



LET YOUR LIGHT
SHINE SO BRIGHTLY
THAT OTHERS CAN SEE
THEIR WAY
OUT OF THE DARK.

**Cylchlythyr Eglwys / Church Newsletter
Ionawr a Chwefror
January & February / 2022**



**St Grwst, Llanrwst.
St Doged's Pilgrim Church, Llanddoged,
St Ffraid's Church, Glan Conwy.**

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SWITCHING ON THE LIGHT **A Pastoral Letter to the Teulu Asaph** **from the Bishop** **16th January 2022**

Clare and I have just finished putting the Christmas decorations away for another year. To be honest, one of the chores before Christmas that I remember from childhood was lighting up the Christmas tree.

We'd spend hours in my family putting on the decorations, and the tinsel and the lights, and then we'd switch on the lights, and ... nothing! The lights wouldn't work. You'd have to go through each bulb, screwing it afresh into the socket, and, if you were lucky, as you screwed in the last one, "Wow!" the lights would come on. If not, you'd patiently have to try changing each single bulb until you found the one that had blown. And no matter how carefully you packed them away in the new year, you'd still have the same routine when unpacking the following Christmas. Things are so much easier these days. LED Christmas lights are brighter, stronger and don't break, although press the wrong remote control button and all sorts of weird flashing patterns can be unleashed.

This year, the diocese has initiated a new focus for our common life. "Unlocking our Potential" has served us well as a motto, but as we face the future, we need to re-focus our common life afresh. So: "Growing FAITH, bringing HOPE, demonstrating LOVE" becomes our motto, and is offered as the focus for all that we undertake. The jaded among us might react by saying "Not another initiative", but in truth, this is not a call to stop everything we've been doing before, just because a shiny bright new idea has got into the diocesan leadership's collective heads. It's really intended as a reminder of why we do everything we do in the first place. Jesus himself called us to have faith in him, so let's grow that faith, and invite others to share it as well. Christians are bearers of the hope of eternal life, let's be positive and filled with hope in our engagements with others. Jesus commanded us to love one another, and to be those who serve, let's demonstrate that love with the service we take to and for the communities in which we're set.



Looking ahead to LENT

Lent is a season of the Church year given to us a gift! Lent affords us an opportunity to reflect again on our relationship with God and all that that relationship means to us.

A LENT COURSE will be on offer face to face this year (the specifics of which are yet to be decided). In previous years Lent courses have come and gone, it would seem with little impact. I'm not sure whether this has been down to the material that has been used, the time of day when we've met or various other factors.

In planning for this course I would find it really helpful if you could let me know the following by email or phone:

What day of the week would be best for us to meet

What time of day

Do people feel it would work if St Ffraid's and St Grwst's journeyed together through a Lent course and if so would people be willing to travel

If you could let me have your responses to the above as soon as you've had opportunity to have a think about it all I'd very much appreciate it.

Lent is a time not to be missed! Lets look at how we can journey together through Lent this year.

Thank you.

Home Communions

The Eucharist is a very important part of the spiritual life of every Christian. Receiving Jesus in the Eucharist brings the reality of his presence to us in a divine mystery of love.



Like many things, due to Covid Home Communions have not been a part of life for some time now but circumstances now allow for them to recommence.

If you or anyone else would appreciate Communion at Home please let me know (contact details are on the front of the Newsletter). Home Communions will begin again at the beginning of March which

gives times for arrangements to be made.

St Grwst's Flower Rota

If anyone would like to put their name on certain dates on the flower rota at St Grwst's please could you contact

Janet Pierce (07507138572)

If you would like the card to be in memory of someone please let us know and we can print a card which will be left with the flowers.



Just like testing that string of lights to ensure that they all work, so we're invited to test our actions as disciples of Jesus, and our activities as Churches, to see whether they convey the electricity of God's grace, and help light up the world. Is our faith fed by prayer and worship? Would those attending our Churches find the nourishment to grow their faith? Does the communication of the Church send out a positive message, are we actively encouraging one another, and bringing hope in a world and society which is really quite battered by all that is going on? Is the quality of our friendships and relationships one of service and truly loving? Does the calendar of our Church activities provide evidence that our activities are centred on loving service to our communities, or just to ourselves? Are all the activities of our churches adding to the light of God's witness in our common lives?

A new year is sometimes the occasion of making New Year's Resolutions. The track record is not always distinguished by success. But perhaps as we pack away the Christmas decorations for another twelve months, we could ask in our own prayers before God, and in our Church committees, whether we, individually as disciples, and together as Churches, are now beginning the real work of Christmas, to give glory to God in the highest and to bring peace on earth to God's favoured ones (Luke 2.14), to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God (Micah 6.8), to grow faith, to bring hope and to demonstrate love?





TANIO'R GOLAU

Llythyr Bugeiliol at Deulu Asaph oddi wrth yr Esgob 16^{eg} Ionawr 2022

Mae Clare a minnau newydd orffen cadw'r addurniadau Nadolig am flwyddyn arall. A dweud y gwir, un o'r tasgau cyn y Nadolig rwy'n eu cofio o'm plentyndod yw goleuo'r goeden Nadolig. Fe fydden ni fel teulu'n treulio oriau'n addurno, y tinsel a'r goleuadau, ac, ar ôl hynny i gyd, gwasgu swîts y goleuadau a dim! Fyddai'r goleuadau ddim yn gweithio. Fe fyddai'n rhaid mynd trwy bob un byl, ei sgriwio'n dynn i'r soced, ac, os bydden ni'n lwcus, wrth sgriwio'r olaf un, "Wow!" byddai'r goeden yn goleuo. Ond, os na fyddai, byddai'n rhaid ceisio newid pob un byl nes canfod yr un oedd wedi ffiwsio. A doedd dim ots pa mor ofalus fyddech chi wrth eu cadw ar gyfer y flwyddyn nesaf, byddai'n rhaid mynd trwy'r un rig-marôl wrth ddadbacio'r flwyddyn ganlynol. Mae pethau'n llawer haws y dyddiau hyn. Mae goleuadau LED yn llawer mwy llachar, yn gryfach a dydyn nhw ddim yn torri, er pwyswch y botwm anghywir ar y rimôt, a bydd pob math o batrymau fflachio rhyfeddol yn ymddangos.

Eleni, mae'r esgobaeth wedi dewis ffocws newydd ar gyfer ein bywyd cyffredin. Roedd 'Datgloi ein Potensial' yn fuddiol iawn i ni fel arwyddair, ond, wrth i ni wynebu'r dyfodol, mae'n rhaid i ni ail ganolbwyntio o'r newydd ar ein bywyd cyffredin. Felly: daw "Tyfu'r FFYDD, dod â GOBATH, dangos CARIAD" yn arwyddair i ni, ac mae'n cael ei gynnig fel canolbwynt i bob dim y byddwn yn ei wneud. Efallai y bydd y rhai sydd wedi alaru ar bethau o'r fath yn dweud "O na! Dim menter arall", ond, mewn gwirionedd, nid galwad yw hyn o roi'r gorau i bopeth roedden ni'n ei wneud o'r blaen oherwydd bod yna syniad newydd sgleiniog wedi treiddio i bennau arweinyddion yr esgobaeth. Y bwriad yw y bydd yn ein hatgoffao pam ein bod yn gwneud popeth rydyn ni'n ei wneud yn y lle cyntaf. Galwodd Iesu ei hunan arnom ni i fod â ffydd ynddo, felly beth am i ni dyfu'r ffydd honno, a gwahodd eraill i'w rhannu hefyd. Mae Cristnogion yn gludwyr gobaith am fywyd tragwyddol, felly beth am fod yn bositif ac

Sunday 13th February

Trydydd Sul cyn y Grawys / Third Sunday before Lent

9.45 Bi-lingual Eucharist St Grwst's

11.15 Bi-lingual Eucharist St Ffraid's

Wednesday 16th February

10-12 Coffee Stop, Church House, Glan Conwy

Thursday 17th February

10-12 Sgwrs a Panad St Grwst's

Sunday 20th February

Ail Sul cyn y Grawys / Second Sunday before Lent

9.45 Bi-lingual Eucharist St Grwst's

11.15 Bi-lingual Eucharist St Ffraid's

1pm - Baptism St Ffraid's

Wednesday 23rd February

10-12 Coffee Stop, Church House, Glan Conwy

Thursday 24th February

10-12 Sgwrs a Panad St Grwst's

Sunday 27th February -

Sul o flaen y Grawys / Sunday before Lent

(Sul y Gweddnewidiad / Transfiguration Sunday)

9.45 Bi-lingual Eucharist St Grwst's

11.15 Bi-lingual Eucharist St Ffraid's

Tuesday 1st March

Dydd Gwyl Dewi / St David's Day

6pm Holy Eucharist St Grwst's

Tuesday 2nd March

Dydd Mercher y Lludw / Ash Wednesday

10am Holy Eucharist St Ffraid's

6pm Holy Eucharist St Grwst's

Dyddiadur Ionawr / January Diary
Dyddiadur Chwefror / February Diary

Sunday 23rd January - Ystywll / Epiphany 3

9.45 Bi-lingual Eucharist St Grwst's

11.15 Bi-lingual Eucharist St Ffriad's

Tuesday 25th January - The Conversion of St Paul

6pm Holy Eucharist St Grwst's

Wednesday 26th January

10-12 Coffee Stop, Church House, Glan Conwy

Thursday 27th January (Holocaust Memorial Day)

10-12 Sgwrs a Panad St Grwst's

**Sunday 30th January - Cyflwyniad Crist /
Presentation of Christ in the Temple**

(transferred from Feb 2nd)

9.45 Bi-lingual Eucharist St Grwst's

11.15 Bi-lingual Eucharist St Ffraid's

Wednesday 2nd February

10-12 Coffee Stop, Church House, Glan Conwy

6.30 Mission Area Conference @ St Paul's Craig y Don

Thursday 3rd February

10-12 Sgwrs a Panad St Grwst's

Sunday 6th February

Pedwerydd Sul cyn y Grawys / 4th Sunday before Lent

9.45 Bi-lingual Eucharist St Grwst's

11.15 Bi-lingual Eucharist St Ffraid's

Wednesday 9th February

10-12 Coffee Stop, Church House, Glan Conwy

Thursday 10th February

10-12 Sgwrs a Panad St Grwst's

yn llawn gobaith wrth gysylltu â phobl eraill. Gorchmynnodd Iesu ni garu ein gilydd, ac i fod y rhai sy'n gweini, beth am i ni ddangos y cariad hwnnw gyda'r gwasanaeth rydym ni'n ei gymryd i, ac ar gyfer, y cymunedau lle rydyn ni.

Fel profi'r gadwyn o oleuadau i wneud yn siŵr fod pob un yn gweithio, rydyn ni'n cael ein gwahodd i brofi ein gwaith fel disgyblion Iesu, a'n gweithgareddau fel Eglwysi, i weld a yw'r rhain yn trosglwyddo trydan gras Duw ac yn helpu i oleuo'r byd. A yw ein ffydd yn cael ei bwydo gan weddi ac addoliad? A fyddai'r rhai sy'n mynychu ein heglwysi yn canfod y maeth i dyfu eu ffydd? A yw'r ffordd mae'r Eglwys yn cyfathrebu yn anfon neges bositif, a ydyn ni'n annog y naill a'r llall yn frwdfrydig, ac yn dod â gobaith i fyd ac i gymdeithas sydd wedi dioddef cymaint gyda'r oll sydd wedi digwydd? A yw ansawdd ein cyfeillgarwch a'n perthynasau yn un o wasanaeth a gwir gariad? A yw calendr ein gweithgareddau Eglwysig yn dystiolaeth eu bod yn codi o wasanaeth cariadus i'n cymunedau, neu ddim ond i ni'n hunain? A yw'r gweithgareddau yn ein heglwysi'n ychwanegu at oleuni dystiolaeth Duw yn ein bywydau cyffredin?

Weithiau, mae blwyddyn newydd yn achlysur i wneud Addunedau Blwyddyn Newydd. Nid yw hanes yr addunedau hynny bob amser yn ddisglair. Ond, efallai, wrth i ni gadw addurniadau'r Nadolig am ddeuddeg mis arall, gallwn ofyn yn ein gweddïau o flaen Duw ac yn ein pwyllgorau Eglwysig, a ydym ni, yn unigol fel disgyblion a gyda'n gilydd fel Eglwysi, erbyn hyn yn dechrau ar waith gwirioneddol y Nadolig, i ogoneddu Duw yn y goruchaf ac ar y ddaear tangnefedd ymhlith dynion sydd wrth ei fodd (Luc 2.14) ac i wneud beth sy'n iawn, caru ffyddlondeb a rhodio'n ostyngedig gyda Duw (Micha 6.8), i dyfu ffydd, dod â gobaith a dangos cariad?



Pause for thought...

The picture on the front cover of the Newsletter will be very familiar to most of you. It was taken on a beautiful day last week on our return from Trefriw having walked over Gowers Bridge with Bill.

This time of year when we get a sunny day, although there may be no heat at all in the sun the light it casts has the ability to display any shadows and for a time at least concerns and worries, if there are any, are laid to one side.

Light is so important to us as human beings. How dreadful would it be if we had no light to live by! There'd be no food, no warmth, our own physical health would suffer - the world wouldn't be a good place to be.

Naturally there's a direct spiritual application to this too. Way back in Genesis we are told in the story of Creation that one of the first things God created was light, in God's mind an obvious essential. Isaiah the prophet encourages the people of God to 'arise SHINE, for your light has come.' They were being encouraged to see that God's light had shone upon them and so in turn they were to light up their world at that time.

In the New Testament in one of the 'I AM' sayings found in John's Gospel Jesus declares himself to be the light of the world and in Matthew's Gospel followers of Jesus are told not to hide their light under a bushel but to let their light shine so the whole world can see!

I wonder what constitutes the light that we have as followers of Jesus Christ? I think the response to that is two fold. The light begins **WITHIN** us. It is our relationship with Jesus that lightens our lives, that gives us direction that offers us peace and forgiveness. At the Rectory we are prone to power cuts and when that happens we naturally reach for the torch but if one of us, usually me, has forgotten to recharge the batteries for it. That being the case we find ourselves continuing to be without light! Lesson learned here then is that we perhaps we need to take care and pay attention to our inner batteries, our life with God. If we wonder why faith is dull and, although we

attend Church the experience does little or nothing for us let's check our batteries. As our internal light begins to glow, even in a small way the light of God's presence affects the way we live and people see that, they see the light of Jesus shining within us - thanks be to God! A bit like a candle flame, we may feel like our internal light is only small but we should never underestimate the power of the light of God's love working through us.

The reality of our Christian journey is that the light of God that is within each and every one of us can be **MADE VISIBLE** in the world around us. As we share our story of faith, as we bring comfort to others, as we share moments of joy and laughter, as we offer forgiveness and bring peace - all of the things that God brings to our lives - then we light up the world with God's love.

In 1 Corinthians 13 St Paul spoke of three great gifts, FAITH, HOPE and LOVE. As the light of God within us grows so we are able to offer these gifts to the world around us. Some would argue that now more than ever people need faith, something to hold on, are desperate for hope to stop them falling into despair and of course love, the greatest gift of all.

Now is the time, in big and small ways for us as Christians to shine with the radiance of God's love!

