



It is with sadness that we heard that Mrs Margaret Day passed away on Wed 4<sup>th</sup> March, after a few weeks in hospital. She and her late husband, Lew, were very involved with St Johns Church. A little while ago Margaret moved to live near her daughter. She kept St Johns very much in her thoughts, and St Johns missed her and Lew. Our sympathy goes to all her family.

## **Cymanfa Ganu (Come and Sing)**

This was held on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 3pm to celebrate St David's Day. Three local choirs Quaynotes, Griffon, and Cymmrodorion performed, and Mr Clive Raymond on his own keyboard accompanied the 10 hymns that were sung. Mel Walker was the Musical Director. The Church was full and £200 was donated for the Church Building Fund.

## **Cardiac Exercises**

Shirley has been going to Bloomfield leisure centre for cardiac exercises on Mondays...

The Cardiac Nurse who joins in, was asking "Did anybody have trouble during the recent storm - I did, she said, part of my Porch was damaged." The PE Instructor quickly came back "Well you are lucky to have a Porche, I only have an Austin Seven". We, the 17 men and five ladies were in fits of laughter! Do you know that more men than ladies are diagnosed with heart attacks.....wonder if some of the ladies have "attacks" so they can meet men? Sorry, my sense of humour?!!

## **World Day of Prayer 6<sup>th</sup> March**

This was prepared by the Christian women of Zimbabwe. This year it was organised by the women of St Teilo's Catholic Church, and the theme was Rise! Take your mat and walk. A wonderful afternoon tea was prepared by St Teilo's for the large number of ladies who came from St Marys, the Baptist, St Johns, and the Salvation Army Churches, to the St Teilo's hall for the service.

The closing Prayer was:-

God of Peace, we pray for everyone to know that despite political, religious and social differences we need to love, to reconcile with each other and have peace.

We pray for broken homes to be reconciled, for women to live in security and for the communities to be open to peacebuilding. In the name of Jesus the Prince of Peace. Amen

## **What?**

Did everybody work out the What question last month. What IS four letters, etc.

## **Noson Llawen with Fish and Chip Supper.**



This was the last group meeting held just as the isolation rules for the Coronavirus were being broadcast, so on the Sat 14<sup>th</sup> March, only about 50 or so people came to the hall. Everyone enjoyed fish, or chicken and chips, and a few people collected their supper and went home. The Concert started with Melanie telling us a chicken joke from Ron Hurlow who was not able to come. Mollie followed with her harp but wasn't able to play because the warmth of the room disrupted the earlier tuning. Stella spoke a Scottish poem, and John bravely said a poem in Welsh. Melanie, and Jim accompanied by Robert played 5 pieces including a waltz and polka. Ann's group performed a hilarious "Strictly Come Dancing". Laura dancing with a blow-up doll. Ann dancing with a floor mop. Mollie and Peter "won" with their wonderful waltz. Shirley read a "Tourists Prayer". Ieuan sang unaccompanied beautifully in Welsh. Melanie



played the Marimba. Sue was Pam Ayres! The Grand Finale was "Cinderella" which left us all rolling with laughter. All the characters were so funny. The evening closed with a Singalong from the 40's. Everyone was wished the best of health by Stella.



### **Recipe of the month: Citrus all-round spray**

(To clean and sterilise all surfaces in kitchens and bathrooms.)

Tightly pack citrus peeled from the outside of oranges lemons or lime, into a small glass jar and cover with white vinegar. Put lid on and let sit for 2-4 weeks. Strain the vinegar into a spray bottle and top up with an equal amount of water. Spray directly onto surfaces and wipe with a damp cloth. This spray's shelf life, once you have removed the peel, should be indefinite.

### **Roald Dahl says**

If you have good thoughts they will shine out of your face like sunbeams and you will always look lovely.

### **Editorial**

The cut off date for the May Newsletter will be the 17<sup>th</sup> April. Please send any news or reports to [shirleybdraper@gmail.com](mailto:shirleybdraper@gmail.com) I am printing out a some copies of the Newsletter to leave in the church but not as many as usual. If anyone would like me to email it to them, or send it to some-one else, please let me know by email or phone 01834 844002. We do have an email list with about 40 people on it who receive it this way every month.

### **Coronavirus**

I hope everybody around the world is keeping well. The UK has put all over 70's into isolation in their homes. This meant that our congregation was drastically reduced and it was decided to only open the church on Sundays at 11am for outreach and prayers, with Stella or John in attendance and every attendee to sit the required distance apart. Along with the Government ruling of no meetings, our Craft afternoon, coffee morning, Lenten Lunches (in all the churches) and the Play and Stay Toddlers Group were all cancelled until further notice.

During the crisis, the Sign and Share Club for the deaf are able to bring you batteries and fix hearing aids (but not come into your house) if you ring 07378611181.

Age Cymru, if you ring their free helpline 0800223 will carry out regular phone calls to anyone over 70. Their email is

[enquires@agecymruorg.uk](mailto:enquires@agecymruorg.uk)

Shirley's daughter Anne Draper is doing a daily blog with ideas what you can do in isolation – [annedraperblog.wordpress.com](http://annedraperblog.wordpress.com). Stella is sending out an email with news and worship resources please contact her if you would like to receive it [stella-h@minister.com](mailto:stella-h@minister.com)

### **Children's Corner**

What you enjoy you do more of, and what you do more of you get better at it!

### **News of members**

Ann Maggs is doing ok after her fall down the kitchen stairs when she was on her own. Luckily, she'd left the back door open and was able to exit. She'd chipped her shoulder, and has to wear a sling for a long time. Sue and Ian Bonser had 2 weeks self isolation after their holiday in Italy at the beginning of the crisis and were ok.



## Pancake Party

On the 25<sup>th</sup> February, members and passers-by gathered in the hall between 4pm and 6pm. Rev John Hayton stationed himself in the kitchen with 4 frying pans, and just kept on making pancakes till everybody had had sufficient. About 40 people came and what with a cuppa, chatting, and doing a wordsearch and a quiz, everyone had a great time, and about £100 was made for the building fund.



## Report from your Synod Rep. Mollie

Three of us travelled up to Llandrindod Wells on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February for the Spring Synod of the United Reform Church, Wales. A good journey up meant we had plenty of time for coffee and chat before worship, led by the Swansea Regional Pastoral Committee began at 11am.

Then Moderator Simon, read the Commemorations, the notices and introductions of visiting representatives of other denominations, etc. and extended an official welcome to John, newly ordained into the Pembrokeshire Pastorate team. He mentioned the special training day on 13<sup>th</sup> June, "equipping elders". If anyone is interested, please see me. It is to be held at The Metropole Hotel at Llandrindod again. Judy gave us a re-introduction to "safeguarding" in our churches, and in groups we discussed the 6 most important features. Her main point was that people need to feel secure and safe in our places of worship. All people, not only children.

Rev Bronwen Rees then gave us another "story" from her visit to Palestine, witnessing

positive developments like water distribution, making organic fertiliser, farmers to try to establish food security. She also visited a cooperative run by women and another project in Galilee producing olive oil and soap, which was run by Palestinian and Israeli women together.

We heard another local church story about becoming an Eco-church from a Merthyr Church and then went into a discussion led by Simon on "how do we see ourselves developing the place of the United Reformed Church in the life and culture of Wales?"

After a lovely sandwich lunch, we addressed "safeguarding" looking at a new booklet called "Good Practice 5". Judy said it was an excellent publication available to buy.

Next, another local church story about signing up to the A. Rocha UK Project to become an Eco Church. This was Sketty Uniting Church at Swansea.

We had a report from the Mission and Discipleship Board which asked us "how might your church respond to the climate emergency?" and gave information about World Church Links. There is a proposal now to link up with churches in Korea.

Our final local eco-church story came from Cwmbran United Reform Church, given by Diane Brain, assisted by Bronwen Rees. She told us about creating eco bricks using empty plastic bottles and filling them with recyclable plastic like cling film and crisp packets.

These must all be washed and dried scrupulously. The filled bottles can be used to build just about anything, walls, furniture, etc.

As the snow began to fall outside, Simon seized a moment to thank Diane and to say we need to finish our day to get everyone home early, so he led the final act of worship, which as usual, with Simon was very special.

I've left in Church some info leaflets on Westminster College lecturers coming to Wales in June/July to hold sessions (free to all) on "equipping disciples". Please look on the bookcase at the back of the church.