

This Week: Today – Holy Eucharist at St David’s 9.30, St Gwynour’s 11.15, Morning Prayer St Rhydian & Illtyd’s 11.15

This Week: **Monday** Centering Prayer at St David’s 7 pm. **Tues** Morning Prayer Llanrhidian 9 am MU Knitted Crib Llanrhidian School 10 am. **Weds** MU Retreat Day, Nicholston House (led by Fr Tim) 10 am – 3 pm. **Thurs** Funeral Anthony Fry, Morrision 11.30 am, Ministry Area Eucharist St David’s 7 pm. **Friday** Lampeter University - interfaith lectures
Next Sunday (Advent 1) Holy Eucharist at St David’s 9.30, St Rhydian & Illtyd’s 11.15 Worship Leaders Morning Prayer St Gwynour’s 11.15

Some December Dates

2nd December - usual services with St Gwynour's Christmas Lunch at Purple Badger. **3rd December** Contemplative Prayer St Madoc's Centre 1.30 pm. Mince Pies & Raffle St David's 7 pm. **5th December** - Advent Communion Swyn 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 Church Coffee Morning, Purple Badger, 10 am.
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



16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence

Mothers' Union campaigns against gender-based violence around the world, through our 4 million members in 84 countries, for an end to gender-based violence – violence carried out most often against women and girls because of their gender.
Nov 25th – Dec 10th.
ask Jill about getting involved

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

Contact: Fr Tim Ardouin
01792 391353
frtimardouin@btinternet.com
www.churchinnorthgower.com
www.frtimardouin.com
www.schoolofchristianmysticism.co.uk

Yr Eglwys yng Ngogledd Gŵyr

ha galil...

...i lan



go to

the centre

Kingdom 4

November 25th 2018

The Church in North Gower



'My kingdom is not from this world... Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice (John 18.35-37)

THE KINGDOM OF GOD is not of the world but it is in the world. It is in you, in me, in she and it and he. And Christ is King: "I am the Alpha and the Omega", says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

The Kingdom of God cannot be ushered in by politicians, democratic or dictatorial. There are no political manifestos or roadmaps to inclusion or exclusion to or from the Kingdom of God. Many times in history and in the present, rulers, anti-rulers, regime supporters, revolutionaries and counter-revolutionaries have claimed Christ as their ultimate justification, the authenticator of their manifestos. How often have the words, "Jesus manifesto was..." preceded whatever is to be claimed, be it communism, fascism or anything between? But the Kingdom of God has no ideal and no scheme. The Kingdom of God has no armies and no bombs, remotely detonated or suicidally exploded, to defend its condemned and crucified King. The Kingdom of God is simply that which is left when everything else has been stripped away. It is what *is*, when what *seems* has evaporated.

The prophet Daniel and the Apostle John "saw" the Kingdom of God mystically and described it visually with metaphors related to earthly, material glory, with thrones and crowns and robes and hosts of worshiping subjects. If such imagery is still helpful to you then fine, use it in your coming to God. But know simply that no word actually is in reality that which it refers to. It is simply a sign, pointing toward what is real, or what Jesus names "truth". Christ *is* the truth. And Christ's voice resonates within every creature, every plant, element and atom. Nature listens to the voice.

Let's stop now. End the words.
Be still. Listen. Gently now...
There...
Can you hear?