Friday 15 September

11.00 Jeremy Moore, photographer/naturalist, and David Anning of the RSPB will visit some of the favourite places of R. S. Thomas. Wear stout footwear and suitable clothing. Meet: CADW car-park, Furnace SY20 8ND.

£5.00

Refreshments in the Iron Room will be available throughout the Festival.

2.00 Peter Lord - Author of ‘The Visual Culture of Wales’
‘M. E. Eldridge in context: Welsh Environment and English Romanticism’
£10.00

4.00 Professor Jason Walford Davies - School of Welsh, Bangor University, Co-Director of R. S. Thomas Research Centre, Bangor
‘The two-way traffic of meaningful speech’: R. S. Thomas – a newly-discovered correspondence
£10.00

5.30 Archive films of R. S. Thomas & Elsi’s life and work will be shown in the Iron Room.

7.30 Sgarmes - Elinor Powell’s Sgarmes are a close-harmony singing group based in Aberystwyth. They have been featured on TV shows and have performed at numerous events internationally. They sing a wide range of popular songs in English and Welsh.

£10.00

Saturday 16 September

11.00 The Bishop of St Davids will preach at the morning service led by Canon Andrew Loat and Canon Stuart Bell. It will be followed by the blessing of St Non’s Holy Well.

The Rt. Rev. Joanna Penberthy - Bishop of St Davids

2.00 Ifor ap Glyn - National Poet of Wales
‘Water and spirituality: a tour around some notable wells from Buxton to Eglwysfach’
£10.00

3.30 Professor Tony Brown - Co-Director of R. S. Thomas Research Centre, Bangor University
‘Sharing in the building: The Creative Relationship of R. S. Thomas and Elsi Eldridge’
£10.00

Following this the church will be open to view some paintings of M. E. “Elsi” Eldridge.

7.00 Reception in the Iron Room
Supper with wine, followed by poetry readings from the works of R. S. Thomas (limited to 36 guests).
£20.00

Sunday 17 September

9.30 Holy Communion Service - Canon Stuart Bell

11.30 Poetry Reading
Ifor ap Glyn National Poet of Wales
Gillian Clarke National Poet of Wales 2008-2016
£10.00

1.30 Poetry Competition
Inspiration for poets from poems by R. S. Thomas:

I can't speak my own
Language – Iesu,
All those good words:
And I outside them.

('Welsh')

The meaning is in the waiting.

('Kneeling')

He’s a new man now, part of the machine,
His nerves of metal and his blood oil.

('Cynddylan on a Tractor')

A bird chimes
from a green tree
the hour that is no hour
you know.

('Arrival')

4.30 Prize giving
END OF FESTIVAL
R. S. Thomas Poetry Competition
Sunday 17 September

Conditions

Judges: Gillian Clarke
Professor Tony Brown

1st Prize £250
2nd Prize £100
Highly commended £40

Poets are invited to submit a poem of no more than 30 lines, or equivalent if lines are short, taking inspiration from the quotations chosen by the judges (see overleaf).
No more than 2 poems may be entered per person.
Submission for 1 poem £10.00 / 2 poems £15.00.
Entrants must read their poems at the competition event in St Michael’s Church, Eglwysfach.
All entries must be previously unpublished.
If possible all entries should be typewritten.
The Judges’ decision is final.

Winners will be announced on Sunday 17 September at the end of the competition.

Please post 3 printed copies (ONE WITH YOUR NAME ON IT AND 2 ANONYMOUS) and your entry fee to arrive before Friday 18 August to Mrs Anita Major, Heisterbach, Furnace, Machynlleth SY20 8PG.

If you can, please also email your poem(s) to anita.heisterbach@gmail.com with your full name clearly stated.

Leaflet design: Eleanor Percival
www.eleanorpervical.com

R. S. Thomas (1913-2000)
A Continuing Legacy

Thomas was vicar of St Michael’s Church, Eglwysfach from 1954-1967 during one of his most creative periods. The recent surge of interest in this unconventional and patriotic Welsh poet has led to this fourth Festival at Eglwysfach to honour his memory.

The church is late Georgian and was rebuilt in 1833. Restoration took place in 1999 and 2014.

It is believed that this site was first used in the dark ages as a burial ground following the victory of King Edwin of Northumberland at Llandre. A chapel of ease was built in 1623 on the site or nearby to the present church. There are records of the recently restored St Non’s Holy Well.

Gŵyl Lenyddol
R. S. Thomas
Literary Festival & Poetry Competition
15-17 Medi/September 2017

The Festival is organised by the Parochial Church Council of St Michael’s Church.

Further information
www.eglwysfach.co.uk
Alison Swanson alisonswanson@hotmail.com
Delyth Griffiths delyth.griffiths@talk21.com
Joy Neal j.neal789@outlook.com
Phone: 01654 781 322 / 306 / 203

R. S. Thomas in front of The Iron Room    photo: John Hedgcoe

Rt. Rev. Joanna Penberthy - Bishop of St Davids
Ifor ap Glyn - National Poet of Wales
Professor Tony Brown
Gillian Clarke - National Poet of Wales 2008-2016
Peter Lord
Jeremy Moore
Professor Jason Walford Davies
Sgarms Concert

ST MICHAEL’S CHURCH
 EGLWYSFACH
MACHYNLLETH SY20 8SX
### TICKET REQUIREMENTS

**Name**

**Address**

**Email**

**Tel. No.**

PLEASE INDICATE HOW MANY TICKETS YOU WOULD LIKE FOR EACH EVENT IN THE RIGHT HAND COLUMN

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FRIDAY 15 SEPTEMBER</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Walk with J. Moore &amp; D. Anning</td>
<td>£5.00</td>
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<td>Peter Lord</td>
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<td>Jason Walford Davies</td>
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<td>Sgarmes concert</td>
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<td>Tony Brown</td>
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<td><strong>SUNDAY 17 SEPTEMBER</strong></td>
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<td>Church Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gillian Clarke &amp; Ifor ap Glyn</td>
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**POETRY COMPETITION ENTRANTS**

Please tick the box for your preferred time slot and we will do our best to accommodate you. Please be aware the allocation of time slots will be on a first-come-first served basis.

We will tell you your approximate time slot when you receive your tickets. Please attend a half hour before your allotted time.

All poems must be received by FRIDAY 18 AUGUST. However, we can reserve you a time slot of your choice in advance once your entrance fee is paid.

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<tr>
<th>PREFERRED TIME SLOT</th>
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<td>PRIZE GIVING</td>
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<td>END OF FESTIVAL</td>
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TOTAL AMOUNT TO PAY

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Post cheque & form to Mrs A Major, Heisterbach, Furnace, Machynlleth SY20 8PG 01654 781293 anita.heisterbach@gmail.com

All cheques for the festival payable to St. Michael’s Church

Self addressed and stamped envelope gratefully received when ordering tickets