

THE RADNOR FEBRUARY 2021



Mary anointing Jesus' head
St Edward's Knighton

The Magazine of the East Radnor Ministry Area

Beguildy & Felindre | Bleddfa | Heyope & Knucklas | Llangunllo

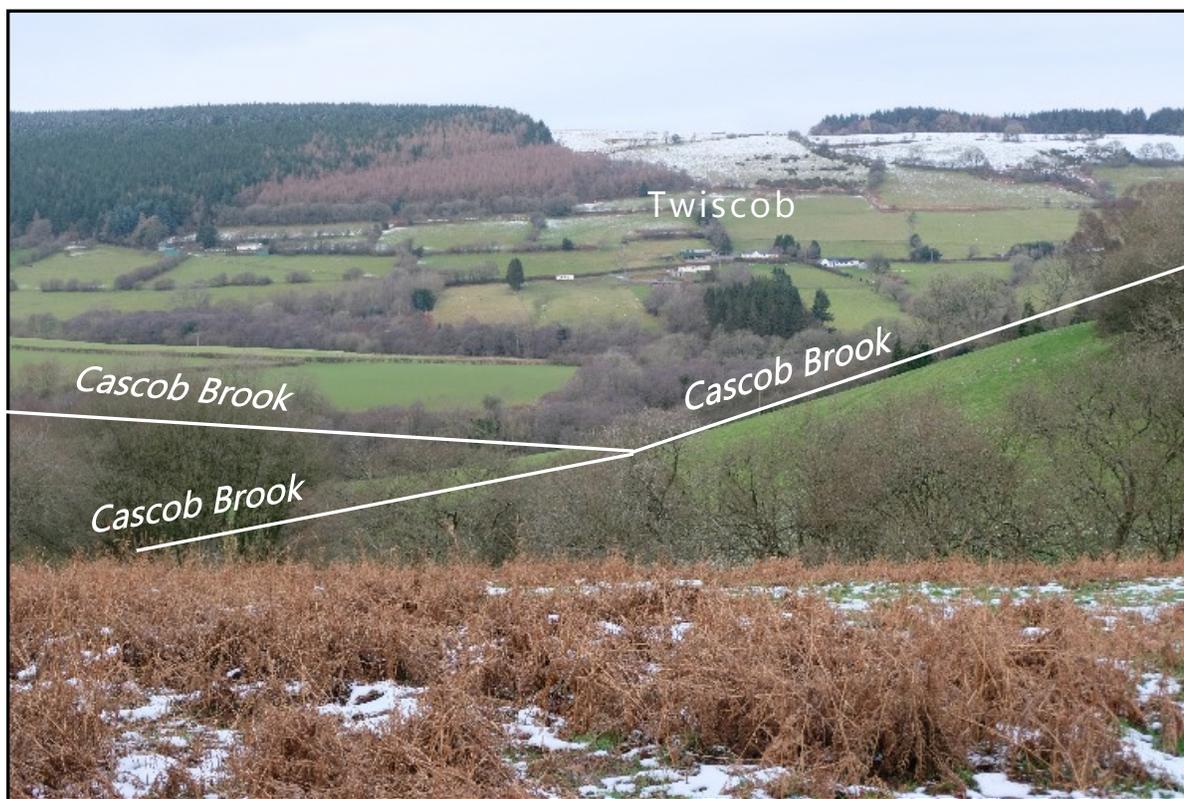
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Cascob centre as seen from Llan-fawr Hill



Cascob beyond

Looking into the Cascob Valley from Ednol (*page 11*) showing two branches of the Cascob



End of the road. Cascob Valley bottom at Twiscob



One of many fords on the Cascob Brook

Cascob, a Place for Folklore

The name of the parish has caused a great deal of speculation. The Domesday references notes it as 'Cascope,' which means "the eminence or mound overlooking the Cas," which is the stream running close by.

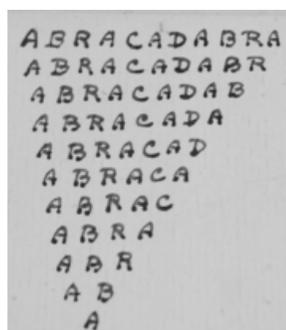
Like other churches that back onto the Radnor Forest, our church is dedicated to St Michael, and dates from the 13th century.

There is a local legend that the last Welsh Dragon lies asleep deep in Radnor Forest and that long ago the people of this area built four churches in a circle around the forest, dedicated to St Michael, the conqueror of the dragon, to make sure he does not escape. Many believe that if any one of these churches is destroyed the dragon will awaken and ravage the countryside once more.

An interesting memorial tablet to William Jenkins Rees hangs in the chancel. He was the rector of Cascob from 1806-1855. He was also

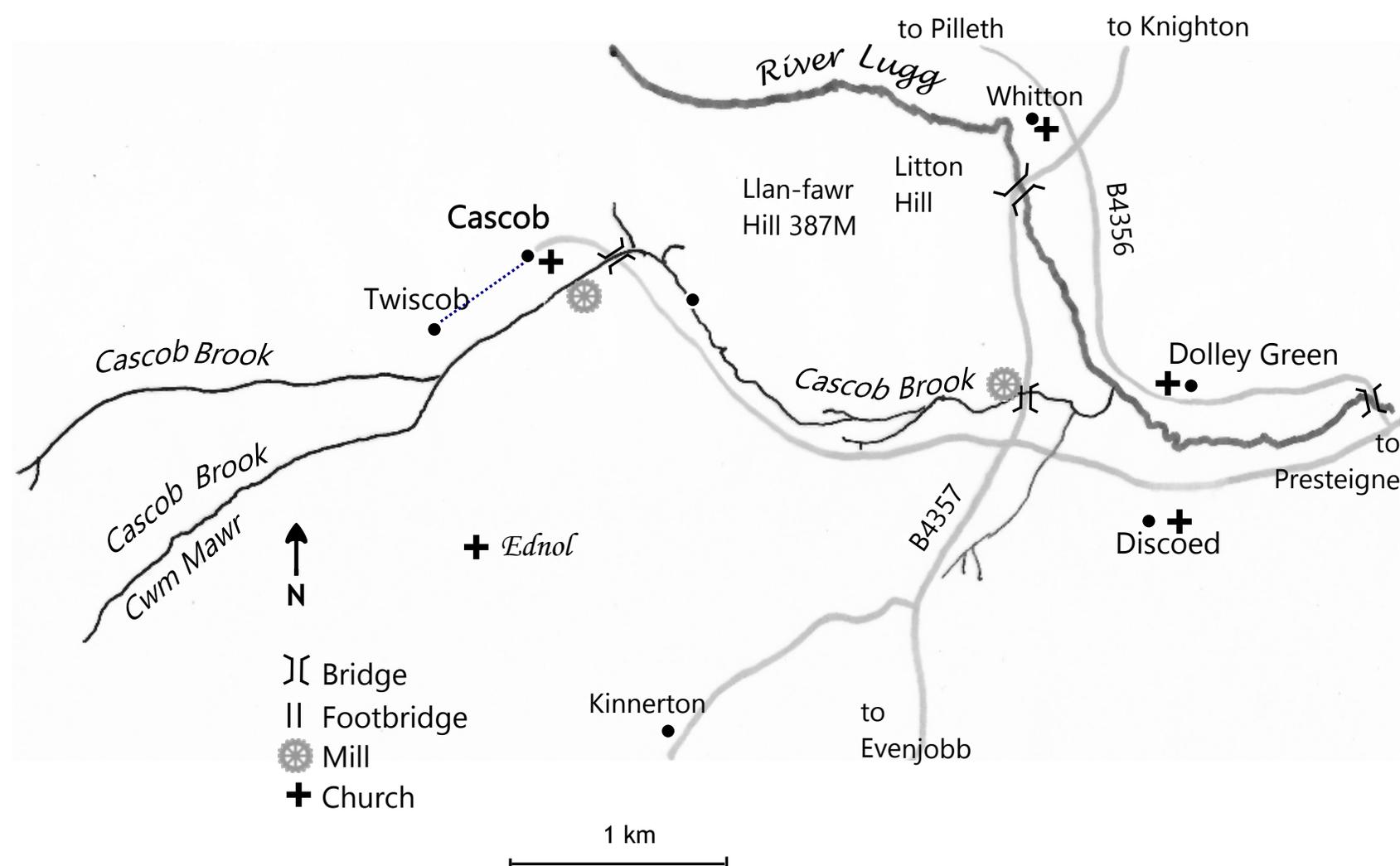
vicar of Heyope 1813-1854. The tablet was placed there by The Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion for his contribution to Welsh letters, and notable for the part he played in the revival of the Welsh National Eisteddfod at the end of the 1800s.

Another tablet of interest is the Abracadabra on the north wall of the nave. This is dated in the 1700s and was an accepted means of exorcising evil spirits at that time, and was used at Cascob to deliver one Elizabeth Lloyd from demon possession. Beneath the tablet is the legend containing the signs of the Zodiac and the incantation that was used.



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Folklore in Cascob tells of housewives who marked their bread with a cross to make it light and to guard against bewitchment. On



Good Friday one of these loaves was set aside for the next Good Friday. As it became black it was known as Black or Holy Bread. It was believed to be a remedy, if powdered and taken in water, for many complaints. Another legend said it did not go mouldy if it was made to rise before seven and baked before eleven.

Another superstition concerned the yule log. It was burned on Christmas Day, but what remained unburnt was kept in the home until the following Christmas. The charred remains supposedly prevented fire.

Tombstones in the churchyard bear inscriptions to the memory of the ancestors of Thomas Smith who was Lord Mayor of the city of London in 1810, and High Sheriff of Radnor in 1818.

The man who was rector of Bleddfa and Cascob in 1711 was also Archdeacon of St David's. He built the Old Rectory at Cascob.



Old Rectory from the *People's Collection, Wales*

The source of the Cascob Brook begins in the Radnor Forest, in two places. The two streams converge below Twiscob, then flow through the valley of Cascob going under the road near Litton to meet the Lugg in the meadows between Whitton and Dolley Green.

The brook serviced more than one mill. A corn mill stood near the church. Further down

the brook, close to the junction with the B4356 was a walkmill, a woolen mill.

Through Parish of Cascob four large pools have been created, a great boost to the wildlife. Otters and herons fish in them. Dragonflies, kingfishers, and dippers dart above the water. Geese rest on them on their long flight to their winter feeding grounds. Ducks nest safely on the islands, to name just a few who gain from the pools. (*Please see the wildlife photos on page 9.*)

At the junction along the main road with the signpost saying "Cascob 2 miles" stands a group of Scots pine trees, which acted as a route-marker for the London to Aberystwyth stage coach route. Another group of Scots pine stand alongside the road further up the valley.

In 1767 the Turnpike Trust re-routed the London to Aberystwyth road and from that date it no longer ran through Cascob. Hence the quiet village today.

The village centre has only the church, former school, and mill cottage with outlying farms scattered near and far. Once it had a bigger population; most of the stones from those homes have been used elsewhere, but an isolated fruit tree or gooseberry bush might mark all that remains of a farm. The School closed after World War II when it taught evacuee children.

*Norma Olds
The Mill, Cascob*

photos by Laura W-J

Sources:

"Radnorshire: A Historical Guide" by Donald Gregory

"The History of Radnorshire" by Jonathan Williams

"Radnorshire" by W.H. Howse

We do not remember days, we remember moments. - Cesare Pavese

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year Blwyddyn Newydd Dda! I know it's a little late but in this day and age as many good wishes as possible are needed. We are still living in the shadow of COVID and due to this the churches are shut. Sad though this is, we must continue to take care and stay safe. Many of you are regulars at the Zoom service at 9:30 on Sunday mornings, which is a joyful event. Should anybody wish to join in please let me have your email and an invitation will be sent.



Everything has to be so different in these times but we must remember that Jesus did not have a building to take care of. He was busy ministering to His flock in person. As the time has gone on it has been clear that people are finding their own way through and looking after others as well as themselves. Community spirit is growing both on the ground and over the internet.

There will be those who are not adapting as well and it is the job of all of us to look out for those who need help. A simple smile can make such a difference to a person's day. Never this century has the phrase, 'love thy neighbour', been more apt. So let us be guided by God, who is love, as we work our way through this time.

Talking of love we have just celebrated Dydd Santes Dwynwen, St Dwynwen's Day on 25 January and are due to celebrate Valentine's Day on the 14 February. Let us enjoy the celebrations as it is Shrove Tuesday on the 16th February. Lent this year will give us a chance to really reflect on what has happened since the onset of the pandemic.

Love & blessings Petra

The Cover

At Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, Mary, sister of Martha and Lazarus, poured an expensive scented ointment on Jesus head. It had the value of 100 days of labour. Two apostles stand behind, looking on this tender moment.

In the other panel of this story disciples were puzzled and skeptical (*see page 29*). They scold Mary for this waste, but Jesus rebukes them: "Let her alone. She has performed a good service for me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial."

The window is a memorial to Mrs Sarah Brown - wife of the Reverend James Brown, Vicar of Knighton from 1836 - 1878. She died on January 1st 1876.

The story is recorded in both Mark 13 and John 12. The two windows are in the vestibule where you enter St Edward's.

Online

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Please keep submissions to under 200 words.



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Thank you to Kit and Mark Beaton

Sadly, Coronavirus prevented a proper Good-bye to Kit and Mark Beaton who, after 12 years with us, moved to Builth. Joanna Winstone read this at Evancoyd, at the one Christmas Service which happened just hours before lockdown.

On behalf of all of us here I would like to say thank you to you and Kit. Looking back over your 12 years as our Rector there are many improvements. Highlights would be having the central heating radically overhauled and radiators installed making St. Peters warm and welcoming. (See page 25) Arranging for the pews to be removed in the Children's aisle which opened up the Church showed off the stained glass windows and allowed room for catering. This year it is the positive impact of the organ restoration with its new sound and range. These improvements have enabled the church to grow.

More subtly, the way we worship has altered. Any worshipper is now allowed to take communion if they have been baptised, making for a more inclusive and meaningful service for visitors and regulars alike. Another change which you have overseen has been to the Church magazine; now it is much improved and has become a modern, colourful, not to be missed read which keeps everyone informed. These changes are a proud legacy.

We have sparkling memories of:

- Hot summer afternoon fetes with Songs of Praise and Pimms in Evancoyd gardens.
- Laughter during the Auction of Produce at Harvest festivals.
- Delight at Crib services where small children and parents carry heavy statues to the crib.
- Proud parents and happy babies at family christenings.
- Interaction with the community, setting up and manning the Kington Charity Shop which raised a great deal of money (however did we get that sideboard and sofa up into the window for display?)



Mark and Kit

On a personal level I should like to thank you for officiating at the marriage of my daughter when the congregation affectionately thought of you as the happy vicar.

If there were such a person as a Super Vicar (or I should say Super Canon), you, Mark would be a strong contender. You are a dedicated deeply spiritual person who has a way of connecting with people during their sadness and in times of grief. Yet you are very versatile. Alongside Kit, you have embraced the Messy Church and created fun and laughter for children and families. You have rolled up your sleeves and climbed up ladders to replace spotlights or inspect the roof guttering and drainage, you have been a masterful Quizmaster setting interesting questions and have donned your dancing shoes and joined in Ceilidhs. You have performed expertly in many concerts and choirs, possessing an exceptionally good singing and reading voice. You will be a very hard act to follow.

We are sorry you are leaving and we will miss you and Kit very much. We wish you joy and happiness as the new incumbent at Builth Wells. We do hope, however, to catch up with you at the Royal Welsh Show.



(Top) Kingfisher (Middle) Greylag Goose (Bottom) Banded demoiselle dragonfly
Photos by kind permission of Sarah & Bono Barrett who are also Wedding and Family
photographers based in Beguildy. Website: sarahbarrettphotography.co.uk
Facebook: Sarah & Bono Barrett Photography.

Churches & Chapels near Cascob Brook

St Michael's Cascob



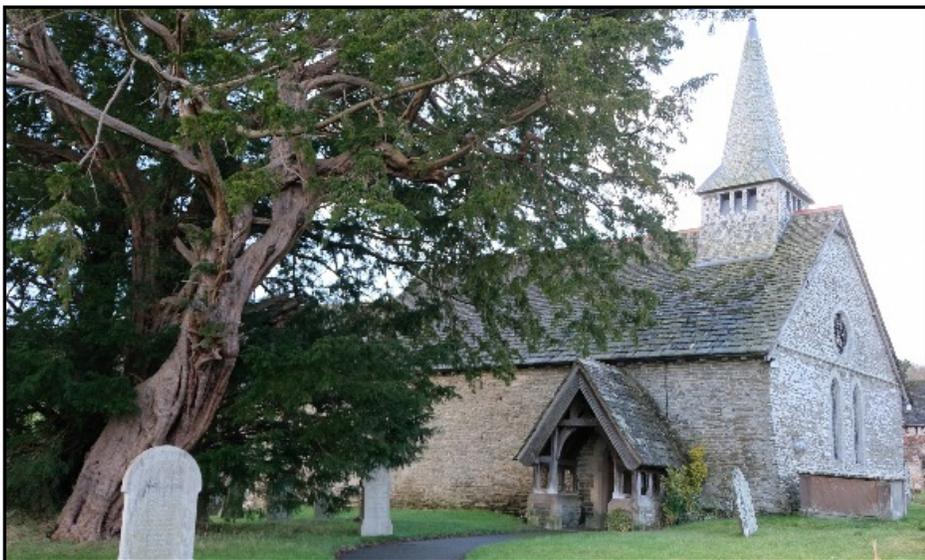
Walkers measuring the girth of Cascob's yew

Ackhill Baptist Church



Ackhill Schoolroom

St Michael's Discoed

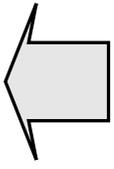


Yew tree is possibly 5,000 years old



Upper Dolley - (Sunday School in attic)
Nock-Deighton Image

Photos by Laura W-J



Churches and Chapels

St Michael's Church, Cascob:

St Michael's Church stands in a peaceful, out-of-the-way site. The 13th Century church was rebuilt in 1895, but it has retained its thick walls and its big squat tower, common in Radnorshire churches before Victorian restorations. There is a large mound behind the tower, possibly the ruin of a collapsed tower? Perhaps an ancient tumulus?

It has a medieval bell from the 1600's. Once a smaller sanctus bell hung from the 14th century oak screen. The carved wood in the reredos (behind the altar) dates to the restoration.

The majestic yew is 1500-2000 years old.

Ackhill Baptist Church:

Near where the Cascob Brook joins the River Lugg is the hamlet of Dolley Green, with Ackhill Baptist Church. (It is named "Ackhill" for a nearby house and farm.) It is an active church with two services each Sunday as well as weekday gatherings.

The wrinkly tin tabernacle was built in 1905. It has a graveyard and a minister's house. In 1930 it was replaced across the road by a redbrick church with metal framed gothic windows. The tin church then became the **Ackhill Schoolroom**. Today it serves as Sunday School, Mothers and Toddlers, and a Church Hall for events.

Upper Dolley Farmhouse: Ackhill Schoolroom was born out of a Sunday School which met in an attic room at Upper Dolley Farmhouse nearby. It is a timber-framed medieval hall house built for the High Sheriff of Radnorshire in the early 17th Century.

Information from internet and Richard Mansell (resident minister).

St Michael's Discoed:

St Michael's Discoed sits above the confluence of the Cascob Brook and River Lugg. Discoed was a chapel of ease (for the ease of parishioners to get to church) for the Parish of St Andrew in Presteigne, which remains in the Church of England although it is in Wales.

St Michael's is an ancient church built on a circular churchyard under a mound, a sign of its antiquity. It was rebuilt to the old plan in 1869. One of its two ancient yews could be 5,000 years old, perhaps the oldest in England and Wales.

The Church converts for art exhibitions and musical concerts, chiefly Early Music.

Ednol Church - Ruins:

Ednol Church is a ruin looking down upon the Cascob Valley, becoming more and more indistinguishable with each passing year. In the past it would have only served the nearby farms. Coflein records that in 1913 it was "roofless", with two (presumably in situ) beams. The last burial was said to have been



Ruins of Ednol Church, clearly showing the footprint of a small church with some stone and bits of railings still there.



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Archbishop John to Retire

Archbishop John is to retire in May after four years. He will shortly celebrate his 68th birthday, has also served as Bishop of Swansea and Brecon for the past 13 years. The 13th Archbishop of Wales, he was also the first Bishop of Swansea and Brecon to be elected as Archbishop. He will retire from both roles on May 2.

Archbishop John has been profoundly interested in matters of social justice, speaking out on a range of issues, including homelessness and housing, rural problems, assisted dying, organ donation and poverty. He has been chair of Housing Justice Cymru since it was launched in 2016, and has served as a trustee of Christian Aid, chairing its Wales National Committee for almost nine years from 2010.

At the same time, he has focused on the need for the Church in Wales to refresh its vision, its image and



purpose, to embrace change and, through doing so, to aim for growth. He has urged members to be more ambitious and courageous in evangelism and he oversaw the launch of a major £10m Evangelism Fund for projects aimed at achieving better engagement with and fuller understanding of Christian life and the Christian Gospel.

Diocesan website

Knucklas Notes for February

The last two months have seemed a little grim around the area, despite some fabulous displays of Christmas lights in corners of Knucklas. The Festive Season has barely been a reality as the year turned into 2021.

The winter has, this time, qualified as a 'real' one and the ground has, for a long time, been saturated. Some wonderful sights were there to behold in the night skies, but little clarity around here to view them.

But local people have been able to enjoy the great outdoors on the occasions when it was not raining or icy, and that helps enormously to keep dogs contented and people's spirits up.

Regret having to report the passing of Cindy Hall, in South Wales, for quite a long time a resident of Glyndwr. So sorry to have to report the passing of two former stalwarts of this area; Iris Leeson, previously of Lloyney and Betty Lewis, formerly of Heyope. With sympathy to the family and friends of both.

We have also 'lost' Rebe and Derek Brick from Stoneacre, close by us – they have moved into Knighton. Into Chapel Close have moved Lynn and Neil McMckinnon, from Basingstoke and Withington – a warm welcome to them both.

A major concern in Knucklas surrounds who can be found to help with the running of the Community Centre, the Community Council and local clubs and organisations.

Robert Forbath

Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul - and sings the tunes without the words - and never stops at all.

- Emily Dickinson

Highbrook Farm Holiday Cottages

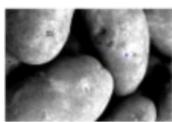


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New Vicar!

In these troubled times, our Ministry Area has received good news. Following Mark Beaton's departure for Builth in mid December, Archdeacon Alan called in wardens on December 16th to announce a replacement: Rev Rachael Storer.

Those of us who have been attending Zoom services will be familiar with Rachael as she has participated fully in our worship by creating services, preaching, praying, and lighting Advent candles. She is able to move into the New Radnor Vicarage in late January, perhaps by the time you receive this magazine!

Rev Rachael Storer has been curate in the Ithon Valley group - part of the Llandrindod Wells Benefice.

Graham George reported: "We unanimously agreed with a show of hands that we wanted her to succeed Mark. Within minutes Rachel entered the church to a standing ovation!"

"She gave us a brief resumé of her life within the church starting at a young age, then after moving to Rhayader, becoming a Eucharistic Assistant at the age of 21, working under Rev Peter Brooks - the start of the road to full ordination. She outlined just how enthusiastic she was to become part of our parishes and become our Vicar based in New Radnor.

"We all look forward to her joining our group and hope that this will signal a fresh start for us all as we look forward to better times ahead."

Corona Virus Chronicles

Happy New Year Everyone! My guess is that most of us are finding that particular greeting somewhat hollow by now.

As the New Year approached I felt quite optimistic. Jo Biden had been elected President of the United States, two vaccines had been approved, and somehow or other we had managed a trade deal with Europe. Covid 19 cases in our part of the world were falling. Things were looking up. I walked with a lighter step and lighter heart.

Little did I realise that it would take just six days for things to unravel. I write this on the 13th of January. The world is shocked by events in America. We cannot see how they are going to pan out. But we pray it is a wakeup call to Americans.

Covid cases in our own country are increasing exponentially and are killing thousands of people. Our frontline staff and resources are

at breaking point. The vaccination programme cannot proceed quickly enough. The Brexit deal although done, will bring its own aggravations far into the future.

As for me, my plans for "getting through winter" have somewhat unravelled. Gone the weekly walk with friends, gone the golf, gone the art class, gone the line dancing. Instead, (shades of March), I am back to doing a very challenging puzzle, loaned by a friend. I have made my annual supply of marmalade, I am attempting to discipline myself into exercising indoors and I can still write and paint, do crosswords, meditate and pray, contact my friends and make jokes.

So, if not a Happy New Year, then a Happy 2021. I did not have a crystal ball to see the tough start to the year, so maybe I am just as blind to the good things that may be around the corner.

Hermione Evans

Don't watch the clock; do what it does. Keep going. - Sam Levenson

Mark Layton

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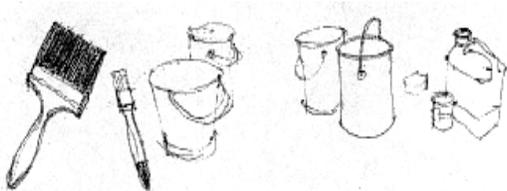
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Llangunllo W.I. Beat Lockdown to Celebrate Christmas



Most of our plans have changed so many times this year I've lost count. Our last get together at the start of March was bowling; little did we know . . . lockdown.

We did however meet regularly using Zoom from April, holding a virtual Easter bonnet competition, quizzes and lots of chat, all of which helped to keep us going. We used our talents to sew for the NHS, joined in with others managing food orders and deliveries for our community, and became a friendly voice on the phone for those feeling isolated.

When restrictions lifted we met up twice in Chris and Di's lovely large garden, ensuring social distancing of course. We played games, laughed, and simply enjoyed catching up with everyone face to face. November came and our Bonfire was cancelled, as yet again regulations changed. We had a re-think and met later in November, following the rules of hands, face, space, at Bleddfa Hall for a much needed catch up, making it just before the National Firebreak was announced.

With Christmas on the horizon, a Christmas Headband competition (see back cover), a Secret Santa and a seasonal quiz also got the

go-a-head. Each member brought their own food and drink and arrived dressed for the occasion wearing their beautifully decorated headbands. Business completed, we enjoyed a couple of hours of what nearly felt like normal, despite everyone sitting at their own table suitably distanced from the next, and wearing a face mask. How lucky were we, as 3 days later we went back into lockdown.

2021 will bring a Calligraphy session via Zoom, and as we celebrate our 99th year we will keep going, using technology until we can see each other face-to-face.

Anne Newton, President

Chatterbrook W.I.

At Chatterbrook W.I. we are currently holding our meetings by Zoom on 2nd Thursdays at 7.30.

A big advantage – we are able to access interesting speakers from across the country.

Visitors are welcome to join us. No charge, no obligation!

Contact Chatterbrook Secretary for details
mail@galliers.org.uk

Phone AGM for Felindre W.I.

Felindre W.I. were unable to hold their usual AGM in Felindre Village Hall this year, due to Covid-19 restrictions preventing face-to-face meetings. Instead, President Jayne Harris sent a written President's Report to all members and Secretary Rhona Barnett phoned everyone for a chat.

Although meetings were held as usual at the beginning of the year, from April onwards they had to be suspended and members were unable to get together, though a few met up for a walk and picnic on the Beacon in

September and the President and Secretary have kept in regular touch with everyone by e-mail and telephone.

Treasurer Pat Buckley reported on the end-of-year financial situation and it was agreed that all officers would remain as elected in 2019, with all members being on the committee. The officers will continue to keep in touch with members and hopefully things will be able to return to normal some time during 2021.

For further information, contact Jayne on 01547 510644.
Maggie Flanders

Light Up Llangunllo!

To celebrate Christmas 2020 and welcome New Year 2021 the village of Llangunllo was well and truly lit up. From December 1st “Light Up Llangunllo” took place, a display of festive lights to enjoy and spread cheer, during these difficult times.

Inviting villagers to take part, an email was sent out and the “A” Board put up, and with the help of those organising and decorating the Community Christmas Tree, preparations were soon underway. The overall response was great and lights of different colours, size and design, twinkled and glowed in every corner of the village and beyond.

On Sunday December 20th at 5pm, our usual “Carols Around the Christmas Tree” combined this time with the Church Carol Service, was planned for the village centre. A group of local musicians and readers were on hand to perform with Coronavirus regulations thoroughly checked and in place for an outside event, plus Health and Safety re traffic, .THEN, on Saturday 19th December, the Welsh Assembly Government made their announcement and to great disappointment the Carol Singing was not to be!

We look forward to celebrating Christmas 2021.
Llangunllo Community

Teilo of Llandeilo Fawr – 9 Feb - Patron saint of apples and horses

So many legends have accrued around the name of St Teilo that it is impossible to separate fact from fiction. What we do know is that at least 25 churches and schools are dedicated to him in Wales, Cornwall, Devon and Brittany.

He is thought to have been born in Penally near Tenby and is known to have been still alive around 550. He spent most of his life in south-west Wales, except for seven years when he travelled through Cornwall to Brittany to escape the plague, nowadays known as the Plague of Justinian (that is Emperor Justinian, not St Justinian). This pandemic lasted for 200 years and one wonders if travelling around to escape from it was not particularly helpful.

In Brittany Teilo joined up with Samson of Dol, another escapee from Wales, and together they planted a three mile long orchard of fruit trees. (Is this why he is the patron saint of apples?) These still exist today and are known as “the groves of Teilo and Samson”.

While he was there Teilo tamed a dragon and tethered it to a rock in the sea. The local lord offered him all the land he could encircle between sunset and sunrise, so in order to cover more ground Teilo rode on a stag. (Surely he should be the patron saint of stags, not horses?) Anyway, on returning to Wales he founded the great church of Llanbadarn Fawr, where after many years of saintly work he died, but was not laid to rest – that is another story.



St Teilo on the stag
- from *Alchetron*

Rosemary Hanna

Christmas Lights



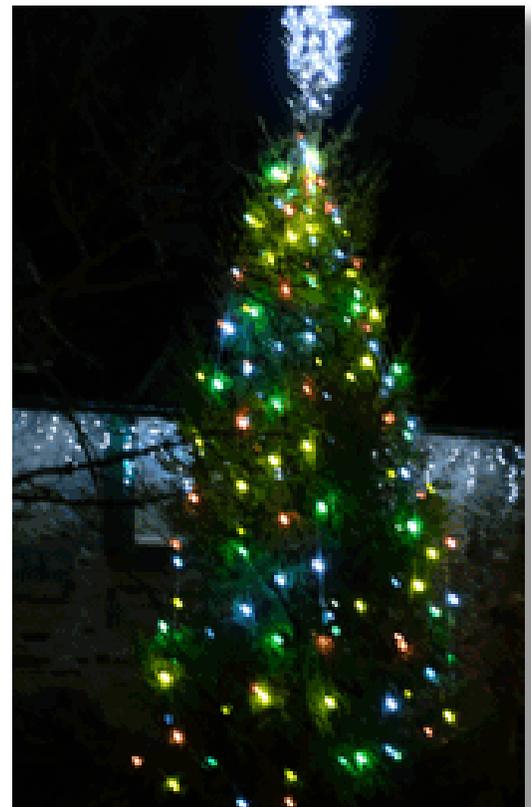
Knighton lit for Christmas



Knucklas Home



The Greyhound in Llangunllo



Christmas Services that didn't happen



Pilleth lit for Christmas



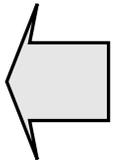
Heyope's Crib scene and altar lit for Christmas



Bleddfa's Star



Candelabra at Pilleth



Christmas Services That Didn't Happen

Our church congregations have faced a difficult year; most of us have not had services since last March. So we were allowed to have a Christmas service . . . until the Covid variant caused another lockdown, and our churches were closed for Christmas. Some of

us had prepared our beautiful churches for the long awaited service. Opposite are pictures from Heyope and Pilleth, prepared to welcome the newborn king at a service which couldn't happen.

From the Archives

The following is an extract from a newspaper report of an address given by Archdeacon Waring on the occasion of the laying of the foundation stone of the new church at Knighton on 9th June 1876.

“Now, inhabitants of Knighton, if there be any amongst you who would say "We have a Church, why should we build another," I would remind you we live in days of great progress. . . .

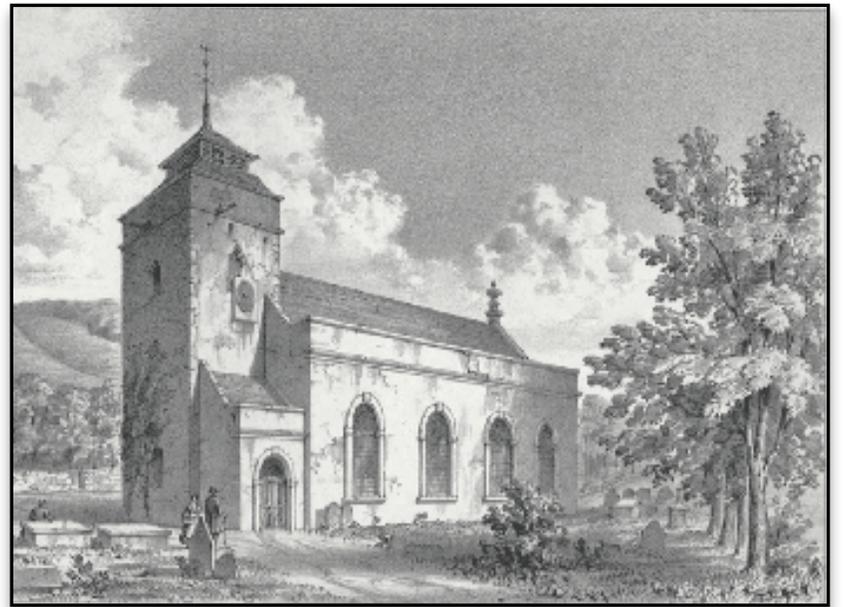
“I would ask, is everything to be improved and God's house to remain as it is? Shall we gratify our own taste and comfort and do nothing for Almighty God? Is it not our duty to give our best services to God? We may be sure that God will look with a favourable eye on the work which we hope to see accomplished in this parish.

“I know there be many inhabitants of this parish who look with regret upon the old church, and may feel sorry that the church in which they and their children were baptised, and in which they have partaken of Holy Communion, should be taken down; but I would appeal to them, I would remind them that the Old church, with its old pews and galleries, was not adapted for that communion of worship which we should cultivate.

“Each member of the Church should try to warm the heart of his Neighbour with his own earnestness. I am sure that if everyone goes to Church and performs his duty properly he will kindle the warmth and earnestness of others, If we are earnest in our duty, and are found

standing where we ought to stand, and kneeling where we ought to kneel, we may influence others.”

Submitted by Jean Price



Drawing by R. Thomas in 1850.



Photograph by Aberly P. B. (Percy Benzie)

Knighton Church Images from People's Collection Wales

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School Time

Last month we learned the history of Norton school which moved from a timber structure in the churchyard to #4 The Terrace in 1862 where it functioned until 1909 when it became a Community Hall; it is now a private dwelling.

The School then moved to a site above Norton Brook, with the Schoolmaster's home next door. The school closed in 1958; pupils now go to Presteigne.

The photo shows the last days of Norton School in 1958.



Back Row, Left to Right. Miss Florrie Meddings (the Cook, who kept two fires burning and lived at Rose Cottage Norton). Sylvia Davies (The Pools Farm), Olwen Jones, (Carters Farm), Pat Harris (The Woodhouse), Mrs Blanche Hughes (Teacher, who lived on the Presteigne Road in Knighton).

Front Row. Sylvia Stephens (Norton Shop and Post Office; her mother kept the shop for many years), Brian Davies (The Pools Farm), Paul Shradder, (The Dairy, near the Manor), John Bodenham, (Orchard House) Shirley Evans (The Maypole).
Absent: Mary Davies (The Pools Farm).

Information and photo from Sylvia Davies

When you reach the end of your rope,
tie a knot in it and hang on.

- Franklin D. Roosevelt

Llangunllo 200 Club

August 2020	November 2020
1st James Duggan	1st Joyce Lewis (Griffinlloyd)
2nd Will Thomas	2nd Julian John
3rd Karon Duggan	3rd EJ Harris
3rd Mike Camps	3rd Chris Morgan
September 2020	December 2020
1st Jane Reed	1st Kath Poole
2nd Wayne Davies	2nd Charles Kightly
3rd Ruth Wilding	3rd Kara Deakins
3rd Monaughty Dave	3rd David Lloyd (Cwmheyope)
October 2020	
1st Rhys Appebly	
2nd Kara Deakins	
3rd Mike Camps	
3rd Brian Joyce	

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Presteigne & Borders Floral Art Society

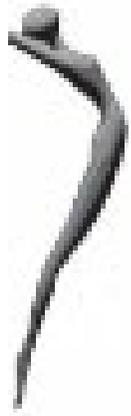
While still unable to hold monthly meetings, we are joining short demonstrations on Zoom on Tuesday afternoons, which are described as 'a breath of fresh air' – and we all need that.

To join the demonstrations (no charge) or for more details email mail@galliers.org.uk

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Golf is sociable, with the handicap system allowing for players of all abilities to play together. But if you are a beginner, why not join our 'Ladies New to Golf' Group Sessions, which are beginning in March 2021? There is nothing better than playing a few holes with friends, and then sharing a coffee, a glass of wine or a delicious meal in our lovely clubhouse.

We are all so proud of our friendly club and magnificent course. Kington Golf Club has received many accolades. It is the number 1 course in Herefordshire, ranked number 5 in UK courses under 6000 yards and is in the top 5 UK Inland courses with Panoramic Views. We are also very affordable, as we are ranked 18, in the Top 100 Best Value for Money Courses in Great Britain. All on your doorstep!

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Toinette Davies

The Evancoyd Oil Crisis

St Peter's Evancoyd owe a debt of gratitude to Roger and Andrew Watts who, when walking in the Churchyard during the Summer, noticed a strong smell of oil and noted the tank was leaking. They immediately alerted Nigel Waters and action was taken to prevent further seepage from our failing tank.

After the environment agencies had investigated, it was fortunately found not to have contaminated water supplies, and work to remove oil soaked soil and replace the tank could commence. Although works were insured, the tank was not covered and we were blessed to have a very generous donation of a heavy duty steel tank provided by Kevin Powell of Ledbury Welding and Engineering. Kevin kindly donated the tank in memory of his parents and the Powell and Williams families.

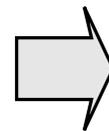
God moves in mysterious ways his wonders to perform and the tank was installed just in time, two days before our only Christmas Service and the Church was beautifully warm.



Thank you to the Watts brothers, Kevin Powell and everyone involved in helping us during the "Evancoyd Oil Crisis."

Jo Winstone

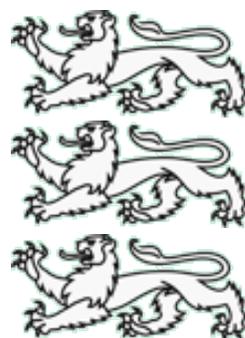
History of Stained Glass in Knighton Church



The stained glass windows in Knighton Church are well worth a look. All the existing windows date from 1860 to the early 1900's, and there is no surviving medieval stained glass.

The original church was demolished in 1756 and little is recorded of what windows it had, but there is a tantalizing hint in Richard Symonds' "Marches of the Royal Army During the Great Civil War". Symonds accompanied King Charles I on his campaigns, and on 18th September 1545, when the King's fortunes were most definitely on the wane, he passed through Knighton on route from Presteigne to Newtown in a desperate bid to escape a Parliamentary army under Colonel Poyntz.

Despite the long march ahead Symonds paused to take a look inside Knighton Church, and noted that a window on the south side had



How were these shown in stained glass?

the Royal coat of arms with the arms of France (Fleur de Lis) and England (3 lions passant) quartered. Symonds also noted the coat of arms of a prominent local family painted on one of the walls - a common feature of old churches.

The present windows belong to three distinct phases. The **first phase** [Fig 1] has just one - that on the east wall of the north aisle (to your left as you stand at the back of the nave and look to the altar), which is the former east window moved to its present position when the chancel was rebuilt in 1897. It shows the crucifixion with Saints Peter and John on each side, and is in the bold primary colours and

straight forward design characteristic of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. It is a memorial to Edward and Anne Breeze whose descendants fought an unsuccessful legal battle against the change of position.

The **second phase** is those windows which were installed after the nave was rebuilt in 1877/78. [Fig 2] The third window from the front in the south aisle is a memorial to Thomas Peters and his son Thomas Whitfield Peters. It depicts the Virgin Mary, showing that her image was once more becoming acceptable after the iconoclasm of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries when all traces of her cult were suppressed as a mixture of paganism and popery.

The two companion lights in the vestibule [Fig 3] display the story of Mary anointing Jesus' head. The left panel is featured on the cover, information on page 5. The right panel shows the disciples looking on the scene with some scepticism.

[Fig 4] The two lights above the font are memorials to Jane Covernton (died 20/10/1871) and Elizabeth Covernton (died 28/08/1845) - you will have to turn on the porch light to see these properly, and they are frequently overlooked. Dr Covernton was a medical doctor and represented Knighton on Radnorshire County Council. Edith, another of his daughters, was mother of the composer Peter Warlock (1894 - 1930 - real name Philip Arnold Hestletine).

In all three windows [2, 3, 4] designs are still relatively simple and straightforward, though the tendency towards elaborate backgrounds and decorations has already become apparent.

K.J.K. (K.J.K. was probably a curate)

submitted by Jean Price

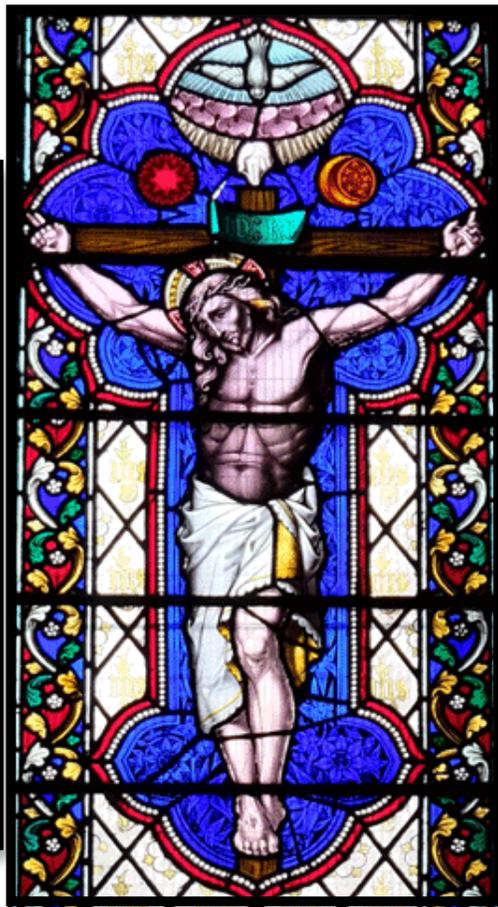
Photos by Laura W-J

Continued next month

Phase 1



St Peter with his keys and a book



Jesus on the cross



St John with a *chalice

[1] Former East Window of Knighton Church, now at a side chapel

Phase 2

[2] Peters Memorial Window. This is the third set from the front in the south side aisle.



Mary holds a stem of lilies and a gospel book.



Jesus blesses us with his right hand and holds the world in his left.



John holds a *chalice and a book.

**In both images a serpent emerges from the chalice. This refers to the Golden Legend (1228-1298) when a pagan priest of Ephesus tested John by giving him a poisoned chalice. The poison escaped from the chalice in the form of a small two-headed dragon.*

Knighton Windows - Phase 2 (Cont.)



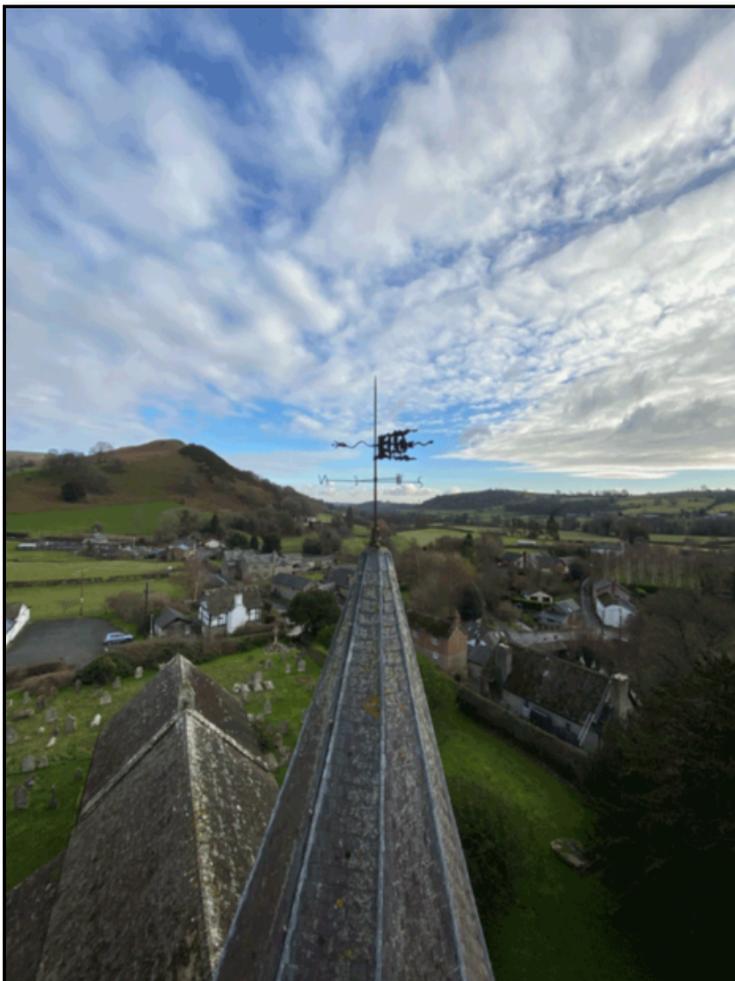
[3] Right-hand light of west window in vestibule. Disciples look critically at Mary anointing Jesus (on the cover)



[4] Small lights above the font.
Left: Mary holds a palm branch and a lily.
Right: Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist, holds a staff

Gladestry's Weathervane

The weathervane has the initials of the two church wardens and the date.



Recipe: Pancakes for Shrove Tuesday (16 Feb)

The BBC's Good Food Magazine has many delicious pancake toppings to go with their basic pancake recipe.

Ingredients:

- 140g plain flour
- 2 eggs
- 200ml whole milk
- 25g unsalted butter, melted,
plus a little extra for greasing

Method:

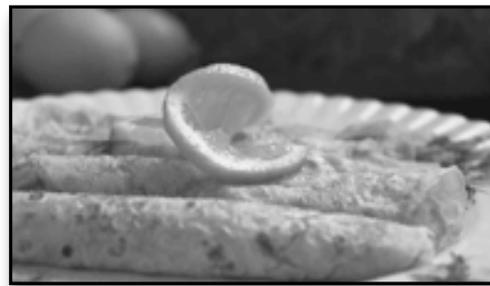
Sift the flour with a pinch of salt into a medium-size bowl. Mix the milk and 100ml of water together. Break the eggs into the well and start whisking slowly. Add the milk and water in a steady stream, whisking constantly and gradually incorporating the flour as you do so.

Whisk until the batter is smooth and all the flour has been incorporated. Set the batter aside to rest for 30 mins, then whisk the melted butter into the batter.

Heat the pan over a medium heat. Very lightly grease the pan with melted butter. Using a ladle, pour roughly 2 tbsp of batter into the pan and swirl it around so the bottom of the pan is evenly coated. You want to use just enough batter to make a delicate, lacy pancake.

Cook the pancake for about 45 secs on one side until golden and then using a palette knife or fish slice, flip the pancake over and cook the other side for about 30 secs until it freckles. Slide the pancake out of the pan and either serve immediately or stack on a plate with baking parchment in between. Continue until all the batter is used up.

Note: The French call Shrove Tuesday 'Fatty Tuesday' – *Mardi Gras*



Gladestry's Flying Serpent

At the beginning of 2018 a series of strong winds dislodged the vane from the church spire and various experts were consulted including Chris Topps of Yorkshire, a noted expert on repairing historic wrought iron pieces.

Given the historic importance of the cast iron flying serpent, bearing the date 1709, and the initials of the church wardens - E.P. (Edwin Pugh) and R.L. (Richard Lane), it was decided to carry out only necessary repairs, leaving most of the original in place.

A blacksmith re-fitted the broken hinge, cleaned away the surface rust, and painted it black. A special cherrypicker named 'Spider'

with sufficient height and breadth was hired to re-fit the vane on the spire.

We are thankful to local resident Finn Fraser of Jones & Fraser for overseeing the work. The firm is a traditional building company specialising in repairs to listed buildings. It looks really good.



*Michael Johnson and Ann Dean
photos opposite by Jones and Fraser*

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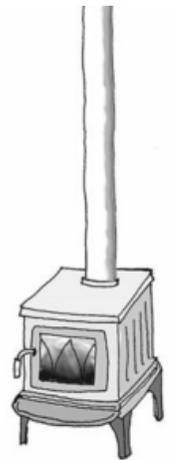
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National Garden Scheme

During 2020 volunteers in Powys put their heads together to find different ways of raising money; selling plants at the roadside and in a bus shelter! Garden owners recorded virtual garden visits, asking viewers to make donations; they hosted a virtual cocktail party!

Film tour of Tranquillity Haven Looking forward, 68 gardens are due to open in Powys, including Tranquillity Haven, Whitton, near Knighton, featured in a virtual film tour for the Macmillan charity. Viewers can take a stroll over the garden's red oriental bridge while enjoying a multitude of greenery and flowers. The Radnor featured Tranquillity Haven in November 2020

In 2017, Val Brown was airlifted to hospital after she badly dislocated her right shoulder and damaged her right arm in a fall just a day before her beloved husband Dave's funeral. Medics initially told Val, who had spent more than a decade developing the Japanese stroll garden, with Dave, she would never garden again due to nerve damage. With the help of physiotherapy and determination, the 79-year-old rebuilt her strength to tend to the garden. Val's garden will open on weekends in June and October.

In 2020, the National Garden Scheme donated £425,000 to Macmillan Cancer Support, going towards the Palliative Care Unit in South Wales.

Gail Jones gail.jones@ngs.org.uk
0797 410 3692

James Roose Evans Award

James Roose Evans, who founded the Bleddfa Centre for the Creative Spirit in 1974 has recently received the 2020 Dunstan Award for Prayer and Religious Life, offered by the Archbishop of Canterbury. It was given "for his distinctive contribution in exploring over 65 years the relationship between art and life, the creative and the spiritual."

James was ordained in Hereford Cathedral and served as priest in Bleddfa when he formed the idea for the Centre. He has spent his life (he is now in his early 90's) pursuing all modes of literary expression and spiritual truth.

Pleasant words are like a honeycomb,
sweetness to the soul and health to the
body.

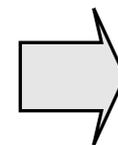
- Proverbs 16.24

Evancoyd Christmas

Editor's note: Evancoyd had the only Christmas service in our Ministry Area, just hours before lockdown. See photos on page 33.

St Peter's Evancoyd said farewell to Rev Mark Beaton (page 8). All the preparations were in place for a socially distanced Christmas service on Saturday 19th December. Masks were worn and we were not allowed to sing hymns. However the Church service was a lovely opportunity for us to gather and say thank you to Mark who sang the Christmas hymns beautifully from the Chancel. The lessons, which were read out by the congregation through masks, seemed surprisingly poignant. The prayers were lead by Dr David Evans.

At the end of the Service we were entertained to a delightful recital on the newly repaired organ when Heather Evans played Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D minor which was an absolute treat. *Photos and article Jo Winstone*



Woodlanders Enjoy Odditrees

Our work at Castle Ring Wood progressed well over two days due to high turn-outs of volunteers and dry weather. We've finished coppicing around the stacking area. Four volunteers dismantled a shed that has been donated to us and moved it to the woods.

After our 2020 AGM the committee now consists of Robert Todd, Annie England (Secretary), Guy Rollinson and Steve Pearson. Jamie Ritchie stood down after many years' sterling service.

If you've ever paused to admire an unusual-looking tree, such as this one (opposite) at Croft Castle, then you already understand the appeal and allure of an "odditree." This is a tree whose appearance "deviates from what is to be expected, often in response to external conditions." Odditrees are a constant source

of delight, wonder, and amusement to a mindful passersby.

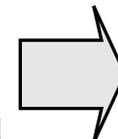
Forestry England have issued some FREE forest-themed colouring sheets to help pass the long winter evenings at forestryengland.co.uk/colouring-sheets

News from Kinsley Wood: Nicola Cowell, the Works Supervisor at The Forestry Commission, says, "Kinsley Wood is a designated PAWS (Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site.) We are gradually putting the woodland back to more native species by thinning conifers and clear felling Western Hemlock (pictured)." 3,500 tonnes of timber are due to come out of the woodland, of various qualities, which will go into construction, fencing, pallets, stakes and chip for bio-fuel – just to name a few."

The Woodlanders Team



Knighton Foodbank Christmas



We have been staggered by the sheer generosity of Knighton and Presteigne who have kept our food bank well stocked and financially sound and have provided vouchers for our local butchers, fruit and vegetable shops and local speciality shops.

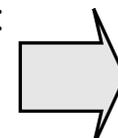
In addition, we have been overwhelmed to receive Christmas treats, toiletries, plus gifts and cash donations. We received toys from individuals, local businesses & voluntary groups plus the Knighton Co-operative store donated £500 worth of toys.

The food bank provides a much needed safety net for claimants of work or disability benefits, including Universal Credit – particularly as the latter are required to wait at least 5 weeks for their first payment. In addition, due to Covid, we are receiving requests for help from working families and self employed workers or those on zero hour's contracts.

Anyone facing a crisis and unable to buy food and essentials should contact Helen Anderson on 07731 524 058 or visit our website www.knightonfoodbank.co.uk

In 1864 the Railway began carrying freight traffic across Knucklas Viaduct. The passing of the first loco was recorded in a poem by Thomas Corbett, a postman from Dolau, and which begins:

"They started from Knucklas o'er a viaduct grand
Where the scenes of the Teme are at your command;
In the month of October in the year of Sixty - Four
An Engine they started which ne'er ran before"



*Railway story on
pages 48-49*

Woodlanders

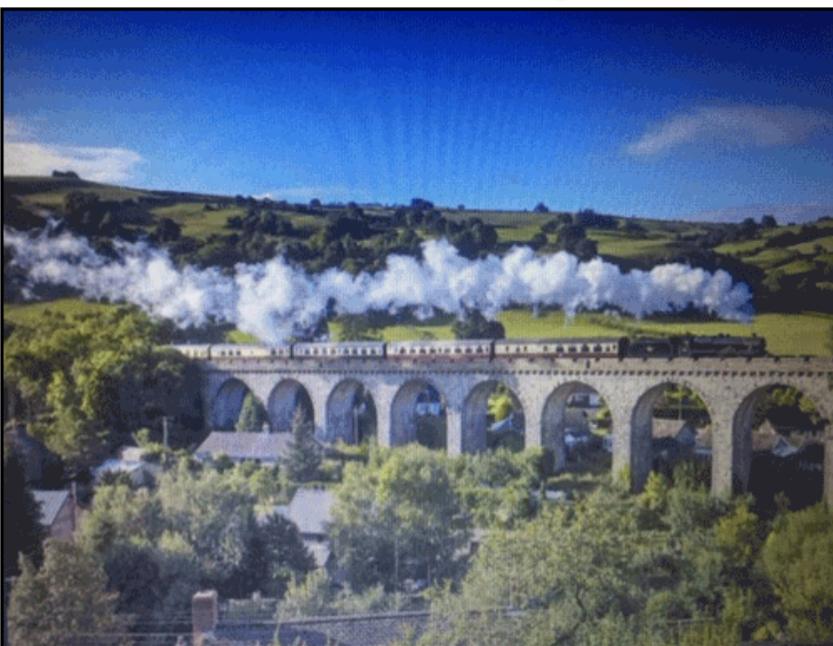


'Odditree' at Croft Castle



Kinsley Wood Traction Winch clearing Western Hemlock

The Railway



Steam Train on Knucklas Viaduct

Foodbank



Helen Anderson at the Foodbank is awash with toys before Christmas.

Christmas at Evancoyd

Story on page 31



Children, Youth, Families



Sian Smith, Children, Youth, Families Officer



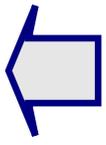
Children's Magazine online



We made Christingles at our Zoom Service. Bob, the mollusk, came along to talk about how the light of Christ can dispel our darkness.



Photos by Laura W-J



Children, Youth, Families

On Nov 22nd Sian Smith, the “Children, Youth and Families Officer” arrived at our Zoom Worship to tell us about a magazine, *Cymuned Bach*, for children. It includes a Bible story, usually with a link to a video of the same story, a song that can be listened to, prayer ideas, and a selection of craft/puzzle/colouring activities. It is on churchinwales.org.uk.

She has also developed a video, a Virtual Youth Bible Study on her Facebook Page: @CYFRadnorBuilth They are also on CYFO SwanBrec - YouTube.

In the pre-Christmas slot she developed “Advent Antics”. She also hopes to work with the Young Farmers in our area.

If you have any questions or silly ideas contact Sian at siansmith@churchinwales.org.uk or 07495 085861.

Advent – The Great Reversal!

The Diocese offered a weekly Zoom Advent Bible Study of Luke’s gospel, led by Mark Clavier. Rev Mark is the new Residentiary Canon at the cathedral. The popular course filled almost two screens with participants.

We learned that Luke sees Mary’s words in the Magnificat as a “**Great Reversal**” of the expected. God scatters the proud, brings down rulers, lifts the humble, fills the hungry, sends the rich away empty handed. Luke illustrated those revolutionary ideas by, for instance, balancing each story of a man with a similar story about a woman.

Every individual, including lowly shepherds, had worth. Jesus’ teaching and actions turned the world upside down (or downside up).

Rev Clavier will offer another Zoom Bible Study in the spring. You are all invited. Details to follow.



Rev Mark Clavier

Laura Woodside-Jones

Action on Hearing Loss

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Brecon War Memorial Hospital Tel: 01874 615691 (direct ext 5691)

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www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk/wales

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During the Covid era rambling restrictions continually change, so we apologise that we cannot produce a long term schedule.

When we are not in lockdown we usually walk every Wednesday and Saturday with a few short walks on a weekday. Please look at our two websites for current schedules.

www.ramblers.org.uk/east-radnor

www.ramblers.org.uk/4wells

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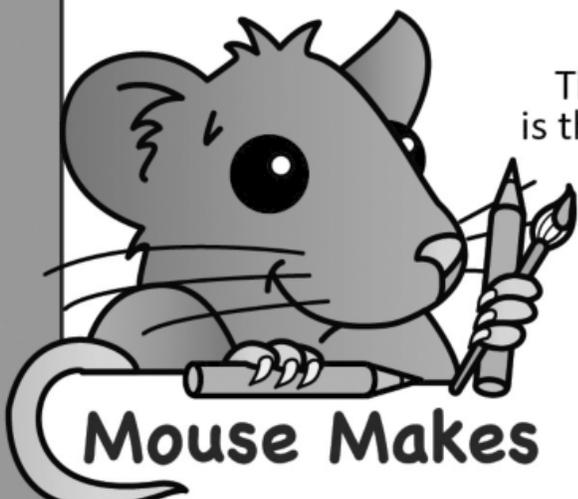
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WHAT AM I?

The last letter of one word is the first letter of the next

E _ _ _ H

• What two things did God create first?
Genesis 1:1

_ _ S _ _

• What was the Earth without? *Genesis 1:2*
• What came before morning? *Gen 1:5*

_ _ _ _ G

• Who is the creator? *Genesis 1:1*
• What was separated from light? *Gen 1:4*

_ _ _ _

S _ _ _
• Which day did God finish work? *Gen 2:2*
• Who was created God's image? *Gen 1:27*

_ _ _ H _

• Who moved over the water? *Gen 1:2*

L _ _ _ _ S _

FIND THE CREATION PAIRS
from *Genesis 1 and 2*

EARTH	MORNING
LIGHT	FRUIT
DAYS	SEA
TREES	NIGHT
LAND	FISH
EVENING	YEARS
ADAM	HEAVENS
DAY	DARK
BIRDS	WATER
SKY	EVE

By the **seventh** day God finished the work He had been doing. God *blessed* the seventh day and made it *holy*. When God gave Moses the Ten Commandments the **forth** commandment said to *remember* the seventh Sabbath day, to *keep it holy* and set apart for God.

DID YOU KNOW?
The first word of the Old Testament in Hebrew is **bereshith** which means "in the beginning". The Greeks translated this word as **GENESIS** which means *creation, origin and generation*

C R E A T U R E H G O D P
D G A L R E F R U I T E L
L O R I E S L B M O S E A
A O T G E T Y D A R K P N
N D H H E A V E N I G H T
D A Y T R R S P I R I T W
A S E E D S K Y B I R D O

Can you find these words in the word search?
GOD • HEAVEN • SPIRIT
FLY • DEEP • EARTH
DARK • DAY • LIGHT
NIGHT • STARS • SKY
SEA • LAND • BIRD
CREATURE • HUMAN
TREE • PLANT • SEEDS
FRUIT • GOOD • TWO

Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

The UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) came into force on **Friday January 22nd 2021**, 90 days after ratification by Honduras, the 50th country to ratify the Treaty.

It was planned to have bells ringing in Knighton: church bells, Town Crier's bell, hand bells with the Clock Tower ringers. Lockdown prevented that celebration but individuals rang bells on their front porches.

This path towards a nuclear-free world could pull humanity back from the risk of our own

destruction and that of our planet. Trident Ploughshares will be stepping up its campaign for the UK to follow the trend of history by signing the Treaty and renouncing Trident replacement.

A recent letter from the Bishops urged the UK government to sign the treaty.

Angie Zelter



Angie with bell and copy of the Treaty

Read Easy

Would you have survived the pandemic if you couldn't read? Many of us have read novels, learned a new skill or even taught our children. But not everyone. Over 7% of adults didn't learn to read at school and most of them have never caught up.

Consider how different things would be if you couldn't read forms, shop online, apply for grants or benefits, follow medicine instructions, help children with home schooling, or follow the ever-changing Covid-19 guidelines. Many people who struggle with reading rely on the help of others, but with social isolation, they cope alone.

Help is at hand! Read Easy Shropshire Hills is a local charity which provides free one-to-one

coaching for people in South Shropshire and the Welsh Borders who struggle with reading. We match up each new reader with a trained reading coach and they work at their own pace without pressure through our reading programme. During the pandemic we introduced coaching online, or by phone and many of our readers can carry on learning without seeing their coach in person.

Anyone can start our programme by phone or online. If you know someone where you live who you think would benefit from our service please get in touch to find out more.

For a confidential conversation, call Amana 07707 762653 or amana@readeasy.org.uk

Steve Gibbon, Read Easy Shropshire Hills

Public Service Information - Covid-19 Vaccinations

Invitation letters to receive the vaccine are being sent to people aged 80 and over during January 2021. They are being sent in batches through the month so friends may hear at different times. Please do not contact your GP Practice, pharmacist or hospital for an appointment.

When the vaccination programme for people aged 80 and over is completed, invitation letters will next be sent to people aged 75 and over. Invitations will then be sent to the next priority group, and so on.

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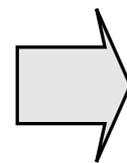
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Zoom Gatherings



Advent 1 – Darkness to Light

Revd Janet Day reminded us that in these dark and difficult times we look for signs of God's light. God in Christ has a "reckless" love for us in forgiving our many sins. In desperate situations we are given hope. Through the strength of prayer we can bring light to those who are alone, lonely, troubled.

Advent 2 – The 7 Names for Jesus.

We heard in word and music seven names for Christ:

- Wisdom
- Lord of Lords
- Root of Jesse
- Key of David
- Morning Star
- King of The Nations
- Emmanuel

Advent 3 – The Change in Mary

Gina told Mary's untold story:

"I am the Mary of your Christmas cards. I listen calmly while the angel brings me news that will shake up my life beyond measure. I accept what has been ordained. I am young and dressed in blue.



"I am the Mary of your Christmas card. Despite travelling almost 100 miles on a donkey across the desert and giving birth in a stable, I am still immaculately clean and tidy, cradling my infant son, I am still young and dressed in blue.

"Do you have a picture of me 30 years on? Have I aged in your eyes? Am I still calm and dressed in blue? Am I still young in your picture? Was I not grey-haired as I stood at the foot of the cross? Do you

know what it takes to watch your son being crucified? Do you have a picture of me – in tears, distraught? Or am I still the Mary of your Christmas cards young and dressed in blue?

"You know the end – and knowing this affects your picture of me. I am always young, dressed in blue, calm, serene, humble and willing – never allowed to show fear, hurt, anger, pain and grief.

"For many, I remain the Mary of the Christmas cards, young and dressed in blue.."

- by Katie Baker, abridged, Wild Goose Publication

Advent 4 – The Servant of the Lord

Mary: "*Here am I the servant of the Lord*". We had just been suddenly locked down again, with Christmas services cancelled, but those words taught us to be like Mary, who responded with acceptance to the cataclysmic news of the Angel Gabriel. Her world and ours is still under God's care.

Christmas Eve – Light in Darkness

We celebrated Christmas Eve with a quiet Communion on Zoom. Rev Janet Day reminded us that Christmas is *Grace* in human form. We can approach God with our darkness, to be softly dispelled by the modest light of Christ.

Christingles See page 34.

Baptism of Christ – Firsts

Rachel Storer preached a powerful sermon about baptism. Jesus baptism was the first event, before he called disciples or healed people. We need to return to our own waters of baptism when faith was new, innocent, full of possibilities.

Zoom Services



Photos by Laura W-J



Clergy on our Zoom Services



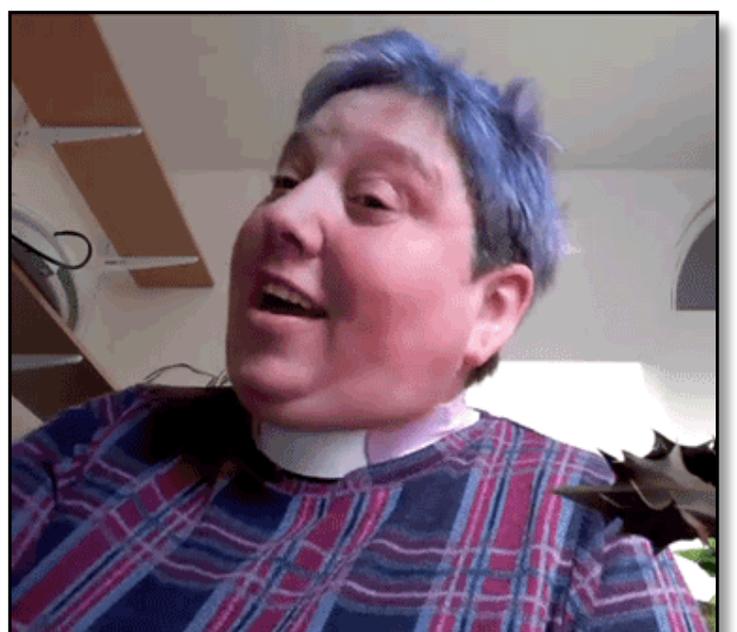
Kit and Rev Mark Beaton



Rev Petra Goodband



Rev Janet Day



Rev Rachel Storer



Knighton Rotary Supports Local Charities

Although the Rotary Club of Knighton and District have only been able to meet fortnightly online, they have still been actively supporting our local communities. We have been stewarding Knighton Community markets. We have been supporting:

- Churches Together who delivered Christmas lunch for 40 pensioners
- East Radnor Day Centre - Christmas lunch for their 35 members in Presteigne
- Julie Watts at the Black Sheep Cafe who delivered Christmas lunches for isolated individuals in Knighton

In addition, Knighton Rotary Youth Chair Sheila Smith said “The Knighton Silver Town Band has requested help in funding for

musical instruments for their younger members and, as we are keen to support youngsters, we have donated money to help with that purchase.”

The Rotary Club has also donated to the Knighton Santa Festival and to the Radnorshire Wildlife Trust in memory of Rotary member Clive Payne's wife Joan.

Knighton Rotary Club has donated to an international charity, Village Water, a charity founded by a Rotarian in Ironbridge, which works with villagers in Mozambique and Zambia. We were impressed when they spoke to us last year and are proud to support them again.

Cathy Jones

Knighton Library

During the current Covid Restrictions Libraries are all closed. However you can still order books and collect them. Ring 01597 827460 or library@powys.gov.uk You can also download books.

Knighton and District Community Support

We continue to provide services during lockdown:

- Transport to / from hospital appointments
- Transport to / from any other medical appt
- Pick up and delivery of shopping
- Pick up and delivery of prescriptions.

Please contact the office to book.

01547 520653 or debbie@knightoncs.co.uk

Home Deliveries in and near Knighton

Knighton Coop - Looking for volunteer help with home deliveries. 01547 528645

KDCC Soup from the Hub - providing food to a range of vulnerable people. Taking new referrals. For info ring Annie England 07592 353243

Lunch Club (Churches Together) - page 45.

Little Black Sheep Cafe - Takeaways or delivered. 01547 520224 or juliewatts747@gmail.com

Food Bank - 07731 524058 or helen@knightonfoodbank.co.uk

Lou's Baked Treats - meals, teas, cakes, sandwiches delivered. 07805722237

Cohesion Project - interviewing the diverse range of people to produce a range of video and audio clips 'Knighton is my Home'. Contact kevin.dare@atlworld.com

For the mind disturbed, the still beauty of dawn is nature's finest balm.

- Edwin Way Teale

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The Centre also offers many aspects of care including services in your own home; this could be on a temporary or more permanent basis.

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St Edward's Church Knighton

In our prayers we remember all who are poorly at this time, those in hospital and others recovering at home. We remember all who care for them. A big thank you to all the kind people in our area giving of their time and energy to provide meals and other necessities to the house-bound.

Thank you Michael for illuminating the Church for the Christmas Festival; so many people appreciated this beacon of light to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas, the Birth of Christ.

Our thoughts are with all families who have lost loved ones in recent weeks. Rev Petra Goodband conducted all of these:

24th Nov. Funeral service for Maureen Heale at Exeter Crematorium.

7th Dec. Funeral for Beryl Orford who passed away on 20th November aged 85 years. Favourite music was played during the service. Beryl was laid to rest in the New Cemetery.

14th Dec. Ian Webb who passed away at St Michael's Hospice aged 57 years. Internment in St David's Churchyard Whitton.

23rd Dec. Private funeral at Hereford Crematorium for Margaret Headland who passed away aged 90 years, a much loved

sister of Betty. The lovely flowers were later placed in St Edward's Church.

5th Jan 2021. Funeral for Sheena Roberts who passed away peacefully at home aged 62 years. Sheena was laid to rest in the New Cemetery.

7th Jan 2021. Elizabeth Bright (Betty) who passed away at the home of her daughter in Wiltshire on 12th December aged 90 years. The family decorated the Church with beautiful white flowers and Betty's favourite music was played during the service. Cremation followed at Hereford.

We very much appreciated the generous donations given to the Church by the families of Margaret and Betty.

Christmas Draw

Thank you to all who gave the splendid prizes for the draw and to Val Cropper and all who worked hard to sell all the tickets. Over £400.00. was raised for much needed funds for St Edward's. Winners included:

Julie Read | Jim Pritchard | David Minton
Max and Daniel Brick | Andy (Vicarage)
Jim Morris | Kevin Steadman | Ellen Marsh
Duncan Price | Alan Price | David Lewis
Jean Price | Paul Smith | David Reid

Jean Price

Lunch Club

The Lunch Club run by Churches Together at Knighton Methodist Church is continuing to provide and deliver meals, £5 for 2 courses.

If there is anyone in need of a hot meal on a Tuesday please ring Sister Margaret on 01547 528154.

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The Hub - New Radnor

Unfortunately the Hub remains closed due to the COVID-19 restrictions but you can still support us by using your co-op loyalty card at any branch of the store. If you have the Co-op App, select Radnor Valley Recreation and Amenity Centre as your local good cause and we will receive money for every purchase made. This will ensure that we have the funds to re-open as soon as it is safe and legal to do so.

Tribute to Betty Bright

Betty passed away on 12th December 2020 aged 90 years. She had been a member of St. Edward's for many years. Church music was important to her; she enjoyed singing with the choir. The organ played by Cecil provided much pleasure for her. We appreciate the contribution she made with her flower arranging for all the festivals and many hours of brass cleaning. Together with her sister-in-law, also Betty, many hours were spent making attractive items for their stall at the Christmas Bazaar to raise money for the Church. Betty was a busy lady taking care of her lovely garden and providing plants for our regular

coffee mornings. A huge thank you to a lovely lady who will be missed but not forgotten.

As Chairperson of the Horticulture section of the Knighton Show and Carnival and on behalf of all our committee I would like to offer sympathy to the family of Betty Bright. Betty was a long supporter of the show and a steward for many years. She was also a keen competitor winning prizes for her flowers, miniature floral arrangements, handicrafts and cookery. She will be missed by us all but lots of memories to keep. May she rest in peace.

Jean Price

Busted Halo Lent

Lent is about to begin – 40 days when we get closer to God before Easter. It starts with Ash Wednesday, February 16.

Most daily resources aren't available yet, but last year's 'Busted Halo' site is wonderful.

lent.bustedhalo.com

(also on Facebook and Twitter)

A calendar (last year's dates) appears. Each day a different person suggests something to do. (You might need to adjust for lockdown.)

Welsh Winter Words



very cold

digon oer l rewi

brain cold enough to freeze crows

extremely cold

digon oer l fferru offeiriad mewn côt ffwr

cold enough to freeze a priest in a fur coat

exposed to the wind

yn nannedd y gwynt

in the teeth of the wind

The Railway and The Ministry Area

The Heart of Wales Railway Line, historically known as the Central Wales Line (Rheilffordd Canol Cymru), runs through the Ministry Area with stations at Knighton, Knucklas and Llangunllo. It is a train journey of dramatic scenery of hills and mountains, river valleys, forests and woodland, interspersed with attractive towns and villages. On our section of the line are also two feats of Victorian engineering, the viaduct at Knucklas and the tunnel at Llancoch, near Llangunllo.

The Knighton Railway Company was established in 1858 and the construction of the line between Craven Arms and Knighton was undertaken. In 1861 it was officially opened to Knighton, and the Hereford Times reported that when the first train arrived at 9.15am, “the platform in front of the station and the bridge was crowded with hundreds anxious for the first glimpse of the train. The town band was in attendance and the church bells were rung throughout the day.”



Knighton Station after World War I

By 1865 the line was extended from Knighton to Llandrindod Wells bringing the railway to Knucklas and Llangunllo.

At Knucklas the line needed to be carried above the village and the 193 yards (176m), 70 feet high (21m), viaduct of 13 arches was constructed. It was designated a Grade 2 listed

structure in 1985. The viaduct (*photo on page 33*) was designed by the Scottish railway pioneer Henry Robinson and built between 1860 and 1863 at a cost of £10,000. Stone from the ruins of Knucklas Castle was used in part of its building; this is reflected in its appearance, especially the ornate castellated turrets at each end.

From Knucklas trains travel to the highest point on the line at 980 feet (299 metres) above sea level near Llancoch Tunnel and then to Llangunllo station.

The boring and building of the 637 feet (194.2 metres) tunnel posed considerable technical and financial difficulties at the time of its construction.



Leaving Llancoch Tunnel

The coming of the railway brought many workers and their families into the area. The Census, local Church records, articles on the history of the line, all add to the story.

During the construction of Llancoch Tunnel a notable shanty town community grew up nearby. At Llangunllo Church the Burial Registers sadly record in 1863 the death of a little girl aged 1 year 18 months and in 1864 the deaths of three young men in their 20s from “Hut at the Railway Tunnel.” On a

happier note, the Baptism Registers from 1863 to 1865 have a number of entries for children of navvies and miners from “Railway Hut and Hut at the Tunnel.”

From Llangunllo station, as it leaves the Ministry Area, the line next visits Llanbister Road as it makes its way to Llandrindod Wells.

The impact of the railway was considerable, for the first time the area was in direct contact with other parts of Wales and beyond, people and goods were on the move, employment was provided and it became an important aspect of everyday life.

The Heart of Wales Line, unlike many rural railways, survived the “Beeching Axe” of 1963. It fortunately escaped closure and continues to serve the local towns and villages. Today the line is operated by Transport for Wales, now state owned, and hopefully its future is ensured.

Submitted by Isabel Morris.

Sources: A Rail Traveller.

Ref (including photos) – Heart of Wales web sites.

Llangunllo Community Website.

The Story of Knighton – Keith Parker



Arriving at Llangunllo Station



Prayer is the key of the morning and the bolt of the evening.

- Mahatma Gandhi

Bobby's Beat – My Way to Give Up Smoking

From the diary of a parishioner who served in the police.

As village bobby at Singleton I met up with John Tinniswood who had gone blind late in life, but still loved to go sailing, so I took him in his boat, sailing out of Emsworth. Another officer, John Buckiand, had a sailing cruiser, and he invited John and I to a day trip in the Solent. It was a pleasant summer's day with a light wind but an uncomfortable swell, and I quickly got a feeling of sickness, which is unusual for me. I went down to the cabin for a lie down.



Meanwhile the two Johns were in the cockpit, one smoking cigarettes made of Old Holborn,

and the other a pipe of Erinmore Flake, and the awful aroma wafted down to me in the cabin, making me feel worse.

As we came back to the harbour, it was low tide, and the boat dropped between two swells just as it was crossing the bar (a shingle bank created by the water). The keel dug in for a moment, causing the boat to brake and making an unexpected loud grating noise.

I leapt off the bunk, and immediately the sickness was gone. The boat continued without further problem, but I never smoked again.

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New

Bleddfa Centre

The Bleddfa Centre is, of course, not able to open at the moment, and we are missing our contact with you, our friends - we do look forward to welcoming you again when we are able!

In the meantime, **we can stay in touch in several ways.** You can join our monthly newsletter, by emailing hello@bleddfacentre.org or clicking the button at the bottom of this page: <https://bleddfacentre.org/contact>

You can find us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter as Bleddfa Centre. You can follow our updates and messages, or simply email or message us if you need support or someone to talk to.

We are in the process of launching several online groups and classes.
Wishing you all the best – The Bleddfa Team

New

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Radnor Valley School



Children went home with a chocolate selection kindly bought for each of them by Sharon at Esco's in New Radnor. Diolch yn fawr Sharon.

They enjoyed their Christmas party in their bubbles with games and a special delivery of class presents from Fr Christmas. Many thanks to the Friends of the School for making that delivery possible.

Photos by Kate, school secretary

Radnor Valley School



January in New Radnor



Michael's Witch Hazel, sometimes known as the Epiphany Tree.

Photos by Michael Capstick



Hazel Catkins on the Castle Mound.



Bette Hamer's lone Periwinkle.

Readings

31 January
Epiphany 4 *White*
World Leprosy Day, Homeless Sunday
and Education Sunday

Deuteronomy 18. 15-20
Psalm 111
Revelation 12. 1-5a
Mark 1. 21-28



7 February
2nd Sunday before Lent *Green*
Creation Sunday

Proverbs 8.1, 22-31
Psalm 104. 24-35
Colossians 1. 15-20
John 1. 1-14



14 February
Sunday before Lent *Green*
Transfiguration

2 Kings 2. 1-12
Psalm 50. 1-6
2 Corinthians 4. 3-6
Mark 9. 2-9



17 February
Ash Wed *Purple*

Joel 2. 1-2, 12-17
or Isaiah 58. 1-12
Psalm 51. 1-17
2 Corinthians 5.20b – 6.10
Matthew 6. 1-6, 16-21 or John 8. 1-11



21 February
Lent 1 *Purple*

Genesis 9. 8-17
Psalm 25. 1-10 1
Peter 3. 18-22
Mark 1. 9-15



28 February
Lent 2 *Purple*

Genesis 17. 1-7, 15-16
Psalm 22. 23-31
Romans 4. 13-25
Mark 8. 31-38

Flora

February 2nd is Candlemas, the day when gardeners look for the first snowdrops; no flower brings greater pleasure than this humble little plant. Mary's Tears, Fair Maiden of Spring, Candlemas Bells and Winter Lilies are names used in various parts of the country for this little flower.

St Francis is reputed to have put a blessing on snowdrops because they bring a message of hope in dark and dreary days. Another story mentions snowdrops in the Garden of Eden when life came into being, a subject for artists and poets through the centuries.

Despite the blanket of snow, ice and cold temperatures. signs of spring are all around us. The days are lengthening and pleasing sights of the shrubs that produce lovely tassels of catkins:

the *garrya elliptica* with long silvery green tassels and *Corylus maxima* with pinkish brown catkins. There are the flowers of the viburnum, japonica, witch hazel, winter jasmine, mahonia and the deliciously scented daphne shrub providing interest and pleasure.



Garrya Elliptica - RHS

February is a hopeful month dedicated to St. Valentine. The most popular and impressive gift for February 14th is flowers and in particular the red rose: a powerful symbol of love and affection. This is the ideal time to plant a rosebush, providing your soil is not too wet.

Spring is just around the corner. Do stay safe. Things will get better.

Jean Price

Glyn Griffiths



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St Edward's Church Hall	Jean Price	01547 528260
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Grid References & Church Postcodes

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Bleddfa	SO 206683	LD7 1PA
Heyope	SO 239745	LD7 1PY
Llangunllo	SO 211712	LD7 1SW
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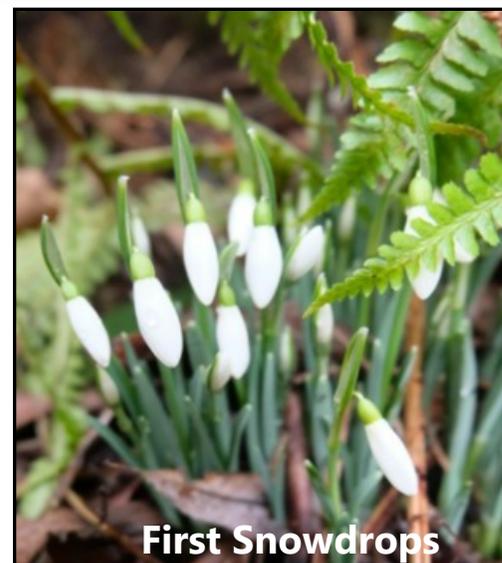
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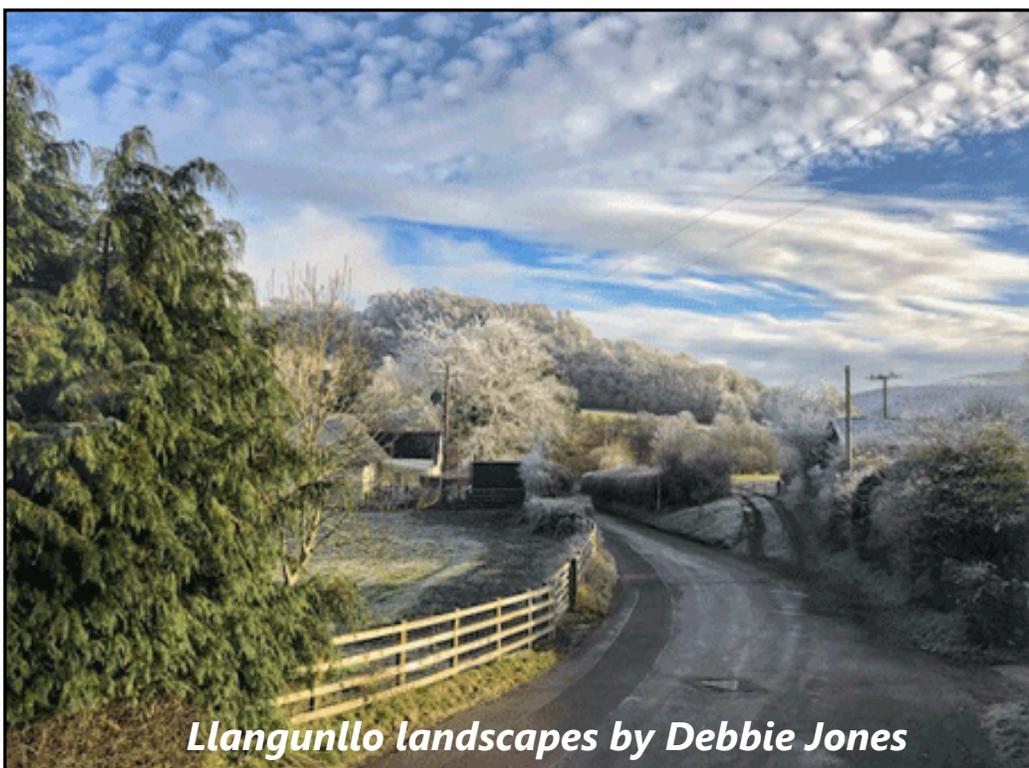


Winter aconites

Winter Scenes



First Snowdrops



Llangunllo landscapes by Debbie Jones



Hellibores in the winter sun!

**Llangunllo
W.I.
in the
Festive
Spirit**



See page 17
for the story

