

# *ST JAMES' CHURCH NEWS*

Web site: [rudry.church](http://rudry.church)

## **FUN & FUND-RAISING AT ST JAMES OVER CHRISTMAS**

**Community Carolling:** A total of £213.70 was collected during a great evening of community singing in the Rudry Inn, Maenllwyd and Hollybush pubs, the Tuesday before Christmas. Half the proceeds went to *CRISIS AT CHRISTMAS*. The other half went to the funds for the building work at St James. A further £148.19 was raised for *CRISIS* from other donations, including collection boxes which each of the pubs kindly agreed to have on their bars throughout December. The turnout from the locals for the event was bigger this year, with more families joining the carol singing at The Monty, and a packed Maenllwyd and Hollybush. Landlady Debbie at the Hollybush said it was one of her favourite evenings of the year. Landlord Mike at the Maenllwyd asked if it can be longer next year – Richard and Jo at The Monty agreed! A BIG THANK YOU! to all who came along and helped make such a wonderful sound singing those beautiful, timeless melodies that celebrate Jesus coming into the world.

**Children's Christmas Fair:** This too was a great success – especially for the children from St James who put so much into staging it. They made lots of articles to sell to their friends, generating several hundred pounds towards the building work at St James in the process. WELL DONE KIDS!

**Carols by Candlelight:** Said by many to be the best ever, the format was slightly different this year, with introductions to each of the Lessons that set the scene. It was standing-room-only as the searing singing and super descants bounced off the 11<sup>th</sup> Century thick stone walls of St James, enhanced further by the brass-playing of Anna Murray and Ros Murray on keyboard. The children's music group of Nathanael and Lois Johnson on cornet and flute, and Catrin and Martha Angove on harp and clarinet, played two of the carols, accompanied by Gwyn Jones, who also arranged the music for them. (Nathanael has since joined BTM). One Accord also sang, gracing the evening with their rich harmonies. The Reverend Dean gave a great talk on the essence of Christmas. £155 was donated to the building funds by all who came, for which we thank you VERY MUCH!

**Christingle:** This was a DIY-fest, with loads of kids making their own Christingles! Many more children than ever before attended. Happy birthday was also sung to Nathanael Johnson, but unfortunately the Christingle candles had already been blown out!

**Crib & Christmas Day Services:** The Crib service also saw lots of kids come along to witness a great dramatization of the Christmas story, starring adults and youngsters in leading roles. The costumes took the biscuit! Two days later, the Christmas morning service was a delight, with many families and friends celebrating this most special day.

## EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

**AN EVENING WITH CAMBRENSIS CHOIR:** The renowned CAMBRENSIS CHOIR is coming to Rudry hall on Saturday 2 February. The show starts at 7pm. Tickets are £10 per adult and £25 per family, which will cover admittance and refreshments. Like the music, the refreshments will be of a high order! To book, call Anne Holt on 07810 296 867 or Suzanne Hughes on 02920 886 237. Come along for what promises to be a very enjoyable and entertaining evening. All proceeds are for the building work at St James.

**MESSY CHURCH:** Tuesday 5 February, 3.45-5.30pm at St Thomas', Trethomas. This is for children up to Year 6 (i.e. up to 10 to 11-year olds). There are usually 30+ kids there, so if you'd like your children to be meeting others of the same age, bring them along. Typically, there is food, crafts, singing and story-telling. Sometimes there is also a bouncy castle.

**KIDZ CLUB:** Friday 8 February, 5-7pm. Run for the younger children and hosted at the homes of those who attend St James, Kidz Supper is an opportunity for the kids to socialise with their peers whilst enjoying games, food, quizzing adults on their lives and having a topic for discussion to chat about. It's some "grown-up time" for young 'uns.

**YOUTH SUPPER:** Friday 22 February, 6-8.30pm. This is for the older youngsters. Similar format, but more geared to those approaching, or in, their teens.

For further information on both the Kidz and Youth Suppers, please contact Rev. Dean Roberts at [rev.roberts@vicar.email](mailto:rev.roberts@vicar.email), tel: [01633 309691](tel:01633309691).

**BLOKES ONLY:** Saturday 9 February, 9am to 12 noon. This is a walk and talk stroll for men only. There are usually around 8 or 9 guys who meet up, enjoy a healthy walk, ending with something to eat and drink at one of their homes. Check St James' web site at [rudry.church/diary](http://rudry.church/diary) on where to meet up for this month's walk.

**HOUSE GROUPS:** Friday 1 and Friday 15 February, 1pm, at the Connolly's home in Machen. Thursday 14 February at the Holt's home in Rudry. House Groups are social gatherings with time spent discussing faith. To come along, please contact Rev Dean.

**ENLARGING THE TENT:** So far, £70,655 has been raised for what will likely be a £150K+ project to upgrade St James with 21<sup>st</sup> Century facilities such as running water! Toilets, a kitchen and versatile meeting space for people of all ages to use, are the aims. Currently three architect firms are tendering. The next update will be in April at the Vestry meeting, which is a kind of AGM for St James, to which everyone is welcome to attend. St James is keen to hear from the local community regarding any aspect of the development. Your Enlarging the Tent committee members are: Rev Dean Roberts, Rose Llewellyn, Anne Holt, Daryl Resting, Judith Rees, Megan Roberts, Suzanne Hughes and Sylvia Dolbear.