

# GOD BE WITH YOU: Y TAD, Y MAB, A'R YSBRYD GLÂN.

## This Week:

**TUES** Morning Prayer, Llanrhidian 9 am; Synod at Brecon Cathedral 10 am – 3pm. **WEDNESDAY** Wedding Anthony and Natalie, Llanrhidian Noon. **THURS** Celtic Evening Prayer, St David's 7 pm.  
**Next Sunday** Holy Eucharist at St David's 9.30 am and St Rhydian & St Illtyd's 11.15 with Rev Mick Ellor; and at St Gwynour's with Rev Andrew Pearce 11.15.



Marsh Light will be at the Gower Show with activities in the churches' tent.

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



People of the Marsh

*Dying to self, I am  
rising in Christ.*

**Upcoming Dates**  
**Sat** July 27<sup>th</sup> - Summer Fayre, St David's  
**Sun** 4<sup>th</sup> August – Gower Show (Churches + Interfaith tents)  
**Sat** October 12<sup>th</sup> – Diocesan Conference.  
**Thursday** October 24<sup>th</sup> 7 pm Sketty Parish hall – Safeguarding (all church officers and Bishop's licences asked to attend)  
**Sun** Sept 1<sup>st</sup> St David's – Annual Gift Day  
**Tues** Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> MU Autumn Eucharist – Llanrhidian 2pm  
**Sun** Sept 8<sup>th</sup> – Oxwich Hymns & Celtic Worship 7 pm  
**Tues** Sept 10<sup>th</sup> – Swansea Interfaith Forum – St David's 9 am

**Interfaith Swansea**  
Gower Show (Aug 4) – a yurt on the field – music, food, hospitality, opportunities for meditation/contemplative prayer, as well as informal interaction. Faith leaders and representatives from the Mosque, Swansea University, Jewish, Hari Krishna, Pagan and assorted Christian communities have so far committed to being there.

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## Yr Eglwys yng Ngogledd Gŵyr

heaven

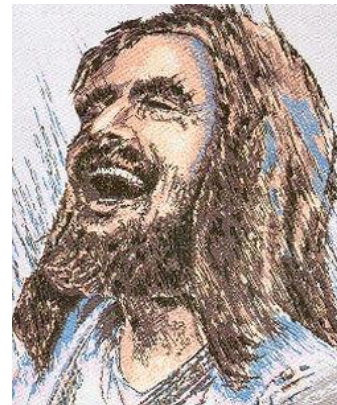


now

**FOURTH AFTER TRINITY**

**14<sup>th</sup> JULY 2019**

**The Church in North Gower**



*"God...increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that with you as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we finally lose not the things eternal"*

*"We thank God for... the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven."*

**MUCH RELIGION** is moralistic in its nature. Do this or do that because it is right. Don't do that or this because it is wrong. If you are good in this life, you will be rewarded in the life to come and if you do bad now, you will be punished later. Sayings like "the hope laid up for you in heaven", as the translation from Paul's letter today puts it, are very often interpreted in this way. Empires have been built and their subjects appeased and controlled by the building of doctrines of righteousness around the theme. At best such attitude is a misunderstanding of Jesus' teachings, at worst deliberate manipulation of his teachings to produce the antithesis of their truth.

Jesus came to model and to teach the Way, the Truth and the Life. Like all the prophets he exposed the lies and wiles of the mighty and enlightened those stripped or natural enough to receive God's grace. Moral codes do not give us the power to live in harmony with God's grace. Only God's 'mercy', God's 'rulership', God's 'guidance' can source that power. Christ calls us to submit to this power; love of course sets us free to deny it if that is our inclination. If we refuse God, God doesn't condemn us or give up on us, but we live, for this time at least, in disharmony and so separate ourselves from the flow of grace. This might rightly be called 'hell'. Either way heaven and/or hell are experienced here and now.

The good Samaritan doesn't save the beaten Jew because of moralistic righteousness. He does it because he has been somehow opened to the flow of divine grace. It is God who saves the man albeit through the Samaritan. The Samaritan has not lost sight of the eternal as he moves in and through temporal reality. Sadly, the priest and the Levite have allowed their souls to be swamped by the apparent. Be still. Return in grace. PEACE.