

**This Week: Today** – Holy Eucharist at St David's 9.30, St Rhyddian & St Illtyd's 11.15, St Gwynour's 5 pm. Wedding Nadia & Kieren at Llanrhidian 1 pm.

**This Week: Monday** School Gvns Llanrhid 5 pm. Centering Prayer at St David's 7 pm. **Tues** Morning Prayer Llanrhidian 9 am Fr Tim Penclawdd School 11 am. **Weds** Fr Tim Morrision, Singleton, Pontardulais from 9 am. **Thurs** SCM planning meeting 9.30 am. Ministry Area Eucharist St George, Reynoldston 7 pm 10 am – 3 pm. **Friday** Lampeter University - interfaith lectures

**Next Sunday (Kingdom 4)** Holy Eucharist at St David's 9.30, St Gwynour's 11.15 Morning Prayer St Rhyddian & Illtyd's 11.15

### Some December Dates

**2nd December** - usual services with St Gwynour's Christmas Lunch at Purple Badger

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

Contemplative Prayer St Madoc's Centre 1.30 pm.

**5th December** - Advent Communion Swn y Gan, Penclawdd 10.45 am

**6th** Morning Prayer St Madoc Centre 9.30 am (come and join us)

GMA Eucharist at St George, Reynoldston 7 pm  
**9th** December Usual service times but Nine Lessons and Carols at St Gwynour's 11.15

**11th** December Gowerton Comprehensive School Concert at Llanrhidian Church 6 pm

**12th** Swansea University Carol Service in the Great hall 6 pm

**13th** St David's Christmas Supper at Rake and Riddle 7 pm

**15th** Llanrhidian Ladies Choir Christmas Concert at Llanrhidian Church 7 pm

**16th** Usual services but Llanrhidian School will be with us at Llanrhidian 11.15

**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

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



Pictures from Interfaith Week - Taliesin, Weds



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.

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## Yr Eglwys yng Ngogledd Gŵyr

Christ in  
the mind, the



the body,  
eternal being

Kingdom 3

November 18<sup>th</sup> 2018

The Church in North Gower



"...grant that we, having this hope (faith/eternal life in Christ, may purify ourselves even as he is pure" (today's Collect)  
*"Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down" (Mark 13.2)*

**WHEN JESUS** pointed to the finely built walls of the Jerusalem Temple and told his followers that it would all fall down, he may have been speaking literally, in prophecy, about the destruction that would happen there some 40 years later when the might of Rome would crush their nation's rebellions, striking at the heart of Judaic consciousness, obliterating their religious place along with their 'holy' city. Many scholars and religious people have argued the case for this. No doubt there is truth in this and Jesus foresaw the physicality of it. Mark's gospel moves quickly on from this moment, as Mark's gospel always does. However, when John's gospel reports this saying, the narrative doesn't jump quite so quickly. John adds, "But when Jesus said 'this temple,' he meant his own body".

The writer of John's gospel wrote decades later than Mark (probably, incidentally, after the literal destruction of the Temple). John's gospel is theologically much more advanced. It was written after many years of contemplation, prayer and reflection on the life and ministry of Jesus by someone who traveled with him, slept rough with him, lived hand to mouth with him, ministered with him and sat as a student daily at his feet. John's is a mystical gospel, with a spirituality more east than west. John's gospel understands Jesus not as a moralistic indoctrinator of Greek influenced philosophic but as a wisdom master, more *Tao Te Ching* than *Athenian Academy*.

John reads Jesus' actions and teachings as "signs" or teachings about the nature of the kingdom of heaven, which, as Jesus taught all who had "ears" and "eyes", is among us, within us, now, always. They are signs about our own eternal nature, unseparated from the Oneness that is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Christ is Son but he came to teach us that we are all Son/Daughter/Child of the Oneness. *Mark* gives us the action, *John* gives us the meaning. Contemplating all this opens us, as it did St John, to the purification of our souls we have asked for in our Collect this Sunday. We don't do the purifying, God does it. But we have to provide the intention. Be still. Know God.