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MINISTRY AREA

## **District of Gelligaer Magazine:**

*Churches of*  
St. Catwg's, Gelligaer  
St. Margaret's, Gilfach

*A welcoming Christian  
community serving the people  
of the District of Gelligaer.*

## **Transfiguration of Our Lord**

### **What's in this edition!**

*Greetings from the Rectory.*

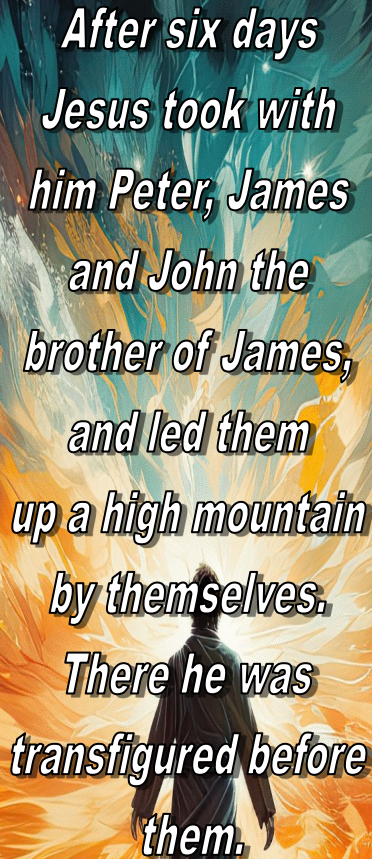
*Reader Writes.*

*District News/Messages.*

*Mothers' Union.*

*Short Quiz  
on Elijah*

*For the Children!  
and More.....*



***After six days  
Jesus took with  
him Peter, James  
and John the  
brother of James,  
and led them  
up a high mountain  
by themselves.  
There he was  
transfigured before  
them.***

***Matthew 17***

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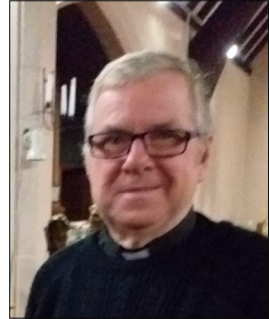
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## Greetings from the Rectory

*Dear friends,*

At last, at the end of July, we are enjoying some fine weather. It has been quite hot this week and I hope that you are able to enjoy the fine weather while it lasts. This summer has certainly been a summer for sports lovers. Already we have seen the Soccer European Championships where England reached the final followed by tennis at Wimbledon and now we can enjoy the Olympics from Paris. Much is made of the power of sport to unite the peoples of the world. Nowhere is this seen more than at the Olympic Games. What has cheered me is that so many different countries are already represented on the medal table. It is wonderful to see athletes, some representing quite small countries, competing and then receiving their medals. They have trained hard and long and now their reward is to perform on the world stage. It is also good to see the, mostly good natured crowds, who have turned out to cheer on those competing. When the world seems to be becoming a more dangerous and unstable place it has been heart-warming to see a more positive side to humanity on display in these great sporting events.



This summer of sport has reminded us that rather than retreating into the mentality of national tribes facing each other with fear and suspicion we all belong to the great family of humanity – God's family – which includes people of all races, all nations. Paul reminds us that in Christ there is no male no female, no Jew no Greek. There is just one

family of humanity, all brothers and sisters in Christ. The great family of humanity is a wonderfully colourful and diverse family, a family united in being children of God, each made in his image, each loved equally by him and each called love each other as God loves all of us.

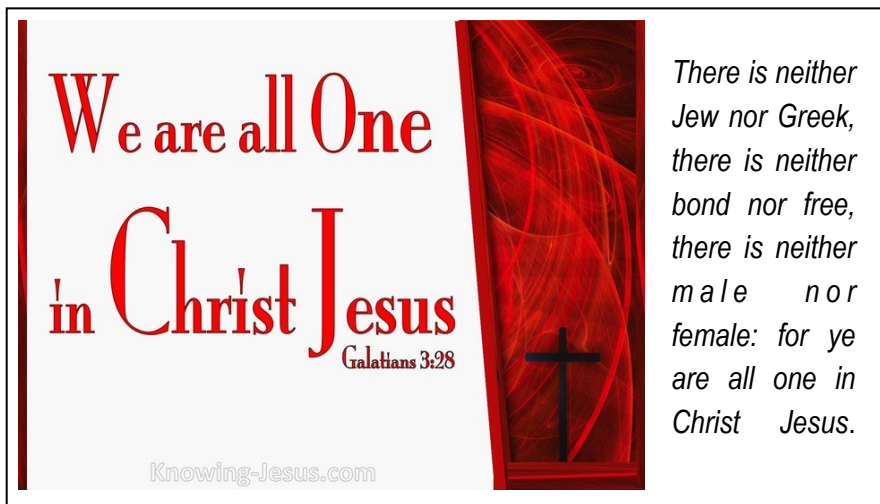
As Christians we have a responsibility, a duty, to confront divisions between peoples by promoting better understanding and reconciliation. We have a duty to confront hatred of others just because they are perceived as being different in some way with love. We have a duty to confront exclusivism which seeks to exclude those who are different by opening our arms in an inclusive act of love which welcomes everyone in the name of Christ.

I keep you all in my prayers.

**Every blessing from your friend and Priest,**

**Fr Gary.**

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**We are all One**  
**in Christ Jesus**  
Galatians 3:28

*There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.*

Knowing-Jesus.com

## Reader Writes.

Hi all,

As I am thinking of what to write, I am engrossed in the swimming competitions of the Olympic Games especially the butterfly and breaststroke races. Irrespective of the sport, all athletes have a relentless training schedule from early mornings to evenings and then there are the sacrifices made by their families from their early years in the sport by taking them to early morning training then to school and back to evening training. Whilst the athletes are dedicated and commit to the training, the families commit to ensuring the individuals attend the training on time.



Once at the pool, track, gym or other place of training the coaches commit to getting the best out of their athletes and being with them through their highs and lows of their sporting life. During the Olympics one commentator said words on the lines of “unless you are involved, the public tend to overlook and not understand the amount of training and effort that the athletes put in leading up to the final event that the public watch and enjoy on television.”

When I look at the Franciscan pattern of prayer and daily services, they too have commitment to their faith – Morning, Midday, Evening and Night Prayer plus a service of Holy Eucharist. Some athletes also spoke of their faith helping them in their daily lives. So where does this leave us? In the same way that sportsmen and women are disciplined in and have a structure to their training, we too can be disciplined in and have structure to our faith. Unlike the sportsmen and women, we do not need to be guided by a clock, stopwatch or pace clock as Jesus will listen to us any time of the day or night. If we ask for help, we need the patience of the sportsperson. As sportspeople need patience to see an improvement in, for example their times coming down, we need patience in waiting for an answer to prayer.

**Carolyn**

# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Mk 4:35-41, Mt 8:23-27, Lk 8:22-25

Jesus had spent the day teaching big crowds by Lake Galilee, and when evening came he told his disciples..

We'll sail over to the east side of the lake



Suddenly a massive storm blew up



Even the experienced sailors panicked



But Jesus was fast asleep at the back of the boat



Master

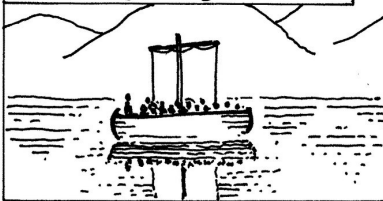
Lord, save us!

Teacher, don't you care we're going to drown?

Be quiet!



Immediately the wind stopped and everything was calm.



Why were you afraid? Don't you trust me?



Now the disciples were even more afraid.



Who is he? Even the wind and sea obey him!



Only God has power like that!

# The Transfiguration of Jesus

It's an unusual story. One day, Jesus is with three disciples on a high mountain in Galilee, when His appearance dramatically changes. Also, Moses and Elijah suddenly appear, and from a cloud comes the voice of God. What is this all about?



This event was witnessed by James, Peter, and John. They were close friends of Jesus. In the future, they were to become prominent leaders in the Early Church. They needed to see something special that would help them remember Jesus in the difficult years ahead. They had a glimpse of Christ in His divine glory. His face shone like the sun and His clothes turned white as light.

While this was an extraordinary sight for the disciples, it served to encourage Jesus who once had glory and majesty in Heaven. One day He would have it again. But firstly, He had to fulfil His mission: to suffer on the cross and die.

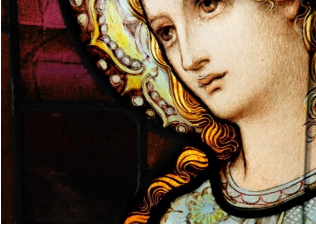
Why were Moses and Elijah standing with Jesus? Moses was the giver of the Law and Elijah represented all the prophets. They had pointed people to the promised Messiah. Jesus was about to complete God's plan of salvation.

God's voice was heard to remind Peter there was no need to build shelters. They were not going to stay on the mountain. God spoke to get the disciples to fix their attention of Jesus. The wonder of the Transfiguration was a short interlude before Jesus had to return to His work and subsequent death on the cross.

This story is a reminder that our times of spiritual blessing have to be followed by down-to-earth commitments and responsibilities. In the same way that Jesus gave His friends a glimpse of His awesome glory, to help them face challenging and traumatic times ahead, our special times in His presence are provided to encourage us and equip us for the trials we may have to face.

Our journey through life may sometimes rise to the peaks but we can't stay on a 'high' all the time – no matter how much we want it! We have to descend to face everyday challenges if we are to fulfil our calling in Christ. From our mountain-top experiences we all need to find a balance between times alone with God and serving Him in the company of others.

## **‘Shall we not love thee, Mother dear?’**



The Church responds with a resounding ‘Yes’ to that question, as we celebrate the Blessed Virgin Mary on 15th August. (Usually her feast day is on the 16th.) An ancient name for this day is the transition of Mary – her crossing over to eternal life – or the

assumption of Mary. But her story begins in the Gospels, in Nazareth and Bethlehem.

At the Annunciation, Gabriel announces the good news to Mary. She becomes a mother and embarks on a journey that takes her to the temple in Jerusalem, a wedding feast at Cana, the Cross of Calvary, and the upper room of Pentecost. Through Christian history her story has spoken to people in every age and culture and land.

As we look at her life now, there are two qualities that stand out. The first is thanksgiving. Mary came from a people that realised the importance of thanking God, and her response to the good news is to raise her heart in the words of the Magnificat. ‘My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit exults in God my saviour.’

The second quality is trust. Rowan Williams has written that despite the years of controversy about the place of our Lady, we still need to hold out our hands to her for guidance and succour. “For at the very least she is the first person to put her trust in God who is shown in Jesus.” Through all that happened to her – the amazing news of Gabriel, no room at the inn, the worry over wine at the wedding – Mary ponders and trusts. To the servants at Cana, she says, “Do whatever Jesus tells you. It will be all right. You will see.”

Thanksgiving and trust: easy enough to see in our Lady, but perhaps more difficult to own for ourselves. Yet Mary assures us that with God all things are possible. Holding on to that faith, we can journey with her Son through life and death to eternal life.

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# What's the Big Idea?

## An Introduction to the Books of 1 & 2 Kings



1 & 2 Kings is a single literary work telling the history of Israel's monarchy from the end of David's reign until the Babylonian exile following the fall of Jerusalem (586 BC). After Solomon's reign, Israel was divided into two kingdoms: Israel to the north and Judah in the south. In the north 20 rulers reigned over 210 years until the fall of Samaria (722 BC).

In the southern kingdom there were also 20 rulers, spanning a period of 345 years.

This account is not like reading a modern history book. The author views the story through the lens of God's relationship with His people. The welfare of Israel depended on their leaders' trust and obedience in God, e.g. Solomon building the Temple, as well as listening to the prophets e.g. Elijah and Elisha. The kings who receive the most attention are those whose disobedience is greatest (e.g. Ahab and Manasseh) or those who truly follow God (e.g. Hezekiah and Josiah).

The book ends with exile in Babylon, fulfilling God's warning of the consequences of disobedience for both kingdoms (cf Dt 28:64–68). However, this doesn't mean that there is no hope for the future. At the end of the book, Jehoiachin is released from prison in Babylon, and he is given a place of honour (2Ki 25:27-30). The future remains open for God to fulfil His promises to the house of David.

'We begin to realise that if God's sovereignty is never cancelled out by the so deeply sin-flawed leaders ('kings') in both our culture and our church, we can quite cheerfully exult in God's sovereignty as it is being exercised in all the circumstantial details of the actual present.' (E Peterson).

## Notices from our Churches and Community

### Getting Involved

We would like to develop our Churches and Community section of the magazine by inviting our readers to contribute towards our monthly magazines. All information about events, your thoughts and reflections or any relevant news are all welcomed.

If you feel you have something to offer and would like to contribute, please can you forward the information to myself via email (email: [chriscorbin1961@gmail.com](mailto:chriscorbin1961@gmail.com)) or pass a hand written copy to Carolyn by the third week of the month for inclusion in the following month's edition.

Many Thanks, Chris.

### *Bargoed Community Choir.*

*The choir are taking a break during the school holidays and will return on the 5th September !!*

We rehearse each Thursday, during term time, at St. Margaret's Church, Gilfach – 10.00 to 11.30 am. *All are welcome!*

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### *Community Dance Group*

The dance group will meet each Monday at 10.30am at St. Margaret's Church. *All are welcome!!*

## *MURDER MYSTERY*

The social committee will hold its next event in September and it's a MURDER MYSTERY, we need people to partake in this.



If you would like participate please let June know. More detailed information for this event will be given near the date!

## These are the words of God

Hear the springtime of the sparrow,  
the gates to heaven are narrow,  
St. Peter is at the gate  
for you it is not too late.

A Swirling river so gentle and deep,  
my time with you makes my heart leap,  
Let the bad moments leave your side  
in heaven you will abide.

Good times come and go,  
speak to me and let it flow.  
I will listen to all in my world  
I have spoken every word.

I love you all and I  
communicate with you all.

**Jane Carpenter**

**Llandaff Matters**  
Sharing joyful stories



**Materion Llandaf**  
Rhannu straeon llawen

### BRINGING FAITH TO YOUR INBOX

Sign up to Llandaff Matters and receive inspirational stories of faith in action from across the diocese. Use the following link:

<https://llandaff.churchinwales.org.uk/en/> then sign up to the mailing list.



### District of Gelligaer Website

Scan the QR code on your smart phone, then open in browser to visit our website or visit us on

<https://www.parishofgelligaer.org.uk>

### September's Magazine 2024

Please can you forward any news, articles etc, to me by Monday 26th August, for inclusion in the September's edition.

**Many Thanks Chris** (email: [chriscorbin1961@gmail.com](mailto:chriscorbin1961@gmail.com))

# God in the Arts

Editor: The Rev Michael Burgess begins a year-long series looking at great works of Christian music.

## God in Music

### Surely angels play Mozart at home

The German theologian, Karl Barth, is reputed to have said, “Whether the angels play only Bach in praising God, I am not quite sure; I am sure, however, that *en famille* they play Mozart.” It is a lovely image of angels in the heavenly courts above, mirroring the human enjoyment of music making here on earth. And what more wonderful music than Mozart’s! From child prodigy to fully mature composer in the space of just 35 years – encountering frustrations and disappointments, poorly paid and exploited, beset by problems of debt and ill-health – and yet rising above all that to create a wealth of music for voice and instrument that continues to lift the human heart.

Mozart was nothing if not life affirming in his music. He enjoyed life, in spite of the disasters and tragedies that occurred along the way. This from a letter he wrote to his father after the performance of one of his symphonies: “It was performed on *Corpus Christi* day with great applause. I was so happy that as soon as it was over I went off to the Palais Royal, where I had a large ice.” Enjoying this world, he had that rare ability to transcend it, and open up a greater world of beauty and harmony. That realisation caused Schubert to write in his diary in 1816, “O Mozart, immortal Mozart, how many, how infinitely many inspiring suggestions of a finer, better life have you left in our souls!”

As illustrations of that, we focus this month on two works, one early and one late in his composing life. In January 1773 Mozart wrote a motet, *Exsultate, jubilate* for a castrato who had appeared in one of his operas. It is almost a concerto in miniature for the voice. The opening *Allegro* calls on heaven to join in the praises of earth and leads into an *Andante* of great beauty, where Mary is praised as the mother who brings light to a darkened world. The work ends with a glorious *Alleluia* with notes cascading off the page and into the air. Perhaps Mozart had in mind a thank offering for the success of his opera *Lucio Silla*. Whatever the music’s origin, we cannot deny the inspiration and skill with which Mozart weaves together words and music to dazzle and transport the listener.

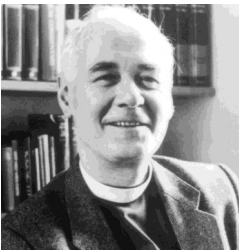
In the last year of his life in 1791, when his mortal body began to fail, his mind took on a new vitality with the composition of two operas, a clarinet concerto, a Requiem, and a wonderful, concentrated setting of *Ave verum corpus*. This motet in praise of Jesus on the cross and in the sacrament was written for the choirmaster at Baden. It is just two pages in the manuscript, written out by Mozart without any corrections. There are no flourishes and runs here as in the earlier work. The music is simple and yet sublime as Mozart conveys a sense of holiness and serenity. Michael Levey has written of this work: “Short but not slight, it seems to float like a cloud of incense on the air.” Here, as in all Mozart’s music, a creation of this world opens up for us that greater world where all is light and joy.

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## God in the Sciences

*This series is written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.*

### Physicist and Priest: John Polkinghorne (1930-2021)



At the age of 48 the Cambridge Professor John Polkinghorne decided he’d done his bit for physics and that it was time for a different sort of adventure. Resigning his academic position, he trained for ordination in the Church of England. In an interview 40 years later he said, “*It’s one thing to go to church on Sundays but to give up a professorship and train for something else – that was a bit more than a gesture...I think a lot of people realised I was a religious person but they didn’t expect me to take it quite that seriously...People were saying to me, ‘Oh John what are you up to?’ They mostly weren’t thinking so much about my becoming a clergyman but just the fact that I was a Christian.*” (From *Test of Faith, Paternoster*, 2009)

John saw his work in science as a Christian vocation, and he felt a responsibility to use his talents in that area. Once ordained he found himself thoroughly engaged in the conversation about science and religion. One of his main messages was that “*I’m not a vegetarian butcher.* There is a cousinly relationship between thinking about theology and thinking about science.”

When asked for a Bible passage to appear at the end of his 2009 interview John chose Colossians 1:15–20: ‘He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born over all creation. For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. And He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning and the first-born from among the dead, so that in everything He might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross.’

John’s explanation for his choice speaks volumes to anyone interested in the science-faith dialogue. *“I value this passage because it speaks of the cosmic significance of Christ, the One in whom all things hold together and who redeems all things (notice, not just all people) by the blood of His cross. Here meet my deepest religious beliefs and my strongest scientific concerns.”*

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### **True Story**

My father had a medical condition that meant regular visits to hospital. The local funeral director was a good family friend, and had been very helpful giving dad lifts to and from the hospital.

On one occasion, a few hours before he was due to come home, the ward sister approached my father with a grin. “Your wife is on the phone,” she said. “She wants to know what time you would like the undertaker to collect you?”

### **Miscellaneous observations on life**

Weight loss goal: To be able to clip my toenails and breathe at the same time.

On TV, people can change a whole house in a month. Meanwhile, I’ve been ‘getting ready to vacuum’ for a week now.

We’ve got stained glass windows in our house. Stupid pigeons.



## Mothers' Union



Our summer is flying by and still we are waiting for the odd lovely day to continue. When it is warm and sunny we feel a lot better and want to go out seeing people and enjoying ourselves. We had our usual events this month. I was unable to get to our monthly meeting on time due to a hospital appointment and thankfully other members took the lead and the meeting took place. Thank you Jenn for reading more about the women in the Bible. It is still good to have a meeting even if there is no invited speaker as it is a time to catch with everyone and discuss what is going on.

I am sad to report that Glynis unexpectedly died this month. She had been in Ty Clyd for several weeks after a fall at home and then a hospital stay. The last time I saw her she couldn't wait to get back home, but this never happened. Glynis had been a faithful member of Pontllytyn church and their Mothers' Union for many years. When her husband died in a car crash and she was badly injured she decided to come to St. Margaret's and transferred to our branch, for which we were very grateful. She was always kind and softly spoken and we will miss her. May she rest in peace. Marion is still happy in Ty Clyd, and Olive has been back in hospital. She was in for her birthday, unfortunately, and I hope to see her soon. Dorothea has been in hospital for several weeks after a fall in the care home but has now been given a place in White Rose in New Tredegar and I hope to visit soon. Her daughter says that she has deteriorated quite a lot since breaking her hip and has had many complications and is not at all well. We pray for her and all like her.

I had an e-mail from Lowrie stating that £715 was raised at the colour fayre, which was good for a few hours work. All other Deanery news has already been reported and there is not another meeting planned yet.

Our coffee mornings and quiz afternoons continue and will do so through August, so look forward to seeing you all when you are able to make it. Bring grandchildren with you if you want, as I will always have a quiz for them. So once again I thank everyone for their support and wish you a lovely school holiday and hope the weather improves.

God bless

**Kath**

## **Mary Sumner, founder of the Mothers' Union**

The Mothers' Union is now more than 140 years old. It has accomplished a staggering amount in that time, and nowadays numbers more than four million members, doing good work in 83 countries. That is a far cry from the modest circle of prayer for mothers who cared about family life, which is how it all began with a rector's wife, Mary Sumner.

Mary was born in late 1828 in Swinton, near Manchester. When she was four, her family moved to Herefordshire. Mary's father, Thomas Heywood, was a banker and historian. Her mother has been described as a woman of "faith, charm and sympathy" – qualities which Mary certainly inherited. Mrs Heywood also held informal 'mothers' meetings' at her home, to encourage local women. Those meetings may well have inspired Mary's later work.

Mary was educated at home, spoke three foreign languages, and sang well. While in her late teens, on a visit to Rome she met George Sumner, a son of the Bishop of Winchester. It was a well-connected family: George's uncle became Archbishop of Canterbury, and his second cousin was William Wilberforce. Mary and George married in July 1848, soon after his ordination. They moved to Old Alresford in 1851 and had three children: Margaret, Louise and George. Mary dedicated herself to raising her children and supporting her husband's ministry by providing music and Bible classes.

When in 1876 Mary's eldest daughter Margaret, gave birth, Mary was reminded how difficult she had found the burden of motherhood. Soon she decided to hold a meeting to which she invited the local women not only of her own class, but also all the village mothers. Her aim was to find out if women could be brought together to offer each other prayer and mutual support in their roles as wives and mothers. That meeting at Old Alresford Rectory was the inaugural meeting of the Mothers' Union.

For 11 years, the Mothers' Union was limited to Old Alresford. Then in 1885 the Bishop of Newcastle invited Mary to address the women churchgoers of the Portsmouth Church Congress, some 20 miles away. Mary gave a passionate speech about the poor state of national morality, and the vital need for women to use their vocation as mothers to change the nation for the better. A number of the women present went back to their parishes to found mothers' meetings on Sumner's



pattern. Soon, the Mothers' Union spread to the dioceses of Ely, Exeter, Hereford, Lichfield and Newcastle. By 1892, there were already 60,000 members in 28 dioceses, and by 1900 there were 169,000 members. By the time Mary died in 1921, she had seen MU cross the seas and become an international organisation of prayer and good purpose.

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## George Stubbs and his horses



Three hundred years ago, on 25th August 1724, George Stubbs was born in Liverpool. Best known for his paintings of horses, he lived mainly in the north of England at first, but eventually his success enabled him to move to Marylebone in London, where he remained for the rest of his life.

Fascinated by anatomy, which he studied in depth by dissecting horses, he also became known as a printmaker and was well respected, but during his lifetime he was classified as a sporting painter and so was excluded from full membership of the Royal Academy.

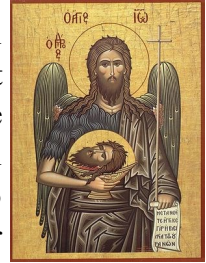
His common law wife/companion, Mary Spencer, was probably a Roman Catholic and a Jacobite, but although Stubbs may have shared her views to some degree, he was not associated with any particular spiritual practice. She described him as honest, genial, manly and kind. He had an aversion to the Hanoverian dynasty until, 15 years before his death, he painted the Prince of Wales – on horseback – in 1791.

As well as horses, Stubbs – who was self-taught – painted exotic animals, which he observed in private menageries. These included a giraffe and a kangaroo – novelty value for society at the time. Mainly because of his superb horse paintings, he was patronised by several dukes and earls, and, despite his anti-Hanoverian feelings, the Royal Collection of the British royal family holds 16 of his paintings.



# The beheading of St John the Baptist

Spare a thought for John the Baptist: however rough your local sandwich bar may be, it probably doesn't serve you locusts with a honey dip; you won't be imprisoned for saying derogatory things about the local MP's wife, and even the boss from hell is unlikely to have a daughter who wants to hip-hop about with your head on a platter.



John the Baptist, by our standards, had a terrible life. Yet the Bible tells us that of all the people in history, no one has even been born who was as great as him. Why? Because of the unique job God gave him to do, which has to be the best PR job of all time: act as God's press officer.

This was quite literally the PR job from heaven: with God as his client, John the Baptist's job was to broadcast the news that the Messiah had come. Not even Church House Westminster has ever attempted anything like that.

It always helps if PR people recognise their own clients, and the same was true of John: he was the first person to recognise Jesus as the Messiah. PR people also help their clients prepare for their public role, and John did the same for Jesus: he baptised Him in the Jordan at the start of His ministry.

PR people also stand up in public for their client's point of view, and in John's case it led to his arrest and imprisonment. His death was finally brought about by the scheming of Herodias and Salome, and here the similarity ends: for not even the most dedicated press officers literally lose their heads over a client.

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## Short quiz on Elijah

(answers on page 23)

1. Elijah was a....?  
*Nishbite, Fishbite, Tishbite.*
2. Which king of Israel did Elijah warn about an imminent drought?  
*Ahab, Omri, Ahaziah*
3. Which animals brought Elijah food during the drought he prophesied?  
*Wolves, ravens, bears*
4. How many times did Elijah stretch himself over the widow's dead son before he was revived?  
*Once, twice, three times*
5. Where did Obadiah hide one hundred prophets of the Lord from Jezebel?  
*Palace dungeons, caves, house of the prophet)*
6. How many prophets of the goddess Asherah were called to Mt Carmel for Elijah's sacrificial challenge to the prophets of Baal?  
*400, 450, 500*
7. After Elijah mocked the prophets of Baal, what other ritual did the prophets try to gain Baal's attention?  
*Danced around the altar, cut themselves with knives, beat their chests with sticks*
8. Why did Elijah choose 12 stones to build his altar?  
*That's all he could find, the number of years Ahab had reigned, one for each tribe of Israel*
9. What did Elijah's servant see from Mt Carmel on the seventh time he looked out to sea?  
*A cloud, an island, a boat*
10. How did Elijah return to Jezreel from Mt Carmel?  
*Chariot, ran, donkey*
11. After the prophets of Baal were killed, to where did Elijah run to escape the death threat from Jezebel?  
*Hebron, Shiloh, Beersheba*
12. Who awoke Elijah for food as he slept in the desert wanting to die?  
*Ravens, an angel, Elisha*
13. Who was the small quiet voice that spoke to Elijah on Mt Horeb?  
*Ahab, Moses, God*
14. What did Ahab do when Elijah told him of God's anger at the murder of Naboth?  
*Laughed, threw a spear at him, repented*
15. What of Elijah's was left behind after his was taken away from Elisha by the whirlwind?  
*Cloak, staff, sandals*

# Services and Holy Days

*Celebrations of the Holy Eucharist will be held twice weekly in both our Churches:*

*St. Margaret's each Sunday at 9.30am and each Wednesday at 10.00am.  
St. Catwg's each Sunday at 11.00am and each Thursday at 10.00am.*

<i>Date.</i>	<i>Services and Holy Days - August 2024</i>
<i>4th</i>	THE TENTH SUNDAY after TRINITY
<i>6th</i>	Transfiguration of Our Lord
<i>11th</i>	THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY after TRINITY
<i>15th</i>	Mary, Mother of Our Lord
<i>18th</i>	THE TWELFTH SUNDAY after TRINITY
<i>25th</i>	THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY after TRINITY
<i>29th</i>	† The beheading of John the Baptist

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## *Readings for Saints Day's During August.*

### *Transfiguration of Our Lord (6th)*

<i>Daniel 7. 9, 10, 13, 14</i>	<i>Psalm 97</i>	<i>2 Peter 1. 16-19</i>	<i>Luke 9. 28-36</i>
--------------------------------	-----------------	-------------------------	----------------------

### *Mary, Mother of Our Lord (15th)*

<i>Isaiah 6. 1, 10-11 or Revelation 11.19 – 12.6, 10</i>	<i>Psalm 45. 10-17</i>	<i>Galatians 4. 4-7</i>	<i>Luke 1. 46-55</i>
--	------------------------	-------------------------	----------------------

### *The beheading of John the Baptist (29th)*

<i>1 Corinthians 1. 1-9</i>	<i>Psalm 145. 1-7</i>	<i>Matthew 24. 42-51</i>
-----------------------------	-----------------------	--------------------------

*Readings from the Church in Wales – Lectionary year B 2024*

### Quotes for August 2024.

Every morning after I have cleaned my cell and polished my tins, I read a little of the gospels... It is a delightful way of opening the day. Everyone, even in a turbulent, ill-disciplined life, should do the same.  
– **Oscar Wilde**

The greatest happiness of the greatest number is the foundation of morals and legislation. – **Jeremy Bentham**

The whole point of this life is the healing of the heart's eye through which God is seen. – **Augustine of Hippo.**

I am a man of hope, not for human reasons, nor from any natural optimism, but because I believe the Holy Spirit is at work in the Church and in the world even when His name remains unheard. – **Cardinal Suenens**

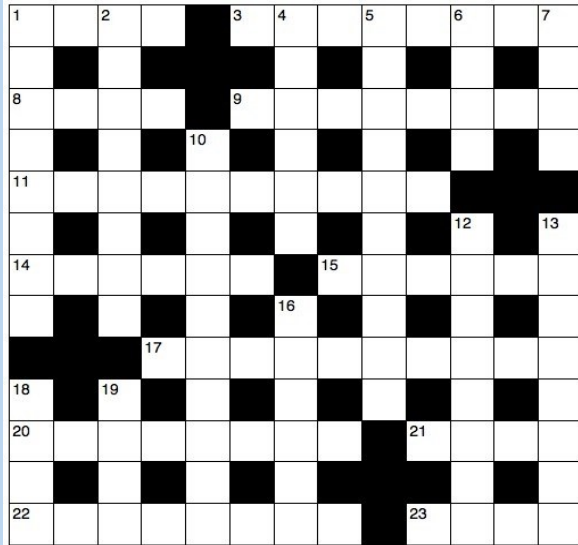
### Sudoku Challenge

			8			3		
9		1	4	3				
7		3				2	1	4
		8	1				3	
1	3	4	5		6	7	8	2
	7				8	5		
4	2	7				8		3
				5	3	9		7
		5			4			

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*Solution can be found on page 39*

# August's Crossword



# Challenge

## Across

- 1 and 3 Two of the disciples who witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus (Luke 9:28) (4,3,5)
- 3 See 1 Across
- 8 'Let us draw — to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith' (Hebrews 10:22) (4)
- 9 O Simon is (anag.) (8)
- 11 Form of government under the direct rule of God or his agents (10)
- 14 How Jesus found his disciples when he returned to them after praying in Gethsemane (Luke 22:45) (6)
- 15 In The Pilgrim's Progress, the name of the meadow into which Christian strayed, which led to Doubting Castle (2-4)
- 17 Glad sin rat (anag.) (10)
- 20 Spinal column (Leviticus 3:9) (8)
- 21 Valley of the Balsam Tree with a reputation of being a waterless place (Psalm 84:6) (4)
- 22 'The oracle of Balaam son of Beor, the oracle of one — — sees clearly' (Numbers 24:3) (5,3)
- 23 Adam and Eve's third son (Genesis 4:25) (4)

## Down

- 1 David's great friend (1 Samuel 20:17) (8)
- 2 'The Lord... will bring me safely to his — kingdom' (2 Timothy 4:18) (8)
- 4 'I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. I ate no choice food; — — or wine touched my lips' (Daniel 10:3) (2,4)
- 5 Seeking to vindicate (Job 32:2) (10)
- 6 Female servant (Isaiah 24:2) (4)
- 7 'For Christ died for — once for all' (1 Peter 3:18) (4)
- 10 'Offering spiritual sacrifices — to God through Jesus Christ' (1 Peter 2:5) (10)
- 12 Jesus said that some people had renounced this 'because of the kingdom of heaven' (Matthew 19:12) (8)
- 13 One of the three men thrown into the furnace for refusing to worship Nebuchadnezzar's golden image (Daniel 3:20) (8)
- 16 'You have — of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry' (Luke 12:19) (6)
- 18 'There before me was a white horse! Its rider held — — , and he was given a crown' (Revelation 6:2) (1,3)
- 19 Equipment to Charity Hospitals Overseas (1,1,1,1)

*Crossword solution - Page 39*

### Quiz on Elijah

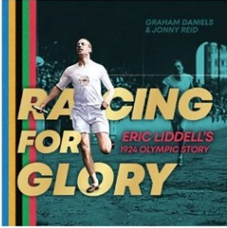
#### Answers:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <i>Q 1</i> Tishbite (1 Kings 17:1)            | <i>Q 8</i> One for each tribe of Israel (18:31) |
| <i>Q 2</i> Ahab (17:1)                        | <i>Q 9</i> A cloud (18:44)                      |
| <i>Q 3</i> Ravens (17:6)                      | <i>Q 10</i> Ran (18:45,6)                       |
| <i>Q 4</i> Three (17:21)                      | <i>Q 11</i> Beersheba (19:1-3)                  |
| <i>Q 5</i> Caves (18:3,4)                     | <i>Q 12</i> An angel (19:5-8)                   |
| <i>Q 6</i> 400 (18:19)                        | <i>Q 13</i> God (19:11-15)                      |
| <i>Q 7</i> Cut themselves with knives (18:28) | <i>Q 14</i> Repented (21:27-29)                 |
|   | <i>Q 15</i> Cloak (2 Kings 2:13)                |

## Book Reviews

### Racing for Glory - Eric Liddell's 1924 Olympic story

By Graham Daniels and Jonny Reid, 10Publishing, £3.99



One hundred years ago this summer, all eyes were on Paris for the 1924 Olympic Games. Among the world's finest athletes stood sprinter Eric Liddell of Great Britain. But holding true to his convictions, he chose not to enter his best race – the 100 metres – and instead changed the 400 metres discipline forever.

This brief biography explores Liddell's extraordinary life and how his faith in Jesus motivated everything he did.

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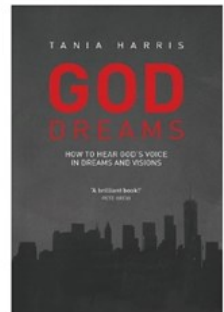
### God Dreams

By Tania Harris, Authentic, £10.99

God's most common way of speaking in biblical history is through dreams and visions. But today many of us are more likely to dismiss our visionary experiences as the product of a spicy meal rather than a potential message from God. But could we be missing out on the voice we so long to hear?

Global director of God Conversations, the Revd Dr Tania Harris unpacks the mysterious world of dreams and visions. Drawing on her ministry experience, theological research and the Revelation experiences of the early church, she explores the nature of dream-visions, where they come from and how to interpret their symbolic and sometimes confusing language.

Using a practical 5-point framework, God Dreams provides a biblical basis to help you interpret dreams and visions and follow Jesus more closely.





## Church Reading / Cleaning Rotas

*If anyone wishes to be on either the readers rota for either church, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant church wardens.*

### St. Catwg's Church - Readers Rota

July 2024		August 2024		September 2024	
7 <sup>th</sup>	Joan Jenkins	4 <sup>th</sup>	Janeve Manca	1 <sup>st</sup>	Paul Thomas
14 <sup>th</sup>	Pat Davies	11 <sup>th</sup>	Christine Harvey	8 <sup>th</sup>	Cheryl Pugh
21 <sup>st</sup>	Paul Thomas	18 <sup>th</sup>	Joan Jenkins	15 <sup>th</sup>	Janeve Manca
28 <sup>th</sup>	Cheryl Pugh	25 <sup>th</sup>	Pat Davies	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Christine Harvey
				29 <sup>th</sup>	Joan Jenkins

### St. Margaret's Church - Readers Rota

July 2024		August 2024		September 2024	
7 <sup>th</sup>	June Phillips	4 <sup>th</sup>	Kath Llewellyn	1 <sup>st</sup>	June Phillips
14 <sup>th</sup>	Neil Hazell	11 <sup>th</sup>	Chris Ball	8 <sup>th</sup>	Huw Thomas
21 <sup>st</sup>	Alex Ball	18 <sup>th</sup>	Christine Thorpe	15 <sup>th</sup>	Jenn East
28 <sup>th</sup>	Enid Mayne	25 <sup>th</sup>	Enid Mayne	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Jennette Jones
				29 <sup>th</sup>	Linda Bartlett

*Should you wish to be on the St. Margaret's cleaning rota please contact the relevant Church Wardens.*

### St. Margaret's Cleaning Rota

July 2024			August 2024			September 2024		
7	Lynda Bartlett	Sue	4	Lynda Bartlett	Sue	1	Lynda Bartlett	Sue
14	Lynda Trollope	Enid	11	Lynda Trollope	Enid	8	Lynda Trollope	Enid
21	Jennette	Audrey	18	Jennette	Audrey	15	Jennette	Audrey
28	Kath	June	25	Kath	June	22	Kath	June
						29	Lynda Bartlett	Sue

# From the Register

## Christian Funerals

July 2024

<b>4th</b>	<b>Anne Evans RIP</b>
<b>26th</b>	<b>Susan Thomas RIP</b>

*May the souls of the faithful departed,  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*





Gone yet not forgotten,  
Although we are apart,  
Your spirit lives within me,  
Forever in my heart.  
Until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

**Author Unknown**

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## **Prayers for the Bereaved**

*May the love of God and the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ  
console you and gently wipe away every tear from your eyes.  
May Almighty God bless you, and look after you at this  
difficult time. Amen.*

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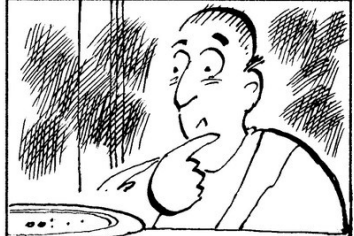
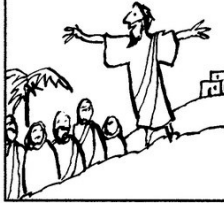
*Lord, in our time of grief we turn to you. God of love  
hear our cries. Listen to our prayers for whom  
you have called out of this world. Lead them to  
your kingdom of light and peace. Amen.*

# For the Younger Generation.

## The Tale of The Friend at Midnight



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE WAS ABOUT A MAN WHO HAD RUN OUT OF BREAD...



...AND HE NEEDED PLENTY AS A FRIEND WAS COMING TO STAY.

EVEN THOUGH IT WAS MIDNIGHT...



... HE WENT TO HIS NEIGHBOUR'S HOUSE AND BANGED ON THE DOOR - LOUDLY!

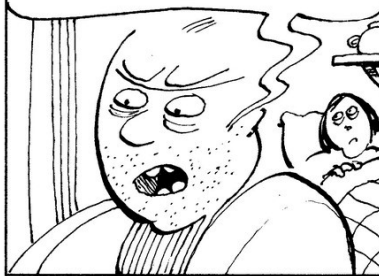


WAKE UP!! I NEED SOME BREAD

PLEASE WILL YOU LEND ME THREE LOAVES?

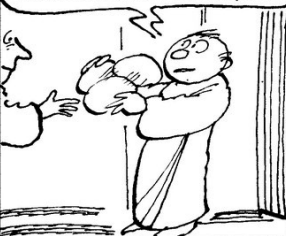


GO AWAY!! WE'RE ALL TRYING TO SLEEP!



OH GO ON... PLEASE I REALLY DO NEED SOME!

ALRIGHT THEN! BUT I'M ONLY DOING THIS BECAUSE I WANT SOME PEACE AND QUIET!



JESUS EXPLAINED - 'THE NEIGHBOUR AGREED TO SHARE HIS BREAD BECAUSE THE MAN KEPT ASKING'

'DON'T BE AFRAID TO TALK TO GOD. HE LONGS TO HEAR OUR PRAYERS.'





# Mouse Makes

"AND WHEN YOU PRAY,  
PRAY THEN LIKE THIS ..."

Where does Jesus say  
to go to pray?  
*Matthew 6:6*



What does God know  
before you ask Him?  
*Matthew 6:8*



What can we ask God  
to deliver us from?  
*Matthew 6:13*

If you forgive others  
what will God do?  
*Matthew 6:14*



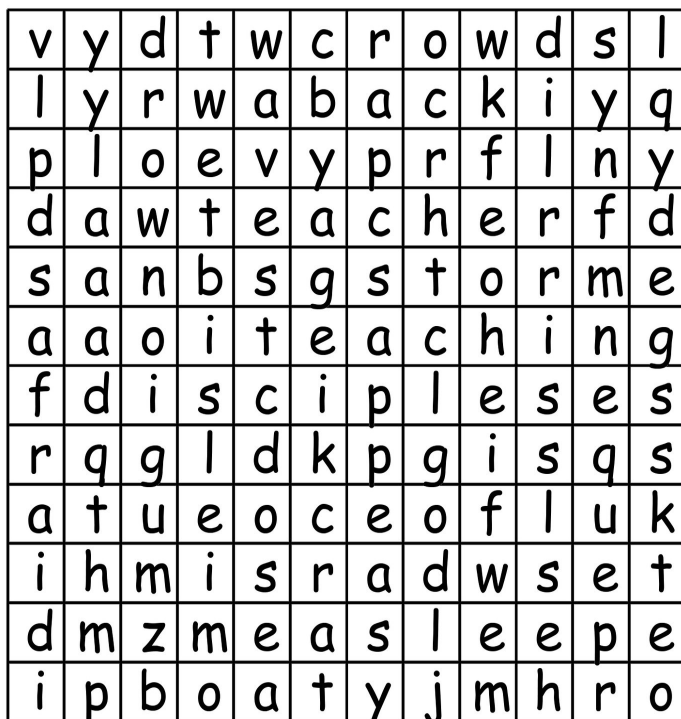
"Always be full of **joy**.  
**Never** stop praying.  
Whatever happens,  
always be **thankful**."  
*1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

D	L	O	R	D	S	P	R	A	Y	E	R
L	F	W	R	E	A	R	T	H	K	S	O
D	A	I	L	Y	K	E	D	A	S	K	O
E	T	L	V	T	H	Y	E	L	H	D	M
B	H	L	A	M	E	N	L	L	O	O	I
T	E	M	P	T	A	T	I	O	N	N	H
S	R	A	R	A	V	I	V	W	O	E	E
S	K	N	A	M	E	T	E	E	U	V	A
I	C	J	Y	V	N	E	R	D	R	I	R
N	O	U	R	N	A	V	B	R	E	A	D
S	M	E	W	I	K	I	N	G	D	O	M
J	E	S	U	S	U	L	Y	O	U	R	J
N	E	E	D	S	F	O	R	G	I	V	E

ROOM • PRAY • ASK • NEEDS • HEARD • JESUS  
LORDS PRAYER • OUR • FATHER • HALLOWED • HONOURED  
NAME • THY • KINGDOM • COME • YOUR • WILL • DONE  
EARTH • HEAVEN • DAILY • BREAD • FORGIVE • DEBTS  
SINS • TEMPTATION • DELIVER • EVIL • AMEN



## Complete the Word search !

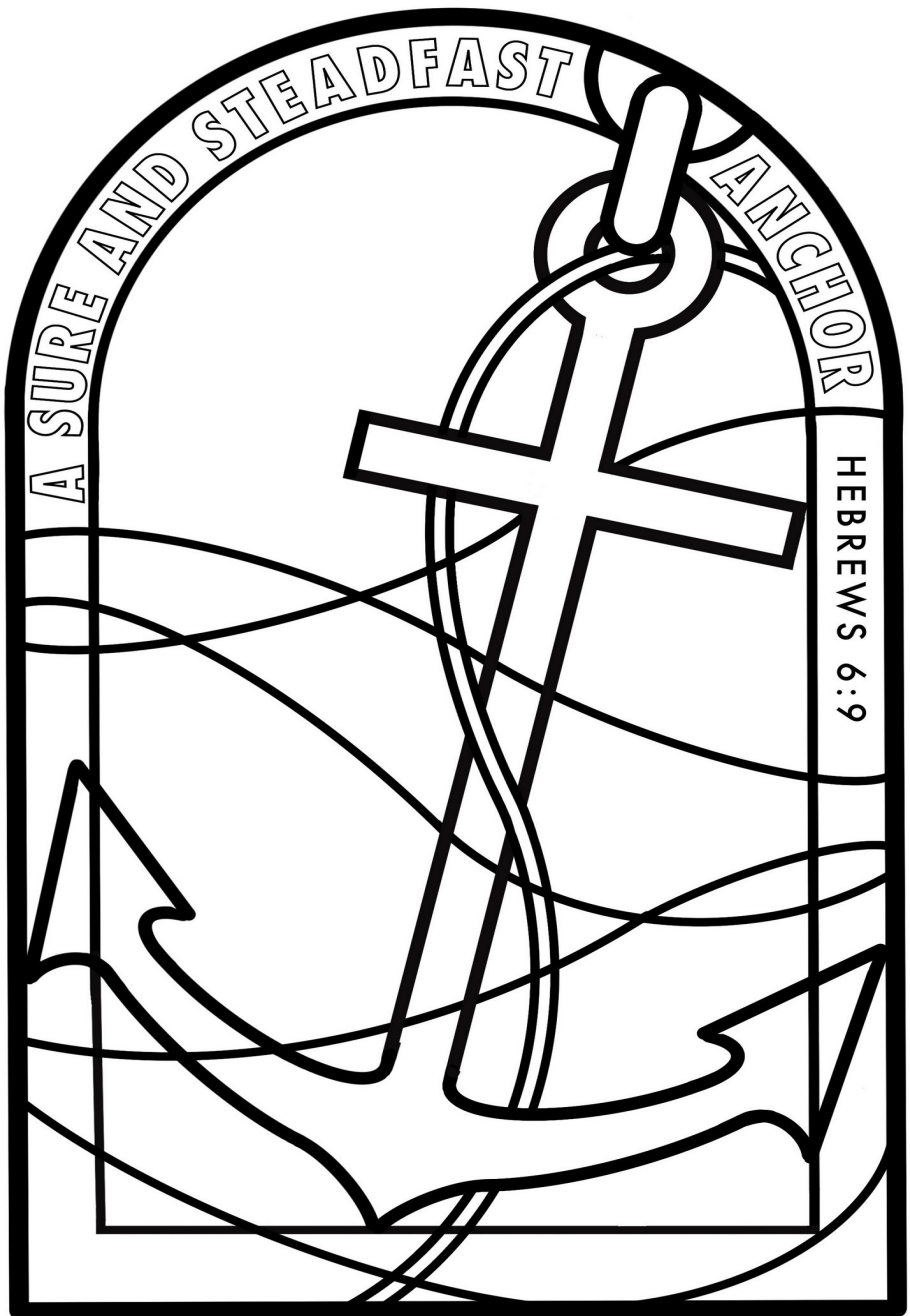


sea  
 Jesus  
 asleep  
 crowds  
 calm  
 wind  
 drown  
 teaching

boat  
 immediately  
 Galilee  
 storm  
 care  
 disciples  
 obey  
 Teacher

panicked  
 power  
 back  
 God  
 waves  
 afraid  
 sailors  
 quiet

Colour in!



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Nelson Business Centre  
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Wednesday	09:00 - 18:00
Thursday	09:00 - 18:00
Friday	09:00 - 18:00
Saturday	09:00 - 18:00
Sunday	09:00 - 18:00



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# Neuadd St. Catwg Community Hall

*Church Road, Gelligaer. CF82 8FW*

.....  
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- Wedding Receptions
- Funeral Receptions
- Christening Receptions
- Meetings and much more etc,
- Fashion Shows
- Birthday Parties
- Training Events

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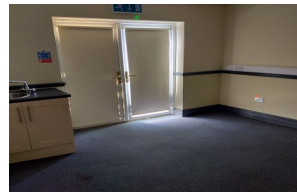
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*for*

## **Booking and Enquiries**

*Please Contact:*

**Christine Harvey: 01443 833123**



**Christine Harvey 01443 833123 /**

## Service Times

*Celebrations of the Holy Eucharist will be held twice weekly in both our Churches:*

*St. Catwg's each Sunday at 11.00am and each Thursday at 10.00am and  
St. Margaret's each Sunday at 9.30am and each Wednesday at 10.00am.*

*Both of our Churches have a friendly and welcoming atmosphere where you can worship our Lord, Jesus Christ. Everybody is welcome to attend any of our services listed below. If it is your first visit to the District of Gelligaer and you are new to our Church please do not hesitate to make yourself known to us.*

### SUNDAY

9.30 am. Sung Eucharist at St. Margaret's Church

*1st Sunday of each Month - Family Services*

11.00 am. Sung Eucharist at St. Catwg's Church

### WEDNESDAY

10.00 am. Holy Eucharist at St. Margaret's Church,  
*followed by Tea and Coffee*

### THURSDAY

10.00 am. Holy Eucharist at St. Catwg's Church

#### General Disclaimer

*The appearance of comments, articles, advertisements, hyperlinks, or statements made within our District magazine do not necessarily represent the views of the District of Gelligaer Wardens and Council. While we aim to include accurate and up-to-date information at the time of publication, we make no warranties or representations as to the accuracy. We therefore assume no liability or responsibility for any error or omission in the content.*

# Directory of Contacts

*Should you wish to contact a specific group that meets in our churches,  
please use the relevant telephone number from the list below.*

*Thank You!*

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**Family History Research:** ..... Carolyn Corbin    Tel: 07983677360  
Email. carolyncorbin63@aol.com

**Mothers' Union:**

Branch Leader ..... Kath Llewellyn.    Tel: 01443 829658  
Branch Secretary .....  
Branch Treasurer ..... June Phillips.    Tel: 01443 835977

**Community Dance Group:** ..... June Phillips.    Tel: 01443 835977

**Arts and Crafts Group:** ..... June Phillips.    Tel: 01443 835977

**Neuadd St. Catwg's Hall:** ..... Christine Harvey. Tel: 01443 833123  
*(Bookings and Enquiries)*

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### Solutions to this month's puzzles.

6	4	2	8	7	1	3	9	5
9	5	1	4	3	2	6	7	8
7	8	3	9	6	5	2	1	4
5	6	8	1	2	7	4	3	9
1	3	4	5	9	6	7	8	2
2	7	9	3	4	8	5	6	1
4	2	7	6	1	9	8	5	3
8	1	6	2	5	3	9	4	7
3	9	5	7	8	4	1	2	6

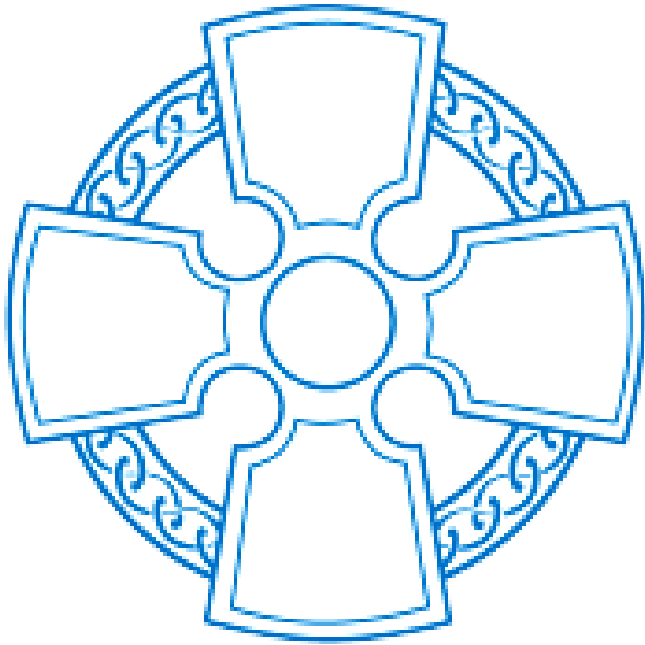
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N	E	A	R	O	M	I	S	S	I	O	N
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T	H	E	O	C	R	A	T	I	C		
H	N	C	T	F	M	S					
A	S	L	E	E	P	B	Y	P	A	T	H
N	Y	P	P	I	R	A					
			S	T	A	L	I	N	G	R	A
A	E	A	E	G	I	R					
B	A	C	K	B	O	N	E	B	A	C	A
O	H	L	T				G	C			
W	H	O	S	E	E	Y	E	S	E	T	H

*Answer to **Sudoku** on page 18*

*Answers to **Crossword** on page 22*



ARDAL WEINIDOGAETH  
TÂF RHYMNI  
TAFF RHYMNEY  
MINISTRY AREA



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