

# 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 weekday morning and live streaming of Sunday services and other is being set up at St David's church.

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

Next Week – news about  
Christmas services!

## The Churches of North Gower:

St Gwynour's Penclawdd  
St David's Wernffrwd,  
Ss Rhyddian & 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

## Priests and Reader

Fr Tim Ardouin 01792 391353  
[frtimardouin@btinternet.com](mailto:frtimardouin@btinternet.com)  
Fr Nigel Doyle 01792 850659  
[tadnigel@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tadnigel@yahoo.co.uk)  
Reader Ross Davies 390232  
[ross.davies0111@gmail.com](mailto:ross.davies0111@gmail.com)

## This Sunday

Holy Eucharist at St David's  
**9.30 am**, Llangennith **11.15**  
and Llanrhidian **11.15**.  
St Gwynour's will re-open  
next Sunday. The people of  
Gwynour will meet Weds  
to clean it again ready.

## North Gower Food Hub

Feeding Local People in  
Crisis

\*

Christmas donations

\*

Please donate for those in  
food poverty in our local  
community.

\*We are looking for the  
following in date items:

Tinned ham

Minced pies

Christmas cakes

Selection boxes

Chocolates

Sweets

Toiletries

**Thank you for your help**

## GOWER ECUMENICAL ADVENT COURSE

### 'Living in hope'

Justin is leading a  
discussion course on  
Zoom. It is open to  
anyone across the  
Ministry area. **Contact**  
[justindavies@gmail.com](mailto:justindavies@gmail.com)  
**SCM Advent Retreat**  
(Dec 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>) Zoom and  
open to all. **Contact**  
[theschoolofchristianmyticism@gmail.com](mailto:theschoolofchristianmyticism@gmail.com)



People of the Marsh

# Yr Eglwys yng Ngogledd Gŵyr

Be Alert



Be

Awake!

**ADVENT SUNDAY** **November 29<sup>th</sup> 2020**

The Church in North Gower



*keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn ...*

**JUST ABOUT A WEEK** before the world went into "lock-down" last March, I went to meet Alexander Shaia, an American theologian, spiritual teacher and writer, to interview him for the Church in Wales website and to plan some collaboration for a retreat in 2021. We became friends and have shared many morning prayers and Zoom seminars throughout the COVID-19 experience. As we enter Advent and begin to use *Mark* as our primary Gospel text for the year, I am reminded of something he has taught me, something his teacher Professor Joseph Campbell inspired him to come to understand. Campbell also inspired George Lucas to write *Star Wars* but that's another story!

Alexander has come to perceive the four canonical Gospels as being four parts of the one spiritual/physical journey that we are all on, that our ancestors were all on and our descendants will all be on. Living among the Navajo in US and the indigenous Australians in the Outback, Alexander encountered what Campbell used to call, "The Hero's Journey". It is endemic in all cultures and the Gospels clearly instruct us on how to live it if we know how to read them. So now we arrive at Part 2. If *Matthew* taught us to climb the interior mountain to discover our fears as we face change in our lives, and so move beyond them, then in *Mark*, our fears strike back. *Mark* is about how we learn to cope on the stormy seas of life.

There isn't room here to say much more so this, in a few sentences, is a key to which you and I will return this coming year to try to unlock our potential: "We meditate. We stay attentive for a helpful sign or voice—a navigational star, a neighbourly and knowledgeable sailor who knows the waters better than we. We pray and listen more. Then we follow the instructions we receive, in whatever way we receive them, without question. We pray and listen still more. We surrender yet again to whatever greater knowledge is expressed to us. And we continue to pray" (AJ Shaia *Heart And Mind* p128). Happy Advent!