



NEWYDDION BRO YSTUMANNER NEWS

February 2025

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**Safeguarding, Good Samaritans
& the Second Coming
Sue Whitehouse**

(An edited version of the sermon on Safeguarding Sunday, November 2024)

Readings: Daniel 12, vv 1-3

Mark 13, vv 1-8 (quotations are from The Message version)

These two readings may leave you quite bewildered. (We were in the Kingdom season - the month before Advent, when we are encouraged to start thinking about Christ's Second Coming, a.k.a the end of the world.) No room here for pretty coloured lights, tinsel, or supermarket price wars over gaudily wrapped chocolates. Forget that for now. In the church's calendar there are a few more flaming hoops to jump through before you're allowed to rejoice and be merry.

But even so - the Lord has plans to save the righteous. Enter Archangel Michael - as described in Daniel "your people will be saved...every last one found written in the book". And further on in Mark 13 from this morning's passage is Jesus' promise "Stay with it to the end. You won't be sorry, you'll be saved".

Yes, great. We'll be saved if we hang in there. This is the whole point of Jesus suffering the appalling events of Holy Week and Good Friday on our behalf. We have that assurance because of his extraordinary love. BUT...what about people in our communities - including in some of our churches - for whom Holy Week and Good Friday sound like the story of their daily life? Bullied...flogged... beaten...mocked... betrayed...

Here's where we come in. Jesus commands us to love God and love our neighbour. And no, that's not the bloke next door who drills into the party wall at 8 o'clock on a Sunday morning... though we ought to try to love him as best we can! It's anyone that God sends across our path. Remember the Good Samaritan story? Who was the neighbour in that scenario? The one who kept an eye out for the bloke in trouble.

You'll have heard the word Safeguarding bandied around a lot lately, in the reports surrounding the Archbishop of Canterbury's resignation. There was a major gap in Safeguarding arrangements around a young people's Christian camp - rumours were flying around and, alas, the wrong conclusions were reached, youngsters suffered at the time and are still suffering the effects. Desperately sad.

The saddest bit from my point of view (as the person this Ministry Area now reports to with Safeguarding concerns), is that it reinforces the idea that Safeguarding is "just" about kids being sexually abused by people in authority in the Church and that sort of thing doesn't happen round here, put it on the shelf with old hymn books and forget about it.

No. Please, please don't. The potential for things to go badly wrong for children and vulnerable adults is everywhere. And it's not just about sex. Or church. Nor is it "just" about anything else - money, drugs, exploitation, trafficking. ANY kind of abuse, bullying or neglect has the potential to happen to anyone, as we're all vulnerable at some point in our lives. Kneeling at the communion rail we can sometimes be at our most vulnerable.

The point of having people responsible for Safeguarding - and enlisting the help of all of you, all of us, to keep an eye out for the bloke in trouble - is to keep the potential as potential, and not allow it to become actual. Be God's eyes and ears on earth! And to use the analogy of that infuriating slogan on the trains, "if you see something that doesn't look right, speak to... or text... We'll sort it. See it, say it, sorted".
(Please feel free to text your Safeguarding officer on 07789 442 035)

But it won't get sorted unless the concern is shared. Don't be scared to have a word with me or any of the clergy - and include it in your private prayers, too. But think how you'd feel if it was you suffering the abuse, bullying or neglect! It will only get sorted if it's shared properly, not on the bus or over a cuppa in a local cafe where half the town will overhear you.

The reason Safeguarding now has such a high profile is that we need correct information, not rumour. You heard in the St Mark reading about wars and rumours of wars. And why do we need correct information? To make EVERYBODY - you, me, him, her - able to know they're safe in the communities of the church. The slogan is "If it's not safe, it's not church".

Because what sort of people are we, if we go on about the love of God for every man, woman and child (which we know and believe in) and let something dodgy be going on in the next street or under our noses? Jesus will answer that question emphatically at His second coming. So let's keep our eyes and ears open while continuing to praise and thank Him for His love for the most vulnerable, especially at times when that's us. "Every last one found written in [his] book!"

Storm Daragh Storm Damage

Paul Inman

During storm Darragh Tywyn experienced extreme winds. Towards the peak of the storm the wind came from the North across the open Dysynni valley. St Cadfan's has very little shelter from North winds, with the result that several ridge tiles were ripped off the main roof. As these tiles landed they punched several holes in the roof over the South side aisle.

We have been lucky that Ben and Drew from Highlife Rope Access have been able to come in mid January to carry out repairs to the ridge and aisle roof, as well as a few other storm-related matters.



Highlife Rope Access are a company of climbing enthusiasts who are based in Llanberis and specialising in conservation work on older buildings.

Bro Ystumanner

Roger Whitehouse

Thank You

While Ruth is not at work, several people have taken on extra tasks to keep the Ministry Area running. "Thank you" to all of them, and in particular

Archdeacon Robert is visiting regularly, as Acting Leader, and will be taking Sunday services from time to time across all our churches. He is working with Lee to assemble the Newsletters, has arranged for printed copies to be produced in Bangor, and sends out electronic copies by email.

Meryl Gover is arranging delivery of printed copies of the Newsletter, both by post and hand delivery.

Nigel Adams has taken on the task of arranging ministers to take services in the Area. He is hoping to be able to cover all the usual services, in some cases with the assistance of visiting clergy. We are grateful for their help as well.



CRAFTS FOR GIVING

Monday 10th February

2.00-4.00 pm

St Cadfan's Church, Tywyn



The vestry and sacristy at St Cadfan's still being a work in progress, we have limited access to stocks of yarn and finished items, so please if you want access, let Sue Whitehouse (07789 442 035) know in advance of the next meeting, which is:-

Monday 10 February, 2-4pm in the Glass Room.

Pleased to report a nice comment from one of our regulars, to the effect that "this group does more good for some of us than you realise". Things like that reinforce the feeling that "ministry" doesn't have to be at regular service times! Thank you to that participant.

Monthly Prayer Walk.....Change of usual Date

Owing to Sue and Roger being unavailable on the usual third Thursday, February's prayer walk will be on the morning of the fourth Thursday - Feb 27 - when, weather permitting, we will meet at 10am at the door of St Cadfan's Church and walk "down the Gwalia", along the Dysynni river bank and back through Ynysymaengwyn woods (where it is hoped there will still be a few clumps of snowdrops) - returning to Tywyn by the main road and finishing with lunch at a local establishment. Stout shoes advised.

If it's really wet and windy we can adjust plans on the day, but "be there at 10 or be square!"

Advance notice - WANTED, anyone willing to lead longer Prayer Walks in the summer, please?

Apply to Sue Whitehouse 07789 442 035.

Hansford Family Update

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Paul Hansford, Rev Ruth's loving husband and father to their children, Kristy and Brendan.

He passed peacefully at approx. 4am on Sunday the Nineteenth of January in Bronglais hospital, Aberystwyth.

Rev Ruth is recovering well from her operation and is waiting for Histology results to indicate if further treatment is required.

Our thoughts, love and prayers are with them and Paul's parents, Martin and Anna at this difficult time

Lee Taylor

Golden Girls

For various reasons Golden Girls are taking a break for a few months though the winter. The situation will be reviewed in the spring.

Meanwhile please consider going to the mid-day Warm Food-**Warm Spaces** events at the Magic Lantern on Mondays and Fridays. These events are a joint venture run by Tywyn Hwb and the Magic Lantern. For details see the separate Warm Food-**Warm Spaces** flyer in this issue (P15).

Tywyn Baptist Church are also offering a warm space and free food on Saturdays from 11am – 2pm. Food available from 12 noon to eat there or take away.

And finally, South Meirionnydd Older People's Forum will be holding a lunch in Neuadd Pendre at 12:30 on 27th February. Please contact Peter Thomas on 07484 193486 to book your places in advance.

Donations to our Churches through CAF Donate

Several of our churches now have display stands with QR codes to enable visitors without cash to make donations. The aim is that all churches will have these shortly.

The picture is of the display currently in Llangelynnin Old Church. If you have a smart phone you should be able to use the QR code to access the CAF Donate giving page for that church. Have a look at it - you don't have to donate but you will see what visitors using it will experience.

To be effective it is important that the displays are clearly visible, and possibly located close to the cash donation 'slot in the wall' if you have one. Please take every opportunity to explain to people what it is.

Finally, it will help us to improve the effectiveness of these displays if we get some feedback. Please ask for visitor's reactions and observations, and pass on any feedback to Paul Inman. Thank you

Y R EGLWYS THE CHURCH
YNG NGHMYRDU IN WALES

Ardal Weinidogaeth BRO YSTUMANNER Ministry Area

Llangelynnin Old Church



Please contribute to the mission and ongoing maintenance of this beautiful Grade I listed church. The QR code below will take you to our Charities Aid Foundation web page where you will be able to donate.



Or go directly to: <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/27574>

No signal? Please take a photo of this display and use the information to make a donation later.

Diolch yn fawr! Thank you very much!
Contact: Paul Inman 07980 374770

Paul Inman

07980 374770

paul.pninman@gmail.com

News from the Churches

Aberdyfi



Since the Millennium it has been a tradition to have a United Aberdyfi Churches service on the first Sunday in January . Sadly now this consists of only ourselves and The English Presbyterian chapel ... we gathered in fellowship at St Peter's and gave thanks for both our places of worship and remembering those we have lost . We look forward to sharing further services together during the coming year .

On the second Friday of the month we had our Community Lunch in the Neuadd with a respectable attendance of 48 plus workers !

A wonderful atmosphere and opportunity to gather with friends for a hot meal in a warm space .

Our next Congregation meeting has been arranged for Friday February 21st at 10.30 in St Peter's .

We look forward to welcoming you to our Half Term Messy Church...our thoughts and prayers are so much with our Rev Ruth that we have chosen to look at her namesake for this next session . Looking at the themes of Loyalty Love and Harvest . If you haven't joined us before come along for fun and fellowship.

crafts stories fun food

MCSs CHURCH

Ruth St Peter's Church Aberdyfi

Fri 28th Feb
10-11.30

FAMILY FUN FREE !!!

Warm Welcome to All

Croeso Cynnes i Bawb

Alison Sayes

Abergynolwyn



Our Annual Plygain took place on Wednesday 8th January, presided over by our Archdeacon, the Venerable Robert Townsend. The first 10 minutes of the evening was filmed by S4C for Heno. It was a splendid evening with many lovely voices. Thank you to everyone who made the evening a great success, not least the wonderful ladies who provided supper for us afterwards.

During February we will have our usual two Services, a Holy Eucharist on Sunday 2nd February and Morning Worship on Sunday 16th February. Please do join us if you are able.

The Hansford family continue to be very much in our thoughts and prayers.

The evenings are getting lighter and the promise of Spring is on its way.

Janet Wright

Arthog



Christmas Eve Communion in Arthog was a very special time, where visitors and regular members gathered for 11.30pm. During the course of the service, the central candle in the Advent ring was lit and we shared holy moments as we passed the peace of God between us all. Tangnefedd Duw, the peace of God, so needed in our world today. Diolch yn fawr iawn to Carole for playing the organ so late at night and to those who very kindly mowed the churchyard during December. At the time of writing, we are looking forward to our first service of the New Year, Evening Prayer at 3pm on January 19th.

Catherine Horton

Fairbourne

We were joined by the Choir of Kings College Cambridge for our service of Morning prayer in January. ‘Really’ you may say! Alas the wonders of modern technology and Amazon Music!!



There be a lot to keep us busy this year, with various repairs both big and small.

As always, if you or you know of anyone who would like our prayers, pastoral support or home communion, please do get in touch.

Rev George

Llanegryn



We are looking forward to our regular services at 11.15am on February 9th and 23rd. Naturally Rev Ruth and all of her family are at the heart of our prayers. Please do join us if you can. It was wonderful on Thursday January 16th to celebrate our first ever traditional Welsh Plygain service. It was led beautifully by Rev Carol Roberts from Bro Cymer Ministry Area (Dolgellau) and people from the village and many other communities came to be part of this special service. We all the enjoyed some Borscht in Neuadd Egryn afterwards! Special thanks to Angela Drinkwater-Lunn and her team for all her energy and enthusiasm to enable this service to happen! We’re looking forward to next year!

Ven Robert

Llanfihangel y Pennant

It is a quite time for our church building, but it continues to be open during daylight hours, for the many pilgrims who visit, drawn by the story of Mary Jones.



Llwyngwril

Our candlelit carol service at the old church, Llangelynnin on Christmas Eve 2024 went very well with a full church lit by 300 candles. The congregation sang happily in anticipation of the joys and love that Christmas brings.

January was a quiet month. We held our regular three services at 9.30 am. the first one being All Age Worship. This was well attended with the congregation including nine children, full of life. We were very grateful to them and their parents for their help in the thorough cleaning of the church before the service. The children had great fun shaking the pew mats outside in the cold early January weather and washing the entrance hall floor. Thank you Zoe Hobbs, parents and children for all your hard work.

I've seen snowdrops growing in the garden which helps to remind us that Spring is not too far away.

Pennal

January - the quiet month - is over. The cold weather delayed the arrival of the Three Kings but they eventually got here - and coincided with the Baptism in the River Jordan.



February starts with our monthly Coffee and Cake morning on Feb 8th, followed by the total renewal of our electrical system (the church will be closed from Feb 10-15)

Meanwhile our thoughts and prayers are with the Hansford family; and we are so grateful to all who are helping keep our Ministry Area active.

Tywyn



The life of St. Cadfan's is naturally overshadowed by what is happening to the Hansford family at the present time, and our attention and prayers are very much occupied with them. However, one could say that the best way in which we can support them is by continuing the life and worship of the church, and continuing to serve God and witness to His love and greatness throughout everything. Our services have continued, thanks to the work of our Non-Stipendiary and retired clergy, and we have been blessed with some inspired preaching and uplifting worship. The Wednesday morning Communion services have also continued to be supported, along with the monthly prayers for Healing and Wholeness. Welcome Wednesdays have resumed after the Christmas break, and are also gratefully supported by a regular clientele.

As a bonus, the work on the Vestry floor is now almost complete as we wait for the new material to harden off in readiness for the replacement of the fittings and furniture. The church roof suffered some damage from Storm Darragh, and this has now been rectified. It is just possible that the south aisle roof is now in better shape than it has been for many years! We are also seeing visitors looking for the Cadfan Stone, no doubt attracted by the attention online and in the press given to the Llwybr Cadfan. We pray that they also find God's presence when they visit us and take a little time to bring their thoughts to Him.

Max Birchenough

Crafts
Stories
Fun
Food

MICSS CHURCH

Ruth
St Peter's Church
Aberdyfi



Fri 28th Feb
10 - 11.30

FAMILY FUN FREE !!!
Warm Welcome to All
Croeso Cynnes i Bawb

Croeso Dydd Mercher

Welcome Wednesdays

2.00 – 4.00 p.m.
Eglwys Cadfan Sant
St Cadfan's Church
Tywyn



Join us at our mid-week meeting point.
Chat, free refreshments, friendship and support.

Board games, quizzes, crafting.

Or just come and enjoy the church.

Drop in and stay as long as you wish.

Contact: Paul Inman 07980 374770

Croeso cynnes i bawb!
A warm welcome for everyone!

Warm Food **Warm Spaces**

Warm Food and Warm Spaces
with Tywyn Community Hub

**JOIN US at the Magic Lantern on
Mondays and Fridays:**

Mondays 11am - 3pm: for a
movie, hot drink, and some
yummy soup after the film -
ALL FREE!

If the film isn't for you,
please just come along
between 1pm and 3pm for a
hot drink and soup!

Fridays 1.30pm - 5pm FREE soup
and hot drink - you can pop in and enjoy or
chill out all afternoon with board games and
a bit of chat!



Bwyd Cynnes a Llefydd Cynnes
gyda Hwb Cymunedol Tywyn

**YMUNWCH Â NI yn y Magic Lantern ar
ddyddiau Llun a Gwener:**

Dyddiau Llun 11am - 3pm: ar gyfer
ffilm, diod boeth a chawl blasus
wedi'r ffilm -
Y CYFAN AM DDIM!

Os nad ydych chi awydd ffilm,
mae croeso i chi ddod draw
rhwng 1pm a 3pm ar gyfer diod
boeth a chawl!

Dyddiau Gwener 1.30pm - 5pm Cawl a
diod boeth AM DDIM - gallwch daro heibio
a mwynhau neu ymlacio drwy'r prynhawn
gyda gemau bwrdd ac ychydig o sgwrs!

Dates for your Diary

Feb	3	Congregational Meeting	7pm	St Cadfans Tywyn	
	10	Crafts for Giving	2-4pm	St Cadfans, Tywyn	P6
	27	Monthly prayer Walk <i>Revised date</i>	10am	St Cadfans Tywyn	P6
	28	Messy Church	10am-11.30am	St Peters Aberdyfi	P9 and P15

Every Wed		Welcome Wednesdays	2-4pm	St Cadfan's, Tywyn	P15
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Deadline for the March Newsletter Saturday the 22nd of February 2025

Instructions for sending items for the March newsletter:

Please email items to Lee Taylor:

foxeshome@sky.com

Bethany House, College Green, Tywyn, Gwynedd LL36 9BY

Diolch / Thank you

Services in February

Midweek Services

Wednesdays 10.30am Holy Communion St Cadfan's, Tywyn
(February 12th – Followed by Prayers for Healing and Wholeness)

Sunday 2nd February – The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

9.30am	All Age Worship	St Celynnin's, Llwyngwril
10am	Holy Communion	St Peter ad Vincula, Pennal
10am	Holy Communion	St David's, Abergynolwyn
11am	Morning Worship	St Cynon's, Fairbourne
11.15am	Holy Communion	St Peter's, Aberdyfi
11.15am	Holy Communion	St Cadfan's, Tywyn

Sunday 9th February – Fourth Sunday before Lent

10am	Morning Worship	St Peter ad Vincula, Pennal
11.15am	Holy Communion	St Mary & St Egryn, Llanegryn
11.15am	All Age Worship	St Peter's, Aberdyfi
11.15am	Morning Worship	St Cadfan's, Tywyn

Sunday 16th February – Third Sunday before Lent

9.30am	Holy Communion	St Celynnin's, Llwyngwril
10am	Morning Worship	St Peter ad Vincula, Pennal
10am	Morning Worship	St David's, Abergynolwyn
11am	Holy Communion	St Cynon's, Fairbourne
11.15am	Holy Communion	St Peter's, Aberdyfi
11.15am	Holy Communion	St Cadfan's, Tywyn
3pm	Holy Communion	St Catherine's, Arthog

Sunday 23rd February – Creation Sunday

9.30am	Morning Worship	St Celynnin's, Llwyngwril
10am	Holy Communion	St Peter ad Vincula, Pennal
11.15am	Morning Worship	St Mary & St Egryn, Llanegryn
11.15am	Morning Worship	St Peter's, Aberdyfi
11.15am	All Age Worship	St Cadfan's, Tywyn

We look forward to welcoming you to our churches!

Please safeguard your health and the health of others and do not attend a service if you have symptoms of coronavirus or have a positive test.

Hand sanitiser and masks are provided in our churches.

Thank you for your support and your consideration of others.

Contacts

Vicar and Ministry Area Team Leader	Rev Dr Ruth Hansford	Please contact Archdeacon Robert roberttownsend@cinw.org.uk 07789 940049
Self-Supporting Associate Vicars	Rev Christina ten Wolde Rev Dr Steve Rollins Rev George Williams (Distinctive Deacon)	01654 767047 01654 288538 / 07594 976699 steverollins@cinw.org.uk 01341 250204
Retired Clergy	Revs Celia & Nigel Adams	01654 711604
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Aberdyfi, St Peter		
Churchwardens Emeritus Deputy	Eluned Fowles Alison Sayes	01654 767570 01654 767474
Organist	Fiona Covington-Mann	01654 711892
Abergynolwyn, St David		
Churchwarden	Janet Wright	01654 782632
Arthog, St Catherine		
	Ven Robert Townsend	07789 940049
Fairbourne, St Cynon		
Representative	Rev George Williams	01341 250204
Llanegryn, St Mary & St Egryn		

Churchwarden	William Williams Wynne	
Llanfihangel y Pennant, St Michael		
Vicar	Rev Dr Ruth Hansford	01654 710255
Llangelynnin Old Church, St Celynnin		
Deputy Churchwarden	Pat Griffiths	01341 250131
Llwyngwrl, St Celynnin		
Deputy Churchwarden	Pat Griffiths	01341 250131
Pennal, St Peter ad Vincula		
Churchwardens	Hugh Ramsbotham Alan Fisher	01654 702121 01654 791651
Tywyn & Bryncreug, St Cadfan		
Churchwardens	Charles Benedetto John Vaughan Jones	01654 710640/ 07707 483612 01654 712116
Warden Emeritus	Meryl Gover	01654 710135
Sacristan	Linda Birchenough	01654 288473
Organists	Max Birchenough Carol Thomas	01654 288473 01654 712 652

Flowers	Margaret Evans Sarah Taylor	
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If you already receive the newsletter by email, and are happy to continue, you don't need to do anything. To start receiving copies by email please let us know by emailing: roger-m-whitehouse@supanet.com

To receive a Paper Copy: please complete the form below and hand it, with your payment, to your churchwarden, or send it to Mrs Sarah Taylor (Bethany House, College Green, Tywyn, Gwynedd LL36 9BY).

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or

- Payment of £15.00 (£6.00 plus £9.00 for postage costs)