

# 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 the filmed Eucharist in the wild places continues, streaming on Youtube (Channel Didji Gymru) Sundays from 8.15 am. You are welcome to join us any time for MP. Contact Fr Tim for log in details, if you don't have them.

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 Cadoc's Cheriton  
St Madoc'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)

## Churches opening

There is a Eucharist at **St Cenydd's** Llangennith  
Sundays at **11 am**.

**St Rhydian and St Illtyd's**  
Llanrhidian is now open for  
Eucharist Saturdays at **6 pm**.

**St David's and St Gwynour's** are working on  
risk assessments and  
preparations to open.

Social distancing and  
related measures are in  
place or will be in all  
instances.

Streaming equipment will  
be set up at St David's.

## North Gower Food Hub

Contacts:

Community Councillor  
Fr Nigel Doyle 01792  
850659  
Community Councillor Jo  
Gooding 07989214487  
Community Councillor  
John David 01792  
390105

For donations, collection  
points at: Llanmadoc  
Community shop, CK  
stores, Penclawdd.



People of the Marsh

## Yr Eglwys yng Ngogledd Gŵyr

God is good



God is

Great

**TRINITY + FIFTEEN** September 20 2020

The Church in North Gower



*But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry (Jonah 4.4)*

*And when they received it, they grumbled' (Matthew 20.11)*

**THE RELUCTANT PROPHET** Jonah has long inspired empathy in me. When I experienced, during teenage tramping years through Europe, what seemed clearly at the time to be my "calling", I wrestled and argued with God. I didn't want to have anything to do with any "church", let alone be priest in one. "Leave me alone, let me travel and experience your world," was my response. Ha ha! The irony of it seems immense now. What "world" was I even talking about? God's Creation, the current political world, the world projected by my child/man imagination and culturized beliefs, what world? Anyway, later when I read about Jonah trying to run in the opposite direction to God's calling to Nineveh, I had no problem relating! The futility of trying to evade all responsibility was equally clear.

In today's reading, Jonah, like the disgruntled labourers in the Matthean parable, models our very human tendency to judge our lives or aspects of them in relation to other people's lives as fair or unfair, just or unjust. We all, to a greater or lesser extent, give credence to our internal judgement schemes and structures of belief and morality. In Western culture, we have been brought up to do things to achieve "right" outcomes, privileges, rewards etc. When we work hard, we expect to be paid accordingly; when we excel at something, we expect recognition, praise or at least some kind of notoriety or promotion. Conversely, we expect people who behave to our judgement badly or lazily to be punished and not rewarded. The Book of Jonah, Matthew's Gospel, the entire Bible, Nature and our lives keep on coming back to us, hold up their mirrors to us and ask repeatedly, "Who are you to judge what is right and what is wrong? Have you eaten of 'the tree of knowledge of good and evil'? Oh you have? So do you know the mind of God yet?"

But, thank God, God is gracious, God is merciful. Let's come to the stillness in us. We are work in progress. **Great is the Lord and highly to be praised** (today's Psalm).