

Blaenwysg Braf



Yr haf - 2015 - Summer

The magazine for the six churches and communities
of the Blaenwysg Benefice
in the Upper Usk Valley



From the study window

There is no I in team, so the saying goes. Some individuals possess great gifts, unique talents but on their own they do not often achieve much. Such individuals need others around them, to encourage them, to question them, to work with them. The church is often thought of, and pictured as, the Body of Christ. Just like our own bodies in which each part has its role and functions to play - the eye with seeing, the hands with touch - it is the same in the Body of Christ, each member having their own gifts, skills and abilities. One may have the gift of prayer, another the skill of listening and someone else the ability of service. Every gift and skill and ability is equal and necessary if the Body of Christ is to function as it should.



The diocese, along with the whole of Church in Wales, has committed itself to the concept of Ministry Areas. These areas may consist of several parishes and many churches, working together in sharing their gifts so that the Body of Christ may be the more fully equipped to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus. We are to be joined with the churches of the Dan-yr-Epynt parish in a single Ministry Area, so that together we may support and encourage one another, discover and use the gifts, skills and abilities which we have to mutually enrich each other and our communities. We have a great opportunity not only to discover our gifts, talents and abilities but to bring them to the Table of our Lord to be used for the encouragement, for the service, and for the well-being of all.

Summer with its long days of warmer weather, hopefully, allows us an opportunity perhaps to discover our gifts, talent and abilities and the ways in which we might use them not just for ourselves but that others might benefit from them.

Paul

Confirmation



Would anyone wishing to be confirmed please contact the Vicar so that classes may be arranged.

Who and where

Rev M P Wilding, Bryn Orsaf, Sennybridge, LD3 8RR 01874 638927

Benefice wardens : Paula Jones 01874 638863
Beryl Price 01874 636271

St Cynog, Defynnog, LD3 8SB

Church wardens : Paul Salisbury 01874 636943
Siân Miller 01874 638855

St Ilid, Crai, LD3 8YP

Church wardens : Gwyn Price 01874 638844
Beryl Price 01874 636271

St David, Llywel, LD3 8RG

Church warden : Lynn White 01874 636293

St Teilo, Llandeilo'r Fân, LD3 8UD

Church wardens : Valerie Lewis 01874 636485
Mervyn Prosser 01874 638261

Capel Rhydybriw, Sennybridge, LD3 8RT

Church warden : Thurza Morgan 01874 638106

St Mary, Traeanglas, LD3 8RE

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Blaenwysg Braf Editorial Team

John Clifford Carn y Castell, Sennybridge 01874 638178
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Regular Services

Sunday	First	Second	Third	Fourth
9:30 am	Crai	Crai	Rhydybriw	Crai (Mattins)
11:00 am	Defynnog	Llywel (Family Service)	Defynnog	Llywel
2 pm			Traeanglas	
3 pm		Llandeilo'r Fân		
4:30 pm	Llywel			Defynnog (Evensong)

A combined service is held at 10 am on the fifth Sunday. The next combined service will be on August 29th at St Teilo's, Llandeilo'r Fân. On Sunday September 6th ("Show Sunday"), the combined service will be held at St David's, Llywel.

Holy Eucharist is held at Trecastle Community Centre at 10:30 am each Thursday and on the first Wednesday of each month at Rhydybriw.

Benefice Announcements

Celebrating licensing of Lay Worship Leaders

On Sunday June 14th, there will be a combined service at St Cynog's Church, Defynnog at 10:30 when Bishop John Davies will license two new Lay Worship Leaders, Lizbeth Matthews and Siân Miller and will celebrate the rich life of the Blaenwysg community. There will be refreshments in the Vestry afterwards and all are invited to join us on this happy day.

Editorial

You will see that this issue has also been part funded by the Upper Usk Valley Rural Alliance and we are very grateful for their support and, thanks to this, we have been able to make this another longer edition. This issue contains much more information about the activities in the UUV including the Agincourt events and as well as local news and dates for your summer calendar. If you would like to contribute an article of local interest, or would like to advertise, please contact one of the editorial team:

John Clifford, tel 01874 638178, john.migley@btinternet.com

Sue James, tel 01874 636126, tysiloh@gmail.com

Sian Miller, tel 01874 638855, sian.miller@btinternet.com

Please note the deadline for copy for the next issue is August 21st.

Advertisements: For a code of conduct contact John Clifford, tel 01874 638178, john.migley@btinternet.com



Mae Gweithgor Cefn Gwlad Cymoedd Uchaf Wysg a Menter Brycheiniog a Maesyfed yn cynnal noson i gasglu atgofion, straeon a lluniau o fywyd cefn gwlad yr ardal yn y White House, Pontsenni ar Fehefin 23^{ain} 2015 o 7yh ymlaen.

Dewch a'ch lluniau ac unrhyw atgofion o fywyd fferm yr ardal, yn enwedig yn gysylltiedig â Sioe Pontsenni er mwyn helpu ni i ddathlu 150mlynedd o Gymdeithas Amaethyddol Defynnog.

Am fwy o wybodaeth, cysylltwch â Bethan Jones, Menter Brycheiniog a Maesyfed, ar 07776 296 267 neu bethan.jones1@powys.gov.uk

Upper Usk Valley Rural Alliance and Menter Brycheiniog a Maesyfed are holding an evening to collect information, stories, anecdotes and pictures of rural life in the local community in the White House, Sennybridge on June 23rd 2015, from 7pm.

Please bring along your memories and photos of farming life in the area, particularly any photos or memories of Sennybridge Show, to help us celebrate 150 years of Devynock Agricultural Society.

For more information, please contact Bethan Jones, Menter Brycheiniog a Maesyfed, on 07776 296 267 or bethan.jones1@powys.gov.uk

News from the Pews

St Cynog, Defynnog

Easter week began with Palm Sunday and a dramatised reading of the Passion on Good Friday and the Vigil on Easter Eve. Our celebration of the Eucharist on Easter Day was enlivened by a narration of the Easter story by the Off the Bus Club.

The January storms damaged part of the roof but, thanks to our insurer, we were able to get it promptly repaired by Jenkinsons Builders of Aberllyfni who specialise in historic buildings and have been able to weather the May hailstorms. However, in April a bell rope broke and so we are waiting for a new rope to be delivered. We pray that there will be no further excitement in 2015!

St Ilid, Crai

Preparations are afoot for a Flower Festival on 11th & 12th July. Each organization in the community is invited to create a display (not necessarily just flowers) representing a country of their choice fitting with the theme of the United Nations World Population Day on 11th.

The UN says: 'As the world population edged to 7 billion people in 2011 ... it has had profound implications for development. A world of 7 billion is both a challenge and an opportunity with implications on sustainability, urbanization, access to health services and youth empowerment.'

Tea, coffee and delicious cakes will be available in the hall on Saturday from 11am to 4pm and in the Church from 2pm until 4pm on Sunday.

Capel Rhydybriw, Sennybridge

We are grateful for the cooperation of Defence Training Estate for access to the chapel and would appreciate parking space for worshippers, in the adjacent car park particularly for our midweek service at 10 am on the first Wednesday of each month.

As part of the Sennybridge Camp community we extend our sympathy and prayers to those from DTE and Landmarc who have lost their jobs during the recent round of austerity. Please remember that the chapel is available 24/7 for private prayer. Thanks to our diligent band of flower ladies, there is usually a cheerful floral display.

St David, Llywel

A recent inspection has highlighted that the top of our tower is in need of major repairs. With this in mind the Friends of St Davids are busy organising fundraising events for the coming year. We will host the Agincourt 600 Wales touring exhibition between 15th and 26th August, a flower festival with the theme 'The Archers' Journey' and on 23rd October there will be a demonstration evening of cookery and flower arranging skills hosted by Gareth Richards.

Work to repair the footpath up to Ysgody Fach will take place over the summer, along with some maintenance work on the gutters and fascia boards. Whilst all this goes on, we are also trying to organise the necessary repair work to the churchyard wall and considering trying again to obtain a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

St Teilo, Llandeilo'r Fân

Springtime events have been taking place at St. Teilo's church with the first cut of the churchyard grass by over 20 members of the local community - a big thank you to all of you who help out. Keeping the grass tidy shows off the lovely spring flowers growing alongside the river and the pretty floral tributes on the graves.

We also celebrated spring with a baptism. We welcome into our church community baby Thomas Huw Phillips, son of Roger and Eleri. The church was full for this joyous occasion.

St Mary, Traeanglas

At our Congregational meeting in February, Ivor Pugh stepped down as Church Warden. Ivor has given over half a century of service to Traeanglas, first as Secretary from 1959 and then as Warden and Treasurer since 1981. At our service in May, members and friends were delighted to be able to show our appreciation to him for all the work, time and care he has given to Traeanglas and the Parish. The Vicar presented him with a Certificate of Recognition from the Bishop and Bess Jones gave him a framed picture of Traeanglas Church. A very happy afternoon came to a close with a chance to chat and reminisce over tea and delicious refreshments.

Defynnog Tower captain celebrates his 80th birthday

On 20th March the bells rang out at 8.30am to congratulate tower captain Alwyn Perkins on his 80th birthday. Roused by the bells, Alwyn joined the the ringers and was presented with an inscribed commemorative bell cast by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. He has led the Defynnog ringers since 1997 when the bells were restored and a group of local people learnt to ring in Brecon. Alwyn and his band have kept Defynnog bells ringing ever since.



After enthusiastic ringing, the team enjoyed breakfast in the vestry and finished in time to go out into the churchyard to see the eclipse.

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Off The Bus Club ...



This happy crowd of children is growing each newsletter, we now have 15 dropping in after school on a Monday until 5pm. They play some fun games, have a snack, pray, hear or take part in a Bible story and sing joyous worship songs and we can't forget the craft. It is a lot to fit in the time but it is great to be encouraging the young to know Jesus.

For more details please contact Liz on 636797 or liz@abercottages.com

From the Registers

We welcomed Thomas Hugh Phillips into the Church.

We celebrated the marriage of Emyr Fyfield and Gwen Price at Crai on May 24th

We gave thanks for the lives of :

Julia Fielding

Robert James (Bob) Gwilliam

Gwenda Jones

Elizabeth Dorothy (Betty) Price

Chapel services 2015

June 7th	2.00pm	Saron	Cwmwysg
June 14th	2.00pm	Ty Newydd	Trecastle *
June 21st	2.00pm	Pastorate Service	Brecon
June 28th	2.00pm	Saron	Cwmwysg
July 12th	2.00pm	Ty Newydd	Trecastle
July 12th	2.00pm	Saron	Cwmwysg
July 26th	2.00pm	Zoar	Pentrefelin*
August 16th	2.00pm	Zoar	Pentrefelin
August 30th	2.00pm	Ty Newydd	Trecastle *
September 13th	2.00pm	Zoar	Pentrefelin

*these are Communion services.

What is the Upper Usk Valley Rural Alliance?

The Upper Usk Valley Rural Alliance is an open group promoting social, economic, cultural and environmental vibrancy in the Upper Usk Valley. This initiative has brought the villages of Defynnog, Crai, Trecastle, Sennybridge, Heol Senni, Llandeilo'r Fân and Pentrebach closer together.

We want others to benefit from the attractions of this stunningly beautiful area, encouraging increased involvement by local residents and businesses and extending the use by visitors. The Alliance is keen to organise more events, especially to create opportunities for local involvement.

The Upper Usk Valley is **our** community ... Please join in!

www.upperuskvalley.co.uk



FLOWER FESTIVAL & EXHIBITION

ST DAVID'S CHURCH, LLYWEL

FLOWER FESTIVAL – THE ARCHERS' JOURNEY

15th & 16th AUGUST 2015, 10am-5pm,
free admission, refreshments available



TOURING EXHIBITION – AGINCOURT600

15th – 26th AUGUST 2015, 11am – 4pm, free entry

AGINCOURT
600
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Agincourt 600

As we move closer to the dates commemorating the Battle of Agincourt we remember the men of Llywel who fought at the battle, especially Sir Watkyn Lloyd who is believed to have been knighted on the battlefield by Henry V. These are important men in the history of the village of Trecastle. Look out for Agincourt archers in and around Trecastle and Brecon! In keeping with our historic connection with Agincourt, these archers have been made locally.

In August St David's Church, Llywel will host the Agincourt 600 Wales touring exhibition compiled by Brian Davies and this will be on display in the church between 15th and 26th August. To promote the exhibition the Friends of St David's are also staging a flower festival with the theme 'The Archers' Journey' depicting various villages and towns that were on the route taken by local archers who set off for the Battle of Agincourt. The church will be open daily during these dates and teas and coffees will be available free.

Sennybridge School is involved in this and we hope that the children will be pleased and proud to dress up for the Brecon Pageant. As part of the celebrations, they will be involved in project work at the school. We hope to make this an event to remember. The organizers at Brecon are keen to have names of people who want to dress up and be part of the Brecon Pageant. There is also a longbow making competition. For details, please contact Bryan Davies on 01874 623493 or Dave Howells on 01874 638290.

Please check for all events
on Trecastle's website : Trecastle.org.uk



Trecastle Dark Skies Event

On Friday 24th of April the Upper Usk Valley Rural Alliance ran the Trecastle Dark Skies free event which was a resounding success, despite poor weather. 112 people visited the planetarium and over £200 was raised towards further community events. Here is what some of our guests had to say:



Thoroughly enjoyed the event. It was well organised and very informative. It is lovely to see a small community come together to organise such an event
(Visitors from Merthyr)

I would certainly support a similar event. Food was excellent – loved the lamb burger!!

(Photographer from Craig Y Nos)

went to the Planetarium, walked up to the chapel to listen to the talk. Went into The castle for a drink and sat chatting with friends in the community Hall. We did all of that in Trecastle!

(A Local)

A lovely time. Thank you to the dark skies team and volunteers who made the event possible.
(A Local commenting on Facebook)

Had a fantastic time and would definitely come again.

(Visitors from Cardiff)

It was a shame that we were unable to do the activities during the afternoon because of the thick cloud. I liked the fact that there were other activities in the Community Hall for the children to do while waiting for the planetarium show to start.

(Resident from Defynnog)

Did you go to the event? We hoped you had fun. You can catch up with some photographs from the evening on the website or on Facebook, where you can see news of all sorts of other events and activities in our beautiful area.

www.upperuskvalley.co.uk

Summer Calendar

Wed 3rd June 3:45 pm	PTA meeting	Sennybridge School
Tues 9th June morning	Sennybridge WI -trip to Brecon Mountain Railway	meet at Maescar Hall
Tues 23 rd June from 7pm	Collecting information, stories, anecdotes and pictures of rural life in the local community	The White House, Sennybridge
Wed 1st July	Sports Day followed by PTA meeting	Sennybridge School
Thurs 2nd July	Reserve Sports Day followed by PTA meeting	Sennybridge School
Sat 11th & Sun 12th July	Flower Festival	St Ilid's Church Crai
Sun 9th Aug 2-6 pm	Crai Open Gardens	Start at Neuadd y Plwyf
Sat 15th Aug 10 am - 5pm	Flower festival and Exhibition - 10am to 5pm	St David's Church, Llywel
Sun 16th Aug 10 am - 5pm	Flower festival and Exhibition - 10am to 5pm	St David's Church, Llywel
Mon 17th to Wed 26th Aug 11 am - 4pm	Agincourt 600 Exhibition	St David's Church, Llywel

Monthly Diary

First Monday	Community Garden Club	Crai Village Hall
Second Tuesday	Trecastle Ladies Guild	Trecastle Community Hall
First Wednesday	Merched Crai	Neuadd y Plwyf Crai
Last Wednesday	Craft Club	Neuadd y Plwyf Crai
Third Thursday	Worship Meeting	Bronydd Mawr Farm

Weekly Diary

Mondays	3:45 - 5pm	Off the Bus Club	Neuadd y Plwyf Crai
	7:00 - 8:30pm	Girl Guides	Sennybridge Youth Wing
Mon - Thur	9:30 - 12:30 pm	Cylch Meithrin	Sennybridge Youth Wing
Tuesdays	1:00 - 3pm	Toddler Group	Sennybridge School
	6:00 - 7:30 pm	Brownies (age 7 - 10)	Sennybridge Youth Wing
Wednesdays	1:00 - 3:30 pm	Afternoon bowls	Maescar Hall
	5:00 - 6:00 pm	Rainbows (age 5 - 7)	Sennybridge Youth Wing
	7:00 - 9:00 pm	Short Mat Bowls	Maescar Hall
	6:30 pm	Knitting Club	Trecastle Community Hall
	7:30 pm	Trecastle YFC	Trecastle Community Hall
Thursdays	6:30 - 7:30	Zumba	Maescar Hall
	7:30 pm	Trallong Ladies Choir	Maescar Hall
	7:30 - 8:30 pm	Bell ringing	St Cynog's Church, Defynnog
Friday	pm	Sennybridge Junior Football Club	Riverside Park (football ground)

Note : some of these events do not run over the school holiday period.

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Superfast Cymru is a partnership between the Welsh Government and BT to provide fast (fibre) broadband and aims for 96 per cent of homes and businesses to have access to fibre broadband by 2016. It's already available in parts of Sennybridge and will be available in most of our area this year.

See when it's due here :

<http://www.superfast-cymru.com/where-and-when>

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COME AND JOIN IN THE FUN!

A Summer Maze



The Weather is Boss

After a warm April, May has been cool with a drying wind. In spite of some showers, the ground is hard. The never ending tasks continue: after marking the lambs, shearing has begun. One or two fields nearby have already been cut, but when it comes to haymaking, one farmer asked, 'What with?' Everything is ruled by the weather, and adapting, coping in adversity, waiting, snatching harvest, giving thanks for rain and warm sun at the right times are the sheep farmers' way of life.

Summer Services

The following combined services will be held. Note : on these days, there will be no other services in the Benefice.

Sun June 14th at 10:30 am	Holy Eucharist - combined service attended by the Bishop of Swansea and Brecon	St Cynog, Defynnog
Sun August 29th at 10:00 am	Holy Eucharist - combined service	St Teilo, Llandeilo'r Fân
Sun September 6th	Holy Eucharist - combined service	St David, Llywel

Summer Club - Neuadd y Plwyf, Crai

After last year's success we will be running a Summer Club again this year during the last week of August (25th to 27th) to include an evening for the whole family on the 27th. The theme this year is Polar Explorers. The children go on a mini expedition each day to learn about a character from the New Testament. We will have FUN playing games, singing, taking part in activities and probably making a mess!

The free sessions will run from 10 am to mid-day each day and from 6 to 8pm on Thursday evening. If your child who would like to join the fun please contact Liz on 636797 or liz@abercottages to register or find out more information.



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