

We'll meet again...

The Cwrdda choir was formed in the village of Llanwrda in November 2019. A concert had been arranged to raise money for St Cwrdaŷ's Church, organised by their organist, Cheryl Davies, a music teacher who has inspired generations of young performers in the local area

Following discussions with the vicar, Viv Sayer, a flyer appeared in the village shop inviting people from the community to join a pop-up choir to sing in the concert.



It has to be admitted that there wasn't a huge response to the advert. It was a very small group which met in the old school, five adults and two secondary school pupils. We were a group rather than a choir but the Cwrdda part of our name was key (it plays with our patron saint's name 'Cwrdaŷ' and the Welsh word 'cwrdda' which means 'to meet'). As we practised our repertoire – a brand-new song celebrating community values, and two folk songs, one Hebrew and one from Wales – several members were keen to continue meeting after the concert.

The concert was very successful because of our musically talented youngsters, but the appreciation of the audience was a spur to us to persevere.

A special service was planned for Candlemas. By that time the heating had packed up and the congregation was meeting in the old school. As we had been practising there anyway, we felt quite at home leading the singing in the service.

We had learned several new items, some hymns for Epiphany, some Plygain carols and several chants from the Taizé community. We were eager to preserve the international flavour although the French language was anything but natural to one or two of the party. In spite of this 'Jésus le Christ, lumière intérieure' quickly became a favourite.

Dydd Gwyl Dewi was the next date in our calendar. The church members were by now very familiar with our modus operandi – a group of four or five of us getting up to sing, with Cheryl accompanying us on the keyboard.

In the spring we were going to be joined by several new members. But then came coronavirus and everything came to a sudden halt . . . but, every Thursday evening, members who live in the village square have been standing outside their homes and thanking the NHS . . . by singing songs from the Cwrdda repertoire!