

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

Churches of the Marsh Online

Morning Prayer is on Zoom at 9 am each day until Christmas Eve. Back 4th Jan 2021. Contact for log-in.

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 Churches of North Gower:

St Gwynour's Penclawdd
St David's Wernffrwd,
Ss Rhydian & Illtyd's
Llanrhidian
St Cattwg's Cheriton
St Madog's Llanmadoc
St Cenydd's Llangennith
+ occasional outdoor services
at the ruin of St Elen's Llanelen
And Cenydd's Island, Burry
Holmes

Christmas Service with
Llanrhidian and Penclawdd
schools - YouTube, 24th Dec.

Priests and Reader

Fr Tim Ardouin 01792 391353
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Fr Nigel Doyle 01792 850659
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Reader Ross Davies 390232
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Sundays

Holy Eucharist at St David's
9.30 am, Llanrhidian **9.30**
Llangennith **11.15** and St
Gwynour's **11.15**.

North Gower Food Hub

Thank the people of North
Gower for all your generous
donations. They would still be
very grateful for: tinned
meat, especially ham,
pickles/chutneys,
crackers for cheese, crisps
and nibbles (but not nuts) soft
drinks and any of the usual
tinned/dried goods in date
and undamaged.

Many thanks for the
generous donations to
Swansea's homeless support,
everything has been passed
on. If anyone wants to make a
further donation, these items
are requested: hats, scarves,
gloves, jumpers and socks.
We will receive donations at
next Sunday's services.
Blessings - Fr. Nigel

Christmas Services

Of course we have a much
reduced programme due
to COVID-19 restrictions
and must let go our
popular services by candle-
light with the communities
of North Gower. However,
we can come together for
Midnight Mass 11 pm
Christmas Eve Llanrhidian,
Eucharists 9.30 and 10
Christmas Day St David's
and Llangennith
Eucharist 11.15 Sunday 7th
December St Gwynour's.

*this will be the only service in
North Gower that day



People of the Marsh

Yr Eglwys yng Ngogledd Gŵyr

Love



Is All

ADVENT FOUR

December 20th 2020

The Church in North Gower



"That's what Christmas is all about Charlie Brown"

DURING ADVENT in these newsletters, we have focused on the meaning of the candles on the Advent wreath we light each Sunday in some of the churches in North Gower. This Sunday we light the fourth candle, the candle of "Love". In my all time number one favourite Christmas film, *A Charlie Brown Christmas* (1965), Linus explains to a distraught and confused Charlie Brown that this, basically, is what Christmas is all about. Perhaps, even more gut-wrenching than that, at the point where he describes the angels imploring the shepherds to "not be afraid" Linus drops his blanket on the floor, as he is swept into the rapture of his own visionary recital. This, in the entire history of Schulz' *Peanuts* cartoons, is an astounding and singular moment. Linus never drops his blanket! It is his security blanket and no one, however insistent, charismatic or thuggish can separate him from it. Even as he gets older and more self-conscious and has to endure incessant mocking for clinging to the blanket, Linus takes it all on the chin rather than giving up the blanket. Though he is otherwise the mature, poetic and philosophical one among the tribe, the security blanket is always there, held white-knuckle tight. Now, as Linus is caught up in the message of love that is "what Christmas is all about Charlie Brown", he lets go the blanket!

Whatever thing, idea, habit or activity gives you a sense of anaesthetised escape from your fears, the coming of Christ says, "Let it go. It doesn't work and you don't need it. Here I am. I am with you and I love you." Nothing more is necessary. Nadolig llawen! Christ be with you and may you come to understand that you are loved completely. Hedd.