

HAPPY EASTER PASG HAPUS

This Week:

WEDNESDAY Funeral 'Reg' Davies, Morryston **2.30 pm. SATURDAY** wedding meeting, Llanrhidian **10 am, Marsh Light, Church for all, Penclawdd Community Centre** (with Easter egg hunt in the garden) **11.30 am.**

*one who stayed with it. She was the contemplative among the followers, the one who chose to sit and listen to Jesus rather than rushing around trying to entertain him (Bethany parable) and who is often identified with the woman who anointed Jesus' travel-weary feet with oil and tears and dried them with her hair. It may even be that she was really the 'disciple who Jesus loved' in the original version of the *Fourth Gospel* (John). Mary is the one who takes the time to descend from the *mind* of brain to the *mind* of heart, through the layers of programmed consciousness to the truth of who we really are, cosmic, eternal, Christed. Through the layers of what seems she encounters What Is. Christ Alive! Christ Here! Christ Now! Christ Always! She must still let go the remains of preconception ("Don't cling to me...") but she is ready to let Christ be Christ.

Pasg hapus iawn! May you know the Christ in you ☺

God bless you all for your traveling with Christ through Lent, for the depth of your traveling, and now may Easter joy fill you full ☺

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, SwanBrec

Easter Vestries

Parish AGMs – annual reports, elections etc, open to all, church members or otherwise:
Monday April 29 Easter Vestry, Llanrhidian 7.30
Tuesday April 30 Easter Vestry Llanynnewydd 7 pm



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Yr Eglwys yng Ngogledd Gŵyr

Don't cling!



Let Christ!

EASTER SUNDAY

21st April 2019

The Church in North Gower



...she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus (John 20.14)

LET THE GARDEN SPEAK

MARY DIDN'T SEE JESUS straight away. She saw a gardener. Even when Jesus spoke to her, she answered a gardener. Maybe she couldn't recognise Jesus because he had changed in physical appearance, or maybe because she believed Jesus was dead. After all, she, one of the few who had remained faithful to him till the last, had been with him when he died just days earlier. She had seen where his body had been laid, in a cave in that same garden. She had come that morning to anoint and embalm his body after the Sabbath, so her rabbi could finally be put to rest.

How often does religion treat Christ as if he is dead, or at least not here, not in this dimension of being? We are on earth until we die, then we go to heaven to be with Christ, if we are good, or we go to hell if we're not. This 'being good' might be substituted with 'justified by faith', depending on the flavour of theology a person has been indoctrinated with or by other means come to accept as being their own. Either way, essentially Christ is not here.

Peter and 'the other disciple' (John? but let's not get stuck with that here) have found the tomb empty and 'the other disciple' has in some way 'believed', though clearly not 'understood', not yet at least. Anyway, they have left it there and gone home. No doubt at home, their minds went into overdrive as they tried to work it out. But for them Christ, though somewhere, wasn't exactly there.

Mary doesn't leave. She stays with it. Peering into the tomb, she sees angels and the angels speak to her. She doesn't understand, her grief and her weeping still consume her, but the encounter with the risen Christ unfolds, until she hears Christ speak her name, just as Jesus had spoken it so many times, and she knows it is him.

Mary Magdalene had the same religious and philosophical programming as the others but she was the
(*continued on the back)