

The Beacon

December 2015

Llangunllo

Beguildy

Heyope

Bleddfa



**Nativity Window
St Mary's, Pennard
Gower**

Price: £6 for the year or 60p per copy



Story on page 7



Knighton YFC were awarded first and second place positions in the Radnor YFC senior debating competition. Pictured are the two teams with their trainer David Morgan. Left to Right: Rhoda Hodnett, Phil George, Matt Price, David Morgan, Ieuan Breeze, Daniel Price and Menna Breeze. Rhoda also won the cup for the best individual speaker and Rhoda, Menna and Daniel will go on to represent Radnor at the Wales finals next Spring. (6 out of 7 of these YFC members live in The Beacon catchment area.)

Priest

Revd John Hanna
 Victoria House, Victoria Road
 Knighton
 Tel. 01547 529 296
 rojohanna@waitrose.com

Benefice Wardens

Bob Williams 01547 550 142
 Isabel Morris 01547 550 689

Benefice Secretary

Rosemary Hanna 01547 529 296

Benefice Treasurer

Hilary Howcroft 01547 520 080

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Churchwardens**

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 Flowers & Cleaning: 7 - 20 Dec May
 & Monica. 21 Dec - 3 Jan Julie &
 Dawn.

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 Flowers: Dec. Isabel Forbath

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Graham George 01547 550208

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 Bob Williams 01547 550 142

Health and Safety Officer

Bob Williams 01547 550 142

Reader Emeritus

Laura Woodside-Jones 01547 520 266



Cover: In this tender country scene Mary is robed in traditional blue with a white headdress as a sign of purity, and around her waist a golden cord for her supremacy. Both Mary and Jesus have the divine halo over their heads. Lilies, a symbol of virginity and purity, bloom on either side with a tiny clump of daisies in the lower right-hand corner. Aside from the peace in their expressions the most arresting feature is the vivid colour. The window is found in a beautiful medieval church dedicated to St Mary set in the countryside on the Gower Peninsula. Rev Peter Brooks, who was vicar at Rhayader, is the vicar in this Parish of Three Cliffs, which includes four churches.

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Happy Christmas

Christmas is a wonderful time of the year. To be reminded of God's arrival, with his gift of love for all of us, is reassuring and speaks of a better future.

The events of present world history do not always look hopeful. We find ourselves being dragged down by the negative news and reports of hard times ahead.

But wasn't it like that when Jesus arrived into our world, and isn't it for that reason he came to us to be our Saviour?

So be strong in the Lord; let the joy of the Lord be your strength. If God is for us, who can be against us? Remember Jesus said before he returned to heaven, "I am with you always . . ."

So in the new year get this wonderful message of Good News on to the streets of our towns and villages. Bring Christmas to people, and you enjoy it also.

For three and a half years I have worked with you all in the mission and ministry of the Church. As I step down I do it with some sadness and good reflections of joy and satisfaction. I do wish you well in the changes you will face in the new year. Love God and one another, and do that which is right and proper by God and all people.

Happy Christmas and all the best for 2016.

John



We say goodbye to John as our vicar on the first Sunday in January 2016. Although only part-time he has influenced our parishes in a number of ways. He has brought about change in a decisive and collaborative way that has seen an increase in worshippers at Llangunllo and at Bleddfa's "Special Service". He has supported creative ideas like a barbecue breakfast at Beguildy, an arts exhibition at Heyope, and colour in this magazine! He introduced our yearly Calendar and house groups.

He will be sadly missed.



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The Fourteen

Ministry Area Briefings were held recently in all three of our areas: New Radnor (5 churches), East Radnor (5), Beacon Hill (4). Our Area Dean, Rev Mark Beaton, re-assured us with the 'crossword', a schedule for services in all 14 churches. Amazingly every service in our current pattern of worship could be covered, even after John Hanna retires.

The three meetings spent some time on the organisation of the Ministry Areas, with many suggestions: combine all 14 into one 'benefice', break them up or combine them here or there. The geography and history of these valleys makes all conjecture problematic.

The East Radnor group spent some time on mission, learning that one of the points of Ministry Areas is to focus on supporting, encouraging and replicating success stories, instead of just trying harder at what we have always done. The New Radnor group is not a Benefice and they discussed the advantages and disadvantages of becoming a Benefice, with no clear direction decided upon.

In all the meetings, adding an administrative level was discussed; many considered it an unwelcome addition to the present burden of meetings. It was made clear at all the meetings that individual churches will continue to manage their own buildings and events.

Finance was also discussed, but as there are no directives from on high, we can write our own rules. It did surface that the Parish Share will be allocated to the Ministry Area. Currently a rebate is being offered by the diocese to the groups (or benefice) who pay their parish share quickly. One struggling church can affect the others, so we need to pull together.

The New Radnor group discussed at some length the mission of the church as seen in Messy Church as well as a Wednesday lunch with Holy Communion. A Ministry Area magazine and outreach to Young Farmers Clubs were suggested. Whatever we do, we need to harness the ideas and the people who make it happen.

We did realise that we have a blank slate: 14 churches, 2 full time clergy, one deacon. Put it all in the hat, shake it up, and maybe something beautiful will emerge!

Oh, don't let's ask for the moon. We've already got the stars.

- Bette Davis



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Music in New Radnor

Saturday 12th December, 7.30pm

THE VILLAGE QUIRE

By Candlelight

The Village Quire and actor Phil Smith bring songs and stories, wonders and wassailing, miracles and mirth, Rousing West Gallery anthems. Doors open at 7pm for 7.30 start.

Tickets £8.00 (Under 14s £3) Tickets from 01544 350268

St David's Folk Carols

3pm, Sunday, Dec 20

Bring the whole family for
traditional carols and

Wassail music

**with folk instruments and
a hurdy gurdy!**



Beguildy & Heyope 200 Club Draw

Nov/Dec

£50 Jonathan Powis

£10 L & R Kuegler

£10 Sarah Bridge (Peregrine)

£10 Margaret Harris

£10 Bridget (Beguildy Shop)

Isabel's vote of thanks to John

Having John as our vicar we have greatly appreciated his commitment and support to us – he has been prepared to lead us but has also let us as a church grow and develop.

He is prepared to listen and take on board our views and ideas and we have enjoyed working with him as a team.

He is a good, kind man who I have much respect for and we shall miss him greatly.

Llangunllo Hall 200 Club Draw

June 2015

£20 Paul Northwood, Central Villa

£10 Ian Burgess, Southend-on-Sea

£5 David Blake, Craig Fach

£5 Ron Wickes, Gooseberry
Cottage

July 2015

£20 Phil Price, Coed Harbour

£10 Rosie Williams, White Anthony

£5 Gordon Morgan, Cefn Suran

£5 Mrs Bagley, Rock Villa

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St Michael's Church, Beguildy

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

MONDAY

14th Dec.

7.00

Felindre Village Hall

Games

Promise Auction

Stalls

(please bring promise items)

Bar

Refreshments

(sausage & chips)



Sharing the Good News

I retire as vicar of Beacon Hill Benefice on January 3, 2016. The Benefice will be moving into a new situation in the new year, by forming a Ministry Area with two other Benefices, and I wish them God's blessing for their new future.

Rosemary and myself will continue to live in Knighton and we hope to serve the Lord in some other way. If it is possible I would like to explore ways of sharing the Good News of Salvation, based on the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, across the churches and beyond.

In the new year I would like to pray with like-minded people on how this might be best done to the glory of God.

Please contact me before the year is out if this is something you would like to do.

Yours in Christ, John Hanna

01547 529296 rojohanna@waitrose.com



Beguildy Christmas Carols

7pm on Monday, Dec 21

Traditional carols for the whole family

And the Rain Held Off

Revd Haydn Davies led a moving **Remembrance Sunday Service** on November 8th at the Llangunllo Cenotaph. Representatives of the four parishes: Llangunllo, Bleddfa, Beguildy, Heyope, as well as chapel and community councils, read the names and laid the wreathes. At 11am we stood in respectful silence and contemplated the sacrifice of so many. Trevor Head played the rich tones of the Last Post on the trombone, and its sound echoed across the valley.

After the Cenotaph Service the congregations de-camped to Gravel Chapel for a service where Revd John Hanna preached.

The offering at the Gravel Chapel on Remembrance Sunday was £200 and was donated to the Royal British Legion. We thank everyone for their generosity.

Calm fell. From heaven distilled a clemency;
There was peace on earth, and silence in the sky.

– Thomas Hardy (1840-1928),
from *And there was a Great Calm*
on the signing of the Armistice 1918)

In the rising of the sun and at its going down, we remember them.

In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter, we remember them.

In the opening buds and in the rebirth of spring, we remember them.

In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer, we remember them.

In the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of autumn, we remember them.

When weary and in need of strength, we remember them.

When lost and sick at heart, we remember them.

So long as we live, they too shall live, for they are part of us.

As we remember them.

Roland B Gittelsohn (1910-1995)

from *The Gates of Repentance* (1978)

Even better! Last month we reported on the 24-hour playing of Eric Satie's "Vexations" in aid of the refugee appeal. At that point the total raised was over a £1,000, but the number has swelled to over £2,400.

Benefice Remembrance



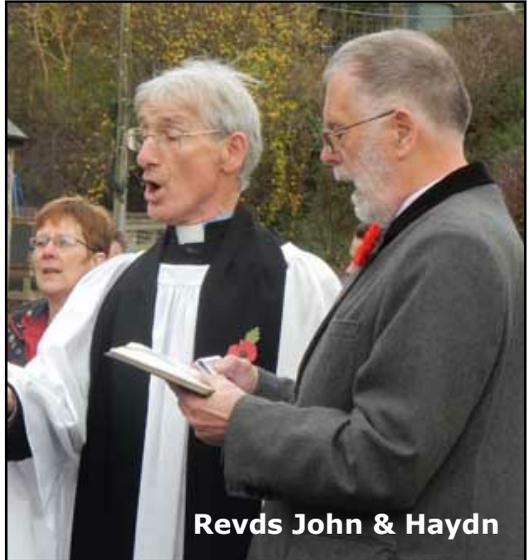
Llangunllo Cenotaph



Shirley, Michael,
Carwen



Trevor



Revs John & Haydn





Poppies at Gravel



Hilary reading names



Mary laying a wreath



**Judy Mitchell (Llangunllo councillor),
Bob Williams (Churchwarden), Myra
Williams, (Gravel Chapel), & Hywel
Lewis (Powys County Councillor)**



Dunya reading names

The Friends of St Cynllo's
would like to thank you all for your
support during the year
and invite you to join them for

Carols Round the Christmas Tree

in the centre of the village

at 6.0 on Sunday 20th December.

Mince pies and punch should add to the festive spirit.

(Carol sheets will be available but a torch might come in handy)



Change your thoughts and you change your world.

- Norman Vincent Peale



O Come All Ye Faithful....

**To the Community
Carol Service**

at

**St. Cynllo's Church,
Llangunllo**

**Thursday Dec 24th
3 pm**

***All are welcome to join us
Traditional Refreshments***



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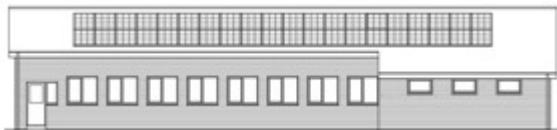
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Felindre W.I.

Fourteen members attended the Felindre W.I. Annual General Meeting on the 4th of November. The roll call was for ideas for the 2016 programme and many suggestions were forthcoming.

The usual AGM business followed: President's report on a very busy Centenary year, secretary's report, treasurer's report, adoption of accounts by our auditor, Ruth Davies. Officials were elected: Pat Buckley – President, Sue Woodhall – Vice President, Eleanor Nicholls – Secretary, Fay Payne – Treasurer.

Our annual Dinner will be held in January 2016. Rebe Brick will do a reading at the Carol service at Saint Garmon's Church, St Harmon. Rhona has prepared the 2016 programme of events and work on the Scrapbook is being continued by Sue Woodhall.

Competition: The last rose of Summer. 1st was Carol Peregrine, 2nd Sue Woodhall, 3rd Rebe Brick, 4th Monica Thomas. Raffle winner of flowers was Eleanor Nicholls.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 2nd of December at 7.30 pm at Felindre Village Hall. Why not join us in this festive season? The subject then will be "Being Crafty for Christmas." Look forward to meeting you then,

Pat Buckley

Black Forest Memories

St David's Ladies Guild held their October meeting, but due to unforeseen circumstances our speaker was unable to be with us but will be coming in January. At the last moment Mary & Rick from Lloyney kindly came and filled the gap. They gave us an illustrated talk on their holidays spent in the Black Forest. We all enjoyed the history and wonderful photographs and I hope to arrange another visit from them in 2016.

We look forward to our speaker on 17th November with Mr Garsitt with his talk entitled "A Poets' Misadventure" and like all our meetings, everyone is most welcome.

We shall be holding our annual Christmas Lunch on Wednesday, 16th December 12.30 for 1.00 at the Castle Inn. Again bring your friends and join us, just ring Maggie Lloyd with numbers on 01547 528358, we shall be pleased to see you.

Maggie Lloyd

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Christmas isn't a date – it's a state of mind and heart.

Recipe: Gluten Free Apple Christmas Cake

Ingredients:

170g pitted prunes	3 tsp vanilla extract
115g dried apple rings	1-2 tsp ground cinnamon
115g dried apricots	1 tsp ground ginger
50ml brandy	½ tsp fresh grated nutmeg or mace
170g soft salted butter	2 cloves ground to a powder
85g palm sugar, ground up dates or muscovado sugar	pinch of salt
1-2 oranges	3 large free range eggs
1 small apple grated	85g ground almonds
	85g buckwheat flour
	1½ tsp baking powder

Method:

The day before chop the dried fruit roughly by hand or with a processor. Place in a bowl and pour over the brandy – it will not cover fruit. Leave to soak overnight.

Line a deep 20cm (8 inch) diameter cake tin with a double layer of brown paper, bottom and sides. Set the oven to 150°C fan assisted.

Beat butter and sugar together until soft and paler in colour. Stir in the soaked fruit, zest from 1 orange, grated apple, vanilla and spices.

In a separate bowl whisk the eggs and stir them into the mixture a bit at a time. Don't worry if it looks a bit curdled – it will be fine!

Stir in ground almonds, buckwheat flour and baking powder until a smoothish mixture is formed. Finally, squeeze the juice from half the orange and stir into the mixture to make a soft dropping consistency (add more if it seems stiff at all – you may need up to 2 oranges). Pour into the prepared tin and level the surface lightly.

Bake for 1½-2 hours until a skewer comes out clean. Cover with foil if it seems to be browning too much after 40 minutes. Once out of the oven, and as soon as the tin is cool enough to touch, place a piece of foil tightly over the top and leave until completely cold (this softens the top of the cake). Remove from the tin and wrap in greaseproof paper and a double layer of foil.

Eat immediately or keep it for up to a week in an airtight tin, in a cool place, before eating - but not longer or it will start to go off as there is not enough sugar or dried fruit in this cake to keep it. Cover with marzipan the day before eating if you wish to do this.

- Recipe from River Cottage

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Welsh Names

MEINIR - Means "maiden" in Welsh.

MEINWEN - Means "slender and white" from Welsh *main* "slender" and *gwen* "white, fair, blessed".



MEREDITH - From the Welsh name *Maredudd* or *Meredydd*, possibly meaning "great lord" or "sea lord". Since the mid-1920s it has been used more often for girls than for boys in English speaking countries, though it is still a masculine name in Wales. A famous bearer of this name as surname was the English novelist and poet George Meredith (1828-1909).

MERERID - Welsh form of MARGARET.

MERVYN - (or MERVIN) From the Welsh name *Merfyn*, which possibly meant "marrow famous". This was the name of a 9th century Welsh king, Merfyn Frych.

MEURIG - Welsh form of MAURICE. This was the name of a few early Welsh kings.

Info from www.behindthename.com

The pine stays green in winter... wisdom in hardship.

- Norman Douglas

THANK YOU

Gaynor, Caroline and Chris would like to thank everyone who helped with the charity concert in Marc and Becky's wedding marquee in August. As a result £2080 has been shared between the Midlands Air Ambulance and The Bracken Trust.

They especially want to thank Santander and Rachel Jones who match funded the raffle and a very big thank you to all of the ladies who donated cakes and helped on the day making mountains of sandwiches. It was very much a team effort.

Q. What do you get if you cross a snowman and a vampire?

A. Frostbite.

KINDA

Dementia Friendly
Knighton & District

Tip 2 Body language

People with dementia may find it difficult to understand what is being said but can be quick to interpret messages on people's faces and may still be aware of body language. Smile warmly, make eye contact, stay at the person's level, use a friendly tone and respect personal space.

- to be continued next month.

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- Everyone welcome, but no dogs please.
- Walkers walk at their own risk, and the leader has the right to alter or postpone a walk if the conditions are unsuitable.

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Wed Dec 2. Brecon & Monmouth Canal Walk. Towpath – there & back. 7.7 miles easy. Start at OL13 SO 155195 Llangynidr recycling car park.

Wed Dec 9. Hopesay, Kempton Short Wood. 7 miles moderate, 390m ascent, 3 ups. Start at Exp 217 SO 390833 on road in village

Sat Dec 12. The Smatcher, Harley Dingle. 8 miles moderate, several ascents. Start at Exp 201 SO 213608 Broad St, New Radnor

Wed Dec 16. Bishops Castle circular. 7 miles moderate, 200m of ascent. Start at Exp 216 SO 322887 Union St Car Park Bishops Castle.

Wed Dec 23. Kington, Bredward, Hergest Ridge. 6.75 miles moderate. Start at Exp 201 SO 295565 Mill Street Car park Kington.

Wed Dec 30. Breinton and the Wye
NB: 11am start. 6.5 miles moderate. Start at Exp 202 SO 472415 far end of Wyevale Garden Centre Car Park.



Highlander on Kerry Ridgeway



Measuring girth of yew at Cascob



Horses in the Radnor Forest

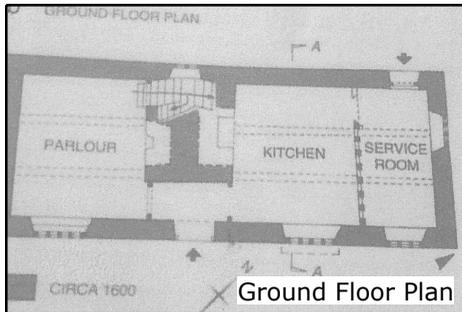
Margaret's Musings on Beguilty Houses

The Lawn Farm House was built around 1600. It is almost entirely built of stone and is described as having a three lobby entry plan. It was one of the



Lawn Farm House

first houses to be built from new in Radnorshire containing a three lobby entry unit as most houses with this feature were older houses converted from the hall house. As the Lawn house has a stone built, centrally placed chimney with a large gabled dormer, this means that it was an



entirely new built storeyed house. It had the principle chamber over the hall.

The large axial back-to-back chimney occupies the centre of the house and the doorway into the house opens into a lobby at the side of the fireplace.

Those entering the house may either turn left into the heated end parlour or



'Green Man' & Woman

right into the hall/kitchen. The hall/kitchen is provided with the larger cooking fireplace and has a small inner service room beyond the residual dais partition. The sequence of kitchen, partition and inner room beyond echoes the planning of the hall house.

All of the external walls are stone built apart from the gabled dormer of the first floor chamber. This has fine timber detail, decorated with a carving of a 'green man' on the jetty bracket and a carving of a woman to the right. Timber has also been used for the door frames and windows and history has it that one of the rooms was a priest hiding hole.

Only minor alterations have ever been made to this virtually unaltered three unit lobby entry house.

Lower Goytre was also built in the early 1600s.

A little later, about 1650, Stone House was built. This was also built as a lobby entry house. Minor alterations include 19th Century dormers and an external access to the cellar with an almost unaltered internal which includes a stone stair by the back-to-back fireplace and a bread oven in the kitchen.

There are many other notable houses in our local area which boast historic features and interest. Many of these are recorded in local history books for anyone interested in furthering their own research.

Margaret Harris

Based on facts from "Houses and History in the March of Wales" plus notes from Mr P. Swancott..

Llanfair Waterdine WI

Just a short report this month because we seem to have had a quieter month leading up to our AGM. Members enjoyed Federation events and gave enthusiastic reports about the various activities. Looking back over the year through our secretary's report we realised how busy we have been and how much we have enjoyed so many things. At our AGM we were very pleased to re-elect Mary Morgan as our President; we have so much to thank her for with leading us over the last year.

We are now looking forward to our Christmas activities. Our December talk is about ideas for making Christmas decorations. Last month I said "watch this space." – Well here it is, we are holding our usual Christmas Social on Saturday 19th December in the Everest Hall at 7.00pm. It is an evening of Christmas cheer with the Little Craig music group, festive mulled wine and refreshments and an opportunity to join in with singing traditional carols. We always have a happy evening and would be pleased to see anyone who would like to come. Tickets cost £5.00 and are available from Mary Morgan (tel. 01547 528429) or Ann Harroway (01547 528477). All proceeds will go to Hope House children's Hospice and WI funds.

Ann Harroway

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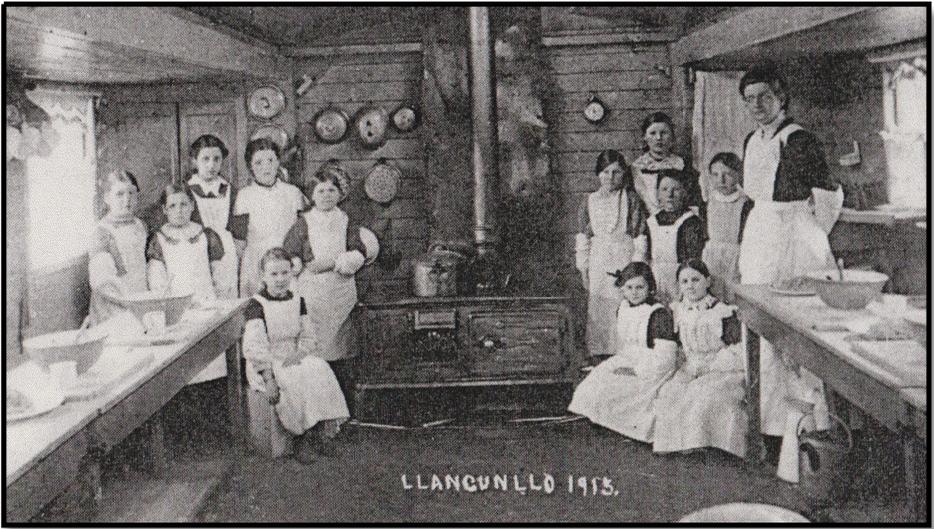
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This 1915 photo from a newspaper shows a domestic science class for girls at Llangunllo School. The classroom was a travelling wagon parked for a short time in the playground of Llangunllo School before moving on to another school.

From the collection of Henry Morgan.

In Memoriam Gift

Back in July the Craft Group held a sale of materials etc. that had belonged to our member “Trish,” who passed away very suddenly, with the request from her partner Chris that proceeds should go to Air Ambulance. Trish who was a member for only a short time, was a very talented lady and very modest with it; we didn’t know how talented until later. At our last meeting we had a surprise visit from Chris who presented us with this certificate from the Air Ambulance. Our group actually raised just over £1200 but Chris had added other monies donated in memory of Trish.

I would like to thank all those who helped on the day and of course all who attended the sale and made all of this possible.

Margaret Clugston



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Telephone: 01547 528150

Knucklas Christmas Draw

Kirsty Williams, A.M. will be joining us!

Knucklas Community Centre

Friday, December 4th

7.30pm

Social evening with drinks and snacks

Grand Raffle with Prizes Galore!

(e.g. Christmas hamper, meal vouchers for Knucklas, Lloyney, Beguildy pubs)

Everyone invited – support your Community Centre

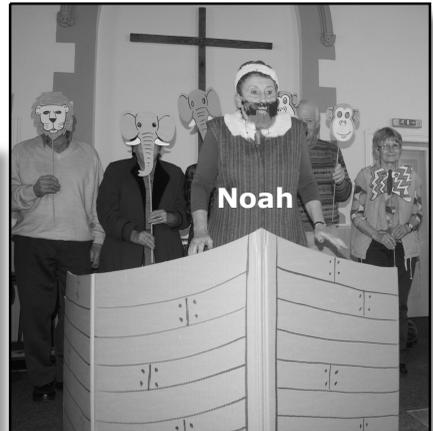


The longer one is alone, the easier it is to hear the song of the earth.

- Robert Anton Wilson



Roman Centurion



Noah



Blind Beggar

Open the Book

The Open the Book team told Knighton School children two healing stories: (1) Jesus healing the Roman Centurion's servant, (2) Jesus healing the blind beggar.

The team also went to Knighton Methodist Church for a 'Cafe' style service to show what Churches Together are doing. They told the well loved story of Noah, and parishioners in the background were lions and elephants and butterflies.

Churches Together Events in December

You are welcome to all our Churches Together events.

Do come and join us.

Friday 4 December Light up a Life

6.00 pm at Norton Street Baptist Church (in the schoolroom)

We hold this service every year in support of St Michael's Hospice.

It is an opportunity to celebrate the lives of loved ones who have died.

Sister Margaret Davis will lead the service.

Saturday 19 December Rumours of Angels

5.00 pm in St Edward's Church Hall

The Churches Together Choir sing Graham Kendrick's musical.

A delightful Advent celebration as we look forward to Christmas.



Churches Together in Knighton & District
warmly welcome you to

COMMUNITY CAROLS

Tuesday 8 December

7pm

Knighton Community Centre

Town Silver Band

Primary School Choir

Junior Handbell Ringers

Clock Tower Ringers

Temple Spirits

Churches Together Choir



Bauble Tree

Bring your loved ones closer this Christmas by placing a bauble on the Llangunllo Memory Tree.

The special tree will be in Llangunllo church from 10th December.

Write a message on the card and hang a bauble.

Donations are happily accepted!



Llangunllo WI November Meeting

On 3rd November 12 members attended their monthly meeting at Upper Bailey, home of Secretary Shirley Brown.

Proceedings began with the AGM. The President, Secretary and Treasurer agreed to serve for another year, but the President urged other members to take on some responsibilities and was pleased to welcome to the new Committee Ann Newton as Vice President to replace Sue Beddoes and Annie Edwards as Minutes Secretary to assist the Secretary. Jenny Williams agreed to stay on as Vice President and to continue to share the job of Press Secretary with Carwen Maggs who would also join the 2016 Committee.

In her report Isabel said we had enjoyed another busy and happy year and was delighted that we had won the Powys Radnor award for best recruitment and had been placed third in the category for the whole of Wales. Our members had enjoyed several national and local events to mark the Centenary of the WI. In June she and Shirley attended a WI Garden Party in Buckingham Palace and two days later Carwen represented our group at the Royal Albert Hall for the 100th AGM which was graced with the presence of HM Queen. Some members visited Llanfair Pwll, Anglesey, which set up the first WI in Britain and had mounted a celebratory exhibition to mark the occasion. Later in the year a party from Llangunllo joined the Powys Radnor contingent to attend a Centennial WI Fair in Harrogate and also managed to fit in a tea party at the famed Betty's tea rooms. Llangunllo and Whitton WIs joined forces for a memorable Ladies, evening at the Knighton Hotel in the autumn which had been much enjoyed by everybody and donations from our share of the proceeds would be presented to the Defribillator and Llangunllo Hall. Shirley reported that the past year had been a busy one for her and she had found it helpful to communicate to members by email. Karen Edgar our Treasurer in her report was pleased to inform us our finances were in a healthy state.

The rest of the evening was used for current business. Plans were finalised for our Christmas outing to Shrewsbury in December, which will include a theatre visit to a panto (oh, yes, it will!) It was agreed that in 2016 winter meetings would be in the afternoon. Full details of timings and events will be in next year's programme which will be available before Christmas. At the end of a busy evening we all enjoyed our usual convivial bring and share supper. For details of all events at Llangunllo WI contact Shirley Brown on 01547 550 555.

Carwen Maggs

Knucklas and District Notes for December

St. David's Church, Heyope: Our local parish church participated, along with others, in the memorial service on Remembrance Sunday at the Cenotaph in Llangunllo and, afterwards, at the Gravel Chapel.

Our Pudding and Punch evening at the Castle Inn was a scintillating success as a social and fund-raising event.

Now we look forward to the season of Advent which may have started by the time that you read this. A whole-Benefice service at Heyope will mark Advent Sunday. (11am on the 29th November)

Our Carol Service at Heyope is planned for Sunday December 20th starting at 3pm. Our Christmas Day service is at 11am.

Knucklas Baptist Chapel: Like the Anglican churches in our area, the Baptist chapels have no chance, in the foreseeable future, of having a full-time, or even part-time, paid minister. Revd Michael Humphries from Knighton is 'holding the fort' at present. He writes, in the November Newsletter, of the inevitability of suffering but, for believers, it is not the end of the story: "Maybe there is no other way for us to become fully-formed human beings other than through experiencing hard times of some kind. Jesus himself did not have an easy life, and on his cross he felt forsaken by God. His humanity was completed through his suffering . . ." But this is not the end of the story because, he writes, quoting from the New Testament letter to the Hebrews: 'This passing light affliction is working for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison.' "So there is reason to be encouraged."

Churches across the Teme: The big news, in the Middle Marches Benefice, is that Revd. Anne Ballard has been appointed to succeed Revd Diana Hoare as Priest-in-Charge; she is already quite well known in these parts, especially in musical circles and is due to move into the vicarage at Bucknell after Christmas and to be licensed soon after that. Margaret Hay-Campbell, Secretary of the Benefice Organists' Guild, writing in the Clun Forest Deanery Magazine, describing some of the fears and hopes of any church organist, asks the congregations to 'raise the roof' with their singing and, in the words of Psalm no 33, to "Sing unto the Lord a new song: sing praises unto him lustily with a good courage."

Around and About: We have enjoyed a sunny October and a fabulous start to November. Now, as I write, it is cooler and rainy with the remains of

hurricanes sweeping over the U.K. from the Atlantic in a north-easterly direction. Here in Knucklas we have not been hit too badly by the winds and rains, so far. Indeed, our own local water-sources had become quite depleted. (I blame our very dry April this year, which also caused some damage to trees.) Such gales are now named, so that people in this country will take them more seriously!

Local organisations are, despite the many seemingly intractable problems in the world, preparing for their Christmas celebrations. The Community Centre Management Committee, whose aim is always to facilitate groups and activities in the area rather than organize events themselves, is holding a reception along with various attractions, on the evening of Friday 4th December. A special event which the Management Committee had organised was the recent concert with Whalebone, a life-affirming, rambunctious and deeply satisfying experience for those present, in our wonderful hall.

Although life can appear to be slow and uneventful at times in Knucklas, things are in fact constantly changing and I find the feel of the place almost unrecognisable from when we arrived here 19 years ago. It now seems much quieter and more peaceful. Castle Green is now quite a well-established little community, several houses on Glyndwr are privately owned, the council-owned properties have been greatly improved, with much work also done on privately owned houses too. These days, fewer people have milk delivered to their door, the mobile library now only visits once a month and Merv and Ernie of Lloyney have, after more than twenty years of unremitting service delivering evening and week-end newspapers across the area, retired. The Castle Hill Community Land Project has, against all the apparent odds, been launched with considerable success giving pleasure and a sense of belonging to many, although it still faces challenges. Meanwhile, this magazine has changed almost beyond recognition and is eagerly awaited, valued and read by people over a wide region.

And, of course, there has been quite a changeover in the local population too. Judith Lane has recently moved, from her bungalow beside the Chapel, to Essex, at least for a while. Hugh and Mavis Thomas have moved from Tan-y-Coed, just above the allotments, to Newtown. Farewell and best wishes to both! Others are planning to move. Meanwhile, a warm welcome to all newcomers to Knucklas including Valerie and Stan Carr who, in common with one or two other residents, have come over from France.

Robert Forbath

Puddin `n` Punch

A rainy night saw friends piling into the Castle Inn for the “all you can eat” puddings. Soon it was standing room only. An array of delicious homemade delicacies made decision making difficult “Should I have pavlova or lemon meringue or key lime pie or crumble or that heavenly Black Forest Gateau or . . . ?” There was more than enough, but how to make room?

The convivial atmosphere was considerably helped by Peter North’s hot punch. We paced ourselves by listening to Paul Woodall’s keyboard, Paul with an incredible pedigree for playing in all sorts of places and all sorts of styles: bossanova, quick step, organ, cabaret, jazz. Since for the most part we were of an age, we toe tapped our way through his “*Eleanor Rigby*” and “*A Whiter Shade of Pale*”.

In between music and culinary delights we enjoyed Avril Hoyle’s floral demonstrations. She kindly donated her arrangements for our raffle and for auction. St David’s thanks all those who attended and made such an enjoyable evening.

Llangunllo – Changes in The Beacon Distribution from January 2016

We would like to say a big thank you to Lynn and Stuart Pettifer for delivering The Beacon over the years but as they have moved new arrangements have been made.

The Beacon will now be available from the last day of the previous month and can be collected from a box in the village Bus Shelter or you can have your copy posted. Your Beacon will have your name on it. If you would like to have your copy posted then please let Carwen and Ken Maggs have self-addressed stamped envelopes (to cover postage a large 2nd Class Stamp will be required) .

Dues for The Beacon subscription are in January and please drop off your money to Carwen and Ken Maggs at Ferndale Llangunllo. The subscription is £7 per year. Monthly copies can be obtained from the Church or Greyhound Inn at a cost of 70p.

NB. January 2016 edition will be available early in the month rather than at the end of December 2015 and we will let you know the date of collection by email or telephone call.

With thanks The Committee and Friends of St Cynllo’s Church.

Puddin' n' Punch



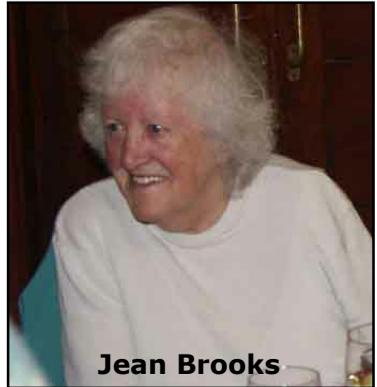
Avril's arrangements



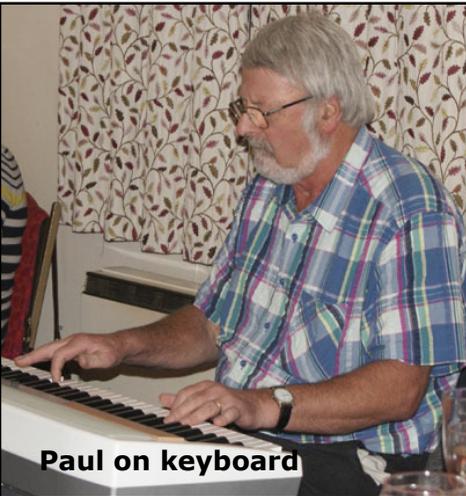
Puddings galore



Tatum



Jean Brooks



Paul on keyboard



Linda

Puddin 'n' Punch



Stan and Helen



Tessa



David & Harold



Pat contemplating



Helen and Val

TVGC November Meeting

Dr Steve Reynolds, an expert on plant problems and garden pests and how to deal with them, addressed the Garden Club on 9th November. His talk considered the effects of climate change and how an understanding of the lives of pests should guide us in the way in which we can protect our plants as they have to adapt to differing weather patterns.

The changing weather patterns which seem to be developing he gave as warm wet winters (www) and hot dry summers. Firstly, lichens growing on trees and shrubs were harmless to these plants but were just due to wetter weather. On the other hand woolly aphids look very like lichens. He showed illustrations.

A lack of frost in winter was confusing to biennial plants. It also made life easier for overwintering insect pests. He mentioned several commonly grown plants and weeds which we would put into compost bins when it would make more sense to bury them quite deeply in the garden where natural soil communities would feed on these pests.

There were many useful tips which we could adopt, too many to be listed here. Just one; Aphids during their active season as we know breed profusely and we reach for sprays to kill them. Now these sprays are being withdrawn from the market but he had a clever plan. The active ingredient in them was designed to block the spiracles through which insects breathe. This ingredient is also found in WD40 and will do the trick.

Rain water in barrels, as we know but forget, is full of a range of harmful organisms. So we must use our judgement, especially in hot dry summers, and only using it on established plants and not on young seedlings which are liable to damping off. Just a brief taste of what was a talk distilled from Dr Reynolds' lifelong studies as a plant scientist.

Competition: There were only two entries in the competition for a pair of parsnips. Rose Morris was first, followed by Jean Price.

For the December meeting on 14th we gather at the Castle Inn, Knucklas, 12.30 for 1pm for a festive lunch. Members wishing to attend but who have not signed up should ring Avril (529244) to book before 9th Dec. No meeting in January.

Rosemary Naylor

**You talk about your pleasures to your acquaintances;
you talk about your troubles to your friends.**

- Fr Andrew SDC

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Festival of Christ's



Nativity

Christmas Eve



7pm

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Mighty Compton Pipe Organ

Favourite Carols

Mulled wine Mince Pies

A warm welcome to all

Jesse Tree Altar Frontal

The stitchery group in Bleddfa have been at it again. They have produced a "Jesse Tree" altar frontal for St Mary Magdalene's Church. If you are wondering what a "Jesse Tree" is, see the back cover of the magazine.

The frontal will be dedicated in church on 13th December at 11am.

As Bleddfa did not have a purple frontal for Advent and Lent, it will be much appreciated.

Annual Calendar

In the new year we will make a calendar of events for 2016. Please give Bob and Jenny Williams any details you know about meetings and events for churches and organisations.

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Banking Down the Years

In January 1957 I was moved by my bank, National Provincial, from Southport to Rochdale. This was all in Lancashire. It was a great change from living at home, then going into lodgings.

I was put in touch with an elderly couple (maybe they weren't so elderly) for bed and breakfast and an evening meal. I commuted from Southport early Monday morning and returned home on Saturday afternoon, by train. There was an exception to this when I was given a Saturday morning off every so often.

The branch was in the town centre of Rochdale and I was to become a cashier. This was quite a responsibility compared to my time at Southport.

There was plenty of off-time activity. I linked up with Scouting at the Salvation Army citadel, with the Scout Troop. The leader was in the band. He and his wife were hospitable in that I stayed at their house over a week-end when there was an event in which the Scouts took part.

We went camping to a lovely valley site on the outskirts of Heywood. It was called Ashworth Valley. On one occasion the then Chief Scout Lord Rowallan visited us.

On Church parade the Scouts and Cubs marched behind the band.

Back to the bank, one interesting day, weekly, was when we (the manager and I) took a pre-arranged taxi with wages to a cotton mill outside of Rochdale. Other times there were visits by taxi to another Rochdale bank for coins we needed and they had a surplus.

One other interesting occasion was when the manager, myself, and another clerk were involved with the counting of the votes at a Parliamentary By-election. The Liberal candidate was Ludovic Kennedy whose wife Moira Shearer came around the hall when we were counting. After five years I was moved west to Bolton – see you next time.

George Linnaker

Knighonfoodbank winter pantry

Helping to keep you warm

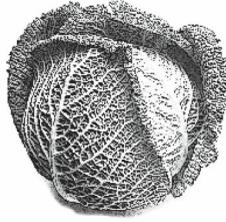
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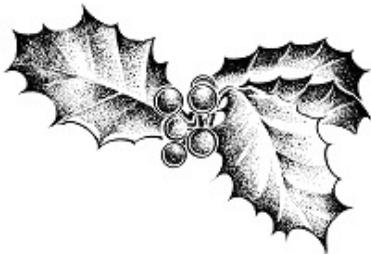


HOLLY

We sing about the 'Holly and the Ivy' and prickly green leaves and red berries are everywhere in Christmas decorations.

In Scandinavian countries the holly is even known as the 'Christ-thorn' and it seems that the name of the holly actually came from the word 'holy'.

The holly reminds us of the death of Jesus – the sharp prickles on the leaves are like the crown on thorns that Jesus was forced to wear on the cross. The red berries remind us of the drops of blood that came where the thorns hurt his head.



Holly is an evergreen, which means that it does not lose its leaves in the autumn, but keeps them all year round. And because its leaves are always green it is a symbol of eternal life.

SHARP PRESENTS

A quick way to make little presents for all your class and friends.

You will need nice pencils, glue (spray glue is best) and Christmas wrapping paper with a small pattern on it. Choose round pencils rather than the hexagonal type.

Cut a strip of wrapping paper wide enough to wrap around the pencil and as long as the pencil. Put glue on the back of the paper and wrap it around the pencil. When the glue has dried; trim away any excess paper with small scissors.



What did the werewolf write on his Christmas cards?

Best vicious of the season.

What do elves sing to Santa?
Freeze a Jolly Good Fellow!



Bleddfa & Monaughty Defibrillator Training

On Saturday 24th October, thirty-eight people attended at the Hall Barn for CPR and Defibrillator training. For many it was a refresher course, but we were particularly pleased to welcome to the event newcomers to the village and also, for the first time, a number of teenagers.

Once again we were privileged to have Gerard from Welsh Ambulance as our trainer. He has been with us from the start in 2009, and he reminded us that we were only the third or fourth village in the whole of Wales to have their own defibrillator, although numbers have now mushroomed.

As always, he handled a difficult subject so professionally, with just the right amount of humour to avoid the mood becoming too sombre. Afterwards, we were overwhelmed by the reaction and all the positive feedback we received, with people telling us that they would certainly now try to help in a cardiac arrest situation, whereas previously they would not have wished to be involved.

So thank you to Gerard, and also to Chris and Tony for their help with the refreshments and the preparation of the venue.

Alan Rigby (on behalf of the Defibrillator Committee)

Refugee Donations: The four churches in our Benefice gave to Christian Aid for the Refugee Appeal. We sent £441 to the Appeal. Many thanks for all your generous donations.

Services at Haydn's Chapels in December 2015

Date	Maesyrhelem	Pound	Gravel
Dec 6	6.30 Service	11.00 Service	2.30 Family Service
Dec 13	6.30 Communion		
Dec 20	2.30 Service		
Dec 27	10.30 Service	6.30 Service	2.30 Service

Carol Service at Maesyrhelem on 20th 2.30pm

Knucklas Baptist Chapel

Dec 13 6.30pm Carol Service (Sue Wilson & Friends)
 Jan 10 6pm Sue Wilson & Friends

Diary for December 2015

- 2 Felindre WI, 7.30 Felindre Village Hall. Sue Wilson “Crafty for Christmas”.
- 4 Knucklas Christmas Draw, Comm. Centre, 7.30pm.
“Light up a Life” Churches Together Norton Street Baptist Church, 6 pm.
Llanfair Waterdine WI. Everest Hall 7.30pm. Barbara Home “Make a Christmas Decoration – Workshop”.
- 7 Felindre Village Hall Committee, 8pm.
- 8 Community Carols (Churches Together) Knighton Community Centre, 7 pm.
“Makers and Crafters” (Craft Club), Knucklas Comm. Centre, 2-4pm.
- 12 Beguildy Christmas Fayre, Feliondre Village Hall, 7pm.
- 14 Teme Valley Gardeners’ Club, Christmas Dinner, Castle Inn 12.30.
- 15 Llangunllo WI , Retail Therapy with Lunch, Venue TBA.
- 16 St David’s Ladies Guild, Christmas Lunch, Members chosen venue.
- 17 Folk Evening. Castle Inn, Knucklas, 7pm onwards.
- 19 “Rumours of Angels” St Edward’s Church Hall, 5pm.
- 20 Christmas Carol Service, St David’s, Heyope, 3pm
Carols round the Christmas Tree, Llangunllo Centre, 6pm.
- 21 Christmas Carol Service, Beguildy, 7pm
- 22 “Makers and Crafters” (Craft Club), Knucklas Comm. Centre, 2-4pm.
- 24 Christmas Carol Service, Llangunllo, 3pm.
Christmas Carol Service, Bleddfa 7pm.

Holy Days in December 2015 / early January 2016

- Dec 3 Francis Xavier (1552), Missionary
- Dec 7 Ambrose (397), Bishop and Doctor
- Dec 8 Cynidr (6th century), Bishop
- Dec 9 Nicholas (c 342), Bishop
- Dec 14 John of the Cross (1591), Priest & Poet**
- Dec 15 Lucy (304), Martyr
- Dec 24/25 Christmas Eve/Christmas Day
- Dec 26 Stephen, Deacon and First Martyr
- Dec 28 The Innocents / Day of Prayers for Refugees
- Dec 29 Thomas of Canterbury (1170),
- Dec 30 John, Apostle & Evangelist
- Jan 1 Naming of Jesus
- Jan 6 Epiphany**



A drawing which inspired Salvador Dali by St John of the Cross

December Readings		Readers
Dec 6 Advent 2	Malachi 3.1-4 Philippians 1.3-11 [Luke 3.1-6]	<i>Beguilty</i> Dunya Fourie John Peregrine
Dec 13 Advent 3	Zephaniah 3.14-20 Philippians 4.4-7 [Luke 3.7-18]	<i>Heyope</i> R Forbath Mary Wilding <i>Bleddfa</i> H Howcroft Peter Lane
Dec 24 Christmas Eve	Isaiah 9.2-7 Titus 2.11-14 [Luke 2.1-14]	<i>Beguilty</i> S Sanford Fay Payne
Dec 25 Christmas Day	Isaiah 52.7-10 Hebrews 1.1-4 [John 1.1-14]	<i>Heyope</i> Judy North R Forbath
Dec 27 Christmas 1	1 Samuel 2.18-20, 26 Colossians 3.12-17 [Luke 2.41-52]	<i>Beguilty</i> John Sanford Carol Peregrine
Jan 3 Christmas 2	Jeremiah 31.7-14 Ephesians 1.3-14 [John 1. 10-18]	<i>Beguilty</i> John Peregrine Dunya Fourie
Jan 10 Epiphany 1	Isaiah 43.1-7 Acts 8.14-17 [Luke 3.15-17, 21-22]	<i>Beguilty</i> Fay Payne Phil Swancott <i>Bleddfa</i> Peter Lane H Howcroft

Jesse Tree Images



Noah's rainbow was God's promise to bless



King David, the singer with harp, wrote the psalms



Ruth gleaned the wheat and Boaz married her



Adam & Eve ate forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden



Noah rescued the animals from the flood in the ark.



Noah sent the dove from the ark



Jacob dreamed of a ladder with angels going up and down



Abraham sacrificed the ram instead of his son



Joseph's coat of many colours



God talked to Moses from the burning bush.



Ten commandments given to Moses

Royal Mail Christmas Stamps 2015

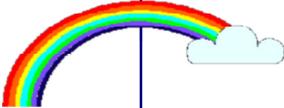
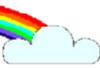
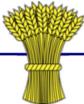


Illustrated by David Holmes in a vibrant, impressionistic style, the eight Christmas 2015 Stamps feature six traditional scenes from the Nativity story: The Journey to Bethlehem, The Nativity, The Animals of the Nativity, The Shepherds, The Three Wise Men and The Annunciation.

The cost of The Beacon will increase next year from £6 to £7 for the year, 70p (from 60p) per copy. We hope this will not be a burden.



The Chapel of the Virgen de los Faroles and Belltower, on the north side of Cordoba's Mezquita, Spain. *Photo by Dave Smyth*

Church Services in December 2015/January 2016				
Date 2015	Beguildy St Michael's	Heyope St David's	Llangunllo St Cynllo's	Bleddfa M Magdalene's
Dec 6 Advent 2 <i>Purple</i>	11am Holy Communion JH			8.30pm Compline JH
Dec 13 Advent 3 <i>Purple</i>		3pm Evensong JH	<i>Dedication of Altar Frontal</i>	11am Holy Communion JH
Dec 20 Advent 4		3pm Carol Service		
Dec 21 Monday	7pm Carol Service			
Dec 24 Christmas	11pm Midnight Holy Comm JH		3pm Carol Service	7pm Carol Service
Dec 25 Christmas <i>White</i>		10:30am Xmas Day Holy Comm JH		
Dec 27 Christmas 1 <i>White</i>	11am Morning Worship JH			
Jan 3 John's Final Sunday	11am Holy Communion JH			8.30pm Compline JH
Jan 10 Epiphany 1 <i>White</i>		3pm Evensong Melia Cope		11am Holy Communion Mark Beaton

The images above are from a Jesse Tree, Old Testament stories leading to the birth of Jesus. Can you identify the characters associated with the images? Answers on page 46.

Due to Christmas holidays the next Beacon will not be printed until the first week in January, when your distributor will be collecting an annual £7 for the Beacon (an increase from £6 in 2015).

Please send material for the January Beacon by 20th December.

laura_woodside_jones@hotmail.com

Post: 1 Heyope Road, Knucklas, LD7 1PT Tel: 01547 520266