

St David's Messenger

MARCH 2011

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A PILGRIM'S JOURNEY

Late last year I wrote about my annual foot pilgrimage along some part of the Camino de Santiago, Spain.

At the time of publication, both David and I were expecting to be walking the final 113km of the route. Things did not work out as we had planned.

Firstly, David had an accident and the resulting injury to his leg meant that he could not possibly walk with a rucksack on his back for the foreseeable future.

Secondly, the day before I was due to fly out, I had to take my father to the doctor's. He was immediately admitted to hospital and there was no way I could leave Mum and Dad at a time when things were looking very bleak indeed. Dad died on the exact day that I had expected to complete my journey and arrive at the tomb of St. James. Indeed he passed away at 10.45 BST 11.45 CET, about the time I would have been taking my seat for the day's Pilgrim Mass.

My final attempt to get to Spain was set for Thursday, 2nd December. A strike by air traffic controllers meant that the flight was cancelled, as was the one on the following Saturday.

At that point I threw in the towel and decided not to bother. However, to be a foot pilgrim you have got to be stubborn, so on Tuesday, 7th, I finally flew into Santiago and caught a bus to my starting point.

The next 7 days were filled with enormous difficulties. I won't bore you with the details, but I have never had such a higgledy, frustrating and emotionally trying pilgrimage and this was my eighth Camino.

If it could go wrong it did. Had it been my first pilgrimage I would have given up and come home on the Saturday, a day short of completion.

I didn't and on the evening of the following day I arrived at the cathedral. It was already dark but I walked in knowing that I had achieved my goal of walking every year between the Holy Years of 2004 and 2010.

Foot pilgrimage mirrors life and, as time has passed by, I have increasingly thanked God for my completing this awkward, frustrating journey. I was particularly conscious of my determination to get the job finished, a quality I inherited from my father, and for Jenny's crucial help in taking my Sunday service, so that I could stay in Spain an extra three days and complete my journey.

While it turned out to be the most difficult of all my pilgrimages, it finished with a true sense of completion.

We stand on the edge of spring when the flowers push their way from the earth and the leaves appear on the trees. Their appearance gives us reassurance that the world continues to turn and there will be a future. But nothing grows without a struggle; the splitting of the seed, the pushing through earth or bark, the cracking of the egg. Every beautiful garden is a testimony of someone taking soil and earth, wind and rain, plants and seeds and working hard to turn them into beauty.

We should never assume that if we love God we will be free of struggle. Spring and pilgrimage both show me that some of the best things in life are achieved by hard work. We should not ask God to free us from struggle but rather that He gives us the inner strength to complete our journey and to persevere to the end. Philip

A message from
Rev. Jenny Rayner.

What is good about St David's?

What could be better?

These are the questions we at St. David's will be asking ourselves, over the next few months, as we undertake a review of our church.

We will be looking for observations, ideas and comments from church members, (including the congregation), people who use our premises and the wider community.

It will not be a "box ticking" exercise, but rather carried out through face to face discussions using very simple techniques which anyone, of any age, will be able to participate in.

The results of this review will be recorded and hopefully will give us a foundation for further development. If you would like to make a contribution to the discussions then keep your eyes and ears open for the many places that this process will be taking place.

Notice of any sessions will be placed in the weekly notice sheet, the Messenger and the church's website.
www.stdavidchildwall.org.uk.

Published by the people of St David's Church for all local residents

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KIDS CORNER

Hi! Welcome to your chat, prayer and puzzle corner! Welcome to our new readers.

Happy Birthday to all of our readers with a birthday this month.

If you are ill or not too well—we hope and pray you will get well soon.

(Little Jim—"Hello Brian! What are we chatting about this month?")

Hi, Little Jim! This month we are chatting about the Love of Jesus.

(Little Jim—"I know part of a song about Jesus loving me.")

It would be nice if you let us all hear it, Little Jim.

(Little Jim -

"Jesus loves me, He will stay,

Close beside me all the day.

I am weak but He is strong.

Yes Jesus loves me,

Yes Jesus love me,

Yes Jesus loves me,

This Bible tells me so.")

Thank you for sharing that with us, you did it very well.

Now I am going to tell you about what happened the other day, when Little Jim and his mum and dad went on a picnic together.

Little Jim and his mum and dad had gone to the beach for the day. The sun was shining, but it was cool and windy. Little Jim and his dad were running about, chasing a ball, trying to keep warm. Mum was in the car, sorting out the picnic basket.

"Mum, is it lunchtime?" called out Little Jim.

"Yes" shouted Mum, "Come over here out of the wind. Mum had brought tuna and mayo bread rolls, crisps, biscuits, bananas, and fruit squash.

"Can you remember what the thousands of people ate at Jesus' big picnic?" asked dad.

"Bread and fish" said Little Jim. "Did they have tuna?"

"No, a different one" laughed dad.

"But it was amazing that Jesus fed so many people with such a small picnic."

"Jesus loves people, doesn't He? That's why he looked after all of those people." Little Jim said, "That's why He looks after me."

PRAYER

Dear Lord, Thank you for loving us and taking care of us. Amen.

SOME OF THE DAYS IN MARCH

Tuesday 1st—St David's Day, the Patron Saint of Wales and the church of

"The Messenger".

Tuesday 8th—Shrove Tuesday—"Pancake Day."

Wednesday 9th—Ash Wednesday—First day of Lent and the Day of showing your true repentance of your sins—ash on your forehead.

Thursday 17th—St Patrick's Day—The Patron Saint of all Ireland.

Sunday 27th—Clocks are put forward one hour as British Summer Time starts.

Plus, a reminder for Sunday 3rd April—Mothering Sunday (Mother's Day.)

PUZZLE

How many words of 3 letters or more can you make from the word **CARING**

9+ = Very Good; 14+ = Excellent; 17+ = Fantastic!

Oh, and by the way, there is a 6 letter word.

(Little Jim—"You know, somebody actually complimented my dad on his driving today. They left a note on the windscreen, it said "PARKING FINE." So that was nice.")

Oh, Little Jim you are funny!

Well, that's all for now!

Enjoy your pancakes!

Take Care. See you all next month! Brian.

LENT COURSE

"ATTITUDES"

Beginning on **Thursday, 17th March, at 7.30 pm in the Gladstone Hall**, a five week course that looks at the Beatitudes and encourages us to examine our lifestyles in the light of Jesus' teaching and call to live out his teaching in our lives.

BAPTISM

Zoe Nina Bradshaw
(30 January 2011)

SERVICE TIMES

AT ST DAVID'S

Sunday

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.30 am Sung Eucharist

Except

2nd Sunday

10.30 am Family/Parade Service

11.30 am Holy Communion

6.30 pm Holy Communion

Wednesday

7.30 pm Holy Communion

WHAT'S ON IN THE GLADSTONE HALL

(entrance in church car park, Rocky Lane)

AGE CONCERN LUNCH CLUB

Mondays at 12noon. Phone 228 6881 to enquire. Everyone over 60 welcome!

HELEN O'GRADY DRAMA

ACADEMY

Mondays 4.00 pm. For age 5+. For further details phone 482 0443.

GLADSTONE BABE AND TODDLERS PLAYGROUP

Tuesdays between 13.30 and 15.00 hours during school term time.

Children, bring your carer for a cuppa, while you play with our toys.

TIME-STEP SCHOOL OF DANCE

Tuesdays between 4.00 and 9.00 pm. For ages 3 to 21 years wanting to learn Modern, Ballet, Tap, Street Jazz, Drama Song & Dance. Further information from Miss Jill 226 8020 or Miss Jan 291 6936.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH Broadgreen Road Stonecroft

ASH WEDNESDAY

9th March 2011

Holy Communion 7 pm

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday, 4th March 11.00 am

Everyone Welcome!