



Pont Ystumanner

NEWYDDION BRO YSTUMANNER NEWS

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I've Got Too Much Stuff Fiona Covington Mann

*Well, it's way too much
You're never gonna get enough
You can pile it high
But you'll never be satisfied
"I've got too much stuff!"*

Does anyone else feel the same as me?

It all started, for me, when I had a new carpet fitted in my lounge and it took me 50 minutes to clear the room. For me, that's 40 minutes too long, so when it was time to return all the bits and pieces to their rightful places,

I followed my own personal mantra. Do I want it and if so, why? Do I need it and if so, why? Who could benefit from it if I don't use it? (And it's just gathering dust and it's getting in the way and I'm not going to use it!)

The question I asked myself was why do I need this or that? Is it avarice /greed, (one of the seven deadly sins)? Avarice is a word seldom used today, but if you've ever watched classic characters like Ebenezer Scrooge or Cruella de Vil, you've seen avarice and greed at work. None of us is immune to greed or avarice, for everyday we are bombarded by messages of comfort or security or pleasure via the media, perhaps family or friends. I read somewhere that there are over 70 million people who have more wealth than me and with a population of over 7 billion people, this puts me in the wealthiest 1% of the planet by income. There are so many challenges in the world today, the state of the environment, the problems of hunger, access to clean water.. the list goes on. Yet the 1% have the capacity to make a difference.

"Consider the lilies of the field" story (Matthew 6 25-33) kept going through my mind as I created 3 piles - a "do I want it" pile, "a "do I need it" pile and "who would benefit from it" pile and I realised that as I worked through loads of things I didn't want or need, it's all about trust in God. Jesus says that we need not worry but put our trust in God to provide for our every need. We should not focus upon temporary, worldly and material wealth but strive for eternal treasures.

So, how does this relate to Advent, the time when we are watching patiently and quietly for the birth of our Saviour? Mary trusted the words of the Angel Gabriel who was sent by God to tell her that she would be the mother of our Lord. She responds "Here I am the handmaid of the Lord: let it be according to your word." She trusted the Word of God.

Then there's Joseph, who had planned to dismiss Mary quietly, but as the result of a dream from the angel of the Lord, he did as he was commanded and took Mary as his wife. He trusted in the words of the Lord.

Trust is therefore a core concept central to our faith, believing in God's promises and reliability and His will, even when times are difficult. It means placing confidence in God's plan and guidance, which can at times,

be very challenging for one and all

So, any books not looked at for over a year - gone to the charity shops, likewise any trinkets not required - all gone. Needlework magazines, having initially checked with a variety of museums and guilds (everything is now on “the cloud”) - gone for recycling. Clothes not worn for over a year - gone to the charity shops too, so someone else can benefit from them.

How has this decluttering made me feel? Relieved! It has made me realise that, although physical stuff will deteriorate, treasures in heaven can’t be destroyed, so my energies are better spent building treasures in Heaven. That’s what matters. That’s what lasts.

“So give... Give to the poor. Give to those who really deserve it. Give to things you care about. Give to things you’re connected to. Give locally. Give globally. Give as if God has already given up everything for you, even his only Son.” **Another Road Rev Phil.**



With warmest greetings and prayers for peace
for you, your loved ones, and our world
this Christmas Season

The Hansford Family

The Yearning – A Prayer for Advent

In the spaces of my scattered self
Come Lord Jesus
In the cracks of my broken self
Come Lord Jesus
In the exhaustion of my weary self
Come Lord Jesus

I cannot acquiesce like Mary
I can only wait in hope
I cannot run like the shepherds
I can only wait in hope
I cannot journey like the magi
I can only wait in hope

Come Lord Jesus
Fill the spaces with your love
Come Lord Jesus
Fill the cracks with your joy
Come Lord Jesus
Fill the tiredness with your peace

Let your light shine in my darkness
My hope is in you
Let your light heal my soul
My hope is in you
Let your light transform my life
My hope is in you

Ruth Hansford 18/11/2025
Written during On-line Exploring Advent retreat with Donna Worthington

Bro Ystumanner - Taking Stock

It seems odd to be writing an end-of-year review in mid-November, but I often find myself thinking a month ahead

By the time you read this, it will be a full year since the start of Ruth's leave. At an early meeting with Archdeacon Robert Townsend, our Acting Ministry Area Leader, he set our objective as being to "keep the show on the road". In my opinion, we have done precisely that. We may have "dropped the odd ball", as Robert puts it, on the way, but broadly speaking we have continued the many activities through which Bro Ystumanner seeks to proclaim the gospel. I won't try to list them all, because I would almost certainly omit something significant. Perhaps first and foremost is the range of public services of worship which we offer month by month.

Who are the "we" who have made this possible? In many cases it's not "we" but "you". What has been achieved this year is the result of the efforts of many people throughout the Area (and beyond), not just the obvious leading of services but also all the tasks behind the scenes which are essential to keeping a church community functioning. Again, I won't even try to list all the names: you know who you are. Thank you to everybody who has contributed in any way.

"Robert, the Navigator"



At the Ministry Area Council meeting in November, we were pleased to congratulate Robert on his achieving higher status as a navigator in the Cricieth Lifeboat. The RNLI is a long-standing off-duty commitment important in Robert's life, part of the reason why he chose as Archdeacon of Meirionnydd to live in Cricieth.

Roger Whitehouse

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

Aberdyfi, St Peter's Church

Our October Half Term Messy Church Session 'All things Bright and Beautiful' was well attended by locals and holiday families.

We celebrated all of God's Creation in story, song and crafts. The children and adults had fun making Butterfly fridge magnets, Ladybird hand puppets and Hedgehog badges.



I would like to thank the entire Team for making these Sessions a wonderful part of our worship and fellowship.

We welcomed members of the English Presbyterian chapel to our short service of Hymns and Prayers on Remembrance Sunday before joining the Aberdyfi Community and Visitors for the Remembrance Parade and Roll Call of Fallen Soldiers.

Alison Sayes

Advent window night

We are still all decorating our windows for every night of the month! We would like to invite the community of Aberdyfi to the Advent Window Night at St Peter's Church on 12th December from 6.00 to 8.30 pm. In previous years this event was held at Cartref Guesthouse, but we wanted to open it up to be a joint event; St Peter's Church has an open space where we can all mingle.

If any of the other participating Advent windows are able to help with the event please get in touch with Gareth or Alison. We will need some assistance, and if anyone has an Electric Hotplate or Crock Pot to lend to help warm up the mulled wine that would be much appreciated. There will be mince pies, some mulled wine, tea and coffee, and squash. David is



Ard

Ministry Area

*Aros am y Goleuni
Waiting for the Light*

*Dathlu'r Adfent
Advent Celebration*



*3yp Dydd Sul 7^{fed} Rhagfyr
3pm Sunday 7th December*

*St Michael's Church
Llanfihangel y Pennant
LL36 9TS*



**Advent Window Night
St Peters Church Aberdyfi**

12.12.2025

6PM-8:30 PM

**Mulled Wine, Mince Pies, Tea
and Coffee**

**Please bring a non-perishable
donation to the South
Gwynedd FoodBank**



Christingle

**St Peter's Church
Aberdyfi**



**Christmas Eve
3.30**

**Warm Welcome to All
Croeso Cynnes i Bawb**

baking some mince pies, feel free to bring another food item to share. We are again asking for donations to the South Gwynedd Foodbank.

Gareth and Dai

St Peter's Aberdyfi will have another display after Christmas, entitled "The 12 Days of Christmas - interesting facts." The focus on this display

is actually its religious input. It's REALLY fascinating. Do come along after Christmas to have a look and don't forget to collect your sticker.

Abergynolwyn, St David's Church

Sunday 30th November, 10 am - 4 pm is the Christmas Craft Fair in Y Ganolfan, Abergynolwyn . There will be Homemade crafts, Christmas gifts, Raffle and more.



A few of us from St David's Church will be holding a stall selling marmalade, chutneys, savoury goods and books. Please come along and support this event.

We have 4 Sunday Services scheduled for December: 7th December 10:00 - Holy Eucharist, 14th December 2pm - Carol Service, 21st December 10:00 - Morning Prayer, Christmas Eve - Holy Eucharist

We look forward to welcoming as many people as possible to these Services.

Janet Wright

Arthog, St Catherine's Church

We enjoyed a lively service of Evening Prayer in November, celebrating three years since services in St Catherine's Arthog were recommenced thanks to Rev Ruth's vision and preparatory work. Thank you to Rev George and Rev Steve for leading us.



Plans are underway in Arthog for 24 Christmas windows, which will be displayed in different homes one by one throughout the Advent season. On Saturday December 6th the team at St Catherine's will decorate the church building and this year, as part of the village Advent windows, there's an open invitation for anyone to pop in that day between 4pm and 6pm for a paned and a chocolate.

We continue to hold Rev Ruth, Brendan and Kristy in our hearts and prayers.

Catherine Horton

Fairbourne, St Cynon's Church

Thank you to all who filled shoes boxes, for Samaritans Purse *Operation Christmas Child*.

Saturday 8th November, we held our annual Remembrance Reflections. This year, under the direction of Jules and Carrie, we were joined by young thespians from the Dragon Theatre Drama Group. They all did a sterling job, reading poems and extracts from letters, written by soldiers serving in the trenches.



Our harvest lunch, was held in the village hall. A choice of cottage pie or chilli to start then followed by a selection of puddings from the newly formed Fairbourne Pudding Club. (I'm just waiting for their next meeting, as I've volunteered to be a taster). Thank you to all who helped make the lunch a great success.



Why not warm your larynx and join us on Thursday 18th at 4 pm, for our family carol service? Spoiler alert- *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* and *Dawel Nos, Sanctaidd Yw'r Nos*, may be among the carols!!

We also remember, those in our community not only locally but also our wider church community who have asked for our prayers. As always if you know of anyone who would like our prayers or any pastoral support, please do get in touch.

Rev George

Llanfihangel y Pennant, St Michael's Church



Get into the Christmas spirit by joining us for our Advent Celebration, 'Waiting for the Light', at St Michael's Church, Llanfihangel y Pennant at 3:00 pm on Sunday 7th December. Archdeacon Robert will be giving us an Advent message, and the singing of Advent carols will be hearty. But do wrap up well because there is no heating in St Michael's.

Paul Inman

Pennal, St Peter ad Vincula

Remembrance Sunday was blessed with no rain and we were able to hold our usual service at the War Memorial after our Sunday Service in Church. On the 11th the children of Ysgol Pennal paid their respects with much thought and preparation. But a special feature this year was the decoration of the church door by the Pennal Knitting Group.



The Coffee, Cake and Chat morning that weekend was again very well attended and enjoyed – next one on Saturday Dec 13th at 10.00 am

And then the busy period starts. Our annual Plygain is on Sunday Dec 14th – last year there was a full church as visitors came from all over the Ministry Area and elsewhere. And on Tuesday Dec 15th we welcome the children of Pennal and Corris Schools who will produce their Christmas service, with parents and grandparents. They then return to church on Friday Dec 18th for their end-of-term Christingle Service.

Rev Kath Rogers will be celebrating Midnight Mass (at 8.0pm) on Christmas Eve; and our Family Service on Christmas Day - “between stocking and turkey” - will be my final service as Worship Leader (before we leave to live in Shrewsbury.)

The festivity season ends with the annual Christmas Concert on Monday Dec 29th given by the Dyfi Singers and the Machynlleth Wind band.

This is my last report to the Newsletter - I give my thanks to all who have worked so hard in its production, and wish it and all involved (now and in the future) very well.

Hugh Ramsbotham

Tywyn. St Cadfan's Church

Much as we love our extraordinary church building, no-one can deny that it takes a lot of looking after. We always say that it offers peace and beauty to



our visitors, so let's have a look through our Visitors' Book for some of this year's entries, and see whether our efforts have been worth the trouble! Is St. Cadfan's merely a piece of history? Or is there more to it?

Such a beautiful peaceful church to gather your thoughts.

Took respite in this beautiful church during a Wales Coast Path walk. It was a moment of stillness I needed.

A beautiful and inspiring church.

Beautiful old church. I sat and prayed.

So peaceful, all on my own.

Such a peaceful place, and interesting artefacts.

Visiting after lunch for a moment of peace and reflection.

An ancient haven and beacon of God's love for us.

Came on the train all the way from Nottingham to see the Cadfan Stone.

Well worth it!

Atmospheric church which has a feeling of being cherished by the local community.

Such an ancient building and seeing the oldest Welsh inscription was remarkable.

What a lovely special church. We visited to see the start point of our next pilgrimage.

There are many "beautifuls" and "peacefuls". But my favourite is this one from a young girl: "I felt in touch with God." No further comment is necessary.

Don't forget all the Christmas services coming up. The Carol Service is on Sunday December 21st at 6.00pm, and the always-popular Midnight Service starts at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve. There is also the Crib Service, on Christmas Eve, at 5pm.

We are delighted that the Cassiopeia String Quartet is making a return

visit at 7.30pm on Thursday December 18th. Their previous concert was a great success, and we are sure that this will be well worth putting in your diaries! Admission free, donations as you wish. (To be split between the quartet and us!)

Max Birchenough.

The long-drawn-out saga of St Cadfan's vestry floor is (almost) over. The vestry is back in use, to the pleasure of the coffee-makers and washers-up, and the Treasurer, among others. Reviewing and replacing its contents is well in hand, and the North aisle is no longer obstructed by sheeted-over vestry contents.

Our thanks are especially due to (in alphabetical order by surname) Meryl Gover, Paul Inman and Lee Taylor for their contributions, both financial and practical, to bringing the repairs to a successful conclusion.

Following a significant fall of plaster into the nave from the south side window openings during a recent storm, the necessary repair work is being planned. At the time of writing, details are provisional, but the work, using a tower, is likely to start in December. The tower would be removed for weekends, and access is expected to be available for our regular Wednesday events, and Crafts for Giving. We would not be able to hold funeral services while the work is in progress.

By the time this Newsletter is issued, final arrangements should be settled and made known.

Roger Whitehouse

Golden Girls

Golden Girls will not be meeting during the Christmas holiday, but are hoping to hold another 'Get Together' in January. The Golden Girls wish everyone a Very Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Croeso dydd Mercher – Welcome Wednesdays

Since early October we've been warming up the Glass Room in St Cadfan's church every Wednesday afternoon from 2 – 4 p.m. for free refreshments, fun and friendship. And we all enjoy Stella's wonderful home baking. We have a variety of games and puzzles and there are always Scrabble and Rummikub games in progress, but if you'd prefer just come in and enjoy the music in the church.

This year we will be closing the Autumn session with a Christmas Celebration on 17th December. Festive food and music, a quiz, and the singing of carols! Please join us for this special afternoon.

A date for your diaries - we will be re-starting on 7th January 2026.

(No Welcome Wednesday on 24th December, or 31st December)

Croeso cynnes i bawb! A warm welcome for everyone! *Paul Inman*

Crafts for Giving

The December meeting will take place as usual on Monday 8th December, in the Glass Room at St Cadfan's Church, Tywyn, from 2 till 4pm. All welcome! Knit and Natter with a serious purpose - the items we make are all for donation, to charities or individuals. *Sue Whitehouse*

Prayer Walks

December gets rather crammed so there's no December prayer walk. But how about getting some friends together to go around Aberdyfi and see the Advent windows? Prayer walks are expected to be resumed in January. *Sue Whitehouse.*

Farewell to the Dyfi Singers

The Christmas concert by the Dyfi Singers is in Pennal, as usual jointly with the Machynlleth Wind Band. It will be their last, as the choir, for a variety of reasons, has decided to disband at the end of this year. If you can't make the Pennal date, the same concert will be given in Machynlleth Church on Tuesday 16th December at 7 pm. *RMW*

The Season of Feeling

It starts quietly, doesn't it?
That slow shift as the year begins to turn.
The light changes. The days contract.

Someone asks, almost without thinking,
"Feeling festive yet?"
Sometimes the answer arrives quickly.
Other times, it takes a while to find it.

December is full of these small recognitions -
the sense of 'the season' edging into view.

For me, this time of year has always felt a little split -
full of anticipation, yet threaded with reflection.
I know many of us feel this mix -
the season arriving with more than one emotion at once.

Perhaps that's why I think of it as the Season of Feeling
- not a single mood, but all of them, layered together.

The happiness that comes easily.
The nostalgia.
The awareness of who's missing,
The deep gratitude for who's here.
The way the year comes into focus.

This is the season that makes room for it all -
the reflection and the joy.

Janet Wright

Services in December

Midweek Services

Wednesdays 10.30am Holy Communion St Cadfan's, Tywyn
*(December 17th – Followed by Prayers for Healing and Wholeness
not on Wednesday 24th December)*

Sunday 7th December– 2nd Sunday of Advent

| | | |
|---------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 9.30am | Crib Service | St Celynnin's, Llwyngwril |
| 10am | Holy Communion | St David's, Abergynolwyn |
| 10am | Holy Communion | St Peter ad Vincula, Pennal |
| 11am | Morning Worship | St Cynon's, Fairbourne |
| 11.15am | Morning Worship | St Peter's, Aberdyfi |
| 11.15am | Holy Communion | St Cadfan's, Tywyn |
| 3pm | Advent Celebration | St Michael's, Llanfihangel-y-Pennant |

Sunday 14th December– 3rd Sunday of Advent

| | | |
|---------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| 11.15am | Holy Communion | St Peter's, Aberdyfi |
| 11.15am | Morning Worship | St Mary & St Egryn, Llanegryn |
| 11.15am | All Age Worship | St Cadfan's, Tywyn |
| 2pm | Carol Service | St David's, Abergynolwyn |
| 6pm | Plygain | St Peter ad Vincula, Pennal |

Thursday 18th December

| | | |
|-----|----------------------|------------------------|
| 4pm | Family Carol Service | St Cynon's, Fairbourne |
|-----|----------------------|------------------------|

Friday 19th December

| | | |
|--------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2.30pm | Christingle Service | Ysgol Pennal, St Peter ad Vincula |
|--------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|

Sunday 21st December - 4th Sunday of Advent

| | | |
|---------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| 9.30am | Holy Communion | St Celynnin's, Llwyngwril |
| 10am | Morning Worship | St David's, Abergynolwyn |
| 10am | Morning Worship | St Peter ad Vincula, Pennal |
| 11am | Holy Communion | St Cynon's, Fairbourne |
| 11.15am | All Age Worship | St Peter's, Aberdyfi |
| 11.15am | Holy Communion | St Cadfan's, Tywyn |

Sunday 21st December - 4th Sunday of Advent (continued)

| | | |
|-----|--------------------|------------------------|
| 3pm | Carol Service | St Catherine's, Arthog |
| 6pm | Lessons and Carols | St Cadfan's, Tywyn |

Wednesday 24th December– Christmas Eve

| | | |
|---------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 3pm | Holy Communion | St David's, Abergynolwyn |
| 3pm | Candlelit Carol Service | Old Church, Llangelynnin |
| 3.30pm | Christingle Service | St Peter's, Aberdyfi |
| 5pm | Crib Service | St Cadfan's, Tywyn |
| 8pm | Holy Communion | St Peter ad Vincula, Pennal |
| 9.30pm | Holy Communion | St Peter's, Aberdyfi |
| 9.30pm | Holy Communion | St Mary & St Egryn, Llanegryn |
| 11.30pm | Holy Communion | St Cadfan's, Tywyn |

Thursday 25th December– Christmas Day

| | | |
|---------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| 10am | Family Service | St Peter ad Vincula, Pennal |
| 10am | Family Service | St Cynon's, Fairbourne |
| 10.30am | Holy Communion | St Peter's, Aberdyfi |
| 11.15am | Holy Communion | St Cadfan's, Tywyn |

Sunday 28th December – 1st Sunday of Christmas

| | | |
|---------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| 9.30am | Morning Worship | St Celynnin's, Llwyngwrl |
| 11.15am | Holy Communion | St Mary & St Egryn, Llanegryn |
| 11.15am | Holy Communion | St Peter's, Aberdyfi |
| 11.15am | Songs of Praise | St Cadfan's, Tywyn |

| |
|---|
| <p>We look forward to welcoming you to our churches!</p> |
|---|

Dates for your Diary December

| | | | |
|---------------|----------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| 6th December | 4.00-6.00 pm | Decorating church plus drop in for paned | St Catherine's Arthog |
| 7th December | 3.00 pm | Waiting for the Light | St Michael's, Llanfihangel y Pennant |
| 8th December | 2-4 pm | Crafts for Giving | Glass Room, St Cadfan's. Tywyn |
| 12th December | 6.00 - 8.30 pm | Advent Candle night | St Peter's, Aberdyfi |
| 14th December | 6.00 pm | Plygain | St Peter ad Vincula, Pennal |
| 15th December | 6.00 pm | Pennal & Corris Schools Christmas service | St Peter ad Vincula, Pennal |
| 18th December | 4.00 pm | Family Carol Service | St Cynon, Fairbourne |
| 18th December | 7.30 pm | Cassiopeia String Quartette | St Cadfan, Tywyn |
| 19th December | 2.30 pm | Pennal School Christmas service | St Peter ad Vincula, Pennal |
| 29th December | 6.00 pm | Dyfi Singers and Machynlleth Wind Band | St Peter ad Vincula, Pennal |

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| | | |
|--|---------------------------|--------------|
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| | Ven Robert Townsend | 07789940049 |
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| <i>Llanegryn, St Mary & St Egryn</i> | | |
| Churchwarden | William Williams Wynne | |
| <i>Llanfihangel-y-Pennant, St Michael</i> | | |
| Administrator | Roger Whitehouse | 01654712275 |
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| Deputy Churchwarden | Pat Griffiths | 01341250131 |
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[w] also Worship Leader

Tywyn & Brynchrug, St Cadfan

| | | |
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[w] also Worship Leader

NEWSLETTER NOTES

First a warning! The January newsletter will almost certainly not be available until the second Sunday (11th). This is, of course, because of Christmas and New Year. The final date for information will therefore be Friday 2nd January. For emails, please could “Subject” be Newsletter, followed by church **or** place **or** your name then anything else which will help me to keep the emails sorted.

Second, when the newsletter is once more printed at the vicarage, it will be only in black and white. This will affect photos and posters - for posters avoid using any background colour or shading.

Colour would cost approximately 10 times what black and white does. (The colour sheets cannot be printed separately and inserted if the folding/stapling part of the printing is to work).

Meryl Gover

