

# **Buallt Benefice “Pews News” No. 002 Nov/Dec 2021**

**Alltmawr – St Mauritius**

**Builth Wells – St Mary**

**Llandewi’r Cwm – St David**

**Llanynis – St David**

**Maesmynis – St David**

## **A Focus For Our Thinking In January 2022**

At the Buallt Benefice Council meeting held on October the 14<sup>th</sup>, Rev’d Mark reported on the many positive responses that had been received after the desperate plight of Afghan refugees had formed a portion of a sermon in September. At the meeting it was felt that the issue of refugees and forced migration was one that the church needed to focus its thinking around. During the first week in January, one of the set bible readings will be from Chapter 2 of Matthew’s Gospel, where it says this:

‘When the wise men had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”’

Fearing for the life of their child, Joseph and Mary became refugees, fleeing the persecution of a tyrant.

Two of the foundational stories in the history of the Jewish people involve them living in exile, firstly as economic refugees settling in Egypt having fled from a drought in Israel, and secondly as victims of an expanding Babylonian empire into which they were dragged as slave labour.

It is not surprising therefore that the bible has a lot to say about what it variously describes as foreigners, sojourners, strangers or aliens. In Leviticus 19 we read: ‘When you reap the harvest, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the alien.’ Then in Numbers 15 it says: ‘The community is to have the same rules for you and for the alien living among you, this is a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. You and the alien shall be the same before the Lord.’ And in Deuteronomy 10: ‘He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing. And you are to love those who are aliens, for you yourselves were aliens in Egypt.’

Following the frantic nature of the lead up to Christmas, the slower pace of January seems like an ideal time for us to reflect upon God’s instruction that we care for the weak, the vulnerable, the widow, the orphan and the ‘alien’, or what we might call the migrant or the refugee.

We shall take a number of retiring collections in January which will help to support those who are unfortunate enough to have fled their homes for a variety of reasons.

# **Buallt Benefice Services until the end of December 2021**

Nov 28<sup>th</sup> **ADVENT SUNDAY**

**9:30am Holy Communion St Mary's Builth Wells**

Dec 5<sup>th</sup> **9:30am Advent Antiphons St Mary's Builth Wells**

**3:00pm Holy Communion St David's Llandewi'r Cwm**

Dec 12<sup>th</sup> **9:30am Holy Communion St Mary's Builth Wells**

Dec 19<sup>th</sup> **9:30am Holy Communion St Mary's Builth Wells**

Dec 20<sup>th</sup> **Monday**

**7:00pm Christmas Carol Service with the Rotarians**

Dec 24<sup>th</sup> **CHRISTMAS EVE (Friday)**

**5:00pm Family Carol Service St Mary's Builth Wells**

**7:00pm YFC Carol Service St David's Llandewi'r Cwm**

**8:30pm (approx.) Holy Communion Llandewi'r Cwm**

**11:30pm Holy Communion St Mary's Builth Wells**

Dec 25<sup>th</sup> **CHRISTMAS DAY (Saturday)**

**11:00am Holy Communion St David's Llanynis**

Dec 26<sup>th</sup> **No Services except on Zoom at 9:30am**

Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> **9:30am Holy Communion St Mary's Builth Wells**

**3:00pm Christingle Celebration**