am Healing Service with Holy Communion (E) (Lbie)	WED, 28 <sup>th</sup> DEC )	No morning prayer at Llandybie or Cwmcoch
Readings – Sheet	7.00 p.m. Carols and readings with Llandybie Male Voice at the Parish Church, Llandybie	THURS, 29 <sup>th</sup> DEC )	
SUN, 11 <sup>th</sup> DEC	8.30 am Holy Communion (E) (Lbie)	FRI, 30 <sup>th</sup> DEC	No Friday Holy Communion
ADVENT 3	11.00 am Christingle Family Service with dedication of gifts (Lbie)	SUN, 1 <sup>st</sup> JAN	8.30 am Cymun Bendigaid (Lbie)
	5.00 pm Carol Service with Blaenau School (Ccch)	CHRISTMAS 1	9.45 am Bil Cymun Bendigaid (Ldfn) 11.00 am Annual United Service with Holy Communion at the Parish Church, Llandybie
	5.00 pm <b>No service at Llandybie join Cwmcoch</b>		2.30 pm. Gosper (Ccch)
MON, 12 <sup>th</sup> DEC	7.00 p.m. Silent Prayer at the Parish Church (Lbie)		<b>NO 5.00 evening service at Llandybie during January, 2017</b>
TUES, 13 <sup>th</sup> DEC	8.30 am Morning Prayer (E) (Lbie)		
WED, 14 <sup>th</sup> DEC	8.30 am Morning Prayer (E) (Ccch)		

