

This Week: Today – British Summertime returns! Fifth Sunday NE
Gower Benefice Holy Eucharist at St Gwynour's 11.15; Mothers' Union
Service at St Rhydian & Illtyd's 11.15

This Week:

Monday Centring Prayer, St David's 7 pm. **Tues** Morning Prayer
Llanrhidian 9 am MU at Llanrhidian Hall 2 pm. **Weds** Swn y Gan 10.30
Thurs St Madoc Centre – prayers with staff 9 am, trustees 9.30 School
of Mysticism 1.30, Lent Service at St Cadoc's Church, Cheriton 6 pm.
Friday Llanelli Crem 9 am (family funeral for Clive Dennis – memorial
service at St Gwynour's Monday April 8 at Noon), Coffee Morning for St
Gwynour Project – Rake & Riddle 10.30. **Saturday** Coffee Morning for
Llanrhidian Church at the Welcome 10.30 am
Next Sunday Holy Eucharist St David's 9.30, St Rhydian & Illtyd's 11.15;
Morning Prayer with Worship leaders at St Gwynour's 11.15

SOME DIARY DATES

Mondays at St David's –
Centering Prayer 7 pm
Thursdays at St David's
Celtic Eucharist 7 pm*
(*see Lent for changes)
Tuesday April 2nd – MU
Llanrhidian 2 pm
Tuesday 16th April –
Chrism Eucharist – 12-00
noon – Cathedral
Thursday April 25th – GB
members meeting with
Bishop. Venue tbc
Saturday April 27, *Marsh
Light*, All Age Church,
Penclawdd Community
Centre 11.30 am
Monday April 29 Easter
Vestry, Llanrhidian 7.30
Tuesday April 30 Easter
Vestry Llanyrnewydd 7 pm

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

Church for Everyone
4th Sats of every Month



Fundraising Coffee Mornings

**Penclawdd: Rake and
Riddle** (for St Gwynour's
Community Church project)
Fri April 5th 10.30 am.
Llanrhidian: The Welcome
Saturday April 6th 10.30 am

**SHARED LENT SERVICES IN
NORTH GOWER**

Lent services continue
Thursday nights. April 4th St
Cadoc's, Cheriton; 11th
Llanelen (meet Llanrhidian
Holiday Park, main car
park). In Holy Week we will
travel through the six
churches, beginning at St
Gwynour's on Monday.
HOLY WEEK
Monday St Gwyno's 7 pm
Tuesday St Madoc's 7 pm
Wednesday St Cenydd's 7 pm
Thursday St Rhyd's & Illt 7 pm
Friday St David's 2 pm
Saturday St Madoc's 7 pm
Easter Sun – Sunrise Cefn
Bryn and then usual times

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

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Yr Eglwys yng Ngogledd Gŵyr

a sword will



pierce your
soul

LENT 4/Mothering Sun 31st March 2019

The Church in North Gower



When she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him
and plastered it with bitumen and pitch... (Exodus 2.3)

MOTHERING SUNDAY is a time when typically we thank
and honour our mothers, reflect on Mary as Jesus' mother,
as archetypal mother, even as symbol of divine feminine,
and on the mother church to whom all Christians are
mystically connected. All these are helpful to us spiritually,
emotionally and philosophically and of course we want to
give our mums flowers today or any day! However, I think it
is also helpful to remember, today or any day, that our
language about God, including our gendered descriptions,
are metaphors. God is not literally a man with a beard and
long white hair, watching us from the clouds and sometimes
doing things to, for and with us! We know that, don't we?

In *Radical Grace*, vol. 24, no. 1 (published by *Centre for
Action and Contemplation*, 2011) theologian Marcus Borg
offers 'many reasons to identify and honour female (and
non-gendered) images of God,' which he points out may be
found throughout the Bible. Male images for God, says Borg,
are often associated with power, authority, and judgment.
When used exclusively, they 'usually encourage an image of
a punitive God, who must be appeased or else.' Male images
for God often go with patriarchy—with male primacy and
domination in society and the family. 'Male images of God
tend to go with domination over nature.' 'Nature', he says,
'is often imaged as female ("mother earth") and domination
over women extends to a rapacious use of nature.'

Feminine images of God shouldn't be taken literally
either, but if we reflect on them they might expand our
perception and ways of thinking about God. God is the one,
for example, who gave birth to us and to all that is. God
desires our well-being, like a mother desires the well-being
of the children of her womb. God loves us with a love that is
tender and that will not let us go. Yet, like a mother who
sees the children of her womb threatened or oppressed,
God can also be fierce. God is Wisdom/Sophia/Hochmah...
Why not contemplate God as mother, sister, daughter, wife
today? Let the divine feminine love you like only she can.