

**This Week: Today** – Holy Eucharist at St David's 9.30, Advent/Christmas Service with Llanrhidian School, St Rhyddian & Illtyd's 11.15 Holy Eucharist and family service at St Gwynour's 5 pm

**This Week: Monday** Burial of Ashes St Gwynour's 10 am. **Tues** Morning Prayer Llanrhidian 9 am, Funeral Peter Matthews, St David's 10.30 am Llanelli, **Noon** Interfaith interview, Steve Balsamo, Morryston 1.30. **Weds** Hospital visits and home communions. **Thurs** Hospital visits and home communion. **Next Sunday (Advent 4)** Holy Eucharist at St David's 9.30, St Gwynour's, Morning Prayer at St Rhyddian & Illtyd's 11.15, Candle-lit 9 Lessons Carols at St David's 6 pm

### Christmas Services

**23rd** 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

**30th December** United Benefices Eucharist at St David's 9.30 am



Croeso Ysgol Llanrhidian heddi'! Nadolig Llawn

### Thank you for the trees!

Thanks to Mark from the Welcome for the Christmas tree at Llanrhidian church. Also thank you to Ross for the 'blue tree' at the front of the church (well, it's white with blue lights!). This is to remember the emergency services, hospitals and all who need them this Christmas. Please feel to attach your prayers and petitions for Christmas there.

### 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.

Thank you for Christmas Fayre at Purple Badger yesterday!

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Churches in North Gower: People of the Marsh Find us on

## Yr Eglwys yng Ngogledd Gŵyr

Prepare ye



the

way

Advent 3

December 16<sup>th</sup> 2018

The Church in North Gower



"...one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals" (Luke 3.16)

**JOHN, WILD PROPHET** and spiritual teacher, attracted the people to come out from the comfort zones of their socio-compliant lives and be baptised in the River Jordan, physical border between the wilderness and the promised land, metaphoric meeting place of heaven and earth, coincidence of spiritual and material reality. He baptised them in the natural water, calling them to repentance in order to lay down the mountains and straighten the plains of their lives in preparation for the coming Christ. When the people began to attach and call him Messiah, he pointed them straight to Christ, who he told them would baptize them with Holy Spirit so they would feel like they were on fire.

John's Gospel gives us more about Jesus' perspective on baptism. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus' message is that the kingdom of heaven is among you, breaking in on you, within you. According to John chapter 3, the way to wake up to the kingdom within is to be born again, baptised by water and spirit. Water in Aramaic is מַיָּא – maya and Spirit is רוּחַ – ruah. To be reborn is to descend into the maya of Creation itself and rise in the ruah - breath, wind, spirit of God. It is to return to the beginning. When we return, we are re-booted and heaven is opened in us. How do we return? Simply, we pray. When Jesus came up from the maya in the Jordan, he prayed and heaven opened. Later, Jesus would go out often into the wild to pray, to reconnect, return to the beginning. Christ teaches us to do similarly. Stop. Be still. Plug back into God. Christians are called to go out and do the work of the Kingdom of God in the world. It is our prayer life that sends the root of that action straight into the heart of God, because it brings us consciously again and again into relationship with God.