

Y Ffordd Braf



Haf- 2017 - Summer

The magazine for the churches and communities
of the Epynt a'r Wysg Ministry Area
in the Usk Valley



Editorial

After a dry and almost dusty Spring, we seem to have returned to the wet weather but we look forward to the blessings of a glorious Summer. This issue requests help if 'Braf' is to continue in its present format. Printing costs have risen, so please do provide us with information on businesses who would advertise in the magazine, particularly in the Dan yr Epynt benefice. Without this, it will not be possible to produce so many copies, or with the same number of pages. The present editors would also welcome help to take on the tasks of putting the magazine together, and proof reading it. Feedback from the community has been very positive, and it would be sad to see it disappear.

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

Epynt a'r Wysg Ministry Area - making progress

Members of from churches across the Ministry Area enjoyed meeting with to discuss the Lent Study course; "Receiving Christ". We met in Trallong church hall on Friday mornings and then followed this with our Lent Lunches of soup and cheese. Not only were these enjoyable times of fellowship but they also raised the sum of £118, which was donated to the Disasters Emergency Committee East Africa Appeal. We are now looking forward to joining in further study groups to be started in the Autumn.

Confirmation

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



Who and where

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

Blaenwysg Benefice

Benefice wardens : Paula Jones 01874 638863
Paul Salisbury 01874 636943

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

Church wardens : Ivor Pugh 01874 638158
Bess Jones 01874 636256

Ministry Area Announcements

We will be holding a service of Compline on the third Monday of each month. The next services are : 19th June at Llandeilo'r Fân, 17th July at Llywel and 21st August at Traeanglas. This is a short contemplative service which will start at 7:30pm. Over the summer, this is a great opportunity to see our lovely country churches at their best.

On Sunday 30th July at 10.30 am the Ministry Area combined service (Holy Eucharist) will be held at St. Cynog. Merthyr Cynog.

We look forward to seeing you then.

Dan-yr-Epynt Benefice

Ss Cynidr and Mary, Aberyscir LD3 9NW

Church wardens : Marion Davies 01874 622270
Richard Field 01874 611524

The Parish Church, Bettws Penpont, LD3 8EU

Church wardens : Robert MacDonald 01874 638085
Ivor Morgan 01874 624087

St Maelog, Llandefaelog Fach, LD3 9TT

Church wardens : Betty Prothero 01874 622620
Jenny Steger 01874 610747

St Michael, Llanfihangel Nant Bran, LD3 9NA

Church warden: Fiona Jones 01874 636687

St Michael and All Angels, Lower Chapel, LD3 9RE

Church wardens : Elizabeth Stephens 01874 611989
Roger Tonkin 01874 610709

St Cynog, Merthyr Cynog LD3 9SD

Church wardens : David Evans 01874 690206

St David, Trallong LD3 8HP

Church wardens : Jackie Oliphant 01874 611862
Peter Thole 01874 636371

St Cynog, Capel Dyffryn Honddu, Upper Chapel, LD3 9RG

Church wardens : Dorcas Slaney 01874 690377
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Editorial Team

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From the study window



With the Easter season almost behind us and spring giving way to summer everywhere is a hive of activity with plants bursting into bloom and young birds aplenty. Is there now a spring in our step, as new life all around us lifts our spirits? There is plenty to do and it often seems so little time in which to do those myriad things. New life calls us to new things, I wonder what new experiences you will have. We hear life compared to a journey very often, what kind of journey are you on - is it one which fills you with anticipation and excitement? The disciples after they had been with the risen Jesus set out on a journey which would seem them tell many others what they had heard and seen. Do you have that sense of thrill and expectation? It is a very exciting time not just in nature and everyday life but also in church life as we seek not just to share with people are joy in knowing Jesus but to find new ways of doing this. Just as all around us nature is growing and developing each day as summer goes on its course so we are growing in our life experiences and in Jesus.

May we rejoice in the coming days and look forward to new experiences.

Paul

News from Dan-yr-Epynt

We are pleased to hear that the Parish Profile has been completed and is ready for circulation to prospective incumbents. Maybe it will not be too long now before we have a new vicar!

Crai Craft Club

The 7pm the last Wednesday of every month sees a hive of activity in the hall when a group of like-minded individuals come together to try a range of interesting and different crafts. We take it in turns to bring an activity, which could be completed within the two hours, or at least mostly complete! Of course there is a break for tea and biscuits, and plenty of time to chat whilst learning something new and perhaps making a gift for a friend or family member. If you would like to share your interest why not come along and have a go? You are sure of a warm welcome.

Blaenwysg Regular Services

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

Holy Eucharist is held at Trecastle Community Centre at 10:30 am each Thursday and at 10 am on the first Wednesday of each month at Capel Rhydybriw. During the building works at Llywel, services will be held in Trecastle Community Centre.

Forthcoming services in Dan-yr-Epynt

	9.15am	11am
1st Sunday	See below	Trallong
2nd Sunday	Aberyscir	Lower Chapel
3rd Sunday	Llandefaelog	Llanfihangel Nant Bran
4th Sunday	Merthyr Cynog	Bettws Penpont
5th Sunday	In rotation	10:30

It has now been decided to rotate the first Sunday service around the 3 remaining valley churches, so the June 4th service will be held in Llandefaelog Church, July 2nd in Merthyr Cynog Church and August 6th in Lower Chapel.

Please note that fifth Sunday services will alternate between Dan-yr-Epynt and Blaenwysg. The next one will be July 30th 10:30 am at Llandeilo'r Fân.

Chapel services - Summer 2017

Jun 4th	10:30am	Horeb	Crai
Jun 4th	2pm	Saron	Cwmwysg
Jun 11th	10:30am	Horeb	Crai
Jun 11th	2pm	Zoar Chapel	Pentrefelin
Jun 11th	7:30 pm	Tŷ Newydd	Trecastle (A late Whitsun Celebration)
Jun 18th	10:30am	Horeb	Crai
Jun 25th	3pm	Horeb	Crai
Jun 25th	2pm	Tŷ Newydd	Trecastle
Jun 25th	2pm	Saron	Cwmwysg
Jun 25th	2pm	Tŷ Newydd	Trecastle *
July 2nd	10:30am	Horeb	Crai
July 9th	2:30pm	Horeb	Crai
July 9th	2pm	Zoar Chapel	Pentrefelin
Jun 16th	10:30am	Horeb	Crai
July 23rd	2pm	Horeb	Crai
Jul 23rd	2pm	Saron	Cwmwysg
Jul 30th	10:30am	Horeb	Crai
July 30th	2pm	Zoar Chapel	Pentrefelin
Aug 6th	2pm	Tŷ Newydd	Trecastle
Aug 13th	2pm	Saron	Cwmwysg
Aug 20th	2pm	Zoar Chapel	Pentrefelin

*these are Communion services.

Note : Horeb is closed in August.



News from the Pews

St Cynog, Defynnog

After a busy Easter, we have had a quiet Spring in St Cynog's but we pleased to welcome everyone who came to the first of our Compline roadshows on April 17th.

Did you know that the church is open every day? Come rain or shine it is opened each morning and welcomes a steady stream of visitors who come to see the famous ancient yew tree.

St Ilid, Crai

The sun shone and the Church was full of joyful singing for our Sankey & Moody celebration. What a wonderful afternoon of all those hymns you have known for years and, maybe, have gone out of fashion, 'To God be the Glory', 'Mae d'eisiau di bob awr' and 'Stand up, stand up for Jesus'. It wasn't only the hymns that brought back memories: some were reminded of a very special occasion by Arwel Price bringing the organ to life by playing a range of items, 'La Vergine degli Angeli', 'Trumpet Voluntary', 'Gaelic Blessing' and 'Arrival of the Queen of Sheba'. Lynette Thomas conducted with some very insightful thoughts about the items and was supported by the 'Three Brecon Tenors' who provided beautiful renditions of 'The Lord's my shepherd' and 'Railway to Heaven' amongst other well-known hymns.

The afternoon was made complete with tea, welsh cakes in the village hall, giving everyone the opportunity to catch up and 'Count our Blessings' with family and friends.

The Church would like to thank everyone who helped to create this wonderful afternoon.

Capel Rhydybriw, Sennybridge

Spring has been quiet at Capel Rhydybriw but we were delighted to host services in Holy Week. Remember our little church is "open all hours".

St Mary, Traeanglas

The dry spring has given us the delightfully long display of daffodils and has greatly helped those involved with lambing and the land.

With Easter falling on our 3rd Sunday in April it was a pleasure to come to Traeanglas for this special service.

St David, Llywel

It has been a fairly quiet few months for St Davids except for the great fun had at the childrens Easter craft afternoon held on Good Friday. We had a great group of children and adults come along to try the craft projects which included card making, keyring making, sun catchers, an edible Easter garden and loads of other things. As usual the children worked their way through the various crafts and then headed outside for an Easter egg hunt before coming back into the community centre for the Easter story and something to eat. It certainly was a busy afternoon with much chatter and laughter echoing around the hall, it is always a joyful sight to see the youngsters heading off home loaded up with their creations and with smiles on their faces.

On the church repair project, things are progressing on the tower and the Zintec tie bars are now in place and much of the stonework rebuilding is completed. It is with interest and delight that we watch the evidence of the repointing creep down the tower. The new tower roof is in place so not long now and the tower will be finished and the scaffolding will come down, allowing the builders to complete the many other jobs on the project list. There was an air of excitement and anticipation when the scaffolding went up and it is funny to think that now we just cant wait for it to be taken down!

St Teilo, Llandeilo'r Fân

Spring was delightful in the churchyard with daffodils out in time for St.David's Day and we welcomed everyone to our Palm Sunday service at the beginning of Holy week on 9th April.

Look out for events in 2017 for fund raising efforts in Llandeilo'r Fân.

Ss Cynidr and Mary, Aberyscir

The highlight of Holy Week for us was the Palm Sunday service. On a beautiful Spring morning we gathered in an adjoining meadow for the distribution of the palms and then processed into the Church led by Rev. Paul Wilding and accompanied by Obi, an Aberyscir Common mountain pony who was enjoying his role as a donkey.

Our next service was on the 14th May, and yet we were all together again that evening to enjoy the concert of the Brecon Town Band in the wonderful

setting of the marquee at Llandefaelog House. Many thanks to Jenny Steger for making it possible.

Bettws Penpont

On Saturday 9th September, the very popular choir 'Cantorion Cyfarthfa' will be giving an evening concert, along with accompanying soloists, at Bettws Penpont Church. (Our thanks go to the churchwardens and congregation of that church for helping us out with a suitable venue). More details will follow later, but please make a note in your diaries now.

St Maelog, Llandefaelog

We had a lovely Easter Day Eucharist, kindly taken by the Rev Margaret Blake, followed by an Easter egg-hunt around the church and church-yard. The main distraction during the service was that one of the children present spotted the egg "hidden" on top of the font and was keen to get there... We look forward to three weddings and a christening between May to September this year, which is a bumper year for our little church.

We continue to welcome visitors to the church, which is open nearly every day, and we recently had 6 visitors from an extended family, (including a niece from Melbourne), who were delighted that we could find marriage records from relatives married in the church in 1879 and also others in 1895.

St Michael, Llanfihangel Nant Bran

It was a privilege and joy to host the combined Area service here at the end of April; it was so lovely to have the church almost full. It was a telling demonstration of how much stronger we are as a Christian community when we come together in worship and witness.

In the meantime, plans are well in hand for two major fund-raising initiatives to be held in the near future; both of them in aid of our church.

Our Flower Festival - and accompanying art exhibition (featuring the work of our local art group) - is to be held on Saturday 24th June, 11am - 5pm and Sunday 25th June, 2 pm - 5 pm. Themed as 'Celebrating Community & Creation' it is sure to be a joyous occasion; we hope to have you join us that weekend (refreshments available).

Finally - real advance notice this! Our Christmas coffee morning will be on Friday 17th November at Bishop Bevan Hall.

Summing up, then, a lot for which we give thanks - and a lot for us to look forward to happening. To quote others; "For what has been: Thanks. For what will be: Yes!"

St Michael and All Angels, Lower Chapel

We have continued with our regular monthly service on the second Sunday, but in May we had two extra services. It was our turn to host the Upper Chapel service on the first Sunday, which was much quieter than the service the day before. On the Saturday there was a Christening service for a child whose mother had been Christened in the church many years ago when the family lived locally. The church was quite full, with seemingly children everywhere chattering and playing so Rev. Paul had difficulty in making himself heard! It was a joyous and happy occasion.

St Cynog, Capel Dyffryn Honddu Upper Chapel

As Dyffryn Honddu Church in Upper Chapel proceeds to its closure, the services are now held in the 3 remaining valley churches.

From the Registers

We gave thanks for the life of :
Geraint John Morgan
Anne Elizabeth (Betty) Turner

We celebrated the marriage of Harriet Steger and Richard Christmas.

We welcomed Cara Lucille Rose Scaife and Charlie Rhys Park-Williams into the life of the church.



Tea and Chat will run every Wednesday afternoon at Ty Newydd chapel, Trecastle from 2.30 – 4pm. Everyone welcome. Croeso cynnes i bawb. Drop in when you can.

Plant and Produce Sale raising funds for the Village Hall, Crai



The annual fund-raising sale will be on Sunday 28th May from 2 till 4pm in Crai Hall. There will be lots of plants to sell, as well as a wide variety of produce. As usual, marvellous home made cream teas will be available. The hall will be open from 12 noon so that anyone bringing plants or produce can drop them off early. Susan Cambell, Tanyfedw, is organising the produce table this year, so if you have any eggs/jam/chutney/cakes etc to offer please let her know (01874 636887 or susancambell@icloud.com). She has made a lovely leaflet so look out for it. Contact Lis and Marion Nantsisil (638165) with any other offers of help. We look forward to seeing you and your friends there!



General Election 2017

The next UK general election will be on Thursday 8 June 2017 where you will elect a Member of the UK Parliament to represent your constituency. See powys.gov.uk/elections for all the details.



Polling stations will be open from 7am to 10pm. If you are going to be away or are unable to vote in person, you can apply for a postal vote.

Don't forget to vote!

Recorder Group in Maescar Hall

Starting on the 4th Saturday in September. Contact John Clifford on 01874 638178



Off The Bus Club ...

Off the Bus, what is that?



It is Sunday school on a Monday after school. We listen to Bible stories, play games, sing, pray and craft, oh and I forgot we have snack.

Come and join our fun. Open to all children of primary age, we meet every Monday 3.45 to 5pm.

For more information tel. Liz on 01874 636797

Guiding in Sennybridge

It offers a safe space where they can be themselves, build their confidence and escape from the ever-increasing pressures in their lives. Women tell us every week that their accomplishments and memories through guiding have lasted throughout their lives.

We are open to all girls aged 5 to 14 years and, of course, adult volunteers are always welcome.

Contact Liz Matthews on 01874 636797

Open Gardens raising money for charity and for the Village Hall

A date for the diary for another popular event. After a break in 2016, the but this year we're opening Crai Gardens under the National Gardens Scheme again, on Sunday August 13th from 2 till 5pm. Mary Nantyrharn is organising the teas, so please approach her with any offers of help for that. For anything else, please contact Lis and Marion (638165, marionoughton@hotmail.com elisabethdavidge@hotmail.co.uk)



Defibrillators

Did you know that we have defibrillators at Crai, Trecastle and Maescar village halls, on the side of the Old School in Defynnog (The International Welsh Rarebit Centre), the Aberbran Caravan Club site and at Fine Iron, Aberbran. Did you think you need to be a paramedic to use it? Not true! They are placed on the outside of buildings and as soon as you switch them on, they tell you what to do. That's right - the machine talks to you. Since the start of the campaign to place these in public places in Wales, at least eight people have been saved by members of the public. Make a note of where your nearest one is located.



Community Action for Road Safety (C.A.R.S)

Following the training for Community Speedwatch, we will be meeting on Tuesday 6th June at 7pm at the Maescar Hall to plan our speed watch campaign over the summer. The Chief Constable has been invited and we will have our local policing team out to help us plan our locations and timing. With the summer months and the long evenings we need to deter people from speeding in the area and to avoid serious car and motorbike accidents.



Summer Calendar

Sunday 28th May 2 -4 pm	Annual Plant Sale	Neuadd y Plwyf Crai
Monday 5th June 6:30pm	Upper Usk Valley Rural Alliance AGM	The Old School Defynnog
Tuesday 6th June 2pm	Sennybridge WI - Treberfydd Walled Garden	meet at Maescar Hall
Tuesday 6th June	Merthyr Cynog WI	Community Hall, Upper Chapel
Thursday 8th June 7am - 10pm	General Election	Community Hall, Trecastle, Upper Chapel and Maescar Hall
Sat 24th June 5pm	Crai Sports - duck race & BBQ	Tanyfedw, Crai
Tuesday 4th July 7 pm	Sennybridge WI - Tesco Recycling	Maescar Hall
Sunday 2nd July 3-5pm	Strawberry Tea.	St Michaels, Lower Chapel
Sat 22nd July 5pm	Upper Chapel Eisteddfod	Community Hall, Upper Chapel
Tuesday 1st August 7pm	Sennybridge WI - Annual Trip	Maescar Hall
Sat 12th Aug 2-5pm	Lower Chapel Show	Lower Chapel
Sunday 13th Aug 2-5pm	National Garden Scheme - Open Gardens	Neuadd y Plwyf Crai
Sat 1st September	Sennybridge Show	Sennybridge



Monthly Diary

First Monday	Community Garden Club	Crai Village Hall
First Tuesday	Sennybridge WI	Maescar Hall
	Merthyr Cynog WI. Contact Linda Probert on 01874 625133	Community Hall, Upper Chapel
Second Tuesday	Trecastle Ladies Guild	Trecastle Community Hall
Last Tuesday	Honddu Ladies Group Contact Liz 01874 611989 or Dawn 01874 624524	Community Hall, Upper Chapel
	Senior Citizens (Evergreens) 2 - 4 pm	Community Hall, Upper Chapel
First Wednesday	Merched Crai	Neuadd y Plwyf Crai
	Trallong WI	Trallong Village Hall
Fourth Wednesday	Camera Club	Trallong Village Hall
Last Wednesday	Craft Club	Neuadd y Plwyf Crai
Third Thursday	Worship Meeting	Bronydd Mawr Farm
First Friday	Social gathering	Llanfihangel Nant Bran Village Hall
Second and Fourth Friday	Flix in the Stix (Contact Alan Bloss)	Trallong Village Hall
Third Friday	Hearing Aid - drop in help and repair. 10:30 -12:30	Maescar Hall
	Book Club - contact Margaret Blake tanyllan2@gmail.com	Llanfihangel Nant Bran Village Hall

Check with the organiser that your event is running.

Weekly Diary

Mondays	3:45 - 5pm	Off the Bus Club	Neuadd y Plwyf Crai
Mon - Thur	9:30 - 12:30 pm	Cylch Meithrin	Sennybridge Youth Wing
Tuesdays	1:00 - 3pm	Toddler Group	Sennybridge School
	5:30 - 7 pm	Brownies (age 7 - 10)	Sennybridge School Hall & Youth Wing
	7:00 - 8:30pm	Girl Guides	Sennybridge Youth Wing
	7:30pm	Table Tennis	Trallong Village Hall
Wednesdays	1:00 - 3:30 pm	Afternoon bowls	Maescar Hall
	2:30 - 4pm	Drop in : tea and a chat	Ty Newydd Chapel, Trecastle
	5:00 - 6:00 pm	Rainbows (age 5 - 7)	Sennybridge School Hall
	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
	7pm	Pontfaen YFC Full range of activities. Age 10 upwards	Community Hall, Upper Chapel
Thursdays	7:15pm	Short Mat Bowls	Trallong Village 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)
		Badminton 7pm - All welcome	Community Hall, Upper Chapel
		Keep fit, yoga and art groups contact Margaret Blake tanyllan2@gmail.com	Llanfihangel Nant Bran Village Hall

Check with the organiser that your event is running.

The Joint Honddu Cynog Fundraising Group raised £456.93 and would like to thank everyone who came and who helped.



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For more information please contact either:

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FLOWER FESTIVAL & Art Exhibition

'Celebrating Community & Creation'



at

LLANFIHANGEL NANT BRAN

In aid of St Michael's Church

Saturday 24th June 11 am – 5 pm

Sunday 25th June 2 pm – 5 pm

Entry with Donation. Refreshments & Raffle

St Michael's Church
LOWER CHAPEL

SUNDAY JULY 2nd
3-5 pm



Strawberry Tea

Stalls for Cakes
and Plants



Floral displays
in the Church



Looking forward to seeing you -
Bring your friends

Further Info from Liz 611989 or Colin 690375

Summer Services

June 11th 7:30pm	A late Whitsun Celebration including Readings, interviews, video clips, contemporary praise	Tŷ Newydd Chapel, Trecastle
June 19th 7:30pm	Compline	St Teilo, Llandeilo'r Fân
July 17th 7:30pm	Compline	St David, Llywel
July 30th 10:30 am	Combined Ministry area service of Holy Eucharist	St Teilo, Llandeilo'r Fân
August 21st 7:30pm	Compline	St Mary, Traeanglas.

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.