



# **Y DDOLEN FACH THE LITTLE LINK**

**Revised edition, issue 2**

**Hydref/October 2020**

*Cylch Lythyr i ardal fugeiliol Brynaman*

*News Letter for Brynaman pastoral area*



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October 2020.

My Dear Friends,

As I look out of my living room window it's very gloomy outside and I can see the crisp golden leaves falling from the trees. It's a definite sign that autumn has well and truly arrived. This picture from the realm of nature seems to symbolise the gloom and doom in our country at large. After being in lockdown for three months in the spring, society gradually came back to life again for a few months. Now as autumn has arrived alas coronavirus is back on the march once more and several parts of Wales, including Cwmllynfell and Llanelli, are back in lockdown again. The prognosis for the winter months looks bleak. We have all got our part to play, young and old, to enable all of us to keep safe. Wash your hands, wear a mask and keep your distance. As Christians we should also prayer that God will continue to uphold us with his grace, and will protect and strength those working in the medical services.

As things stand at present it's even less likely that our churches will reopen soon than when I wrote to you a few weeks ago. Although the doors remain closed, we will endeavour to keep our fellowship alive by means of our magazine, telephone and our parish website. As we are unable to hold a Harvest service in church this year, Andrew is kindly preparing DVD featuring several church members which will be available soon. If you would like a free copy of it please contact him by means of our parish website (<https://www.stcatherinesbrynamman.org>) or telephone him on 01269 826101. Subsequent Zoom services are still pending.

At this difficult time to continue to encourage you to keep in touch with each other by telephone and any other means possible. I also urge you to pray for all vulnerable, sick and elderly people. If you know of anyone, whether a church member or not, who has any urgent need please contact me on 01269 822275 or by send me a message to my personal email, tinkerteale@googlemail.com.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Gyda chariad a bendith i chwi i gyd.

*Adrian*

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

As parishes have not held Easter vestries this year, if we cannot hold a meeting we are bound by the Church in Wales constitution to use some other means to:

- a. officially approve the parish accounts (which have been distributed before the lockdown);
- b. nominate sub wardens;
- c. nominate members of the congregational committee (the current members of which are the former members of the

Parochial Church Council which ceased to exist when we became part of the new Bro Aman Local Ministry Area last November);

d. nominate a representative for the Local Ministry Area Council.

As we currently cannot hold a meeting to simply the procedure by means of this magazine in general circulation I give formal notice that:

i. Diane Davies and Andrew Steven have proposed and seconded that the parish accounts are accepted;

ii. I have re-nominated David Davies as vicar's sub warden until the 2021 Easter Vestry.

iii. Alison Mason and Andrew Steven have proposed and seconded that Diane Davies remains in office as people's sub warden and church secretary until the 2021 Easter Vestry.

iv. David Davies and Tess Steven have proposed and seconded that Joyce Rees continues as the parish representative on LMA Council until the 2021 Easter Vestry;

v. Emma Aue and Kathleen Pugh have proposed and seconded that the current church committee members remain in office until the 2021 Easter Vestry.

Will members please give their approval (or otherwise) by means of email or telephone by Friday, October 16.



## **MONEY MATTERS**

Thanks to everyone who has responded to my appeal and given your financial contributions to Alison, our treasurer. Through your kindness you have helped to keep the church afloat ready for the re-launch when the virus is over. So far our quarterly parish share contributions of £5.800 have been waived. However, the Church in Wales is unable to indefinitely subsidise the parishes, and payments will resume on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Therefore, if you haven't yet made a contribution we would be grateful if you would do so. Diolch – vicar.



### ***Branch News***

Hope this finds you all in good health. We should have now started back for our winter meetings. But these are strange times. Our last meeting together was on March 12, almost 7 months ago. Who would have thought as we said grace to end our meeting and said so long to each other, that we wouldn't meet all summer.

As I write this, the virus is getting worse, with more cases each day. So ladies, keep safe, and keep well. During the year we have had a few big birthday celebrations. Lydia Evans was 90 in April. Joan Gill was 80 in May. Tess Steven is 80 this month. Also Iris Evans is 100 this month. We congratulate them all, especially Iris on reaching such a grand age. We give thanks for all their commitment to our branch over the years. Mothers Union is based on prayer, if we can't meet, then we can pray for each other. Remember in your prayers, our dear friend Margaret Peters, in a nursing home. May the Lord Jesus keep Margaret and all of you safe during these next months of uncertainty. I pray that our Lord Jesus will give each one of us courage to face, and to cope with this pandemic, lean on Jesus, and he will give you strength. - God bless. Joyce.

### **GENUINE BLOOPERS & MISPRINTS**

**Miners Refuse to Work After Death.**

**Red Tape Holds Up New Bridges.**

**Man Struck By Lightning Faces Battery Charge.**

**A talk on drugs will be given at the next Mothers' Union meeting.**

**This will be followed by a bring and buy sale.**

**God is good. The vicar is better.**

**Local High School Dropouts Cut In Half.**

**Astronaut Takes Blame For Gas In Spacecraft.**



## **PENBLWYDD ARBENNIG IAWN**

**Ar Hydref 15fed bydd Mrs. Iris Evans, un o aelodau Eglwys y Santes Gatrin, yn dathlu ei chanfed penblwydd. Mae Iris, sy'n byw yn Heol-y-gelynen, yn dal i edrych yn ifanc er bod ei hiechyd yn fregus. Yn wir, yn anffodus ar y pegwn pwysig hwn yn ei hanes mae Iris yn Ysbyty Dyffryn Aman yn aros i ddod adref.**



**Codwyd Iris gyda'r Annibynwyr yn Ebeneser, ond fe ddaeth hi i'r eglwys**

**gyda'i diweddar wr, William Thomas (Willie Tom). Yn ei hamser yr oedd Iris yn hynod o ffyddlon yn ein gwasanaethau, yn ogystal â bod yn gyson yng nghyfarfodydd Undeb y Mamau. Yn ei thro tu allan i'r eglwys roedd Iris yn aelod o Gymdeithas yr Hen Oed a'r Clwb Cinio. Tra roedd hi'n ifancach yr oedd hefyd yn aelod gweithgar gyda changen Brynaman o'r Blaid Lafur.**

**Yr ydym yn ei llongyfarch hi wrth gyrraedd y garreg filltir bwysig dros ben yn ei hanes, ac yn dymuno gwell iechyd iddi yn y dyfodol.**

***We warmly congratulate Mrs. Iris Evans who will be celebrating her 100th birthday on October 15<sup>th</sup>, and***

***wish her every blessing for the future. Unfortunately, she is currently a patient at Amman Valley Hospital and will be back home where she belongs as soon as a care package is put in place.***

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**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> of October is not only the Feast of St. Luke: it mark's the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of Mrs. Tess Steven of Bryn Road.**

**Tess was born into a military family, her father originally serving in the Royal Horse Artillery which later became the Royal Artillery. After the**



**war she lived for several years in Germany and France taking the equivalent of her O levels in French. On coming back to this country she met Andrew when she took up a junior teaching post as Miss Palmer in a school in Yelverton, Devon, which happened to be owned by Andrew's Mum. She says her introduction to him came about when she fell over his welly boots which he had left lying around. They married in 1962 and have three children and five grandchildren. Six years ago the couple moved to Brynamman to be near their daughter Andrea and family. Since then both Andrew and Tess have made a wonderful contibution to the on-going life of Saint Catherine's and have deeply enriched our fellowship. Outside church activities Tess's interests include reading and gardening. We congratulate her on reaching this special milestone in**

**her life and wish her health and happiness in the future. May the Lord continue to shower his blessings upon her.**

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**Another church member whose having a special anniversary in October is Gwyneth Ryan, who celebrates her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, we have no photograph of her in our archive.**



**Gwyneth was brought up in Mountain Road, being the daughter of the late Dennis and Doreen Higgin. She now lives in Glyn Road with her husband Alan. During the last few years she has been a faithful worshipper with us on Sunday mornings. We congratulate her on the special occasion and pray that she will have better health in the future. May God bless her and pour his grace upon her.**

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**September the 29<sup>th</sup> was the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels. It was also the 40<sup>th</sup> birthday of one of our 'angels' in St. Catherine's: Emma Aue. Although Emma lives in Tairgwaith, she was baptised and brought up in St. Catherine's, since she was a small child since her mother Kathleen comes originally from Brynaman and was brought up in our church herself. Here in St. Catherine's she was confirmed, here she was married to her husband, Chris, and here her daughter, Rhiannon, was baptised. Unlike most young people**

**who drift away Emma has remained actively involved in the life of the church. As most readers will know, Emma is doing sterling work for the Lord in our Junior Church, and during the lockdown has ensured that its work with young people continues through her digital expertise.**



**We take this opportunity to thank her for her wonderful**

**contribution towards the ongoing life of our church and wish her, Chris and Rhiannon, every blessing and happiness in the future. Llongyfarchiadau, Emma, ar eich penblwydd arbennig, a bendith Duw a fo arnoch yn y dyfodol.**

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**WE ALSO SEND OUR WARMEST BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO TWO NONAGENERIANS: MRS MARGARET JONES, WHO WAS 91 ON SEPTEMBER 19<sup>th</sup>; AND MRS MARY DAVIES, WHO WAS 92 ON OCTOBER 6<sup>th</sup>. MAY THE LORD BLESS BOTH OF YOU.**

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### **A PRAYER FROM JOYCE**

*For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we*

*have set our hope that he will deliver us again. You also must help us by prayer. - 2. Corinthians 1 :8-11.*

Father, your children face many difficult, sometimes frightening times; like the time we are going through at present, having this deadly virus in our world. We have had seven months of separation from family and close friends, from our fellowship in church. Many lost their lives. So many people in hospital, so much uncertainty. In these times Lord, you are our hope and rescue. You alone have the power to deliver us from danger, illness and even death. As we face what seems to be a hidden killer in our mist, with this corona virus, guard our hearts. Draw us close so that we depend only on you. Remind us also to pray for those people who have been burdened through illness, or bereavement beyond what they are able to bear alone. May they find relief in relying on your strength, your love and your healing power. Amen.

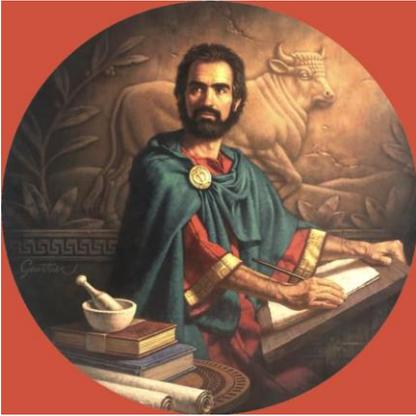
Think about it. Do you believe God can use our despair to deepen our faith and love in Jesus.

Every blessing Joyce.xx

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## **ST. LUKE**

October 18<sup>th</sup> is the date the Christian Church remembers one of its great saints: Saint Luke. Luke was a doctor and a Gentile convert to Christianity. He became a close friend of Saint Paul, and accompanied him on some of his preaching tours. He wrote two books in the Bible: one of the four gospels and the Book of Acts. In his gospel, which gives us the story of Jesus's life and death, more than any other writer in the Bible, Luke portrays Jesus as a man of compassion. Jesus is on the side of the poor, the weak, the outcasts and the marginalised in society. Jesus is the man who promotes the role of down-trodden women. Jesus is the man who gives us the wonderful stories of the Good Samaritan, the Lost Sheep, and the Prodigal Son. It is Luke alone who tells us that even when Jesus was in agony on the cross he pleaded for his persecutors with the very moving



words: “Father forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

Jesus is still the same loving, compassionate and forgiving friend and Saviour whom we can always turn to during the ups and downs of life. He is the man for all seasons.

This wonderful virtue in Jesus’s life which Luke highlighted obviously appealed to him because he too was a man of compassion. Are we people of compassion? We are called upon to follow his example by showing love and compassion to the poor, the afflicted, the weak and the marginalised in society. So often many of our churches have become talk shops rather than actions stations. Remember Compassion doesn’t just mean having a charitable disposition towards others: it means action.

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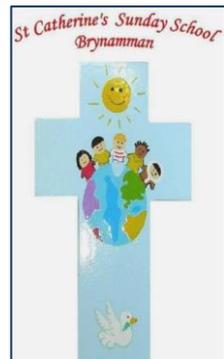
## JUNIOR CHURCH

After the summer break the Junior Church have once again started up their Sunday Zoom meetings thanks to Emma. The children and young people are therefore able to keep on learning about Jesus and have a 'virtual' time together. As I said in the last magazine, the Junior Church is still very much open for business.

We congratulate Caryl, Julian, Dewi and Deiniol on the arrival of a new little baby - Dwynwen. Dymunwn bob hapusrwydd i'r teulu bach yn Arfryn.

Now that the children are back in school we pray that they will all be kept safe from the virus. -A.T.

*Lord thank you for our Junior Church. Bless and protect our teachers and young people, and surround them with your love. Amen.*



## YOU'RE IN OUR PRAYERFUL THOUGHTS

Yr ydym yn meddwl am Mrs. Margaret Peters, ac yn gweddio drosti, gan nad yw hi yn dda ar hyn o bryd yn ei chartref yn Llys Newydd. Bydded i'r Arglwydd ei chynnal a'i chadw. Our prayerful thoughts go out to Mrs. Margaret Peters, who is currently unwell in Llys Newydd.



We are pleased that Mr. Alan Jones, having recently been in hospital once more is now better and back at home. Gweddiwn drosto a'i briod, Marian.

As mentioned elsewhere Mrs. Iris Evans is currently in the Amman Valley Hospital. We pray for her and hope she will be able to be discharged in time for her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Gweddiwn hefyd dros holl aelodau mewn oedran sy'n gaeth yn eu cartrefi ar hyn o bryd. All the sick and infirm remain in our prayers.

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## THE BOMBING OF ST. CATHERINE'S CHURCH

Eighty years ago, on Wednesday, the 10th of July, 1940, a fierce air battle took place between British fighter aircraft and German enemy bombers over the English Channel. Over 150 planes were involved and between 400 and 500 bombs were dropped on English towns along the channel. Fourteen enemy planes were shot down and twenty three were severely damaged.



Some of the escaping enemy aircraft headed in the direction of South Wales, pursued by British fighter planes. Bombs were dropped over Welsh towns, with one community suffering nine deaths.

Just before midday, one plane was spotted flying low over the L.M.S. railway line towards Brynamman. It is assumed that the German aircrew saw the chimney stacks of the old brickworks, two railway stations and the marshalling yard; for the plane was seen to swing in a northerly direction. The Bomber then approached the

village from the North. Their bomb, however, missed their supposed target, landing in the churchyard, south of St. Catherine's.

The massive explosion caused damage to several houses in the vicinity, but the church took the full force of the blast, causing severe damage to the church windows and roof. The church building, however, served as a shield, protecting the 300 children at Brynamman Council School which was then sited approximately only 50 yards (metres) behind the church. It is remarkable that not one teacher or child was hurt at the school.

The bomber was last seen in the region of Burry Port, with smoke pouring from it's tail, following a terrific battle with the three pursuing British fighter planes. Whether it crashed or whether it reached home safely is not known. – © Adrian Teale.

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## **THEY LIVED IN BRYNAMAN (Local History Series)**

### **2. THE SECOND VICAR OF BRYNAMAN: REVD. EDWARD JENKINS DAVIES**

When John Morlais Jones, the first vicar of Brynaman, died in August 1908 his successor was Edward Jenkins Davies, who commenced his duties in January the following year. The new vicar, who was born in 1868, was a Cardiganshire man whose family moved from the country to live in the centre of Lampeter when Jenkins (his Christian name, not part of his surname) was a small boy. His parents, Lewis (a builder) and Jane had eleven children, three of whom became clergymen. Indeed, as things worked out as well as having two brothers as vicars, his father-in-law was a vicar, three brothers-in-law were vicars and at least one nephew was a vicar (Thomas Glasfryn Jones, curate of my home parish of Mostyn, who was killed in the First World War).



As a young man Edward trained for the ministry at St. David's College, in his home town of Lampeter. In 1892 he was ordained deacon and priested the following year by the Bishop of St. Davids, Basil Jones. From 1892 to 1899 he served two curacies in Swansea. These parishes suited his low churchmanship well for at that time Swansea was the evangelical epi-centre in the diocese of Saint Davids. It was there that he met the woman who was to become his wife, Emily Palmer, the daughter of a Somerset clergyman. They married in her father's church at West Carmel on 27 September 1898. A year later he moved to his third curacy at Cefn-coed-y-cymer, on the northern outskirts of Merthyr Tydfil though located in Breconshire. It was there that their only child, Cyril, was born in 1900. Edward had a highly successful ministry in Cefn-coed, and was extremely popular.

After arriving in Brynaman it seems he was very unhappy, for remarkably after only nine months in Brynaman he was appointed vicar of his former parish by the patron of the living, the Lord Chancellor. It seems that John Owen, Bishop of St. Davids since 1897, put his foot down for Jenkins Davies was to remain in Brynaman for another nine years. The first problem facing Edward after moving to his new parish (which included Cwmllynfell) was that it had no vicarage, since Morlais Jones had not lived in church property. Consequently, during his first two years as vicar he lived in rented accommodation in Cwmllynfell. He then had to collect some money himself towards a new vicarage before the church commissioners would finance the enterprise. In 1911 the spacious elegant house in Mountain Road was completed. Another urgent priority was to replace the dreadfully inefficient heating and lighting system in St. Catherine's. This resulted in the parish going into debt to the sum of £150 (£18,000 in today's value). In July 1910 the vicar challenged the parish by announcing that if £100 was cleared off the debt in twelve months he would contribute the remaining £50 himself. He was obviously quite a wealthy man! Through his instigation a brass memorial plaque in tribute to Morlais Jones was erected in St. Catherine's chancel in 1916. Jenkins Davies did not confine his horizons to Brynaman, for though he had a curate living in Cwmllynfell, it

was largely through his efforts that a new pipe organ was installed in St. Margaret's Church in 1917.

Jenkins Davies was very much an evangelical and a powerful preacher. Indeed, through his pulpit skills one Cwmllynfell boy, John Samuel (the late Annie Jones's uncle) was moved to enter the ministry and subsequently went to serve the church in Hamilton, Ontario in Canada. It seems he was not afraid of poaching at times for the late Albert Walters used to recall that one Sunday evening as he and a group of boys were on their way to Gibeau chapel they met Jenkins Davies. Putting his arms around their shoulders and steering them towards St. Catherine's he said 'This way boys'. They followed him to church and at least one of them, Albert himself, remained and ended up giving sterling service as churchwarden!

Indeed, it seems that as an evangelical Jenkins Davies was never fulfilled in his ministry in Brynaman as the strength of Nonconformity limited his scope and cramped his style. Consequently, he jumped at the opportunity to go to St. Thomas's church, Swansea in 1920 – the year of the disestablishment of the Church in Wales. Three years later he severed all connections with St. Davids' diocese with the creation of the new diocese of Swansea and Brecon. He continued a fruitful ministry there for thirty two years, becoming a canon of Brecon cathedral. He retired to live in Sketty at the grand old age of 84, the same year as the death of his wife. He lived for another six years and died in 1958 at the age of 90. © Adrian Teale.

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## GIVING THANKS

As we get older we are more prone to becoming absent-minded. We sometimes forget names, or what day it is, or an appointment. Forgetfulness even afflicts great intellectuals. One day Dr. Harold C. Urey, Nobel Prize winner in Chemistry, was walking along a side street when he ran into another professor. They chatted for a few minutes, then, as they parted, Dr. Urey asked the other: "John, which way was I going when I met you?" "That way," said the other, pointing.

"Oh, good. That means I've already had my lunch," muttered the professor as he walked away.

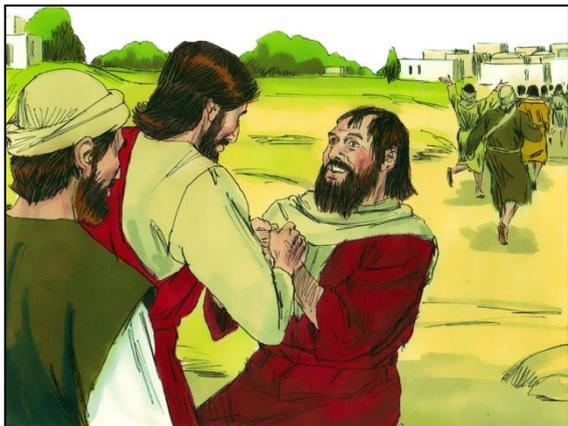
In the Bible we come across a group of men, lepers, who, like the Dr. Urey, were also forgetful. Ten of these social outcasts were healed by Jesus and given new life. However, nine of them soon forget the blessing they had received from him, and only one of them remembered to return to him to give him thanks.

There are people like those nine lepers in our world today. They received great help and kindness from others, but soon forget to express a word of appreciation and gratitude. Indeed, some even choose to criticise and find fault with those who have done them the greatest good.

Never take other people for granted, and always remember to say 'thank you'. Those two little words can make a big difference and go a long way to promote the self esteem in those they meet on life's journey.

Furthermore, during this Harvest Thanksgiving season, though we are not able to meet in church, remember to give thanks to God for all his blessings to us. Maybe you don't feel like it whilst people are suffering

as a consequence of this cruel coronavirus pandemic. However, the man or woman of faith will go on trusting and praising and thanking God even if all the visible evidence of God's love and mercy is withdrawn from before our eyes. Such



a person was the Old Testament prophet, Habakkuk. He was a man who lived during a time when the whole world around him seemed to be crumbling to dust. It was disaster after disaster

caused by natural calamities and made worse by human cruelty. Although he moaned and groaned to God he was still able to say: 'Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Saviour'. Habakkuk, a real man of faith, says that even if the Harvest should fail and God should withdraw all the evidence that he is gracious, he would still go on rejoicing in him and praising him.

If we are people of faith, we don't need evidence of God's love and care to praise him. It's not a matter of cupboard love. We praise God not simply for what we can get out of him, not simply because we have abundant evidence that he is still out there and is kind. We praise and adore God simply because he is our sovereign creator, he is our God, and through his Son, Jesus, our Saviour. Remember, as Saint Paul reminds us, Christians, 'walk by faith, not by sight.' (2 Cor. 5, verse 7). © Adrian Teale.

### **OFN gan Hywel Griffiths**

*Pan fo holl rym tywyllwch dros y byd,  
a rhyddid wedi'i fygwth ar bob tu,  
pan fo cysgodion ar y ffyrdd i gyd  
a phob un cornel stryd yn gysgod du,  
pan nad oes dim ond dychryn ar y sgrin  
a dim ond nos yr ochr draw i'r llen,  
pan fo pob ffrind yn sinistr a blin  
a'r rhai mewn grym yn gweld y byd ar ben,  
diffoddwch y teledu am y tro,  
agorwch lenni'r lolfa led y pen,  
cofleidiwch yr anwybod, ewch ag o  
tu allan ar y stryd fel cylllell wen  
i dorri drwy hualau'r ofnau sydd  
yn cadw pawb yn saff rhag bod yn rhydd.*





