

This Week: Today at St Gwynour's – Eucharist with Fr Iestyn! 11.15 am. This evening, Fr Tim is guest preacher at Bethel Chapel, Penclawdd 6 pm.

Monday Recording music – Celtic Saints. **Tuesday** Morning Prayer St Rhydian's 9 am. Filming Celtic Saints after MP. Wedding rehearsal St Gynour's 6 pm. **Wednesday** Wedding Karl & Gemma, St Gwynour's **Noon.** **Thurs** Prayers, St Rhydian's 9 am. Gower MA Council, Oxwich Bay Hotel 6.30 pm. **Saturday** Coffee Morning *Greyhound*, Llanridian 10.30. **Next Sunday** Eucharist at St David's 9.30 and St Gwynour's 11.15 (Fr Tim) and with Fr Nigel at St Rhydian's 11.15.

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. Please pray this together whenever you meet.

Learn Welsh in Gower

From September:

Monday – Greyhound -
12.30 – 2.30 – Sylfaen 1 (Year
3)

Tuesday – Penclawdd - 9.30
– 11.30 – Canolradd 1 (Year
5); Pennard – 12 – 2
Mynediad 2 (Year 2)

Wednesday – Reynoldston –
9.30 – 11.30 – Mynediad 1
(Year 1). Details: Sheila Geary
07977 904896

The Organists Entertain: All
Saints, Oystermouth,
at 7pm Tuesday. Including
world famous *Youtube* star,
Rob Charles!

Foodank Sunday @
Llanrhidian: Second Sunday
next month (Oct) because
of Harvest. Donations
continue to be gratefully
received weekly at S David's
and S Gwynour's.

Churches in North Gower: People
of the Marsh Find us on 

Coffee Morning at the
Greyhound Inn, Old Walls.
Saturday 23rd September
10.30 a.m. Various Stalls,
Raffle. Please make an
effort to support this fund-
raising event for church.

Harvest Sundays

October 1st at St Rhydian's
(with lunch at *The
Greyhound* after the
Eucharist).

October 8th at St David's
and at St Gwynour's (with
supper at *The Rake & Riddle*
Thursday Oct 5th 7 pm).

Centring Prayer St D's
Monday evenings returns
October 2nd.

Gower Ministry Area Safeguarding Training

Oxwich Village Hall, 6.30pm
Wednesday 11th October. All
holding bishop's licences or
who take part in Sunday
Schools and other public
ministries, or who
Safeguarding roles in the
church, are asked to attend.

PCC Wernffrwd for St
Gwynour's & St David's
October 19th, 7 pm.

**Gower MA - Grant Aiding
Bodies**, St Gwynour's 12th
October at 2.00pm. GMA will
view the plans and discuss
progress of *Mission Gwynno*.
We are thankful for the
recently pledged support of
our MP, AM, Councillor and
community reps.

Sunday 12th November -
joint **Ministry Area service
for Remembrance Sunday**
at 3.00pm in Pennard.

Fr Tim Ardouin – *Priest in
Charge* 01792 391353
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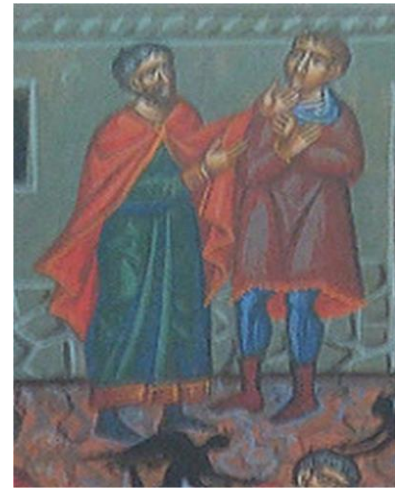
Yr Eglwys yng Ngogledd Gŵyr



TRINITY FOURTEEN

SEPTEMBER 17th 2017

The Church in North Gower



... the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." (Matthew 18.27-28)

IMPEDING THE FLOW

JESUS WAS/IS NOT a teacher of morality, offering a code of conduct that, if adhered to step by step, leads to righteousness. Jesus is a teacher of *wisdom* (Greek σοφία *sophia*; Hebrew חכמה *chochmah*). The aim of Jesus' wisdom teaching is to unblock in us and in the world that which impedes the flow of God's grace.

Through God's grace, *WHAT IS* is. According to the prologue of John's Gospel, Christ is himself the eternal *word/logos/being* through which all *being* came, comes and will come. But for God's grace to be God's grace, free will is a given. Absolute love might conceivably be poured out from the centre of the cosmos and travel through all space and time, all being and every being, unimpeded. At least, per human logic it might. However, the receiving of such unimpeded flow would, without free will, be wholly passive and thus rendered unconscious, soul-less even. Without free will (and with it the seemingly boundless capacity to use it destructively!) 'human being' would be better described 'android being'.

OK, this might be getting complicated and there's only a little space left. Look. Jesus' story this morning, the slaves and forgiveness of debts, is about the divine flow of God's unconditional love. The first slave seems to have repented and his master has forgiven him. Forgiveness has unblocked the divine flow for the slave because the debt has been eased and made possible to remove. THAT DOESN'T MEAN HE CAN JUST GO AND DO WHAT HE WANTS NOW! But it does mean the block has gone and he can stand once more in the full flow of God's grace. However, the slave has learned nothing. No wisdom has replaced that which was impeding his life (*sin* and *debt* have their roots here), and straight away he grabs his own *debtor* by the throat! The slave has thrown back into the flow a giant rock in the place of the earlier impediment. The flow is blocked. The slave has disrespected his new-found freedom and handed himself over 'to be tortured.'