

This Week: -

Thurs Morning Prayer St Madoc Centre (ecumenical) **9.30 am**

St Gwynour, Wedding Rhianwen & Joseph **1 pm**

Friday Deanery MU Eucharist, St Mary's (w Fr Tim) **11 am**

***Sunday August 14: 1 service** Tad Nigel at St Gwynour's **11.15**



Walk from Gowerton to St Madoc Centre in whichever style you prefer! This now annual pilgrimage is to raise funds for the continued work of this Christian community with disadvantaged young people from Wales and abroad. Please consider walking and/or sponsoring.

Saturday August 27th, 9.15 meet St John's, Gowerton.

Gower Ministry Area Songs of Worship

Special service of hymns and songs of worship and praise with traditional hymns & Fr Tim/Leslie Sheills/Faith and Light experiments
St Illtyd's Oxwich
Sunday August 28
6 pm

St. David's Summer Outing: Tuesday 9th August to the Royal Mint followed by a meal at the Mason's Arms, Bryncethin. Cost of coach and admission to the Royal Mint £23, meal extra. Phone Sandra on 850524 for further details.

***Coffee Morning** in The Dolphin Inn on Saturday 3rd September at 10.30 a.m. Thank you Mike and Karen. Please support this fundraising event.

***Gower Show** August 7th

***Harvest** October 2nd

Rev Canon Huw Mosford will be at St David's and St Rhydian's (Fr Tim in Llanelli)

Thursday Evening Eucharist in Gower

From end September there will be Eucharist at 7 pm Thursdays. Central location for 6 mths, then possibly travelling around. Deatails soon.

Leading Prayers in July

Ss Rh & I: Pam M, Jo J, Susan M, Leslie

St David's Sandra, Fr Tim, Mal, ?, Kinga

St Gwynour's Pam E; Rita; Diane; Maggie

Contemplative Prayer Gower coming soon.

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Yr Eglwys yng Ngogledd Gŵyr

Trinity 10



July 31st 2016

Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind. For he satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry he fills with good things. (Psalm 107.8,9)

In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all! (Colossians 3.11)



HAFIZ SAID, "I have learned so much from God that I can no longer call myself a Christian, a Hindu, a Muslim, a Buddhist, a Jew." Or switch it round like Gandhi, if you prefer, : "Yes I am. I am also a Christian, a Muslim, a Buddhist and a Jew." Bishop John Shelby Spong, meanwhile, has written, "God is not a Christian, God is not a Jew, or a Muslim, or a Hindu, or a Buddhist. All of those are human systems which human beings have created to try to help us walk into the mystery of God. I honour my tradition, I walk through my tradition, but I don't think my tradition defines God, I think it only points me to God."

It seems to be a universal principle. If you pray a lot, practice being conscious regularly, you will become caught up in the Divine and when you are you will realise that no religion, no humanly conceived idea, no language even, can draw lines around what is experienced. St Paul, Hafiz, Gandhi and Spong have encountered this truth, likewise all mystics through all time.

So why is it that so many apparently religious people have been so destructive in this world? How can killing an old priest while he celebrates Mass in a small Normandy Village possibly be claimed as an act of holy war? How can attacks on people in cafes, at concerts or just walking along a promenade on a public holiday be claimed as a cleansing of infidel cultural habits? Such claims are powerfully emotive. Meanwhile, words like "fundamentalist" and "Islamist" are used so much by Western media that many people are now programmed with the formula *Islam = Terrorism*.

The programme is false. The claims of the people who murder in the name of *Allah* are clearly false too. Not one person who truly encounters God could ever want to kill another human being. There is no such thing as holy war. There is only holy love. Pouring the rhetoric of retribution on the fires of hatred that spread across continents in this time will only inflame those fires more. Vengeance can never drive out hate. Only love can do that. If religion is to have anything to say now it must be through Christians, Muslims, Sikhs, Jews and all people of faith coming together in prayer and in mutual respect to walk arm in arm the Way of Love.