

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. Contact Fr Tim 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 Carols with

Llanrhidian and Penclawdd
schools will be on YouTube

Priests and Reader

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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

Folk have been very
generous and we **do NOT**
need any more of the
following:

Sweets/chocolates,
Selection boxes, Boxes of
Christmas biscuits, Stuffing
and soup – **But - We would**
still be very grateful for:

Tinned meat, especially
ham
pickles/chutneys
crackers for cheese
crisps and nibbles(not
nuts)
soft drinks

and any of the usual
tinned/dried goods in date
and undamaged.

Thank you for your help

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.

*Midnight Mass will be filmed
and shown on YouTube



People of the Marsh

Yr Eglwys yng Ngogledd Gŵyr

Peace



Be with you

ADVENT TWO

December 6th 2020

The Church in North Gower



*Beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by
(the imminent Christ) at peace... (2 Peter 3.14)*

THE SECOND CANDLE on the Advent wreath we often use in our Sunday Services during this season in which we prepare for the Ancient Feast of Christmas, is the Candle of Peace. In Hebrew, God's peace is called *Shalom* and it is this word that is often used by Hebrew people still when they greet each other, and even when they greet guests or strangers. God's peace though is not just a wish for peace in the sense of non-violence, absence of war or quiet respite from noise or argument. It is more profound and life giving than that. Our Welsh blessing or greeting *Tangnefedd* is close to the meaning of *Shalom*.

To say a blessing to someone with *Shalom* implies a deep trusting in God that the person being blessed with God's peace is indeed being blessed with God's peace. The person knows that in this moment she is being accepted for who she is. *Shalom* is comfortable with difference, not only comfortable but relishes it. The one who greets or blesses in this way trusts God and relinquishes all judgement of the other. All is in God's hands (**Proverbs 3.5** - Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight).

When we light the Candle of Peace, we pray *Shalom* on all God's creation and all people. We accept that there is conflict among God's creatures, mainly because of fear and insecurity around there being difference among us. In *Shalom*, we pray that we might hold all this in creative tension within our hearts and so unite our hearts with the hearts of all beings. We bring the hearts of all beings to Christ's heart. When we bless someone we make room for them in our heart, our home, our life. We recognise someone or something's existence and we honour it. We accept our differences and know we belong to the same family. We are all *Ish* (people) *raEl* (of God) *ites* (tribe-members). We have the same purpose: to know and so let others know the peace of Christ.

Like this, together, we wait for the Christ. We light the second candle of the waiting and bless each other without reserve or condition. *Shalom!* Deep Peace to you.