



**Revs. Stella and John Hayton in the Nosen Lawen.**

## News of Members

Eluned Brown is home and welcomes visitors.  
Shirley says, on behalf of New Zealand, thank you to everyone who gave her sympathy during the recent shooting tragedy in Christchurch.  
Barbara Stredder home again after her hip op.  
Trish from near Geneva, originally from Pembroke Dock has been with us for several weeks, and we look forward to her next visit.

## Sunday Service 24<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Rev Alan Willcocks gave a lovely children's talk all about flags that he puts up on his flagpole at home. Out of a little suitcase he produced Welsh, of course the day after they had won from England. Then he said that he supports the Welsh and whoever is playing England, so we saw French, Irish, Italian, Scottish flags. Then Alan produced the Union Jack which is made from the flags of St George of England, St Andrew of Scotland and St Patrick of Ireland. No Welsh Dragon! The EU flag was produced, and this he leaves on the flag pole when no other occasion. He has a Halloween, and a Skull and Cross bones for his grandchildren. A black and yellow cross of St David flag was shown which he flies on St David's Day March 1<sup>st</sup>. A flag he himself had made out of a blue sheet and white pillow case with the same symbol as is on the front door of St Johns, a cross and fish, came next. And last a Stars and Stripes for USA visitors and flown always on 4<sup>th</sup> July, as this was the day that Alan was ordained as a minister in 1963. He said he had composed a new verse for the hymn "God made my life a little light" that we sang next. 'God made my life just like a flag, Flying for all to see, That I belong to Jesus Christ, And He belongs to me.'

## Editorial

The close off date is Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April for the May Newsletter. Please place articles in the box at the back of the church or Shirley's email is [shirleybdraper@gmail.com](mailto:shirleybdraper@gmail.com) Thank you.

## Children's Corner : Mother's Day

In the Medieval times this was the day on which people visited their "mother" church, the Cathedral of their diocese. Only in the 17<sup>th</sup> century did it become a day to acknowledge human mothers. It used to be the practice to visit one's own mother and take her gifts of flowers and cakes (maybe a Simnel Cake) and people working in service away from home i.e. live-in servants who did not see their parents for months at a time, were given the day off by their employers to visit their families.

## Recipe of the Month : Quick Ginger Gateau

1 Jamaican ginger cake, 1 small tin mandarin slices, 150ml fresh double cream, 1 orange grated.

Slice the cake in half lengthways and place one half on serving dish. Drain mandarins and use some of juice to pour over each half of cake. Reserve 1/3 of mandarins and chop the rest. Place the cream in a bowl with 1 tablespoon of orange juice and the orange rind. Whip till thick. Add the chopped mandarins to half the cream and use to sandwich the two layers together. Decorate the top with the rest of the cream and the whole mandarins.

## The Church mouse says :-

Life is too short to give in to hate and fear, I'll count my blessings, love the friends and family that are always there for me and put a smile on my face each day.

## Cymanfa Ganu (Come and Sing)

This took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> March at St Johns at 3pm. There was a hum of expectation before hand and the church was full to capacity. Three choirs gave performances; firstly The Quaynotes, then St Marys, and lastly the Griffon Choir. In between performances the audience sang two hymns in a mixture of Welsh and English. Jim Walker gave a



solo of "Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring" and was accompanied on the piano by Dr John Harrison from St Marys. The afternoon closed with singing "Guide me, O thou great Jehovah" which nearly brought the roof down. *S. Tolley*

## Noson Lawen



On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March, the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Noson Lawen started at 6pm with 64 members and friends of St Johns sitting down to a meal of fish and chips delivered by Park Road Fish and Chip Shop. The concert started at 7pm and the first item was the music group of Mel on the Drums, Sharon on the piano, and Jim on the Viola playing "Moon River". Rev Stella helped by husband John followed with the "Green Eyed Idol of Kathmandu" with special Welsh versions of Carew. Ieuan sang in Welsh "Shepherd of Aberdovey", followed by Sue Powell reciting "By Gone Days". Mollie's friend Nicky was welcomed and performed on her guitar. This was followed by Brenda reciting "We have Survived". Ron Hurlow in between every item had the audience in fits of laughter with his jokes. Mel played her Marimba for us, and Mollie and Peter performed "The Old Grey Mare aint what she used to be". Suzanne recited a Pam Ayres poem "Did I turn off my tongs". Ieuan set up the stage as a bus, and sitting in the driver's seat with a Cliff Richards mask on, sang "Summer Holidays" and then said... 60 years later.... and Ann M, Gill, and Laura came down the aisle dressed for holidays, dragging their suitcases giving them to the driver of the "Edwards Coach" as they seated themselves on the stage waving their Edwards Coach Brochure, and eating St Johns Welsh cakes, offering one to Ieuan the driver and singing their way to their destination together with an sun umbrella that didn't open, and a bucket on the "back seat"! Edwards Coach "real" staff had come to see this item, and were taking photos! The audience were just rolling with laughter in their seats. But Ron, the MC, carried on, and introduced the very Welsh item of Mollie playing on her harp "Skating on Ice" followed by Bron, accompanied on the piano by Sharon, singing "I'll walk beside you". Liz had everybody laughing with "Times have Changed". Ron told a joke about a church that advertised the am service as Jesus walking on the water, and the pm service as Searching for Jesus. Sharon, with her daughter Bethan's help turning the pages, played for Jim who on his Viola played two pieces, a sad song and an Italian song.

The next item was the sequel to last year's Pantomime "Jack and the Beanstalk". This year the audience was the jury at a "law court" to try Jack for killing the giant. Graham was the Court's Usher, wig and all, Liz was the Judge, again with a wig, and trying desperately to keep the court moving along. Sue Powell was the Policeman, and gave a very life like performance. Witnesses were called: Lorna was the Old Woman who lived in a Shoe and Ann M was Jack's Mum. Jack (Mel) was all the time in the prisoner's box. His "wife" Sue B. was called to the witness box, but had great difficulty getting her pregnant large pillow tummy to the box, (and she was suffering from back ache too!!) The Mayor (Sue P) of the town came down the aisle in great pomp and splendour to give the summary, and the Court's Usher asked the audience for their verdict which was unanimously not guilty with all hands up. (But the players had had another version to do if Jack was judged guilty!) The group took their bows to a standing ovation. Ron carried on by introducing the Music group again who played "Here's to the Next Time" playing it twice! And the concert finished with a 1950's sing along with Mollie on the piano and Peter leading the audience in singing. When Ron asked everybody to sing Mae hen wlad fy nhadau, everybody stood and raised the roof! What a great finale to a marvellous Noson Lawen that finished at 9pm.

## World Day of Prayer

Open to men, but organised still by women, this year's service in Tenby was held at the Deer Park Baptist Church Hall on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March. The theme was "Come – Everything is Ready!" and the whole service was arranged by Slovenian lady writers and based on Luke 15 v 7-24. Tenby's new Father at St Teilos took the opening and closing prayers. It was definitely an ecumenical gathering and led by ladies from Deer Park Baptist with help of ladies from St Mary's, St Johns, The Salvation Army and St Teilos. The afternoon tea that followed had a St David's Day Welsh theme and was enjoyed by all!

## Spring Synod Meeting on Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> March at Llandrindod Wells.

This was held at the Metropole Hotel. On arrival we had coffee and a chance to meet old friends and chat with new ones. We also took the opportunity to browse the book stall which had



many books on Lent and Easter and a good selection of Easter cards. The Traidcraft stall beckoned with its many tempting goodies and yummy chocolate, and Easter eggs. Worship started at 11.00. Usually the Moderator Simon Walkling leads but this Synod was different. Ministers arrived at Synod on Friday and divided into two groups. One group including Rev. John Hayton, prepared worship to start Synod, and Rev. Stella Hayton was in the other group who prepared worship for closing Synod. Both were splendid.

After notices, minutes of last Synod and Matters arising, we had a Bible study led by Rev John Proctor, General Secretary of the United Reformed Church was titled "Saints" God's Holy People. Afterwards we were asked to turn to our neighbour and say what had made an impression on us. With me it was Saints are not only depicted in stain glass windows but can be found in ordinary people in ordinary places.

During the course of the day there were five local Church stories. They had three minutes to give their presentation. The first was from St Davids Uniting, Pontypridd and just before lunch Stella gave a wonderful presentation with slides about The Creative Arts Project which took place last October at St Johns and mentioned other related children's activities "Stay and Play" and the quiz children could do while we had "The Knitted Bible". If anyone wanted to see the whole play John could show them in the lunch hour. Lunch was a very tasty complimentary buffet.

The afternoon kicked off with Linda Gibbs from our sister church at Tabernacle, Pembroke, telling us about the wonderful work they are doing for refugees from Syria. There were two more local Church stores, one from Barry Uniting Church about "Sustaining the environment" and from Rhyl Uniting Church entitled "Working with Partners for the Common Good".

During the day there were many reports which Simon guided us through, after which Church representatives were asked to vote. Many of these reports and resolutions affect our church and are very relevant.

In the March Synod newsletter we were given three bullet points to explain Synod:-

1. The "Synod" is all of us who are part of the United Reformed Church in Wales as a dynamic network of relationships.
2. The "Synod Meeting" describes the time we spend together as a council of the church to support each other and discern the mind of Christ for us in Wales. It is the council of The United Reformed Church between the local Church meeting and General Assembly.
3. The "Synod Organisation" describes the officers and committees that work on our behalf. Sometimes referred to as "Synod Office" as the building which is the hub for the work. Also know affectionately, or otherwise as "them in Cardiff", but it's all "us" as part of the body of Christ. The afternoon ended at 3.30 with worship. It was a really good Synod. I enjoyed the day very much. Next Synod October 19<sup>th</sup> in Llandrindod Wells.  
*Report by Suzanne Tolley.*

## The Big Day Out

The next United Reformed "together" day is on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June at the Builth Wells Show Ground. Tell Graham if you'd like free transport.

## Special Church Meeting held on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

Mr Graham Powell (Church Secretary) spoke on the proposals necessary from Mr Frans Nicholas for renovating the West Wall of the Church.

Mrs Sue Bonser Church Treasurer gave details of our financial position. If the proposal was accepted extra Fund Raising/Grants would be needed.

No one at the meeting felt qualified/able to obtain any Grants which may be available, when if given would probably require 'match funding'.

Questions relating to building depreciation and visions for outreach were fully discussed.

The recommendation from the Elders is as follows:-

"This meeting agrees with the plan to proceed with work to rectify damp ingress through the high level west wall and add protection to the Rose window.

Following a suitable drying out period; the high level wall to be redecorated using specialist recommended paint. This work is to be specified and managed by the architect Mr. Frans Nicholas. Funding support will be investigated.

This work is estimated to cost up to £20,500."

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