

## **St. Gwyddelan's Church, Looking back - looking forward**

**Looking back** over this past year, church services remained online at the beginning of 2021 and a Zoom Coffee morning was instigated by Kristine Jenkins once a week to keep us all in touch. With Easter imminent, the church began its own little resurrection, from hibernation, with St. Gwyddelan's open for private prayer on a Wednesday. On Palm Sunday we heard Rev'd Simon Freeman's cheery news that he and Belinda were getting married in April and we were able to wish Simon farewell to begin married life and his new parish in Llandaff diocese with a service at St. Mary's Betws y Coed and afterwards on the green outside.

The rest of the year has continued with services on several Sundays in the month, thanks to Rev'd Stuart Elliott, Keith Wadcock, Sue Welsh and Huw Thomas. These being interspersed with Forest Church and United Services at Betws y Coed. The church is now open on a Sunday and Wednesday for Private Prayer.

On 5<sup>th</sup> September we had an uplifting Baptism; two delightful children from Bryn Tirion.

We held our Harvest Festival at the beginning of October. Although social distancing is still advised, this is no longer compulsory, so it was wonderful to see a larger congregation; now allowed to SING! Although Spar continues to be the main collecting point for Food Bank items, we were delighted by the contributions made in church that day.

Bible Sunday on 24<sup>th</sup> September was marked by various services in the area. A walk was organized by Stuart from Penmachno to Ty Mawr; incorporating afternoon tea at Plas Penaeldroch concluding with Evensong at Dolwyddelan; with much singing involved!

**Looking forward.** As Advent unfolds towards Christmas this year, we are coming to the end of the first year following a new pattern of services based on the four solar festivals and the four pastoral feasts between them. We've marked each of these with a leaflet, 'Through the year' (all now available on our website [www.brogwydyr.cymru](http://www.brogwydyr.cymru)) and also in paper form in the lychgate of the church. The latest one for the Winter Solstice, Alban Arthan reminds us of the importance of wintering ourselves alongside the natural world in preparation for the returning light in the new year. This is reflected beautifully with the birth of Jesus celebrated during Christmastide. Jesus is the 'light for the world'. This coming year the church will focus on the Gospel of Luke which develops that idea illuminating our lives with a message