

# GOD BE WITH YOU: Y TAD, Y MAB. A'R YSBRYD GLÂN.

## Yr Eglwys yng Ngogledd Gŵyr Online

**Morning Prayer** takes place every weekday morning at **9 am** on Zoom – a free downloadable app – details posted every morning on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/Churchinnorthgower/>

**Sunday Eucharist** (using “green book”) appears on Facebook and YouTube from **8 am** Sundays.

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

## The Church in Wales

**website** has spiritual resources for this time. Eg:

**A Short Rite for Spiritual Communion** - at times like this, the Church teaches that's God's grace is always accessible; that it is possible to make “an Act of Spiritual Communion”...

## Home prayers at the time of a funeral

The current circumstances mean that some people who would have wished to attend the funeral may be prevented from doing so. This short guide will help you to say your formal goodbyes...

For these and many other resources please visit <https://www.churchinwales.org.uk>

## Local Businesses delivery update:

**Brian Jeffreys, Cricton farm** 07837069763

**Hugh Phillips, Penclawdd** - fruit and vegetable boxes, bread and some groceries as well as meat. Contact 850789 or

[www.bestonlinebutcher.co.uk](http://www.bestonlinebutcher.co.uk)

**Crofty Supermarket** - deliver orders over £25 850258

**Penclawdd Chemist** - Prescription delivery for isolated people with no support **850530**

**Pobbles Plastic Free Food & Crafts** – Organic fruit and vegetable boxes delivered 07901676661

[pobblesorders@mail.com](mailto:pobblesorders@mail.com)

**Howells Butchers, Penclawdd** 850371

**Paul Tucker Burcher, Penclawdd** 850084

**CO OP Gowerton** – delivery to people in isolation 875147

## Praying for each other

If you have petitions for intercession during the online morning prayers but can not join us on Zoom, please email to Fr Tim and we will pray them for you.

Fr Tim Ardouin 01792 391353  
[frtimardouin@btinternet.com](mailto:frtimardouin@btinternet.com)



People of the Marsh

# Yr Eglwys yng Ngogledd Gŵyr

I AM THE WAY



THE TRUTH

AND

THE LIFE

**EASTER FIVE**

**MAY 10, 2020**

The Church in North Gower



## UNCOVER THE TRUE SELF

*But filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God (Acts 7.55)*

*Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him (Acts 7.58)*

**YOUNG SAUL**, Pharisee and religiously learned judging one, minds the coats of the outraged stoning ones. Stephen, the first Christ following martyr, is being stoned to death, according to the Law, for blasphemy. What has he done? Well this excerpt from the sermon he has just given contains most of it: “You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you are for ever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do.” Stephen has called out the followers and administrators of the institutionalized religion, so riddled with compromise to the current earthly superpower, for doing religion in the head while being oblivious to the reality of the Holy Spirit.

Religion in the head is the domain of the ego. It has no connection with the Living God, other than through an idolatrous infatuation with idealised ancestral figures who did relate to Him/Her. Stephen knows the Christ in him because he has let himself be opened and transformed by God's Spirit. He is not afraid to die. He is not driven by ego, which seeks only to self-preserve and self-increase. Stephen has already died to self, as Saul later will when he meets Christ on the Damascus road. Remember too the Baptist, “I must decrease so the Christ (in me) will increase” (the sense of John 3.30). Like Jesus on the Cross, Stephen is able to pray forgiveness for his murderous executioners at the very moment their mortal sinning inflicts most pain.

The ego in us wants to skulk in some consolatory semblance of religion or philosophy, science or art. It can find structures of thought there to clothe itself in security. It is false. It does not believe in God and does not experience Christ. But Christ will set us free if we let him. In prayer without words, coming to the Source in humility and without needing to understand or feel validated in some way, we open space in ourselves into which and through which, the Spirit will gladly flow. In this, we die to self and so touch the Resurrection in us. Stephen died teaching this but not before the seeds of St Paul were scattered over the ego of a young man guarding coats. Alleluia! Alleluia!