

**FREE!** *This Newsletter is free, but donations towards the cost of publication are welcome! Please put donations in the box at the back of the Cathedral and the Parish Church*

Dear All

Can I first of all begin by wishing you a very Happy New Year. Wherever we find ourselves in 2018 may the Lord bless us all and give us the grace to live out the faith we have just celebrated in the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

December was a very hectic month with school services and nativities and a number of concerts. Between all of that and our own celebrations of Christmas literally 1,000's of people came through the doors of our churches during December. Over 1200 people came to our own services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. It is our prayer that all of those people may have experienced some of the joy of the Lord's birth and be drawn to know him better.

No doubt 2018 will bring much change for us as individuals and as the Church in the place. The long-awaited Cathedral development has just been completed and we look forward to the opening of the Tea Room in the Spring. The re-ordering project at the Parish Church continues to gather momentum and we are at the stage when we will be applying for grant funding to do the work.

January 1st sees the Elwy Mission Area come into being and there will be necessary changes to the way things are governed and run in the Church here. We pray that through all of this change we may remain steadfast in our faith, worship and service in this place.

Please pray for the clergy, lay ministers and officers of the Mission Area as we seek to grow the Kingdom in this part of the Lord's vineyard and that all of us may come to a deeper faith as we grow in our discipleship.

Every blessing for 2018 and beyond.

Yours in Christ

*Fr Rex*

Precentor and Associate Priest

**Ardal Cenhadaeth Elwy**  
Cadeirlan Llanelwy  
ac Eglwys y Plwyf Llanelwy

**Elwy Mission Area**  
St Asaph Cathedral and St Asaph Parish Church

**January**  
**2018**

## Collect for S Kentigern

Almighty and everlasting God, who called your servant Kentigern to preach the gospel to the people of Britain: raise up in this and every land heralds and evangelists of your kingdom, that your Church may make known the immeasurable riches of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### Services

#### Sunday

8am Eucharist  
9.30am Parish Eucharist  
11am Cathedral Eucharist  
11am Informal Worship  
3.30pm Evening Prayer

#### Monday to Friday

9am Morning Prayer  
6pm Evening Prayer

#### Tuesday

6pm Stillness and Prayer

#### 2nd Wednesday

9pm Sung Compline

#### The Holy Eucharist

Monday 9.30am  
Tuesday 7pm  
Wednesday 10.30am  
Thursday 10am at the  
Parish Church  
Friday 9.30am (Welsh)



CADEIRLAN  
LLANELWY  
ST ASAPH  
CATHEDRAL

## Saint of the Month: St Kentigern 14th January

Kentigern, also known affectionately as Mungo, which means “darling”, is reputed to have been the grandson of a British prince in southern Scotland and to have attended a monastic school at Culross. The story goes that he became a missionary to the Britons living in Strathclyde and was elected their Bishop. Following the persecution of Christians, he fled to Wales - here to St Asaph - where he founded a Christian community. He eventually returned to Strathclyde where he continued his work of evangelism, leaving Asaph in charge in North Wales. He died in the year 603 and his tomb is in St Mungo’s Cathedral in Glasgow. Pilgrims from our Diocese visited his tomb and the end of the Year of Pilgrimage in May 2014. As this is only a minor commemoration in the Church in Wales Lectionary is not observed in 2018 as it falls on a Sunday. The information is given here as Kentigern is obviously an important saint in our Mission Area.



### Christmas 2017

A huge “thank you” to all who contributed in any way to making our celebration of Christmas such an uplifting occasion. Numbers attending our worship were, as usual, very good. Two particular growth points in recent years have been the Crib Service and nine Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve, which is very encouraging.

The flowers were beautiful, the music was excellent, so thank you to all those involved.



### The Fourth Gift

The fourth gift they had was  
Wisdom,  
The one they needed for themselves  
And the world.

Wisdom  
To leave the familiar  
In search of a new security  
More precious than the gifts they  
gave.

Wisdom  
To discover, in the starlit child,  
A significance above  
Gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Wisdom  
And the eyes of faith  
To receive God's showing  
Of his Son.

The gifts we read about  
Were three,  
But the fourth gift they had was  
Wisdom.

*A poem with thoughts on the Epiphany  
as we begin a new year.*



## Diary for January ....

**Monday 1st - The Naming of Jesus:** 9.30am Eucharist

**Sunday 7th - THE EPIPHANY**

**Monday 8th—The Baptism of the Lord:** 9.30am Eucharist

**Thursday 11th:** 7.30pm Parish Church Council

**Sunday 14th - Epiphany 2**

**Monday 15th - S Hilary:** 2pm Messy Church Planning

**Sunday 21st - Epiphany 3**

**Tuesday 23rd** 7pm Eucharist of Our Lady for Walsingham Pilgrims

**Friday 26th** 7.15pm Diocesan Plygain Service

**Sunday 28th - Epiphany 4**

**Monday 29th** 6pm Choral Evensong during which the new Cathedral Development will be dedicated

## Diary for February .....

**Friday 2nd - The Presentation of Christ:** 6pm Choral Eucharist

**Sunday 4th - 2nd before Lent:** 6.30pm Taize Service

**Thursday 8th** 7.30pm Cathedral Council

**Sunday 11th - Sunday before Lent**

**Wednesday 14th - ASH WEDNESDAY** Eucharist with Imposition of ashes at 10.30am and 7pm

**Sunday 18th - Lent 1** 11am Litany & Choral Eucharist

**Wednesday 21st** 7.30pm Lent Study 9pm Sung Compline

**Friday 23rd** 10.30am Lent Study at the Parish Church

**Sunday 25th - Lent 2**

**Wednesday 28th** 7.30pm Lent Study 9pm Sung Compline

## Coming up:

1st March: St David

11th March: Mothering  
Sunday

25th March: Holy Week  
Begins

1st April; EASTER DAY

9th April: The Annun-  
ciation of the Lord



## THE EPIPHANY

*Father, you revealed your Son to the nations by the guidance of a star. Lead us to your glory in heaven by the light of faith. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen.'*

The solemnity of Epiphany, with its revelation that the 'good news' of salvation is for the whole of humankind, Jew and Gentile alike. God has no favourites and he has no grandchildren — only children. The Magi came bearing gifts, humbly acknowledging the birth of the Saviour and King.

Their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh were prophetic symbols pointing to the Lord's threefold office of priest, prophet and king. Frankincense, a spice used by the temple priests, highlighted Jesus the Eternal High Priest (Son of God); myrrh, an embalming ointment, anticipated the Lord's death; and gold affirmed his royal kingship. In coming to worship, the Magi fulfilled the prophecy that the infant would be 'a light for revelation to the Gentiles' (Luke 2:32).

The task of the Church is to make Christ's light shine in the world. This is, therefore, the mission, vocation and calling of each Christian. We are all missionaries. The gift of faith — for gift it is — is to be shared and given away. We can't keep it to ourselves: people have a right to hear the promises of Christ. The more we share the gospel, the more we witness to it, the stronger our faith becomes.

Like the Magi we too are seekers on a journey. Their journey from the countries of the East to Jerusalem and finally to Bethlehem parallels the human journey. Whatever the age, culture, civilization or nation, people are always searching for God.





## Lent 2018

Our celebration of Christmas will hardly be over and our minds will be turned towards Lent.

From around the beginning of February there will be Lent Resources available. They can be found at the Cathedral but are for everyone. So, when they appear please do have a look and help yourselves.

There will also be a leaflet available giving details of all the Lent Services and activities.

But, just an early reminder that there will be 2 Lent Courses running: Wednesday Evenings at the Cathedral at 7.30pm followed by Compline and Friday mornings at the Parish Church at 10.30am.



# LENT

## Principal Holy Day in February

### Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is one of the Principal Holy Days of the Church Year when it is expected at all will present at the Eucharist. Penitence is an essential part of the Christian Life. We are in constant need of the mercy and forgiveness of God. On Ash Wednesday we express this by taking part in an impressive corporate act of penitence and reconciliation, asking God that we may be spiritually prepared to celebrate the events of Holy Week and Easter.



### *Collect for Ash Wednesday*

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **The Forty Days of Lent.**

The season of Lent prepares the Church for the celebration of the death and resurrection of the Lord. Its origins are in the preparation of catechumens, new Christians, for their baptism at Easter and of those who had been excommunicated, for their re-admission to the sacramental life of the Church. Lent also developed as a period of discipline and self-denial for all Christian people. It is a season that looks forward and presses on; it is not static, but dynamic, and the whole of Lent builds towards Holy Week and the Passion of our Lord.

Lent is not a historical reconstruction of the Lord's forty days in the wilderness, despite the popular hymn: "Forty day and forty nights". This story is set during Lent to illustrate the kind of discipline and self-denial required of Christians.

Lent is about what comes at its climax, that is, Holy Week and Easter – in a sense it has no theme, no major story of its own. The weekdays of Lent are days of discipline and self-denial. We fast or impose on ourselves some discipline because the Cross is there ahead of us, drawing us on.

As we think during Lent of the coming Passion of our Lord, perhaps it would be a good time to review our commitment in the light of all that He has done for us. Are we committed to a daily life of prayer? Are we committed to daily study of God's word in Scripture? Are we committed to joining our brothers and sisters to worship in Church every Sunday?

May God grant us the grace to keep a holy Lent, and through prayer, Bible Study and regular worship, may we become Easter People – full of the joy of our Resurrection faith.

### **For further information**

Contact: 01745 532581 (Diocesan Office)

Cathedral Website: [stasaphcathedral.wales](http://stasaphcathedral.wales)

Parish Church Website: [stasaphparishchurch.org.uk](http://stasaphparishchurch.org.uk)

