## The Welsh Livery Bulletin of the Worshipful Livery Company of Wales



**Issue No 34** 

### **Spring 2025**

#### **MASTER'S LETTER**



#### Dear Liverymen

My heartfelt thanks to all who supported me at my Installation Banquet last April and have continued to support me during my term of office as Master. I was overwhelmed by Liverymen, friends and colleagues from my professional life and associations with various London Liveries who gathered at the Installation Banquet. Correspondence from among the 278 guests (168 were friends) continue to share with me how much they enjoyed the occasion which also subsidised subsequent Livery events in my year. One correspondent informed me how only the Worshipful Livery Company of Wales Royal Charter Dinner in 2014 exceeded 300 guests. The Master's Cruise was also a great first for Liverv!

As Master I represented Livery on over fifty three official occasions. I am not able to write about each event attended but full reports of the events can be accessed on the Livery website

https://www.liverycompanywales.cymru/recent.html

and a photo gallery displaying all the events attended is attached further in this bulletin. London Liveries welcomed the participation of the Welsh Livery. One liveryman opined that he thought we were somehow connected with the 'marine mammal' and not the nation!

My year was all about inclusion. Not as some forensic marker but as a *real time* human story. Whether Welsh Wine tasting at The Glyndwr in Cowbridge, sipping whisky in Penderyn, a weekend in Llandudno or the delicious Malaysian luncheon in London; the superb tour of Parliament and Afternoon Tea with the Baroness Findlay of Llandaff (2013/14 Outstanding Achievement Winner) lasting friendships were made, the Livery strengthened.

My term of Office as Master focussed inclusion under the headings of "Legal" (HHJ Nicholas Cooke KC gave a fascinating lecture entitled "Does the Criminal Justice System Need a Thorough Check Up?) and "Raising Awareness" of our Company through collaborations - "Stronger Together" worked well with the Lord Mayor of the City of London Mainelli's theme "Connect Michael Prosper". As part of the awareness initiative, I accepted invitations to be interviewed by the Wales Media, BBC Wales TV and BBC Radio in English (both available on the website). Dr. Claude Evans, Clerk Emeritus assisted by agreeing to be interviewed in Welsh by BBC Radio Wales - thereby helping to further raise the profile of the Company.

As part of my longstanding commitment to initiate a Legal Award through collaborations with law firms and legal departments in educational institutions, I engaged with them to explore social mobility and *probono* initiatives to demonstrate the breadth of the spectrum of the support offered by the Company through the Awards Programme.

As Master I identified awardees who understood the power of self-motivation in pursuing education and despite extremely

challenging personal circumstances had all turned their lives around, wishing to pursue legal careers and ensuring their social mobility. My Master's Award, Legal Award and Achievement Award all affirm the breadth of vision of the Livery Company and the broad horizons it can span.

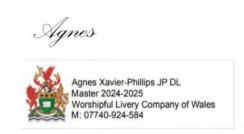
Our Livery Company is not best modelled as an inward looking exclusive club, but rather as a community of gifted and aspirational men and women wishing to play their part in the life of Wales as a nation. To ensure the sustainability of our Company going forward, I embarked on a recruitment campaign which has resulted in **nineteen** new Liverymen joining our Company who all hold our vision.

I was overwhelmed to receive the High Sheriff of South Glamorgan's Award and Shield at the Champagne Reception Court Dinner which followed my last Court Meeting as Master. The High Sheriff Janey Howell presented me with the Award in recognition of my valuable services to the community as Master of the Worshipful Livery Company of Wales. I am also delighted to share with you that I will be receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award 2025 at an Awards Ceremony on the 17th May

2025. I am honoured and humbled to receive these awards.

The year that now draws to a close has presented me with many challenges as retirements and replacements of officers seem to come like buses. I have successfully filled the vacancies, and the next Master will enjoy the stability and enthusiasm of a new Clerk, Treasurer, Chaplain and Beadle, I wish my successor and new officers a most wonderful year. The Worshipful Livery Company of Wales has a bright future: our demography is more balanced, our operating officers task driven, our committees target focussed. I thank you once again for your support and making my year a very successful one. I look forward to enjoying the coming year to witness the blossoming of what has been planted in my year as Master.

Coifon



It would be rather remiss of me not to thank my very supportive Consort Nigel Philips who has accompanied me to all the events I have attended as Master. His unwavering support has helped me to carry out my Master's role with ease and my gratitude and thanks to him.



**Master and Consort Nigel Phillips** 

#### PHOTO GALLERY OF MASTER'S CALANDAR EVENTS 2024-2025

As the term of office for our Master **Agnes Xavier- Phillips** JP DL nears an end, she looks back on her year and her Master's Calendar events that she has shared with her fellow Welsh, London and Regional Liverymen and their partners and with family, friends and colleagues from the UK and abroad. Click here for more information Worshipful Livery Company of Wales | Recent

Installation Ceremony - 6 April 2024



Tour of the Houses of Parliament with Baroness Findlay - 25 April 2024



Master's Lecture - 20 May 2024



The Master's Sail Away Weekend 30th May to 2nd June 2024



Welsh Wine Tasting at The Glyndwr Vineyard -7th July 2024



Royal Charter 10th Anniversary Celebration – 28th June 2024

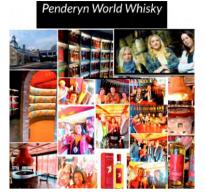




Master's North Wales Weekend in Llandudno – 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2024



Tour of Penderyn Whisky Copperworks in Swansea – 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024



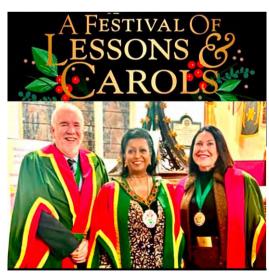
Lord Mayor's Show in London – 9<sup>th</sup> November 2024



WLCoW Common Hall and Dinner – 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2024



WLCoW's Carol Service at St. John the Baptist Church – 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024



Remembrance Sunday Services in Cardiff – 10<sup>th</sup> November 2024



Court Luncheon at the Ivy, Cardiff 12<sup>th</sup> January 2025



London Group and Master's Malaysian St. David's Day Lunch – 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025



Awards Celebration Dinner at the Hilton Cardiff – 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025



Lord Mayor's St. David's Day Civic Service, Cardiff – 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025



#### **LAST COURT MEETING FOR 2024-25**



Master **Agnes Xavier- Phillips**' last Court Meeting was held on 17 March.

Nineteen Liverymen attended (16 in person and 3 online.)

The Master took the opportunity to review a remarkably successful year with a varied, enjoyable and well attended series of events. The Master has represented the Welsh Livery at many external events and raised our profile very successfully and continued with her campaign to recruit new members. This is particularly evident in that we have gained **nineteen** new members so far this year.

Three new Liverymen were elected at Court and subsequently clothed and admitted, **Simon Care**, **Karl Gilmore** and **Richard Mustafa**.

## PRE DINNER CHAMPAGNE RECEPTION A A

The Master's Dinner with Court and Servicing Committee Members and their partners was preceded by a Champagne Drinks Reception



#### **COURT DINNER**

Thirty-two members and guests retired to a sumptuous dinner of crab and garlic butter fritter, samphire, and lobster bisque, followed by short rib of beef, mushroom, shallot and broad bean tartlet, pomme puree and jus, and finally white chocolate cheesecake with coffee and mints.

### 2024/2025 AWARD WINNER'S PRESENTATION - CELEBRATION DINNER 2025

NAME OF AWARD	AWARDEE	UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE/OTHER
MAJOR AWARDS		
Achievement Award	Judge Sian Davies	Regional Employment Judge
tunner-Up Bryan Marsh Gold Development Award	Llyr Humphries	Aberystwyth University
Master's Award	Oliver Wannell-Griffiths	Capital Law
UNIVERSITIES		
Travel Scholarship Award	Mica Gallagher	IBERS, Aberystwyth University
Innovation Award	Laura Morgan	Cardiff Metropolitan
Journalism Award	Sophie Colson	Cardiff University Journalism
Travel Scholarship Award	Catlin Partridge	Swansea University
Medicine Award	Shannon Edwards	School of Medicine, Cardiff University
COLLEGES		
Stage Award	Hazel Pring	Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama
Vocational Award	Hannah Freckleton	Coleg Sir Går
Legal Award	Ryan Green	University of Wales Trinity Saint David
GENERAL DEVELOPMENT & ADMINISTRATION		
General Development Awards (Jewelry - Art)	Beca Fflur Hughes	
General Development Awards (Ad Hoc)	Owain Terrell	



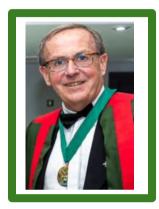
#### **SERVICING COMMITTEES**

#### **AWARDS COMMITTEE**



Congratulations and welcome to the new Chair of the Awards Committee, JW **Dr Jane Croad.** 

#### **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**



Following Court's approval, the Chair SCA **Roger Harper** has agreed to undertake a governance review of the C&Ps with a sub-group of the Membership Committee. Thank you to the team who have already made an excellent start!

#### **QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY INITIATIVE**



John Solbé from the North Wales Committee has confirmed that the Winter-flowering cherry planted in the grounds of St Asaph Parish Church to commemorate the Queen's Green Canopy initiative is continuing to provide a bright spot in late Winter and early Spring.



Another successful Winter-flowering cherry planting was made in South Glamorgan by LL Morfudd Meredith and the then Master Dr Kathy Seddon.

#### **RETIREMENTS**



Outgoing Chaplain, Reverend Canon Sarah Jones



Outgoing Treasurer, Mr Philip Kitchen



Outgoing Clerk Mr Christopher Dale

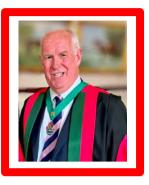


Outgoing Beadle, Mr Bob Forster

#### **NEW APPOINTMENTS**



The Clerk - David Sneddon MA (Hons) CA



Treasurer – Colin Morris BA (Hons), FCA, CPFA



The Master's Chaplain 2025-26 Father Sabastian Jones



The Beadle Mr Simon Care

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FATHER SEBASTIAN



On 20 March 2025, twenty family, friends and colleagues joined CA **Father Sebastian Jones** at the Cardiff and County Club to celebrate his birthday.

The guests were treated to a Champagne Reception followed by a sumptuous wine pairing 3 course lunch.

A very jolly and convivial afternoon was had by all

## THE MASTER MEETS THE RT. HON. THE LORD MAYOR ALASTAIR KING OF THE CITY OF LONDON THE PARKGATE HOTEL, CARDIFF WEDNESDAY 29 JANUARY 2025



The Rt Hon. the Lord Mayor **Alastair King**, Lord Mayor of the City of London attended an exclusive roundtable in Cardiff during his shortened one day trip to the City.

Our Master **Agnes Xavier-Phillips** JP DL was honoured to be one of the selected invitees by Llywodraeth Cymru / Welsh Government to the special evening reception with the Lord Mayor, held at the Parkgate Hotel, Cardiff. Following a couple of short speeches including one from the Lord Mayor, the rest of the evening was dedicated to networking. Our Master had the opportunity to catch up with the Lord Mayor and update him on The Worshipful Livery Company of Wales (WLCoW). She was also able to raise more awareness of the Company and its aim to nurture young Welsh talent through its Awards Programme during the networking session.

#### **WELCOME TO NEW LIVERYMEN**

The Master's campaign to recruit new members has been very successful with **nineteen** new Liverymen joining the Livery in her year. This has helped to increase membership and revenue. Two Members **Eleanor Marks** and **Paul Mealor** and another recent member **Dave Edwards** are awaiting to be clothed and admitted as Liverymen. Another two applicants are awaiting to be interviewed



## ST. DAVID'S DAY CELEBRATION AT THE SLOVAKIAN EMBASSY, LONDON ON TUESDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2025



Our Master was honoured to be invited by His Excellency the Ambassador of the Slovakian Embassy and the Hon. Consul of Slovakia to Wales **Nigel Payne** to a St. David's Day Celebration at the Embassy during Wales in London Week.

Great to see many familiar faces from the Welsh Government, Lieutenancy, Shrievalty and fellow Welsh Liverymen PM **Stuart Castledine** and JW **Jane Croad.** 

## ST. DAVID'S DAY CELEBRATION FRIDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2025 AT THE GUILDHALL HALL LONDON



The WLCoW was well represented at the St. David's Day Celebration at the Guildhall, London with Past Masters Stuart Castledine, Kathy Seddon, SCA Roger Harper and CA Kim Insley attending the event. Wyre Davies (BBC News and Current Affairs Correspondent) was the keynote speaker and Ifor ap Glyn (National Poet of Wales 2016-2022, writer and producer) gave the Toast to St. David. Entertainment was provided by the soprano Rebecca Evans CBE, accompanied by classical pianist Andrew Matthews Owen.

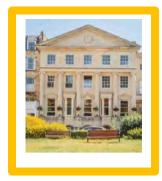
## ST DAVID'S DAY CIVIC SERVICE ON SATURDAY 1 MARCH 2025 AT ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, CARDIFF



The Lord Mayor's annual St David's Day Civic Service took place at The City Parish Church of St John the Baptist, Cardiff.

Our Master was very pleased to represent The Worshipful Livery Company of Wales and join civic, faith, armed forces and community representatives to mark St David's Day.

#### **LIVERY COMPANIES TALK CLIFTON CLUB, BRISTOL FRIDAY 3 JANUARY 2025**



The Senior Court Assistant **Roger Harper** MBE as a member of the Clifton Club in Bristol was asked to be a speaker at their first Friday of the month coffee morning talk on Friday 3 January. It was attended by 28 people and his topic was Livery Companies. The Clifton Club is an affiliate of the Cardiff and County Club and a similar talk there is being considered.





Senior Court Assistant **Roger Harper** MBE represented our Master at the Winter Feast of the Shrewsbury Drapers, pictured here with the Master of the Shrewsbury Drapers, **Trevor Hunt**, and the High Sheriff of Shropshire, **Brian Welti**.

Master Trevor Hunt made special, very praiseworthy mention, of the WLCoW in his speech as he and his wife, **Caroline**, had attended as guests of our Master and enjoyed the WLCoW Awards Dinner the night before.

#### **ASSOCIATION WITH THE CARDIFF BUSINESS CLUB (CBC)**



CBC is the leading organisation of its kind in Wales, and it offers an environment where members can connect with decision makers from across the private, public and charitable sectors to support and promote their businesses.

The Master **Agnes Xavier- Phillips** JP DL, SCA **Roger Harper** MBE and **Sir Norman Lloyd-Edwards** as well as other Welsh Liverymen, are members of the CBC and these are a few of the events they attend to connect and raise awareness of the WLCoW.

#### **COURT LUNCHEON THE IVY CARDIFF 12 JANUARY 2025**



The seasonal holly and ivy were packed away by January 6th only for The Ivy to make a reappearance on January 12th. The Ivy, Cardiff, was the venue for the Court Lunch. The Master, a member of the Ivy Club had the exclusive use of the Ivy's private dining room - The Shearwater Room. It was a great setting and afforded privacy for everyone to relax and enjoy a convivial Sunday lunch. Great venue, great food, great company. A total of 18 Court Members and guests attended and enjoyed each other's company and good banter.

#### **COMMON HALL - 30<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2024**



The Master, Immediate PM, PMs, Clerk Elect, Treasurer and Liverymen attended the annual Common Hall held at the Cardiff and County Club. Twenty nine attended in person and seven virtually. CA Fr. **Sebastian Jones** lead the prayers before the Meeting officially started. Former Clerk and current Secretary of the Charitable Trust Charles Slatter assisted the Master in the absence of the Clerk who had retired and pending appointment of a new Clerk.

After Common Hall, dinner followed. Liverymen enjoyed pre and post meeting drinks followed by a delicious three course dinner with wines. The new Treasurer and Clerk Elect were pleased to meet PMs and Liverymen. Special thanks to CA **Kim Insley** who travelled all the way from London to attend the meeting in person.

#### **CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION**



Our Master has attended many events during her term of office as Master all of which have been reported fully on the Company's website. They can all be accessed using the Menu- News and Events- Recent News. Click <a href="https://www.liverycompanywales.cymru/recent.html">https://www.liverycompanywales.cymru/recent.html</a>

A photo gallery displaying all the London events attended by the Master is attached below.



#### **DEATH NOTICES**



Mr David Hugh Thomas CBE GCStJ LLD DL Liveryman No 113 joined the Company in November 1993 Hugh was a Trustee of the Charitable Trust and a Court Assistant



Mrs Fiona S Curteis
Liveryman 520 and wife of the late Past Master Commander J M D
Curteis RD\* DL (2009 – 2010) became a Liveryman in her own right in January 2022.

#### **SAVE THE DATES**

#### THE INCOMING MASTER'S CALENDAR 2025-2026

#### MASTER'S 2025/26 PROGRAMME

#### MASTER'S INSTALLATION

#### Margam Abbey & Orangery, Port Talbot

5th April 2025

Court Installation at Margam Orangery followed by a short service of Blessing at the adjacent Margam Abbey. Returning to the Orangery for reception drinks and dinner. Coaches available from Cardiff and Blanco's Hotel in Port Talbot.

£95 per person

#### 'FROM STEAM TO SUPERSONIC'

SS Great Britain / Bristol Aerospace

16th - 17th May 2025

Dinner upon SS Great Britain (hosted by Engineers Livery Company) and on the following morning a visit to Bristol Aerospace Museum where we take a tour of the last flying Concorde.

£140 per person for SS GB (overnight accommodation extra) £20 per person for Concorde visit

#### MASTER'S WEEKEND

Shrewsbury

30th May - 2nd June 2025

Where the Master's career began and his marriage was blessed. A full long weekend of activity including:

5\* Spa Hotel, Charles Darwin Lecture, Shrewsbury Prison Visit, 1403 Shrewsbury Battlefield Visit, Bird of Prey Demonstration, Ironbridge, Blists Hill Victorian Town, Evening Reception Drinks and Dinner with after dinner guest speaker, a Murder Mystery Dinner, and Dinner at Shrewsbury Drapers Hall. Free time also built in!

£430 per person (Return train from Cardiff to Shrewsbury extra)

#### NORTH WALES GARDEN PARTY

Lower Denbigh, St Asaph

26th July 2025

Long Weather Forecast 'guarantees' that this day will be very warm and sunny and therefore please wear straw hat, dark shades and plenty of sun cream! £20 per person

#### MASTER'S GARDEN PARTY

Insole Court, Cardiff

17<sup>th</sup> August 2025

Live entertainment provided at something that might resemble a "Midsomer" village fete – but without the murders! Cold buffet with wine, punch, and cordials. £35 per person

#### MASTER'S NORTH WALES WEEKEND

Caernarfon

19th - 21st September 2025

A weekend of castles, museum, mountain railway, stately home and gardens, fine dining and guest speakers.

£250 per person (£50 single accommodation supplement)

#### LONDON WEEKEND

'Protecting our People'

17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Lecture at Royal College of Defence Studies by Met Asst. Commissioner Matt Jukes on Terrorism, Guest Speaker at Special Forces Club (spies & agents!), tour of the Old Bailey, visit to Temple Church and free afternoon in London.

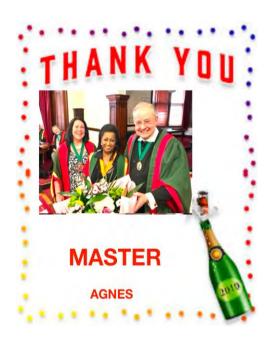
£125 per person (overnight accommodation extra)

#### MASTER RECEIVES THE HIGH SHERIFF'S AWARD



At the end of the Champagne Reception Court Dinner on Monday 17 March, unexpectedly, our Master **Agnes Xavier- Phillips** was presented with the High Sheriff's Award by **Janey Howell**, the High Sheriff of South Glamorgan. She was overwhelmed to receive this Award in recognition for her great and valuable services to the community as Master of the WLCoW. What a wonderful ending to the evening and a befitting present to mark our Master's end of term of office as Master.

JW **Dr Jane Croad** and CA and Charitable Events Committee Chair **Father Sebastian Jones** on behalf of the Worshipful Livery Company of Wales, presented our Master with a beautiful bouquet of flowers in recognition of her very successful year!



#### **DONATE JUST GIVING**

The WLCoW is pleased to receive donations through JUST GIVING on the website – Click the "Donate" button bar. Alternatively, you can contact the Treasurer at treasurer@liverycompanywales.cymru

#### **WELSH LIVERY BULLETIN**

If you have any articles you wish to be included in future editions of the WLB, please contact The Master **Agnes Xavier-Phillips** JP DL and **Angela Parry** MBE (Assistant Clerk), who compile the WLB based on contributions/articles received.

#### THE EDITORIAL TEAM





Every issue of the WLB is available in Welsh and you can access previous copies by clicking link below

Worshipful Livery Company of Wales liverycompanywales.cymru



To view full reports of **ALL** the events referred to in this issue of the Bulletin, please use the menu bar – News and Events – Recent Events or click below.

https://www.liverycompanywales.cymru/recent.html

## THE WORSHIPFUL LIVERY COMPANY OF WALES



#### CWMNI ANRHYDEDDUS LIFRAI CYMRU

The Honourable Society for Arts, Science and Technology Nurturing Welsh Talent Cymdeithias Anrhydeddus Tros Gelf, Gwyddor a Thecnoleg Meithrin Dawn Cymru

## **AWARDS CELEBRATION DINNER 2025**



## The Worshipful Livery Company of Wales



# hosted its annual Awards Celebration Dinner at the

## HILTON CARDIFF ON WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2025



This esteemed event honours young Welsh talents across various fields, including education, arts, science, and technology.





The evening commenced with a warm welcome from the Master **Agnes Xavier-Phillips** JP DL who received Liverymen, guests and awardees as they arrived. The Clerk **David Sneddon** and Treasurer **Colin Morris** ensured a smooth ushering and introduction of the guests to the Master.



## **DRINKS RECEPTION**

Approximately 140, guests and awardees enjoyed the fizz reception whilst mingling and getting to know other guests. Awardees were chaperoned and introduced to Liverymen and guests by members of the Awards Committee and their Chair SW **Henry Gilbert**.





## Les Complement



## **Dinner**

Two trumpeters called the Liverymen, their guests and award winners into dinner. And true to tradition, the Master and the Company guests were clapped in.

Senior Court Assistant, **Roger Harper**, acted as MC, introducing the different parts of the evening and ensuring all flowed smoothly.





The three-course meal was served and enjoyed by everyone, with presentations and entertainment taking place between the courses.



We were richly entertained by "one of our very own award winner and sensational soprano **Niamh Tagnell Toal** "whose beautiful voice filled the room with a range of popular songs made famous by Edith Piaf and our own Welsh legend Dame Shirley Bassey! She was accompanied on the keyboard by **Dora Keaton**.



This was followed by the dualling trumpeters. Those who attended the Master's Installation last year would have heard three trumpeters dual at the Installation – clearly one had other duties!



Award winners were seated at a number of different tables that were named after Welsh counties so they could meet and socialise with Liverymen from across the Company and be introduced to guests.



### **AWARDS**

The range of activities the winners shared on how they were going to use their awards to further their careers ranged from supporting jewellery making, providing medical support in Australia and buying a new wheelchair for prospective paralympic sports activity. CA **Simon Holt** presented their stories in a short PowerPoint presentation.



The Award Winners hailed from very diverse backgrounds and were formally presented and photographed with the Master – including past winners.





In keeping with the Master's theme of Legal, Social Mobility and Inclusion, the Award recipients included a young newly qualified solicitor who received the Master's Award, a young law undergraduate the recipient of the Legal Award and finally an Employment Tribunal Judge who was the Achievement Award Winner.



The atmosphere was both celebratory and inspiring, reflecting the Company's ongoing mission to foster excellence among Wales's youth.







The evening ended with drinks in the bar before many left for home, with a few staying for the night in the hotel.





In conclusion, the Awards Celebration Dinner was a testament to the Worshipful Livery Company of Wales 'unwavering dedication to supporting and recognising emerging Welsh talent and showing how we achieve our Mission: *Nurturing Welsh Talent*.



Agnes Xavier-Phillips JP DL Master 2024-2025 Worshipful Company of Wales

## If you wish to view the photo album slideshow, please click the link below

https://worship-livery-com-2.megan-sianphotography.com/set/eb7d5626-a9e2-4676-be76-6e5a17a4a787