

# The Beacon

January 2017

*Llangunllo*

*Beguildy*

*Heyope*

*Bleddfa*



Epiphany, 6<sup>th</sup> January  
Ewys Harold, Golden Valley

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*Cover:* The east window at Ewyas Harold in the Golden Valley shows Epiphany, which is the visit of the Wise Men. It is celebrated on January 6th, the twelfth day of Christmas. Although our Christmas cards often show the visit of the Wise Men, they might not have found the Christ child until much later. Notice that one of the Wise Men is clean shaven, implying that he is young. The forward Magi is barefoot, implying that the place on which he is standing is "holy ground." Instead of the usual three gifts, the Wise Men are giving three oranges. The right-hand panel, not pictured here, shows Mary, Joseph, and the Christ child. The window was designed by Rev H F St John and made by Heaton, Butler & Bayne in 1872.

The Beacon is created in PagePlusX8. The text is Souvenir, titles in Trebuchet.



**craven** design and print

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Dear All

May I wish all of you a very happy 2017 and I hope that you all had a joy filled Christmas. After the frantic activity in the lead up to Christmas, followed by the coming and going of relatives and friends during the festive season, the early weeks of January can come either as a blessed relief or as a time of gloomy greyness. However, I hope that early 2017 will be a time of fresh starts and new beginnings for our churches in the Beacon Hill Group and beyond.

On Sunday January 8th at 11am all the churches in the Beacon Hill, East Radnor and New Radnor Groups are coming together for an important act of worship at St David's Church, Whitton. Bishop John, the bishop of Swansea and Brecon, is coming to St David's to inaugurate our new Ministry Area. Our 14 churches will be set upon a path of growing and developing together as we seek ways of working together more closely to reach out to our communities and extend to them God's love.

The first visible sign of our new unity will be a single magazine to replace The Beacon, The Messenger and Meeting Point. This will undoubtedly take a little getting used to, but I hope that having information on all 14 communities and all 14 churches, in a single magazine will be helpful. We have all of us grown attached to our respective magazines and have developed an appreciation of their particular characters. Creating a new magazine which builds on the strengths of the three earlier magazines and which helps provide a sense of unity as our churches come together, will not be an easy task, for that reason I do ask for both your prayers and your support for Rosemary Hanna and Laura Woodside-Jones as they take on the roles of co-editors of our new Ministry Area magazine. The magazine looks likely to be named either: "The Radnor" or possibly "The Radnor Beacon." With much hard work, a bit of luck and a following wind, it is hoped that the new magazine might appear in February.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at Whitton on Sunday January 8th at 11am as we start out on this new venture together.

Yours in Christ,

Rev Mark Beaton

## Fibre Optics Soon

In Knucklas we've been seeing workers spending long hours at poles installing fibre optic cables (just thin threads) for high speed broadband. The small team are sub-contacted by Open Reach.

The team are all ex-military, one from Fiji, and we are most grateful for their work, often on cold nights. Each tiny wire connects to a house which is already served by a copper wire. The fibre optic cable does not degrade in speed the way a copper one will. Their work will improve our quality of connection!



## Rain Washes Out Dutlas Bridge

Well, it wasn't completely washed out, but the heavy rain on Monday the 25th November damaged the Fedw-llwyd road bridge. You might never have noticed the old stone bridge over a stream running under the B4355 between Dutlas and Beguildy on the Knighton to Newtown Road.

The damage resulted in a difficult road closure that isolated the upper end of the Teme Valley. Kaymac is repairing the bridge in two stages. First the bridge was completely closed, but on December 12th the Teme side was opened under traffic control while work commenced on the damaged side. Cllr John Brunt, Cabinet Member for Highways, says "Everything is being done to fully re-open the bridge."



## The Sheep Test at Beguildy Christmas Fair

The B4355 reopened just in time for Beguildy Church Christmas Fair which was held at Felindre Village Hall on the 12th December. As usual local people came together and were very supportive in the numbers attending, their wonderful generosity and in the warm, friendly atmosphere they generated.

Games of chance included the main raffle, raffling of an individual home-made Christmas cake, the Chinese Auction, Tombola, Lucky Bauble on a Christmas Tree and serial number on a £10 note. Guessing the number of sweets in a jar and the weight of a cake, however, tested our skills of estimation. The farming community were at a serious advantage when identifying different breeds of sheep from photographs but others were catered for when viewing kitchen implements from unusual angles.

More than sixty items were donated for our Promise Auction which kept our accomplished auctioneer, Philip Swancott, and helpers very busy amidst the good humoured bidding.

Cakes were on sale and scrumptious home-made chips and sausage were served throughout the evening with drinks from the bar available. Thank you to all those who donated or helped on the evening and to everyone who attended.

*Fay Payne*



### 2017 New Magazine



Look out for an exciting new format, even a new name, in February! It will include all fourteen churches in our East Radnor Ministry Area.

We will maintain many of your old favourites. Most articles will be shorter as the magazine will cover many more events.

The 2017 subscription will be the same, 70p a copy, or £7 a year. It would help your distributor greatly if subscribers could have the cash or cheque ready and made out to "*The Beacon Hill Benefice*," hopefully by the end of January.

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There was a lie I told one time on the Yangtse. I was troubled the next day and had no distinct luminous thoughts in my morning watch. I went and told [the person], and felt the return of power.

- *Frank Buchman*

## Tip 14 Every day can be different

Dementia Friendly Knighton & District

For some people with dementia what they can do changes from day to day, so how you help them may need to be different every time they visit. Look out for signs and offer help when needed.

# KINDA

## Moonshine Walkers seem to have been running . . .

**A**t our presentation night, we all met at The George in Lingen and presented Helen Davies from The Bracken Trust £1000, money raised from our fundraising.

We have raised over fifteen thousand pounds since 2009!



## Children's Page



### St PAUL

St Paul's day is the 25th January and we remember him because he was one of the Church's greatest teachers. Called Saul by his parents, he was brought up a Pharisee and became a tent-maker. He was completely against the early Christians and was there when Stephen, the first Christian martyr was stoned to death. He searched out many Christians and handed them over the prison and death.

So why did he change? Like many people since, although few so dramatically, Saul changed because Jesus came into his life. You can read all about it in Acts, chapter 9. Everything changed for Saul but he had a hard time persuading people that it wasn't a trick. Even his name changed, and as Paul he travelled teaching and founding churches. To encourage these growing communities he wrote the 13 letters (or Epistles) we can still read today. These letters are the earliest parts of the New Testament to be written, some only 20 years after Jesus.

## P.S.

These names have all the letters S and P missing. Can you fit in the missing letters to make the names of some people or places in the Bible?

1. Both the Pharaoh and Joseph knew - OTI - HAR.
2. THEO - HILU - was Luke's friend.
3. St John wrote his Revelation on the island of - ATMO - .
4. MO - E - led the Israelites out of Egypt.
5. E - THER was a queen and a book of the Old Testament is named for her.
6. Paul was imprisoned in the town of - HILLI - - I.
7. Paul's friend - RI - CILLA was the wife of Aquila.
8. A town in Sicily, - YRACU - E, Paul stayed here on his way to Rome.



**What do you call a camel that's got three humps?**

Humphrey.

**Who rides a camel and carries a lamp?**

Florence of Arabia.



- 1.Potiphar 2.Theophilus 3.Patmos
- 4.Moses 5.Esther 6.Phillippi
- 7.Priscilla 10.Syracuse.

## The Big Breakthrough



I have some good news to pass on – the **Bleddfa tunnel** was successfully completed on Friday 02 December when the TBM (Tunnel Boring Machine) named "Master Mine" broke through the walls of the reception shaft and saw daylight for the first time in 6 months. And last week the TBM was lifted from the reception pit and transferred to Nantmel, where it will be prepared for its next drive, starting in Spring 2017. So we can truthfully say that there is light at the end of the tunnel!

The tunnel came through bang on for line and level, which is a great credit to our engineers who were providing guidance along the route. It is always a nervous time for the engineers until the TBM reaches its final destination, so the breakthrough provided welcome relief and cause for celebration.

We held a small ceremony to witness the breakthrough on the Friday morning, attended by the local press and news reporters from BBC Midlands TV, but due to the limited space around the reception pit only local residents were given the opportunity to attend, so sincere apologies if you did not receive an invitation. There will be other opportunities at Nantmel next year, or Knighton the year after.

Our tunnel teams are busily removing all the pipes and cables from within the mile-long tunnel, and dismantling and removing all the back-up sledges and equipment that have been pulled behind the TBM all the way to the reception pit. The tunnel will then need a thorough clean-out to prepare for receiving flows from the existing aqueduct next year.

The next big challenge is to complete the partially constructed diversion structures at each end of the new tunnel, and to divert flow from the existing aqueduct into the new tunnel at Bleddfa drive pit, and back to the old structure at the reception pit towards Monaughty. This diversion will take place early next year.

I have attached a few photos showing the TBM coming through the concrete piles into the reception pit. As can be seen, the EVA (Elan Valley Aqueduct) is very shallow at this point, and the TBM just cleared the underside of the heavily reinforced capping beam on top of the piles.

It is unlikely that there will be another update until the New Year, so the EVA Rehabilitation Project Team wish all our neighbours and followers a Merry Christmas and a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year.

*Geoff Hancock, BNM Alliance*



# Tunnel Breakthrough at Bleddfa



Spectators awaiting breakthrough



Breakthrough



Project Team inspecting cutterhead



Proud TBM team emerging through the front of TBM

## Heyope Carols



Melia



Hannah as a Christmas Tree



Chloe and Jo



Rosemary



Ad Hoc Choir



## “Look, I’m a Christmas Tree” at Heyope

Light had to be the theme at Heyope Carols! Our lovely, little church was filled with holly and greens and glowing candles, but best of all it was filled with friends from near and far. The newest residents, Matt and Carly O’Rourke, lit our advent wreath. The ad hoc choir invited by our organist, Judy North, sang the touching song “Put a Candle in the Window” as a sign of God’s perfect light. Even when in pain.

But maybe the theme was also children. Our familiar gospel readings about the birth of Christ touched us once again, and our poems told simply the story of Mary holding the child, hushing him, and other children passing easily through a low slung, narrow doorway, into a church.

Our solemnity was broken, however, by Hannah’s antics as a child who decides to be the Christmas tree with a fairy on her head, tinsel on her arms, and glitter on her nose! And then the children romped and tumbled down the aisle during Melia’s solemn reading of John 1 (“In the beginning . . .”) So Jesus came to us as a crying baby, a rambunctious toddler.

*Article & photos by Laura*

## The Festive Teme Valley Gardeners’ Club

Our December meeting was held at the Castle Inn, Knucklas, where members and friends gathered to enjoy a festive Christmas lunch. After the meal the raffle was drawn and thanks were given to those members that had donated the prizes.

The monthly competition was for a Christmas table decoration and was judged by a member of the catering team. The results were, first Rose Morris, second Diane Francis and third Sue Woodhall.

There will be no meeting in January.

On February 13th Mr. Edward Smith of Credale Nursery, Leominster will give a talk on **Hellebores**; he will also be bringing hellebore plants for sale.

Our meetings are held at the Knucklas Community Centre on the second Monday of the month commencing at 7.30pm. New members and visitors are welcome to join us. For further information please contact Chairman Avril Hoyle telephone 529244.

*Article and photo by Audrey Fox*





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## Fun and Frolics at Beguildy



**I**t was fun and frolics at the Beguildy Carols on Dec 19th. The Teme Valley Tots arrived in fabulous nativity costumes (thanks to their parents) to tumble and laugh and bring the joy of childhood to us all!

Linda Watson started the delightful evening by flapping her white surplice sleeves to imitate an angel. Her sermon, which happily was no sermon at all, was 'Pass the Parcel': Xmas paper, then birthday paper, baby boy paper, stars, you get the idea.

The children processed in fine regalia while Sophie read a children's version of the nativity. Somehow the readers telling the familiar story of Jesus' birth were heard amidst the general mayhem.

The adults made a good stab at entertaining us as well. The W.I. sang Christmas music as did the Teme Valley Young Farmers. Thomas and Ben read us a poem. We were thankful to Judy North for stepping in as organist.

A seasonal tippie and mince pies rounded off an evening with a full church, smiles and all ages together!

*Article and photos by Laura*



## East Radnor Rambles

*Wed Jan 4.* Aymestrey Circular optional lunch at Riverside. 5.2 miles moderate, 250 m ascent. Start at Exp 203 SO425654 Riverside Inn carpark.

*Sat Jan 7.* Bucknell, Mynd, Hopton Castle. 9 miles moderate, 5.5 miles if weather bad. Start at Exp 201 351740 Baron Inn carpark.

*Wed Jan 11.* Lingen, Bartley Cross, Harley's Mountain. 8 miles moderate 270 m ascent. Start Exp 201 SO 365673 Lay-by near Church

*Sat Jan 14.* Circular Walk from Llyswen. 9 miles moderate. Park at Llyswen School SO129384, postcode: LD3 0YD (4 Wells Walk)

*Wed Jan 18.* Kington, Lyonshall Church, Bullocks Mill. 8 miles moderate. Start at Exp 201 SO296566 Mill St carpark (charge).

*Sat Jan 21.* Stapleton, Lingen, Willey Hall. 10 miles moderate. Start at Exp 201 SO313643 Presteigne recycling carpark.

*Wed Jan 25.* Bleddfa, Fishpools, Rhiw Pool, St Michaels Pool. 8.5 miles moderate. Start Exp 201 SO188682 opposite Inn near Bleddfa Church.

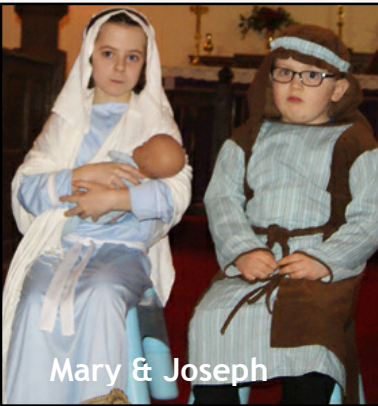
*Sat Jan 28.* CornDu, Pen y Fan & Cribyn. 7.5 miles moderate. Carpark south of Storey Arms. SN987199. Nearest postcode: LD3 8NL (4 Wells Walk).



# Beguildy Carols



## Beguilty Carols



Mary & Joseph



Nativity



Two Kings



Pass the Parcel

## Felindre WI - Ladies who Lunch

The ladies of Felindre WI were in a festive mood very early on in December, with a delightful meal at the Radnorshire Arms, Beguildy, where hosts Sue and Martin Williams gave us a very warm welcome to their festive decorated pub. There was much chatter, eating and festive merriment.

We continued in the festive mood at the December meeting with mulled wine and mince pies. It was a very colourful meeting with members dressed for the monthly competition in their Christmas jumpers.

The climax of the evening was a selection of Christmas music played on Handbells, arranged by Catherine O'Rourke and Margaret from Norton. They made a beautiful sound and made it look so easy, which members discovered was not quite so when it was their turn to play. Everyone enjoyed the evening and felt that it had set the scene for their Christmas.

We will take part in the Carol Concert at St. Michael's Church, Beguildy with Paul Woodall at the organ.

Our WI dinner will be at the Radnorshire Arms on 5th January.

You are very welcome to come along to our meeting on the first Wednesday in the month in Felindre Village Hall at 7.30pm.

*Rebe Brick*

## Show Tunes at Llanfair W.I.

Our December meeting opened the festive season with Jane and Sean Milward playing music from the big London shows. They challenged us to name the shows and to give details about when they were first produced and who performed. Some members were amazingly knowledgeable. We sang carols and imbibed mulled wine with our usual tasty supper. Christmas had begun.

For our institute's 85th Anniversary this year we are making our Christmas Party a special event. It will be on 6th January 7.00pm in the Everest Hall, cost £7.00. We are doing our own catering so it should be a lovely meal. If you would like to join us please ring one of the numbers below for a ticket.

In February Adam Davies is coming to tell us about Skyborry Cider and Apple juice.

All our meetings begin at 7.00pm in the Everest Hall, Llanfair Waterdine on the first Friday of the month. For further information contact Mary Morgan (01547 528429) or Ann Harroway (01547 528477).

*Ann Harroway*

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## Admission to Holy Communion for all those baptised



Occasionally, I speak to people who do not come forward to receive the Holy Communion, only to be told that they have not been confirmed. Thankfully, the Church in Wales has now joined many others of the Anglican Communion, together with Christians of other denominations, who recognise that, if admission to the family of Christ begins at Baptism, it is from that point that all are entitled to receive the 'food for the

journey', which is Holy Communion. (In churches of Eastern Orthodoxy, infants receive Communion as soon as they have been baptized).

From Advent Sunday, all who have been baptized, whatever their age, have been welcome to receive Holy Communion.

If you would like to know more about this, please speak to either of your Ministry Area clergy. A leaflet is available, giving more food for thought.

May we all, at whatever stage of the Christian journey we are on, grow together in faith in this New Year of our Lord 2017.

*Revd Melia Cope*



20 years since the ordination of the first women priests in the Church in Wales will be celebrated in all the Cathedrals of Wales on Saturday 7th January.

Rev Melia will attend the service in Brecon Cathedral at 11am.

She will gladly offer lifts to any who wish to attend.

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## Hedge Laying at Crug y Byddar

On 15 November, the team finished the last stretch of hedge on the western boundary.

The grass we scythed in summer we have composted. We will also have compost available next year, if anyone would like some.

Bobby Childs welcomed us inside the church, now, beautifully and sensitively transformed into a home. She kindly made tea and coffee for us and made CAKE!

This was the first time we had enjoyed a break under cover, and our thanks to Bobby for inviting us. We look forward to seeing more of Bobby and Adrian.

*Hilary Howcroft*



## Knuckles Wassail

**Saturday 21st Jan. 7 pm**

This fun event starts from Castle Green. A musical procession goes through the village to the orchard where our Wassail king will bless the trees and ask for another good harvest.

Then all down to the Castle Inn for some Wassail singing.

See you there; Bring a torch or lantern and noisemakers!



## Knucklas and District Notes

**Church Activities:** By the time that you read this, all the hectic shopping, decorating, pre-Christmas carol services, concerts and social functions will mostly be over and we will be into the season of Epiphany. But it was not all a frenetic round of activity; the Baptist Church sponsored a Quiet day in the Norton Street chapel. This was attended by a small group of people from Baptist and Anglican backgrounds, several of whom found it encouraging and helpful. To welcome Epiphany, a special service will be held at Whitton on Jan 8th when the Ministry Area will be formally inaugurated by the Bishop. Our own local church will then be officially linked with the Knighton and New Radnor Benefices. We will also be saying farewell to the Revd. Linda Watson.

**The Scene in Knucklas:** Leaders of the Castle Hill Community Land Project are 'thinking big' with plans for next summer. This month, there will be the Knucklas Wassail soon after 7pm. on the 21st. ending up in the Community Orchard. Unlike so many parts of the world, and even this country, Knucklas continues quiet and calm and mostly harmonious, with much talk of the weather, family, health, food and shopping.

**Reflecting on 2016:** Some horrendous things have been happening in the world, especially in Syria and Yemen. My own heroes have been the White Helmets of Aleppo, who have seemed to appear out of nowhere to 'pick up the pieces' after the latest bombing, shelling or other outrage, assisting civilians with first-aid and transport to a place of relative safety. They, along with volunteers with Medicins sans Frontieres, the International Red Cross, Save the Children etc, seem, at very great personal risk, to bring light to some very dark places. Nearer to home there are people working together to assist refugees both in northern France and in Newtown. Another fine folk concert was recently held at the Hall Barn, Bleddfa, in aid of this work.

**A World of Words:** The Oxford Dictionaries have nominated 'post-truth' as the word of the year. Its significance is based on the observation that debates and elections regarding leaving the E.U., or the American Presidential Election, seem to be based more on fears and emotion rather than on actual facts. 'Populism' is a related word. My own, and I am not alone in this, most-hated word is 'Brexit', mainly because we hear so much of it in the news media. It has numerous derivatives such as: pre-Brexit, post-Brexit, soft-Brexit, hard-Brexit, grey-Brexit, Brexiteers etc. etc. The ultimate turn-off for me was to hear a heated parliamentary debate on the subject described as 'the Battle of Brexit Hill'!!

Apart from the celebrations of Shakespeare, Bob Dylan has been awarded the Nobel Prize for Poetry - an award seeming somewhat out of place to many. Much less controversial is the placing of 20th century poet Philip Larkin into the rather crowded Poets' Corner in Westminster Abbey, with some of his most famous words:

'The stone fidelity  
They hardly meant has come to be  
Their final blazon, and to prove  
Our almost-instinct almost true:  
What will survive of us is love.'

This may also be a fitting tribute to an Albanian nun, perhaps one of the most influential people of the last century, 'Mother Teresa of Calcutta'. In her later years God had seemed to her rather distant, but she never lost sight of the huge importance of, and fulfilment in, helping the needy. She was canonized as a saint of the Catholic Church, by the Pope, a few months ago.

In Knucklas, on a lesser scale, there is quite a tradition of people helping out friends and neighbours, and of doing voluntary work on behalf of the community, ranging from serving on the Community Council to working with the Young Farmers, from helping to look after the Railway Station to assisting with the luncheons for the elderly, in Knighton.

**The Year of 2017:** Changes will certainly be happening; prices are on the increase with the price of fuel a key factor. Interest rates are edging up too. Council Tax is likely to increase by at least 3%, from April, largely to fund the ever increasing need for social care both at home and in residential and day-centres. Superfast Broadband has been fitted up and tested around Knucklas and will, hopefully, soon become a reality for local residents. Mobile phone and F.M. radio reception are still patchy in the area. Ultrafast broadband and 5G rollouts are still distant dreams around here but not needed by most. Our Church Magazine is also about to change as it expands to embrace additional areas.

As the year begins, it is good to welcome new residents to enrich our local life: Jonathan and Laura Priday and their children, Ruby and Harvey, are now settled in the Coach House at Heyope Rectory. Meanwhile, Matthew and Carly O'Rourke have moved into March House, Knucklas. Both families come from Knighton.

*Robert Forbath*

**Of all the things we wear, our expression is the most important.**

## Christmas Cheer at Llangunllo's Community Service



On the afternoon of Christmas Eve St Cynllo's was packed full of people, young and old, coming to start the Christmas celebrations with the traditional village carol service.

The day was mild, the church was toasty warm, and the sound system performing just right, as the Revd Mark Beaton led us through a very well planned service, with something for everyone. This started with a firm congregational favourite "O Come All Ye Faithful", and thanks to some intrepid locals and guests we could detect harmonies in the air.

With prayers the advent candles were rekindled and the fifth one lighted. We went into our first lesson, foretelling the coming of Christ, from Isaiah 9. The carol "It came upon the Midnight Clear" was followed by the lesson from Luke 1 about the angel of the Lord appearing to the Virgin Mary.

Revd Mark Beaton then sang a solo, "The Angel Gabriel", clearly and powerfully, followed by the children of the parish bringing items forward and laid out to represent the Nativity, while the rest of us sang "O Little Town of Bethlehem".

The next lesson from Luke told of how Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem and there Mary gave birth in a stable, because there was no room at the inn.

The highlight of the evening followed with carols and harp accompaniment from Menna Breeze. Her beautiful performance of "Silent Night" was greeted with a round of applause from the congregation.

More humorous and down to earth, a poem "The Donkey's Dilemma" was then read by Jenny Williams, with the poor donkey who had carried Mary unable to get to the manger because of a baby in his dinner!

Luke 2 was about the angel of the Lord appearing to the shepherds. The carol "The First Nowell" followed, along with the collection, which would be shared with a children's charity. And then Gill Firth read a poem about the long and difficult journey of the three wise men, bearing gifts.

Our service came to its conclusion with a brilliant musical item from the Accapella Fellas, finishing with the beautiful carol "Lulay, Lulay, thou little tiny child". After our prayers, we sang our final carol, "Hark the Herald Angels Sing".

In true Llangunllo tradition, we all got together to enjoy festive fare; scones, mince pies, sandwiches, cakes and sausage rolls etc, were all washed down with a glass (or three) of mulled wine; a cheerful conclusion to a most enjoyable and involving traditional carol service.

Jenny Williams

# Lighting the Advent Wreath

*Photos by Michael Brown*



Hannah helping her daughter



Pam helping a little'un



Uncle Julian helping

## Llangunllo Christmas



Menna and her harp



Mark



The Accapella Fellas

## Carols Round the Tree



Trevor's trombone



Carols at the tree



## Whisky Galore at Llangunllo

The famous Ealing comedy about a group of Hebridean Islanders hijacking a wrecked cargo of whiskey during the Second World War was shown at the Village Hall in aid of the New Roof for the Hall - and proved very popular.

Star turns from Kath Poole (Usherette Extraordinaire) and Phil Gayther, MC, added to the fun, as did Bob Williams highly intoxicating mulled wine. Local Hall users (W.I. Keep Fit, Table Tennis Group, Youth Club, and Hall Committee) all donated raffle prizes and seasonal food for the event, and helped set up the Hall - and in total £520 was raised to help raise the roof! Many thanks to all involved, and to the villagers who supported the event

*Jenny Williams*

PS There will be another film nite, due to popular demand - watch this space.



## Happiness is a DRY carol sheet!

**W**ell – what a contrast to last year’s **Carols Round the Tree** in Llangunllo! A fine, mild evening with not even a hint of rain and a glittering tree enhanced by even more lights – what better settling could we ask for!

Christabel led the proceedings with the very capable assistance of Trevor on the trombone and a fair crowd of us, fortified by mince pies and mulled wine (courtesy of The Friends of St Cynllo’s) proved to be in good voice as we sang a selection of the old familiar carols.

We were reminded of the true meaning of Christmas and thought about that and all those less fortunate than ourselves as we sang Silent Night. On a less serious note we had the benefit of some of Christabel’s seasonal jokes along with a certain amount of barracking from the crowd.

After catching up with neighbours those of us who didn’t have to get off home repaired to the Greyhound for more good cheers and, in due course, a little more singing!

The event was by way of a thank you to the community for all the support that has been so readily given over the year but, as ever, the community are also grateful to The Friends for what they do to keep St Cynllo’s going. So, many thanks to The Friends for organising everything and providing the very welcome refreshments and also to Jake and Paul for their help. Well done everyone and seasons greetings to all!

*Pam Livingstone-Lawn*

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## **"I Saw Three Ships" at Bleddfa**



There was the usual warm welcome awaiting the congregation attending the **Bleddfa Carol Service** this year. Roof and rafters beautifully lit, but at ground level the scene was startlingly different. What was the reason for an empty boat on the floor next to the organ and choir? It became clearer when Reverend Leigh Spicer reminded us of sea and land journeys that have taken place over the centuries: one example being that of Jesus and his parents who sought sanctuary in Egypt.

The Reverend Linda Watson gave the introduction and opening prayer, followed by the congregation and choir singing "O Come, O Come, Emanuel" marking the end of Advent. Unfortunately, Graham was unable to be there to conduct his choir, or to play the organ, due to his very recent hip operation, but he would have been proud of his choir who sang beautifully and lifted the congregational singing to new heights. Emma sang the first verse of Silent Night with a beautifully clear and sweet voice. The organists who stood in for Graham were Leigh Spicer and Tom Heakin from Knighton.

The theme of seeking sanctuary continued with a poem entitled "Refugees", read by the Rev. Stephen Gilbert. The theme was, "We don't want you here. We should build walls to keep you out." The next carol, "Once in Royal David's City," reflected this theme, where Mary was about to give birth but was told there was "no room at the Inn". Consequently she was forced to give birth to Jesus in a cattle shed.

Julia Price read from Isaiah 9 where the prophet foresees the special birth: "he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

On the nautical theme the congregation sang "I Saw Three Ships", with men and women singing alternate verses. It was surprisingly good and most enjoyable. Stephen then read the same poem in reverse order which strangely contained opposing sentiments to those of the first: "We will give you shelter if you need it!"

At the end of the service mulled wine and coffee was served. Thank you to all who cleaned, decorated, and made the Church ready for this very special service.

Chris Durrant

Carols began as an old English custom called wassailing,  
toasting neighbours to a long life.

## Bledda Carols

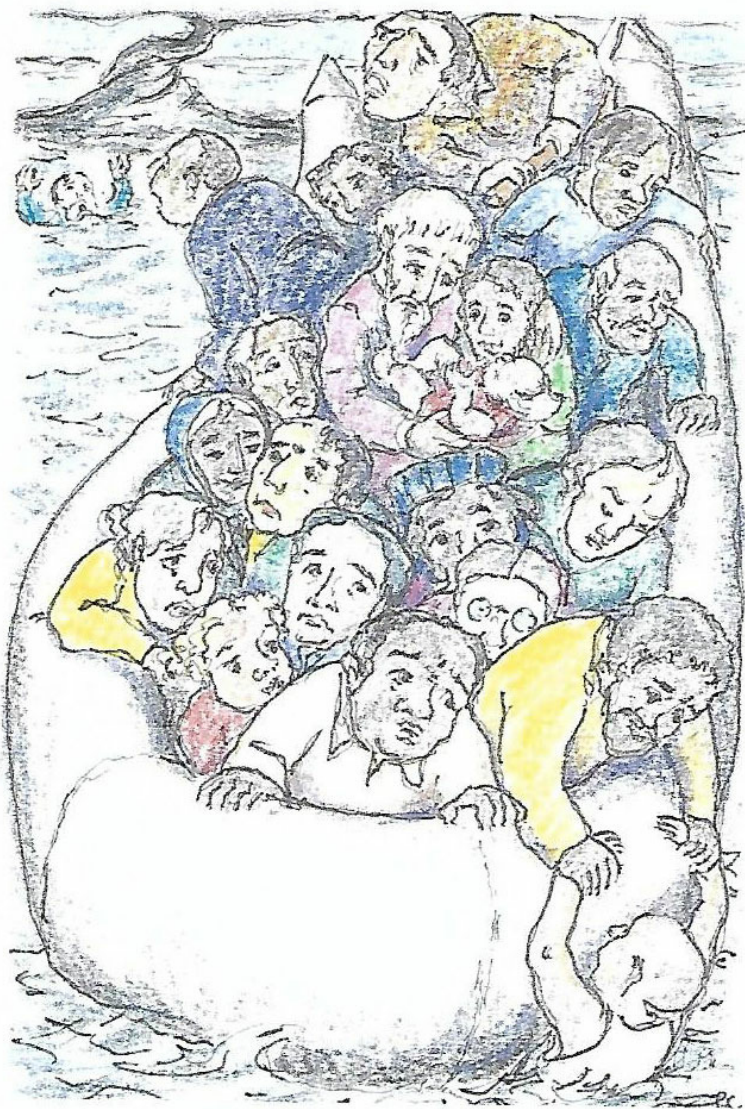


The Refugee Boat



Margaret





**R**emember the wonderful art works of **Peter Clare** telling the stories of Jesus in the 2014 Beacons?

Here is his timely Christmas card reminding us of the plight of the refugees.

It has another story embedded. We are all in the boat together, some bewildered and frightened, some smiling and hopeful, Some lending a hand. And there are Joseph, Mary and Jesus in the middle. We are all adrift together.



## Not All the Gifts Are Under the Tree

That was demonstrated in Church Stoke Community Centre just before Christmas when Tuffins/the Co-op presented donations raised by their annual Fun Day. This year there were over eighty lucky recipients – all ages, many activities, support groups – who have received a welcome boost to their funds.

I was there to accept a donation on behalf of our Llangunllo Community Hall and there were quite a few familiar faces from surrounding villages.

Whilst the Fun Day was originally started by the Delves family, the original owners of Tuffins, the Co-op is committed to giving back to their customers and the wider community.

The Fun Day takes a massive amount of effort. Many thousands of pounds have been raised and given away over the years but it has become increasingly difficult.

So, for the first time, the management have asked for help (a side show or activity) from the organisations that benefit. Each group could share its proceeds between themselves and the wider Fun Day Community Fund. Also, anyone who feels they could offer general help would be most welcome. The team can be contacted at the Church Stoke Store and would be delighted to hear from you: a good way of showing our gratitude continuing this fine initiative into the future.

*Pam Livingstone-Lawn*

### Recipe: Atholl Brose

*With the New Year/s celebration of Hogmanay in Scotland, here is a traditional Scottish recipe.*

4 tablespoons medium oatmeal

2-4 tablespoons whisky

1 tablespoon lemon juice

2 tablespoons heather honey

¼ pint double cream

Spread oatmeal on a tin and toast for a few minutes under the grill shaking frequently so that it browns evenly. Leave to cool.

Mix together the whisky, lemon juice and honey. Gradually whisk in the cream until the mixture stands in soft peaks, fold in the toasted oatmeal and turn into individual glasses/bowls. Chill until required. Decorate each one with a lemon twist and serve with thin shortbread biscuits.





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January Readings		Readers
Jan 1 Naming of Jesus <i>White</i>	Numbers 6.22-27 Galatians 4.4-7 [Psalm 8. Luke 2.15-21]	
Jan 8 Epiphany 1 <i>White</i>	Isaiah 60.1-6 Ephesians 3.1-12 [Psalm 72.1-7,10-14 Matthew 2.1-12]	
Jan 15 Epiphany 2 <i>White</i>	Isaiah 49.1-7 1 Corinthians 1.1-9 [Psalm 40.1-11. John 1.29-42]	Sarah Sandford John Peregrine
Jan 22 Epiphany 3 <i>White</i>	Isaiah 9.1-4 1 Corinthians 1.10-18 [Psalm 27.1,5-13. Matthew 4.12-23]	Judy North Robert Forbath
Jan 29 Epiphany 4 <i>White</i>	1 Kings 17.8-16 Corinthians 1.18-34 [Psalm 36.5-10. John 2.1-11]	Phil Swancote Carol Peregrine

### Flicks in the Sticks at Llanfair Waterdine

Sunday 22nd January, 2.30pm for 3.00pm

### ***Cinderella***, (U), 2015

*Interval for ice creams, tea & homemade cakes.*

Tickets: £2 for children and £4.50 for adults.

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### **Welcome to Worship**

Informal worship in **St Edward's Hall** at **6pm** for  
anyone: believer, doubter, undecided.

Sunday, Jan 15, 6pm



## Diary for January 2017

- 2 Llangunllo W.I. 2.30, Tea Party at Bryn Afon.
- 5 Felindre W.I. Christmas Meal at the Radnorshire Arms.
- 6 Llanfair Waterdine, Christmas Party, Everest Hall, 7pm.
- 8 Epiphany Service at Methodist Church, Knighton, with Geoff Weaver choir, 3pm.
- 10 Makers and Crafters, Knucklas Community Centre, 2pm.
- 13 Teme Valley Gardeners' Club, Knucklas Community Centre, 7.30pm.  
Edward Smith: Hellebores.
- 15 "Welcome to Worship" St Edward's Hall, 6pm.
- 17 Ladies Guild, Knucklas Community Centre, 7.30, L Woodside-Jones: "The Bay of Naples,"
- 19 Folk Evening at The Castle Inn, Knucklas, 7pm onwards.
- 21 Wassail, procession starting at Castle Green in Knucklas, 7pm, to the orchard and back to the Castle Inn.
- 24 Makers and Crafters, Knucklas Community Centre, 2pm.

The **Friends of St Cynllo's** would like to thank everyone who generously donated both time and goods for the charity shop in Llandrindod Wells. It was another successful venture thanks to everyone's help.

### Rhayader Male Voice Choir

Are performing at St Mary Magdalene's Church, Bleddfa

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Contact Jan Lloyd: 01547 550216 email: oghanlloyd@msn.com

### Services at Baptist Church in Knucklas:

Jan 8 6pm Revd Kevin Dare

Jan 22 6.30pm Communion Rev Michael Humphreys

Jan 29 11am Joint service at Norton St, Knighton



## A Musical Nation Indeed



“Praise the Lord! We are a musical nation,” said Rev Eli Jenkins in *Under Milkwood*. And so true was that at the Community Carols organised by Churches Together in Knighton and District on 13th December. No matter what your musical ability, it is always a treat to sing carols with the Knighton Town Silver Band who played from the beautiful choir stalls at St Edward’s. Our annual event was moved to the church while work continues on the Community Center.

We were charmed by the Junior Handbell Ringers and later by the more mature Clock Tower Ringers. The bells create a subtle and musical tone.

The Knighton Primary School Choir treated us to a delightful “Twelve Days of Christmas” and the Churches Together Choir, the largest in recent years, sang with lovely harmonies.

The new Baptist Minister, Rev Kevin Dare, who is assigned to the whole community spoke of the journey Christians, like Mary and Joseph, make. And what would Christmas be without a Nativity Tableau? Christian Aid provided a modern script, ‘Light the Way’ for Mary and Joseph, the Wise Men, the angels and shepherds. The Open the Book team along with willing volunteers from the audience told the story. Fittingly our collection went to assist refugees through the work of Christian Aid.

### EPIPHANY SERVICE

Jan 8, 3 pm

The Methodist Church

Knighton

with Geoff Weaver choir



And now we welcome the new year. Full of things that  
have never been.

- Rainer Maria Rilke

# Community Carols



Junior Choir



Story on  
pa 43

Silver Band: Elinor Evans, Gill Wilson & Val Owens



Junior Handbells



Joseph & Mary

<b>Church Services in January 2017</b>				
<b>Date 2017</b>	<b>Beguildy St Michael's</b>	<b>Heyope St David's</b>	<b>Llangunllo St Cynllo's</b>	<b>Bleddfa M Magdalene's</b>
Jan 1 <i>White</i> Naming of Jesus	East Radnor and Beacon Hill Benefices 10.30am Carol Service at St Edward's, Knighton			8.30pm Compline *MR
Jan 8 <i>White</i> Epiphany 1	11am at St David's Whitton, Bishop John Davies Ministry Area Inauguration Service & Farewell to Linda			
Jan 15 <i>White</i> Epiphany 2	11am Morn Worship MR & PC		6.30pm Holy Comm. MB	
Jan 22 <i>White</i> Epiphany 3		11am Holy Comm MC		
Jan 29 <i>White</i> Epiphany 4	11am Holy Comm MB			

MR = Meinir Ronicle, ordinand in training / PC = Peter Cope



Rolf Hook's sculpture (affectionately known as "The Thorn") on Castle Hill

*Please send material for the new February magazine by 15th January to:*  
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