

**This Week: Today** – Holy Eucharist at St David's 9.30, St Rhydian & Illtyd's 11.15  
Worship Leaders Morning Prayer St Gwynour's 11.15  
St Gwynour's Advent Lunch at Purple badger 1 pm

**This Week: Monday** Wedding meeting Llanrhidian 11 am, Safeguarding 12, Prayer at St Mads Centre 1.30, Mince Pies & Raffle at St David's 7 pm. **Tues** Morning Prayer Llanrhidian 9 am Interfaith Interview, Morryston Noon, Mothers' Union AGM Llanrhidian 2 pm. **Weds** Swn y Gan 10.45 Swansea University 12.30. **Thurs** Prayers at St M Centre 9.30 am, Ministry Area Eucharist Reynoldston 7 pm. **Saturday** Wedding meeting Llanrhidian 10 am  
**Next Sunday (Advent 1)** Holy Eucharist at St David's 9.30, 9 Lessons & Carols St Gwynour's 11.15, Morning Prayer St Rhydian & Illtyd's 11.15

### Some December Dates

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> December

Contemplative Prayer St Madoc's Centre 1.30 pm.  
Mince Pies & Raffle St David's 7 pm. **4<sup>th</sup> MU AGM** Llanrhidian 2 pm. **5<sup>th</sup> Advent** Communion Swn y Gan, Penclawdd 10.45 am  
**6<sup>th</sup> Morning Prayer** St Madoc Centre 9.30 am (come and join us)

GMA Eucharist at St George, Reynoldston 7 pm

**9<sup>th</sup> December** Usual service times but Nine Lessons and

Carols at St Gwynour's

11.15 **11<sup>th</sup> Gowerton** Comprehensive School Concert at Llanrhidian Church 6 pm

**12<sup>th</sup> Swansea University** Carol Service in the Great hall 6 pm

**13<sup>th</sup> St David's** Christmas Supper at Rake and Riddle 7 pm

**15<sup>th</sup> Llanrhidian Church** Coffee Morning, Purple Badger, 10 am.

Llanrhidian Ladies Choir Christmas Concert at Llanrhidian Church 7 pm

**16<sup>th</sup> Usual services** but Llanrhidian School will be with us at Llanrhidian 11.15

**23<sup>rd</sup> Usual morning services** and Candle-lit Carol Service at St David's 6 pm

**Christmas Eve:** Candle-lit Service at St Gwynour's 5 pm, Midnight Mass at Llanrhidian 11.30 pm

**Christmas Day:** Christmas Eucharist at St David's 9.30

**30<sup>th</sup> December** United Benefices Eucharist at St David's 9.30 am


### FAITH IN FAMILIES

How about inviting Faith in Families to your Christmas meal this year? It would cost you £21.07 – assuming your extra guest eats as much as everyone else eats. The suggestion is that you give £21.07 this Advent to Faith in Families – or more if you are going to drink champagne.

If everyone gave £21.07 to Faith in Families this Christmas it would enable us to continue supporting children and families throughout the following year. Please help!

Father,  
we hold before you  
our family in the  
Diocese of Swansea  
and Brecon  
and we open our hearts  
and minds to your Spirit:  
Bless us as we gather  
in your name;  
Guide us as we grow  
into the likeness of your  
Son;  
Lead us by your Spirit  
to go out and  
make disciples of others.  
God of our journeying,  
be our way  
and our truth and our life;  
our beginning and our end.  
We pray through Jesus our  
Lord. Amen.

\*Diocesan prayer. Please pray this together whenever you meet.

Churches in North Gower: People of the Marsh [Find us on](#) 

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## Yr Eglwys yng Ngogledd Gŵyr

Wait... Your



true self is  
coming...

Advent 1

December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2018

The Church in North Gower



"Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man". (Luke 21.36)

**SIGNS IN THE SUN**, moon and stars, trouble among nations, rising sea levels, storms and wars... Our apocalyptic introduction to the gospel for a new Christian Year is physically and politically timely! Global warming, would-be empire proxy-warfare, melting ice caps, petrol/plastic poisoned planet, *Brexit* and Donald Trump vs Vlad Putin (or any available posturing tyrant with a *Twitter* account) could so easily be written into a footnote to the passage we're reading from St Luke's gospel this first Sunday of Advent.

So is this it then? End of Days? Second Coming of Christ? Could this really be the time? Apocalypse finally now?

Yes of course it could! No, of course it isn't! Yes. No. I don't know. Who knows? It seems pretty much every generation spawns those, sometimes many, who think they are living in the Last Days.

Perhaps it is a facet of human personality to think that of course it's all going to end in 'my' life time. After all, 'I' am the one who is trying to make sense of all this, looking out at time and space through these eyes, in this head, with this brain...well you know what I'm saying. It's ego thinking. Ego is driven by the instinct to survive. Ego is helpful to us in life threatening situations, fight or flight, 'should I stay or should I go now' moments. But ego ceases to be helpful when its survival at all costs mentality takes control of our whole thinking, feeling consciousness. When we believe we actually are our brain, body or ego, then we lose sight of our true being, our eternal existence in the true Oneness of being that we name God. This is how we let the 'storms' and 'wild seas' that Jesus spoke about overwhelm us.

But the Word of God (Christ, Christ's self, according to the Prologue in John's gospel) is within each one of us, to be found in the centre of our being, dug in like treasure in a field of grace by God. Advent is a time to reconnect with the treasure, the kingdom of God in us, with the Christ who comes like a baby, saying, "Wait, be still, see, HERE I AM."