

# R S Thomas

## Literary Festival and Poetry Competition

### 16-18 September 2022



R S Thomas in front of The Iron Room - photo John Hedgecoe.

**Walk** led by staff from the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales

**Speakers: Professor Richard Mayou**  
**The Right Reverend Rowan Williams**  
**Professor Helen Wilcox**  
**Professor Jason Walford Davies**

**Poetry Reading: Paul Henry and Samantha Wynne-Rhydderch**

**Poetry Competition Judges: Professor Tony Brown and Gillian Clarke, former National Poet of Wales**

**OPEN POETRY COMPETITION**  
**ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH**  
**EGLWYSFACH, CEREDIGION, SY20 8SX**

#### Friday 16 September

2pm – **Guided Walk**

An exploration of the buildings and landscape known to R S Thomas while vicar of Eglwysfach, led by Richard Suggett and Nicola Roberts of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales.

7pm – **Professor Richard Mayou**, Emeritus Fellow of Psychiatry, Nuffield College, Oxford  
*Eglwysfach and the Dyfi Valley: From Trade and Industry to Nature Reserve*

Richard Mayou qualified in medicine in 1965 and has held many appointments since, and was a Visitor of the Oxford University Botanic Garden for 14 years. He now spends part of the year at Aberdyfi and his talk will cover the history of the Dyfi Valley.

#### Saturday 17 September

11am – **The Right Reverend Rowan Williams, the Lord Williams of Oystermouth**, will preach at the morning service led by the **Venerable Eileen Davies, MBE, Archdeacon of Cardigan**.

2pm – **The Right Reverend Rowan Williams**  
*Keeping Faith in Poetry: Thoughts on the Present Scene*

Rowan Williams was the 104th Archbishop of Canterbury between 2002 and 2012. Previously Bishop of Monmouth and then Archbishop of Wales, he was the first Archbishop of Canterbury appointed from within the Church in Wales rather than the Church of England.

3.30pm – **Professor Helen Wilcox**, Professor Emerita of English Literature, Bangor University  
*The Challenge of Devotional Poetry*

5pm – **Professor Jason Walford Davies**, School of Celtic Studies and Co-Director of the R S Thomas Research Centre, Bangor University  
*Art and Elegy at the Year's Turning: A Lost Essay by R S Thomas*

7pm – **Reception at The Iron Room, Eglwysfach**  
 Cheese and Wine Evening. Limited number of tickets available.

#### Sunday 18 September

9.30am – **Morning Service at St Michael's Church** led by the **Reverend Canon Andrew Loat, Priest in Charge of the Bro Padarn Ministry Area**.

11am – **Poetry Reading**  
*The Living Poets of Wales*

**Paul Henry and Samantha Wynne-Rhydderch**  
 Two of Wales's leading poets share a miscellany of their own work alongside favourite poems by R S Thomas.

This event raises money for the upkeep of St Michael's Church, Eglwysfach, where R S Thomas was vicar between 1954 and 1967.

Refreshments will be served and archive films shown in the Iron Room throughout the Festival

#### 1.30 - OPEN POETRY COMPETITION

1st prize £250, 2nd prize £100, Highly commended £40  
 Judges: **Gillian Clarke** (National Poet of Wales, 2008–16) and **Emeritus Professor Tony Brown**, Co-director of the R S Thomas Research Centre, Bangor University.

Entrants should write a poem in **direct response** to one of the given quotations from the work of R S Thomas. Reference may be made to the whole poem from which the quotation comes.

*At break of day behold him, alone with his few Hedge-shorn yearlings and his bitch at heel, A scarecrow of a man, becalmed in the unreal Tides of light, with his cracked lips askew. ('Welsh Shepherd', Uncollected Poems, p. 31)*

*And the thought comes of that other being who is awake, too, letting our prayers break on him, not like this for a few hours, but for days, years, for eternity. ('The Other', Collected Poems, p. 457)*

*Where has God gone? The mind's branches are empty and without song. Their leaves are encrusted with town dust. ('The Lesson', Uncollected Poems, p. 143)*

*[...] looking at me, say what time it is on love's face, for we have no business here other than to disprove certainties the clock knows. ('Countering', Poems to Elsi, p. 56)*

#### POETRY COMPETITION CONDITIONS FOR ENTRANTS

Poets are invited to submit one or two unpublished poems of no more than 30 lines (or equivalent if lines are short). Submitted poems should be type-written if possible. Three copies of poems (**only one with your name**) must be received by **Friday, 19 August 2022**.

Please post poems, preferred time slot (see page 5), and cheque with a stamped addressed envelope to: Mrs A Major, Heisterbach, Furnace, Machynlleth, SY20 8PG. Tel: 01654 781293  
 An extra copy by email would be much appreciated, and should be sent to [anita.heisterbach@gmail.com](mailto:anita.heisterbach@gmail.com)

**Entrants will read their poems at the competition event in St Michael's Church, Eglwysfach, SY20 8SX.**

Every entrant can reserve a time slot of their choice if it is not already booked.

#### PREFERRED TIME SLOT

1.30 – 2 pm .....  
 2 – 2.30 pm .....  
 2.30 – 3 pm .....

3 pm INTERVAL

3.20 – 4 pm .....  
 4 – 4.30 pm .....  
 4.30 pm PRIZE GIVING

#### END OF FESTIVAL

**Further information:** 01654 781322/203/306  
[www.eglwysfach.co.uk](http://www.eglwysfach.co.uk) / twitter: @RSThomas\_litfes

#### TICKET REQUIREMENTS

Name.....  
 Address.....  
 .....  
 Tel.....email.....

FRIDAY 16 SEPTEMBER	NUMBER OF TICKETS	
Walk	£5	.....
Prof Richard Mayou	£10	.....

SATURDAY 17 SEPTEMBER		
Church Service: No ticket required		
Rt Rev Rowen Williams	£10	.....
Professor Helen Wilcox	£10	.....
Professor J Walford Davies	£10	.....

SUNDAY 18 SEPTEMBER		
Church Service: No ticket required		
Poetry Reading	£10	.....

**Poetry Competition: 1.30 - 5 pm**

One poem entry	£10	<input type="text"/>
Two poems	£15	<input type="text"/>
Audience (Poets free)	£5	<input type="text"/>

TOTAL AMOUNT TO PAY £ .....

Payment accepted by cheque made out to St Michael's Church or BACS Nat West Account: 84578378 Sort Code 53-81-26.

Please include a SAE with applications for tickets to Mrs A Major, Heisterbach, Furnace, Machynlleth, SY20 8PG.

# R S Thomas

## Gŵyl Lenyddol a Chystadleuaeth Barddoniaeth 16-18 Medi 2022



R S Thomas o flaen Yr Ystafell Haearn – llun gan John Hedgecoe.

**Taith gerdded** wedi'i harwain gan staff Comisiwn Brenhinol Henebion Cymru

**Siaradwyr:** Yr Athro Richard Mayou  
Y Gwir Barchedig Rowan Williams  
Yr Athro Helen Wilcox  
Yr Athro Jason Walford Davies  
**Darlleniad Barddoniaeth:** Paul Henry a Samantha Wynne-Rhydderch

**Beirniaid y Gystadleuaeth Barddoniaeth:** Yr Athro Tony Brown a Gillian Clarke, cyn Fardd Cenedlaethol Cymru

**CYSTADLEUAETH BARDDONIAETH AGORED  
EGLWYS SANT MIHANGEL  
EGLWYS-FACH, CEREDIGION, SY20 8SX**

### Dydd Gwener 16 Medi

2pm – **Taith Dywys**  
Taith i weld yr adeiladau a thirwedd a oedd yn gyfarwydd i R S Thomas pan oedd yn ficer Eglwys-fach, wedi'i harwain gan Richard Suggett a Nicola Roberts o Gomisiwn Brenhinol Henebion Cymru.

7pm – **Yr Athro Richard Mayou**, Cymrawd Emeritws Seiciatreg, Coleg Nuffield, Rhydychen  
*Eglwysfach and the Dyfi Valley: From Trade and Industry to Nature Reserve*

Cymhwysodd Richard Mayou mewn meddygaeth ym 1965 ac mae wedi dal llawer o swyddi ers hynny. Roedd hefyd yn Ymwelydd Gardd Fotaneg Prifysgol Rhydychen am 14 blynedd. Mae bellach yn treulio rhan o'r flwyddyn yn Aberdyfi a bydd yn ymdrin â hanes Dyffryn Dyfi yn ei sgwrs.

### Dydd Sadwrn 17 Medi

11am – Bydd y **Gwir Barchedig Rowan Williams, yr Arglwydd Williams o Ystumllwynarth**, yn pregethu yng ngwasanaeth y bore a arweinir gan yr **Hybarch Eileen Davies, MBE, Archddiacon Aberteifi**.

2pm – **Y Gwir Barchedig Rowan Williams** *Keeping Faith in Poetry: Thoughts on the Present Scene*

Rowan Williams oedd 104ydd Archesgob Caergaint (2002-2012). Roedd cyn hynny yn Esgob Mynwy ac yna'n Archesgob Cymru. Ef oedd yr Archesgob Caergaint cyntaf i ddod o'r Eglwys yng Nghymru yn hytrach nag Eglwys Loegr.

3.30pm – **Yr Athro Helen Wilcox**, Athro Emerita Llenyddiaeth Saesneg, Prifysgol Bangor  
*The Challenge of Devotional Poetry*

5pm – **Yr Athro Jason Walford Davies**, Ysgol Astudiaethau Celtaidd a Chyd-Gyfarwyddwr Canolfan Ymchwil R S Thomas, Prifysgol Bangor  
*Art and Elegy at the Year's Turning: A Lost Essay by R S Thomas*

7pm – **Derbyniad yn yr Ystafell Haearn, Eglwys-fach** Noson Caws a Gwin. Nifer cyfyngedig o docynnau.

### Dydd Sul 18 Medi

9.30am – **Gwasanaeth y Bore yn Eglwys Sant Mihangel** dan arweiniad y **Parchedig Ganon Andrew Loat, Offeiriad â Gofal, Ardal Weinidogaeth Bro Padarn**.

11am – **Darlleniad Barddoniaeth**  
*The Living Poets of Wales*

**Paul Henry a Samantha Wynne-Rhydderch**  
Bydd dau o feirdd blaenllaw Cymru yn darllen eu cerddi eu hunain a'u hoff gerddi o waith R S Thomas.

Bydd yr elw o'r digwyddiad yn mynd tuag at gynnal a chadw Eglwys Sant Mihangel, Eglwys-fach, lle roedd R S Thomas yn ficer rhwng 1954 a 1967.

Darperir lluniaeth a dangosir ffilmau o'r archif yn yr Ystafell Haearn drwy gydol yr Ŵyl.

### 1.30pm - Y GYSTADLEUAETH BARDDONIAETH

*Gwobr 1<sup>af</sup> £250, 2<sup>il</sup> Wobr £100, Clod Uchel £40*  
Beirniaid: **Gillian Clarke** (Bardd Cenedlaethol Cymru, 2008-16) a'r **Athro Emeritws Tony Brown**, Cyd-Gyfarwyddwr Canolfan Ymchwil R S Thomas, Prifysgol Bangor.

Dylai cystadleuwyr ysgrifennu cerdd mewn **ymateb uniongyrchol** i un o'r dyfyniadau isod o waith R S Thomas. Gellir cyfeirir at y gerdd gyfan y mae'r dyfyniad yn dod ohoni.

*At break of day behold him, alone with his few Hedge-shorn yearlings and his bitch at heel, A scarecrow of a man, becalmed in the unreal Tides of light, with his cracked lips askew. ('Welsh Shepherd', Uncollected Poems, t. 31)*

*And the thought comes of that other being who is awake, too, letting our prayers break on him, not like this for a few hours, but for days, years, for eternity. ('The Other', Collected Poems, t. 457)*

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*[...] looking at me, say what time it is on love's face, for we have no business here other than to disprove certainties the clock knows. ('Countering', Poems to Elsi, t. 56)*

### Y GYSTADLEUAETH BARDDONIAETH AMODAU I GYSTADLEUWYR

Gwahoddir beirdd i gyflwyno un neu ddwy o gerddi anghyhoeddedig o ddim mwy na 30 llinell (neu'r hyn sy'n cyfateb os yw'r llinellau'n rhai byr). Dylai'r cerddi a gyflwynir fod wedi'u teipio os oes modd. Rhaid derbyn tri chopi o'r cerddi (**un yn unig â'ch enw arno**) erbyn **Dydd Gwener, 19 Awst 2022**.

Postiwch eich cerddi, siec, ac amlen â stamp a'ch cyfeiriad arni i'r cyfeiriad isod, gan nodi slot amser o'ch dewis hefyd (gweler tudalen 5):

Mrs A Major, Heisterbach, Ffwrnais, Machynlleth, SY20 8PG. Ffôn: 01654 781293

Byddem yn gwerthfawrogi cael copi ychwanegol drwy e-bost, y dylid ei anfon i: [anita.heisterbach@gmail.com](mailto:anita.heisterbach@gmail.com)

**Bydd y cystadleuwyr yn darllen eu cerddi yn y digwyddiad yn Eglwys Sant Mihangel, Eglwys-fach, SY20 8SX.**

Gall yr ymgeiswyr ofyn am slot amser o'u dewis os nad yw wedi'i neilltuo eisoes.

SLOT AMSER O'CH DEWIS	
1.30 – 2 pm	.....
2 – 2.30 pm	.....
2.30 – 3 pm	.....
3 pm	EGWYL
3.20 – 4 pm	.....
4 – 4.30 pm	.....
4.30 pm	GWOBRWYO

### DIWEDD YR ŴYL

**Gwybodaeth bellach:** 01654 781322/203/306  
[www.eglwysfach.co.uk](http://www.eglwysfach.co.uk) / twitter: @RSThomas\_litfes

### ARCHEBU TOCYNNAU

Enw.....  
Cyfeiriad.....  
.....  
Ffôn.....e-bost.....

DYDD GWENER 16 MEDI	NIFER Y TOCYNNAU	
Taith Gerdded	£5	.....
Yr Athro Richard Mayou	£10	.....

DYDD SADWRN 17 MEDI		
Gwasanaeth Eglwys: Nid oes angen tocyn		
Y Gwir Barch. Rowan Williams	£10	.....
Yr Athro Helen Wilcox	£10	.....
Yr Athro J Walford Davies	£10	.....

DYDD SUL 18 MEDI		
Gwasanaeth Eglwys: Nid oes angen tocyn		
Darlleniad Barddoniaeth	£10	.....

Cystadleuaeth Barddoniaeth: 1.30 - 5 pm			
Un gerdd	£10	<input type="text"/>	
Dwy gerdd	£15	<input type="text"/>	
Cynulleidfa (Beirdd am ddim)	£5	<input type="text"/>	

CYFANSWM I'W DALU £ .....

Derbynnir tâl drwy siec yn daladwy i Eglwys Sant Mihangel neu drwy BACS, Cyfrif Nat West: 84578378  
Cod Didoli 53-81-26.

Anfonwch eich cais am docynnau at Mrs A Major, Heisterbach, Ffwrnais, Machynlleth SY20 8PG, gan amgáu amlen â stamp a'ch cyfeiriad arni.