The Church in North Gower

### North Gower Food Hub
If you are struggling financially and need a food parcel please contact any of the following, in confidence:
- Community Councillor Fr Nigel Doyle 01792 850659
- Community Councillor Jo Gooding 07989214487
- Community Councillor John David 01792 390105

For donations, collection points at: Llanmadoc Community shop, CK stores, Penclawdd.

### After the Parables
About the nature and accessibility of the kingdom of heaven in the here and now, on which we have meditated during the last weeks, Matthew gives us the healings and teachings among large crowds as Jesus’ ministry gathers momentum. The sense of spiritual rhythm is strong. Between the noises of demand and circumstance, Jesus retreats to the sea and to the mountains to pray and contemplate. The rhythm is like the tides coming in and going out, and like the cycles of day and night, night and day.

Jesus receives the news of the Baptist’s execution and goes into a boat on the lake. The crowd follows him to the beach, he enters the crowd, heals them and feeds them all day until late, then he sends his disciples across the sea and disappears into the mountains. Later in the night, he will come to them, walking on the water. We’ll meet him there next Sunday.

But here we are now with Matthew’s gospel setting a beat for us, ebb and flow, flow and ebb, prayer and action, prayer, action, prayer, Celtic air and Irish jig, air, air, jig, one two three, two two three, one two three, two...

Here it is then. Simple, isn’t it? What is the purpose of the church today? Enter the flow. Not the flow of a cleverly contrived plan to “grow church” or even to just “keep the show on the road”. No, not this. God’s flow. The crowd of fear and concern, social and economic panic, physical, mental and spiritual sickness is gathering on the beach. “Heal them”, says Christ, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat!”

We have everything we need to do it, just as long as we get into and stay in the flow. Wake up in the morning and pray. Minister to the people and pray. Go in and go out, go out and go in...one two three, two two three, one...