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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.*

TRINITY

What's in this edition!

Greetings from the Rectory.

Reader Writes.

District News/Messages.

Mothers' Union.

*Short Quiz on
1 & 2 Samuel*

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

***Go therefore and
make disciples
of all nations,
baptizing them
in the name of the
Father and of the
Son and of the
Holy Spirit.***

Matthew 28:19

Edition: No 7

July 2024

Cover Price: £1.00

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Greetings from the Rectory

Dear friends,

The summer is certainly moving on and I hope that you will be able to enjoy some relaxation over the next few months. If you are going away I hope you have wonderfully relaxing time.



We are also now well into the Trinity Season. The focus of our worship has changed. From Advent to Pentecost the focus of our worship were the events of Jesus life from his birth to his death, resurrection and ascension. Now our focus is on his teachings and how they impact upon our lives. We reflect on his teachings, his words, which reveal how he should live if we are to be faithful disciples. By listening and taking his words to heart, by allowing Jesus by his words to mould us, by learning to see the world through his eyes we will move closer to receiving his promise of life in all its abundance both in this world and the next. Jesus calls on us to work with him - he is the tree, we the branches.

Through us, his Body in the world, Jesus seeks to reach out in love to all who are in need, all who are sick, lonely, anxious or afraid. We ask and expect so much of Jesus but so often we risk frustrating his work by shutting him out of our own hearts, by not showing his love to others in our own words and actions. The readings throughout the Trinity Season give us an opportunity to reflect not only on the teachings of Jesus but also upon our own words and actions and to look honestly at how close our words and actions actually align with and reflect his teachings.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all who are ill or in need and especially those for whom we pray each week in our churches. If there is anything that we can do for you or for someone you know please do not hesitate to ask.

I keep you all in my prayers.

Every blessing from your friend and Priest,

Fr Gary.

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A Prayer for August 2024

Lord, in a year of changes in our country and in the world, we thank You for the regular rhythm of each year.

We thank You for August, the month of holidays and rest for many, especially for families and those tied to termly timetables. We pray for Your blessing and restoration for all. As we take time out of normal routines, help us to still make space for You; to be refreshed spiritually as well as physically.

Feed us, Lord, by Your Word; revive us by Your Holy Spirit; encourage us by Your indwelling presence, so that we might naturally reflect Your love to all we meet, on holiday or at home or at work.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching.

Reader Writes.

There are probably many times we have heard the phrases, “where has the time gone” or “I can’t believe how fast the year has gone.” As we come to July, I find myself thinking how fast this year has gone as in a little over two weeks, the school children will be coming to the end of term for the six weeks holiday.



Before this, teachers will have been busy with end of year concerts, leavers assemblies, school proms and not forgetting report writing. When it comes to the concerts and assemblies, none of these would be possible without the 4Ps – perseverance, patience and practice which lead to performance.

As we travel on our journey of faith, there are times when we need the 3Ps – perseverance, patience and prayer. Perseverance as we need to keep working to deepen our faith. Patience in that no matter what we are planning, it may not happen as or when we intend and prayer as without God’s help, we may take the wrong path.

When we pray, God may not answer us straight away but we need to have the patience to listen for his voice – as Rod Stewart sang – “there ain’t no point in talking when there’s nobody listening.” As each of us continues our own journey of faith, may we have perseverance and patience in all we do and find time to speak with God in prayer.

Carolyn

Graduation?

There were so many graduates waiting to receive their degrees that day, that speed was of the essence. Presenting their diplomas, therefore, the Chancellor simply smiled and said: “Congratulations, keep moving.” Actually, that is good advice for all of life, and for your Christian life as well. If you’ve discovered the reality of God’s love for yourself, you deserve congratulations, for in a very real sense, you have arrived...but keep moving! - there is so much more that God has in store for you! St Paul in 2nd Timothy said: “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day....” So, wherever you have reached in your own faith pilgrimage, congratulations, but keep moving!

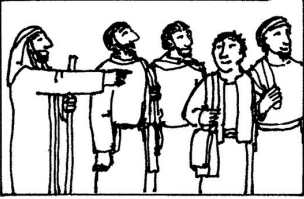
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Numbers chapters 13 and 14.

God had rescued the Hebrew people from Egypt and led them to the border of the land He had promised them - Canaan. But it was not empty..

12 young leaders were chosen to check Canaan out.



They went north to where Abraham had been buried..



and they returned 40 days later with fruit, and their report...



10 said
The people there are like giants! We can't beat them.



Caleb and Joshua said..



But the people said



We'll choose a new Leader to take us back to Egypt.



But God said..

I have had enough of you not trusting Me. You will wander in the desert for 40 years before your children return here.



We were wrong to complain. Let's go into Canaan!



Don't attack! God will not help you win.

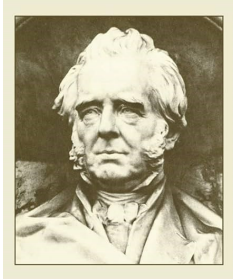


And the Canaanites chased them out of the country.



Henry Venn of the CMS

Most Christians in the UK have heard of the Church Mission Society or CMS. Far fewer have heard of the Revd Henry Venn (1796-1873), whose father, the rector of Clapham, founded CMS in 1799, and who himself became the greatest missionary strategist of the 19th century.



Not that Henry Venn ever became a missionary himself; after Cambridge he served his curacy at St Dunstan's in Fleet Street, and then an incumbency at Drypool in Hull, before becoming vicar of St Johns, Holloway in 1834. But Henry Venn's parish-based ministry did not obscure his passionate interest in overseas evangelism, and in 1841 he accepted an invitation to become the honorary secretary of the Church Mission Society. That decision was to shape the history of overseas missions, and to make CMS into the most effective force in Britain for delivering effective overseas mission.

For Henry was an outstanding administrator, and his wisdom and management of the missionaries enabled CMS to grow and flourish. When Henry first began work on CMS, it employed 107 European clergy and nine local indigenous people. When he died in 1873, there were 230 European clergy and 148 local people in service.

After his resignation from St Johns Holloway in 1846, Henry devoted himself almost exclusively to the work of CMS. He was directly responsible for sending out 498 clergymen, all of them chosen by him, and with most of whom he continued in regular correspondence. He also established eight or nine bishoprics for the supervision of CMS missionary clergy and was usually involved in the appointments made.

Henry and a missions colleague in America were the first to use the term 'indigenous church', and they were way ahead of their time in seeing the necessity for creating churches on the mission fields that in time would become not only self-supporting, but also self-governing and self-propagating. In fact, Venn wrote with enthusiasm on this "euthanasia of missions," meaning that missionaries were only ever meant to be temporary, and not permanent.

All in all, Henry Venn's exposition on the basic principles of indigenous Christian missions was so powerful that much of it was later adopted by the Lausanne Congress of 1974.

But alongside Venn's passion for evangelism was his concern for social justice, and he frequently lobbied the British Parliament,

especially the closure of the Atlantic slave trade.

In 1873, when he was 76, Venn died at his home in Mortlake, Surrey. He is buried in the churchyard.

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Thomas the Apostle, confused and doubting.



Thomas, one of Jesus' 12 apostles, was an impulsive, confused, honest sceptic. Jesus could understand and work with such a man. Thomas' impulsiveness was evident when Jesus prepared to visit Lazarus in Bethany. It was a dangerous trip to make, because of the Jews, but Thomas urged his fellow disciples: "Let us also go, that we may die with Him." (John 11:16) Instead, Jesus brought Lazarus back to life.

Thomas' confusion is shown in later talks with Jesus. He was not really sure where Jesus was going long-term (John 14:5). But Jesus accepted this confused commitment, and began to untangle it, patiently explaining: "I am going to my Father", and "No one comes unto the Father but by me."

Finally, Thomas' honest scepticism is revealed after the Resurrection, which he flatly refused to believe – unless he could touch the wounds of the risen Jesus. Sure enough, Jesus appears – but instead of scolding him, shows him the wounds. Thomas responds: "My Lord and my God" (John 20.26ff).

Thus Doubting Thomas' honest doubts, turned to honest faith, have become a reassurance for thousands of men and women across the centuries, who also want to follow Jesus, but who require some proof of this amazing event – the Resurrection. In Doubting Thomas' complete affirmation of faith, after meeting the risen, crucified Christ, they can find support for their own faith.

Ancient legends tell how Thomas went on to India as a missionary. There are rumours that Thomas even built a palace for a king's daughter in India, and thus he is the patron saint of architects. It is believed that he was martyred by a spear on 3rd July, 72 AD in Mylapore, near Madras.

St Mary Magdalene, the woman with a past

Later this month Christians all over the world will commemorate probably the most unlikely saint in the Bible, Mary Magdalene. There was something in her background that has always fascinated people. All we are told about her ‘past’ is that Jesus had cast ‘seven devils’ out of her, but on that slender if intriguing evidence she has become the patron saint of ‘fallen women’.

Some see her as the woman ‘who was a sinner’ who washed Christ’s feet with her tears at a respectable dinner party. Of that person Jesus remarked that ‘she had been forgiven much’ and consequently ‘loved much’. Whether she was that woman or not, the description perfectly fits her. No one who has heard or read it could surely fail to be moved by her tearful encounter with the risen Jesus in the garden on Easter morning, the man she had taken to be the gardener revealing Himself in one word, Mary, as her beloved Teacher.

The problem with a good story – and hers is as good as it gets – is that people can’t leave it alone. Down the centuries she has been John the Apostle’s fiancée until he left her to follow Christ. She has gone with Jesus’ mother and the same John to live in Ephesus and died there. In art and literature she has become an alluring, sexual figure, disapproved of by the mother of Jesus. There is no historical evidence whatsoever for any of this. In fact, the Gospels suggest the two Marys were close in their shared devotion to Jesus.

Her popularity is shown in the fact that 187 ancient churches in Britain are dedicated to her, and a college at both Oxford and Cambridge. Whatever the details of her story, we cherish it because it shows that having a ‘past’ is no reason not to have a future.

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St. Theobald, choosing God, not money.

If you are thinking of turning your back on wealth and privilege, in order to do something you feel God is calling you to do, St Theobald (1017 – 1066) may be the saint for you. He was born into an aristocratic family at Provins in France. But he became a hermit with a fellow ex-soldier in the Pettingen Forest in Luxembourg.

They later moved to Salanigo in Italy. Theobald’s holy life attracted so many followers that he was canonised by Pope Alexander II in 1073.

Notices from our Churches and Community

100 Club Winners!

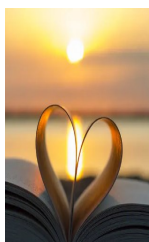
May 2024

7th	26	Sue Stevens	St. Margaret's
14th	61	Elaine Edmunds	St. Catwg's
21st	96	Huw Thomas	St. Margaret's
28th	98	Chris / David Harvey	St. Catwg's

100 Club Winners!

June 2024

Date	No:	Winner	Church
2nd	13	John Dines	St Catwg's
9th	64	Beryl Thomas	St Margaret's
16th	86	Nesta Williams	St Margaret's
23rd	95	Sue Heaven	St Margaret's
30th	103	Helen Jones	St Margaret's



These are the words of God

Tell me why you feel the way you do,
 speak to me for I will hear you.
 See life as a beautiful creation that I have made.

Tell me also about your life and how you feel,
 pray directly to me and I will answer you.
 You will all be rewarded in different ways.

Be as close to me as I am to you because I love and nurture you –
 each and everyone of you.

Take a look at your favourite psalm and what it means to you,
 look to your favourite psalm and tell me what I mean to you.
 Sing out loud and make a joyful noise because this is what I love.
 No matter where I am, I am also with you.

Tell me about your story, about your life and how you feel if you want to.

Life is a precious gift, don't forget that because I love being in your lives. My timing is always perfect but I don't do time as you know it.

I can give you whatever help you need (just ask).

I am sending to you this message out of love and my peace to you.

Jane Carpenter

June 2024

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Strawberry Tea afternoon.

What a wonderful afternoon we had at our strawberry tea. It was very well attended. We had a few quiz papers arranged by Jenn, they were very light-hearted and a lot of fun . Thanks to all who helped in getting everything ready and to those that helped clear up afterwards. We raised £218.00.

Our next social event is in September and it's a MURDER MYSTERY, we need people to partake in this. If you would like participate please let me know .

Once again thank you all and love as always , have a wonderful summer.

June x

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)



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>

God in the Arts

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

‘Glorious the song when God’s the theme’: J S Bach’s joy and dance

In 1956 a small novel by a German writer, Johannes Rüber, appeared in an English translation. It was called ‘Bach and the Heavenly Choir’ and tells of Pope Gregory XIX’s desire to elevate Bach to the ranks of the saints. To bring together the Lutheran bishop and his own cardinals, he organises a great Bach festival in Rome. At the festival he announces his plan and the reasoning behind it: that in J S Bach ‘faith has become music.’

In that realisation lies the grace and glory of Bach’s achievement, and why we treasure his works today. The irony is that the bulk of his music was never published in his lifetime. The six Brandenburg Concerti, beautifully copied out and offered, were never performed and the music put in a cupboard. His music in all probability would have been lost for ever had it not been for a young Mendelssohn, who just happened to find a manuscript of the St Matthew Passion in his music teacher’s house. He recognised it for its brilliancy and beauty and ordered a massive search to unearth the decaying manuscripts.

So much of Bach’s music was inspired by his joy in believing. Just consider one of the six motets, ‘Jesu, meine Freude’ (Jesus, my joy). It was probably written for a memorial service in July 1723. In his other works, Freude, or ‘joy’, releases new movement. In this motet, the word is kept within the constraints of the chorale melody that acts as a framework for the motet. The word that brings a joyous release is Geist, Spirit – when it appears, then each voice joins in the chase as notes spill over the page and into our ears, proclaiming the inspiration of God’s Spirit in human life.

This spirit of joy helps us realise that what makes Bach’s music so vital and rewarding is that total sense of movement and dance. Wilfred Mellers wrote a book ‘Bach and the Dance of God,’ showing how so much of Bach’s music is dance-inspired from lively gavottes to more stately sarabandes that can be heard in both the instrumental and choral music. Widor, like Bach a great organist, wrote that ‘For me Bach is the greatest of preachers.’

And what does he preach? That in the end, all is dance and life in the power of God’s Spirit. In ‘Jesu, meine Freude’ as in all his music we hear and relish the movement and pulse of his compositions that open up for us a world where all is joy and dance. That is how Dante ended his vision of Paradise, where everything is movement and dance, and what moves the sun and the other stars is love.

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.

Exploring the Big Questions: scientists and theologians share their views

It's important to have debates about science and Christian faith and to dig into the hot topics, but we can't exist solely on a diet of controversy. I find it helpful, at times, to simply enjoy the wonders revealed by science and the big questions they raise about meaning and purpose. What's the universe for? What do you do with your feelings of awe and wonder? Where do we get our sense of the value of the living world from? I had the privilege of meeting a group of Christian scientists and theologians who shared thoughts about these big questions, and will share some of their thoughts here.

The Oxford-based theologian Alister McGrath shared that "science is wonderful at asking questions. Some of those questions can be answered, but very often when you do answer them, they simply open up yet more questions. But of course, there are some more fundamental questions I think science simply cannot answer... questions like, "Why am I here?"

Rhoda Hawkins, a physicist at Sheffield University, has had a similar experience. "I never cease to be amazed at quite how impressive the world is, and how impressive the mechanisms are for how things work...It really is beautiful in many ways, and it leads me to think about God. I'm not saying that I have any proof, but I'm saying that by looking at the world around me it tells me more about God and it leads me to worship Him."

Another scientist who appreciates beauty is Jeff Hardin, who explained that "studying the wonders of the living world is an exercise in art appreciation. For me, God is the creator of everything... so the joy of discovery is also the joy of appreciating the world that God has made...and leads me to thank God for the amazing world that we have to enjoy and to explore."

I will close with some words from Jeff Schloss, who – like the others quoted above – finds that Christian faith makes science more satisfying for him. "Once I became a Christian...I had the sense that I was studying the marvels of the natural world, which are marvellous in their own right but become more profoundly engaging and enticing when one thinks that you're studying the works of God." Perhaps if we can spend more time listening to people like this, our discussions about science and faith will also be richer and deeper.

Anne and Joachim, parents of Blessed Virgin Mary

One thing is certain – Mary the mother of Jesus must have had parents. Beyond that, nothing is certain – but church tradition offers some details.



The first mention of Anne and Joachim as being Mary's parents was found in the apocryphal Gospel of James (second century) which has no historical validity. James says that after years of childlessness, Joachim was praying in the desert one day when an angel appeared to Anne to tell her that she would conceive. Anne then promised to dedicate the child to God, as Hannah had done with Samuel.

Certainly Anne, mother of Mary, has been honoured from as early as the sixth century, when a church was built in her honour in Constantinople. Other relics and pictures of her found in Rome date from the 8th century.

The sad truth is that, as the Bible is silent on the subject, we will never really know about Mary's parents. But one thing we can assume, because it is based on the character of Mary herself. Her gentle humility and graciousness and informed knowledge about her faith point to a childhood spent among devout believers in God.

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St Boisil of Melrose, patron saint for ordinands?

Have you ever noticed how life-enhancing good ministers are? St Boisil (d.c.661) should be their patron saint. He did nothing spectacular, but he did everything that mattered.

Boisil was a monk who became abbot of Melrose, in the Irish monastic tradition. Boisil knew about God – he had spent years in study, and this earned him respect. Boisil walked with God – his transparent holiness made people love and trust him. Boisil could hear God speak – he was so open to God's Spirit that he was even given the gift of prophecy, which is God speaking through one person into specific situations in other people's lives.

Knowledge of God, obedience to God, and a prophetic gift from God. It is faithful Christians such as Boisil who have kept the Church going over the centuries. Sadly, in 661 Boisil caught the plague. He

spent his last hours on earth reading St John's gospel with Cuthbert, another Celtic monk, who also caught the plague. Boisil prophesied that Cuthbert would live, but that he would die. But this did not trouble him: Boisil knew in whom he believed and was looking forward to finally seeing his beloved Master, face to face.

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Mothers' Union



We started our meeting in June with a talk from David Kitchen. He had been recommended by the Mothers' Union as an exceptional speaker and had already attended Bargoed Mothers' Union branch and I had been given good reviews of him. He is the author of Bible in Ten which is a book which can precis each book in the Bible in ten minutes. He says that it is a book for everyone who wants to be connected with all that is unexpected, beautiful and astonishing in the Bible. It tells the stories of success and failure, suffering and hope, home and exile, and a love that is stronger than death. There are 67 short sharp snapshots covering every corner of a book that we sometimes don't know quite as well as we think we do. It's a way into a volume that is often on the shelves but far less frequently taken off them. The Bible is packed with advice, stories and promises that cry out to be heard.

David is an award winning writer, broadcaster, teacher and storyteller who has been making the Bible come alive for longer than he cares to remember. He combines his down-to-earth writing skills with 50 years' experience in church leadership and worship. He has been a teacher and headmaster and loves writing poetry, which was his first love, starting at a very young age. The above is what is written on the back of Bible in Ten and he confirmed all this in his talk, expanding on his love of poetry by reciting several he had written over the years.

I had mixed comments on his talk, some good and some not so good. Some people felt that he was just there to sell his book. The book is very interesting but I hadn't realised that he would be selling anything. There were leaflets and the book to buy and I apologise if anyone felt compelled to buy anything. I bought them and find them very interesting and each book of the Bible is explained in a brief precis. He has obviously over the years spent a lot of time reading the Bible and interpreting it into ways that everyone can understand. We normally do not have speakers to promote their work and I know this didn't go down well with a few members. If anyone would like to

borrow my copy then please feel free to ask me.

Our coffee morning and quiz afternoon were, once again, good events with everyone catching up with friends and family. The quiz afternoons raise a few laughs and I would like to thank everyone who helps with the serving of the teas and the washing up. We will continue with these through the summer.

We remember our Indoor members, Olive and Marion and also pray for Glynis and Dorothea. Dorothea had a fall in the home and broke her hip and after three weeks is still in hospital but hopefully slowly improving.

The Colour Fayre took place in Caerphilly on Saturday 29th and we had the black and white stall. We used a lot of the items that had been left from the Autumn Fayre and covered them in white or black paper and sold everything as a lucky dip, charging £1. I had help from Sue, Rhian and Eve, my grand-daughter and we made £55 on our stall. I am not sure of how much the total was at the end of the morning but will let you know when I know. Unfortunately there didn't seem to be many people around The Twyn. There was a market in the precinct and not many people pass the Twyn and I don't think many people knew it was there. We finished earlier than expected which was okay with us as we had the Strawberry tea the same afternoon. Maybe more of our members would have attended if it hadn't been on the same day. Thanks to Sue and Rhian, and of course Eve, for their help. I would also like to thank the young teenagers who wrapped the items, for a job very well done. They are also cleaning the church every week as part of their Duke of Edinburgh bronze award and they are doing a marvellous job and we wish them well in their tasks.

Next month continues as normal but without a speaker. Let us hope the weather will be good for the summer.

God Bless

Kath

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Those church bulletin notices that went wrong somewhere....

(For the group of ladies called 'Mums Who Care' and pray for the children in school). When their meeting was cancelled one week: There will be no Mums who care this week.

What's the Big Idea?

An Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament: 1 & 2 Samuel

1 & 2 Samuel was originally a single work, which focuses on Samuel, Saul and David, around 1,000 BC, mid-way between Abraham and Jesus. It was Samuel who established the monarchy in Israel after the period of the judges. He was commanded by God to give the people a king, although their request is seen as a rejection of God's rule over Israel (8:7). The people simply wanted to be like other nations, however their king was still subject to God's law and the word of the prophet. Although Samuel anointed Saul, he soon showed an unwillingness to submit to these requirements, leading to his rejection as king (15:23). God chose David as Saul's successor, and 1 Samuel depicts David's years of waiting until the right time arrived to claim the throne.

2 Samuel depicts David's rule, in which the nation prospers and its enemies are defeated. The promise of the perfect king is fulfilled in Jesus Himself, as David's descendant. The second half of the book depicts the darker side of David's reign, describing his weaknesses and failures, including his adultery with Bathsheba and the rebellion of his son Absalom.

Nevertheless, David remained a man after God's own heart:

'The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.' (1 Samuel 16:7). *The characters in this book are not always great examples of faith, however, 'They do not show us how we should live but how in fact we do live, authenticating the reality of our daily experience as the stuff that God uses to work his purposes of salvation in us and in the world.'* (Eugene Peterson).

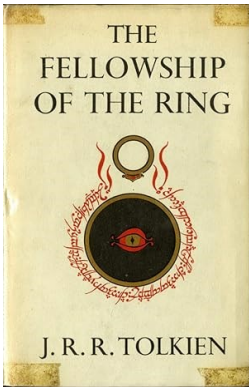
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As we remember Sea Sunday this month (Sunday 14th July) Men of the Sea

Your first disciples, Lord, were men of the sea:
Hardy fishermen from the shores of Galilee.
They knew from experience the perils of the deep...
They also knew Your presence with them in their darkest hours.
We pray for those who face like hazards today...
Lord of the sea, be near to guard them in every danger...
And let them hear Your voice above the tempest,
'It is I, be not afraid'
So bring them to their haven in peace.

From a prayer by Frank Colquhoun.

The Lord of the Rings turns 70



Seventy years ago, on 21st July 1954, the first part of J R R Tolkien’s epic fantasy novel The Lord of the Rings was published.

The Fellowship of the Ring, the first volume of a trilogy later published together, was a much more adult-oriented sequel to The Hobbit, published in 1937. It occupied the same ground – the fictional Middle Earth – and followed the quest of a hobbit, Frodo Baggins, to Mount Doom to destroy a powerful ring that symbolised evil in quite a subtle

way.

The fantasy world was peopled not only by hobbits but by such creatures as wizards, elves and the malevolent orcs, among others.

Tolkien, who was born in Bloemfontein in 1892 but moved to England with his English parents at the age of three, became a professor of Anglo Saxon at Oxford, where he met and befriended C S Lewis. Tolkien was a convinced Roman Catholic, and it was partly as a result of this friendship that the sceptic Lewis became a Christian. They had a strong common interest in myths and ancient stories, which of course came out in their writing – though in different ways.

Tolkien, who wrote much of The Lord of the Rings during the Second World War, saw his book as fundamentally Christian – Catholic, in fact – but in no way an allegory (an idea he revolted strongly against). He saw myths as “splintered fragments” of a greater story and his own creative work as a kind of worship. The parallels between Christ and Frodo are obvious to many, but not explicit, and the book stands without that interpretation as a masterpiece.

It was filmed in 2001-2003 in three parts by Peter Jackson and enjoyed great success.

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

Short quiz on 1 & 2 Samuel (answers on page 23)

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Who taunted Hannah about her inability to have children?
<i>Leah - Peninnah - Naomi</i> | 12 | What did David do when he visited King Achish in Gath?
<i>He pretended to be insane - He gave the king a gift - He offered him his friendship - He killed the king</i> |
| 2 | What was Eli's job?
<i>Priest - Counsellor - Baker</i> | 13 | Where did David cut off the corner of Saul's cloak?
<i>In a cave - In a forest - By a river</i> |
| 3 | How did Eli die?
<i>He was poisoned - He died in his sleep - He fell off his chair</i> | 14 | Which of the following did Saul not turn to for advice towards the end of his life?
<i>Dreams - Prophets of Baal - A witch/medium</i> |
| 4 | In the house of which god did the Philistines place the Ark of the Covenant?
<i>Ashteroth - Dagon - Molech</i> | 15 | For how long did David reign over Judah before he became king of Israel?
<i>Twelve days - Six months - Three years - Seven and a half years</i> |
| 5 | How was the ark returned?
<i>The Philistines carried it by hand - It was carried on a cart pulled by cows - It was strapped to a chariot and pushed down a hill</i> | 16 | What did Uzzah touch which resulted in his death?
<i>Serpent - Ark - Poisoned Arrow</i> |
| 6 | What did the people demand from Samuel?
<i>Lower taxes - A king - A better army</i> | 17 | Who did God send to rebuke David for his dealings with Uriah and Bathsheba?
<i>Nathan - Zadok - Joab</i> |
| 7 | Which tribe was Saul from?
<i>Judah - Benjamin - Dan - Simeon</i> | 18 | What type of tree did Absalom get caught up in during the battle with David?
<i>Willow - Oak - Palm</i> |
| 8 | Which animals did Saul's father tell him to search for?
<i>Donkeys - Sheep - Horses</i> | 19 | How many men died in a plague as punishment for David's sin?
<i>70,000 - 100,000 - 640,000 - 1,000,000</i> |
| 9 | What did Jonathan eat, despite Saul telling his troops that they were not to eat it until they were victorious?
<i>Milk - Honeycomb - Bread</i> | 20 | On whose threshing floor did God instruct David to build an altar?
<i>Naboth's - Othniel's - Araunah's</i> |
| 10 | What job did David first do for Saul?
<i>Chef - Shepherd - Musician</i> | | |
| 11 | How many shekels of brass did Goliath's coat of armour weigh?
<i>2,000 - 3,000 - 5,000</i> | | |

-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-

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 - July 2024</i>
<i>7th</i>	THE SIXTH SUNDAY after TRINITY
<i>14th</i>	THE SEVENTH SUNDAY after TRINITY
<i>21st</i>	THE EIGHTH SUNDAY after TRINITY
<i>22nd</i>	* Mary Magdalene
<i>25th</i>	* James, Apostle
<i>28th</i>	THE NINTH SUNDAY after TRINITY

Bargoed Community Choir.

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

Community Dance Group

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

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Reflection for July

This month sees the start of the Olympic Games in Paris. In describing the Christian life as a marathon race, in Hebrews (12:1-2) we are challenged to finish the race well. As with any race, we have to get rid of any burdens that weigh us down e.g. possessions, worries, what others think of us. We can cast our burdens on the Lord (Psalm 55:22) and be assured of His forgiveness (1 John 1:9). It was during the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, the British athlete Derek Redmond was running in the 400 metres semi-finals. Around 250 metres from the finish line his hamstring tore, and he fell to the ground in pain. However, his father ran on to the track to support him and help him to complete the race. Let us not forget that whatever we face, God is there beside us to enable us to finish the race!

Carolyn

Quotes for July 2024.

~ I certainly think that belief in God did give shaping and pattern to life for which I can see no conceivable substitute and to that extent my life is poorer than that of a believer. – **Marghanita Laski**

~ I believe that there is no one lovelier, deeper, more sympathetic and more perfect than Jesus – not only is there no one else like Him, but there could never be anyone like Him. – **Feodor Dostoevsky**

~ When you go to church you should actively seek something. You must not go like an empty basket, waiting passively to be filled. – **Roger William Riis**

~ The existence of the Bible is the greatest blessing which humanity has ever experienced. – **Immanuel Kant**

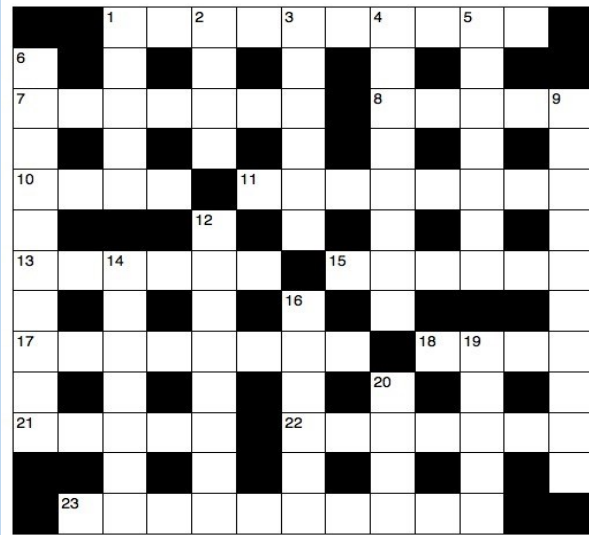
Sudoku Challenge

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

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Solution can be found on page 39

July's Crossword



Challenge

Across

- 1 Relating to the Jewish day of rest (10)
- 7 Point of view (Matthew 22:17) (7)
- 8 20th-century Brethren philanthropist whose construction company became one of the UK's biggest, Sir John — (5)
- 10 Girl's name (4)
- 11 Peter was accused of being one in the courtyard of the high priest's house (Luke 22:59) (8)
- 13 The fifth of the 'seven churches' (Revelation 3:1–6) (6)
- 15 'Now the famine was — in Samaria' (1 Kings 18:2) (6)
- 17 Banned by the seventh Commandment (Exodus 20:14) (8)
- 18 Insect most closely associated with itching (1 Samuel 24:14) (4)
- 21 Bantu tribe which gives its name to tiny landlocked country in southern Africa (5)
- 22 Familiar material in churches that use an overhead projector (7)
- 23 Last book of the Bible (10)

Down

- 1 The young David's favorite weapon (1 Samuel 17:40) (5)
- 2 'Your vats will — over with new wine' (Proverbs 3:10) (4)
- 3 Once yearly (Exodus 30:10) (6)
- 4 Milled it (anag.) (3-5)
- 5 Region north of Damascus of which Lysanias was tetrarch (Luke 3:1) (7)
- 6 Comes between Philipians and 1 Thessalonians (10)
- 9 Lake where the first disciples were called (Luke 5:1-11) (10)
- 12 Abusive outburst (8)
- 14 Are loud (anag.) (7)
- 16 Printing errors (6)
- 19 'Take my yoke upon you and — from me' (Matthew 11:29) (5)
- 20 Jacob's third son (Genesis 29:34) (4)

Crossword solution - Page 39

-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-

Quiz on 1 & 2 Samuel

Answers:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Q 1 Peninnah (1 Samuel 1:4-6) | Q 11 5,000 (1 Samuel 17:5) |
| Q 2 Priest (1 Samuel 2:11) | Q 12 He pretended to be insane (1 Samuel 21:13) |
| Q 3 He fell off his chair (1 Samuel 4:18) | Q 13 In a cave (1 Samuel 24:3-4) |
| Q 4 Dagon (1 Samuel 5:2) | Q 14 Prophets of Baal (1 Samuel 28:6-7) |
| Q 5 It was carried on a cart pulled by cows (1 Samuel 6:10-12) | Q 15 Seven and a half years (2 Sam 5:1-5) |
| Q 6 A king (1 Samuel 8:5) | Q 16 Ark (2 Sam 6:6-7) |
| Q 7 Benjamin (1 Samuel 9:1-2) | Q 17 Nathan (2 Sam 12:1) |
| Q 8 Donkeys (1 Samuel 9:3) | Q 18 Oak (2 Sam 18:9-10) |
| Q 9 Honeycomb (1 Samuel 14:24-27) | Q 19 70,000 (2 Sam 24:15) |
| Q 10 Musician (1 Samuel 16:23) | Q 20 Araunah's (2 Sam 24:18-25) |

Book Reviews

Shaped by the Spirit – being formed into an outward-focused people

By Kate Pocklington, SPCK, £10.00



Shun self-help in favour of spiritual-help and become the other-focussed disciple that Jesus is inviting you to be. In recent years, the Church in the West has witnessed a growing hunger to engage in spiritual disciplines that help us become more like Jesus. And yet, if our practices cause us to look inwards without looking outwards, then we can unwittingly distance ourselves from Him instead.

Jesus was inherently other-focussed, and in this immensely practical book, Kate Pocklington invites us to explore why being formed by the Spirit is only the beginning of the picture.

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

Have No Fear – being salt and light even when it's costly

By John Lennox, 10Publishing, £3.99

Christians are under increasing pressure to be silent. We're led to believe that, at best, our beliefs are outdated, and at worst they are dangerous. Silenced by fear, it's all too easy to keep quiet.



But our Christian faith was never meant to be private. Jesus' followers are instructed to be deliberately and willingly different, seeking to share the life-changing good news they've heard with everyone whatever the cost. We might feel that we fall very short of this confident evangelistic lifestyle, but John Lennox shows us that any one of us can become an effective gospel witness. Using examples from the Bible and from his own life, John explains practically how we can winsomely share Jesus with our friends, despite our fears. He argues that it is possible to stand up to the pressure society places on us, and in so doing we'll find our Christian life grows in strength and joy.

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 th	Joan Jenkins	4 th	Janeve Manca	1 st	Paul Thomas
14 th	Pat Davies	11 th	Christine Harvey	8 th	Cheryl Pugh
21 st	Paul Thomas	18 th	Joan Jenkins	15 th	Janeve Manca
28 th	Cheryl Pugh	25 th	Pat Davies	22 nd	Christine Harvey
				29 th	Joan Jenkins

St. Margaret's Church - Readers Rota

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

June 2024

3rd	Gloria Powell RIP
4th	John Tucker RIP
6th	Towyn Evans RIP
12th	Pam Greenway RIP
14th	Joy Charles RIP
25th	Lorraine Larnder RIP

*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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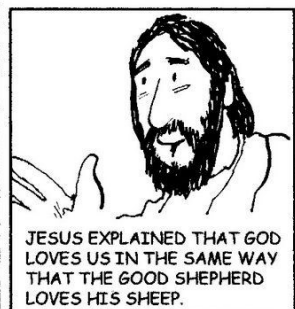
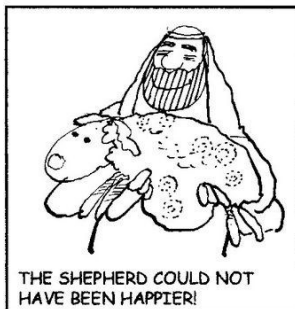
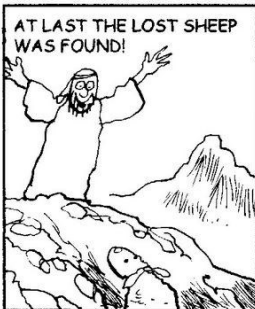
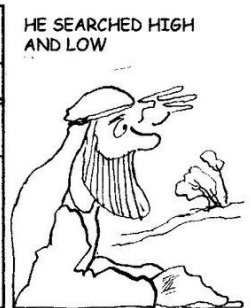
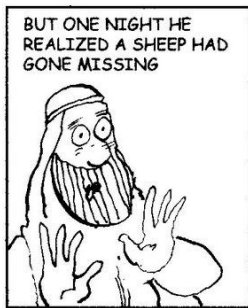
Prayers for the Bereaved

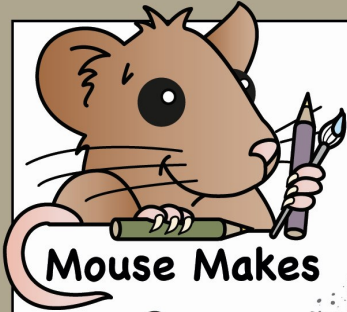
*May the love of God and the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ
console you and gently wipe away every tear from your eyes.
May Almighty God bless you, and look after you at this
difficult time. Amen.*

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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.





Mouse Makes

How many days did the Lord tell Joshua to march around the city of Jerico?

Joshua 6:3



What did the priests carry that were made from rams' horns?

Joshua 6:4

What was carried along behind the priests?

The _____
Joshua 6:4



On the seventh day how many times did they march around Jerico?

Joshua 6:6



Who was saved from Jerico along with her family?

Joshua 6:17

READ

the story in Joshua 5:13-6:27

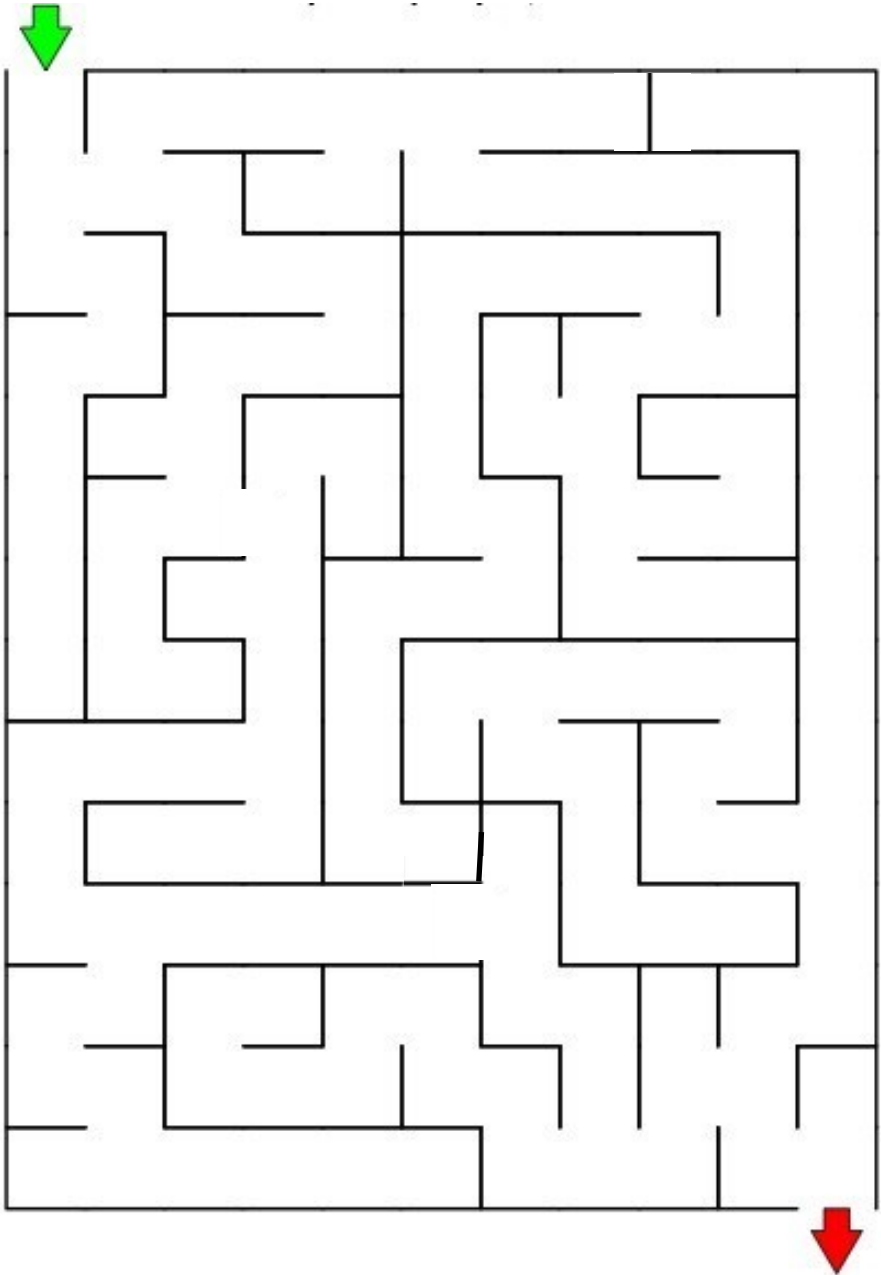
DAY S A W A L K
 A J O S H U A R K E
 S E V E N I O F L A T W
 Y N T R F X U E L B O I
 I P R I E S T S O U N D
 A A U C L I S W R R C A
 R I M O L K I B D N E W
 O S P S C A M P H O R N
 U R E C G U A R D B K
 N A T I F I R E X L I
 D E S T R U C T I O N
 E L R Y R A H A B W G

JERICO • LORD • JOSHUA • ISRAEL • KING • PRIESTS • GUARD
 CAMP • MARCH • AROUND • DAYS • WALK • ONCE • BLOW • HORN • SOUND
 DAWN • SHOUT • CITY • WALL • FELL • FLAT • FIRE • BURN • DESTRUCTION

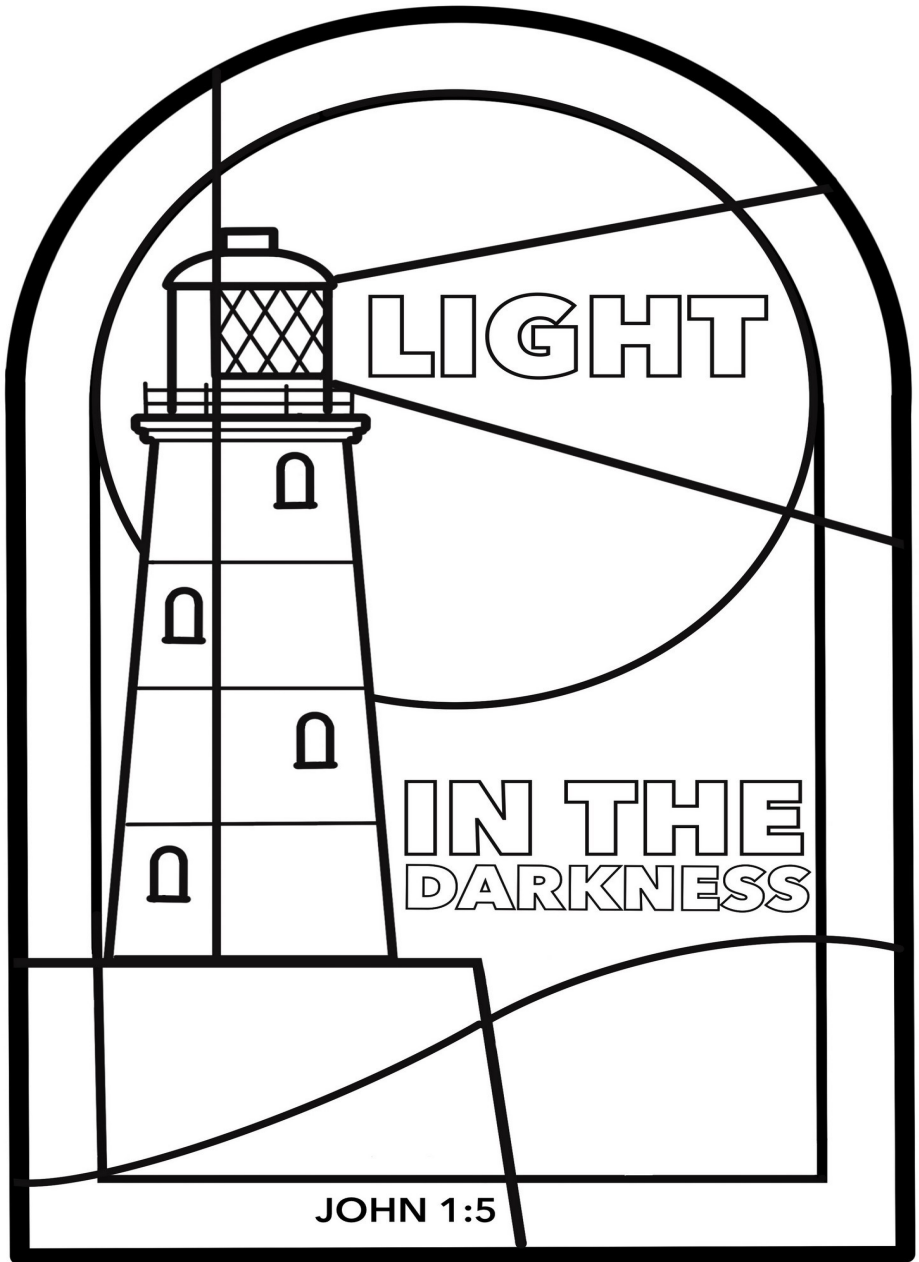
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Booking and Enquiries

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!

-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-

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

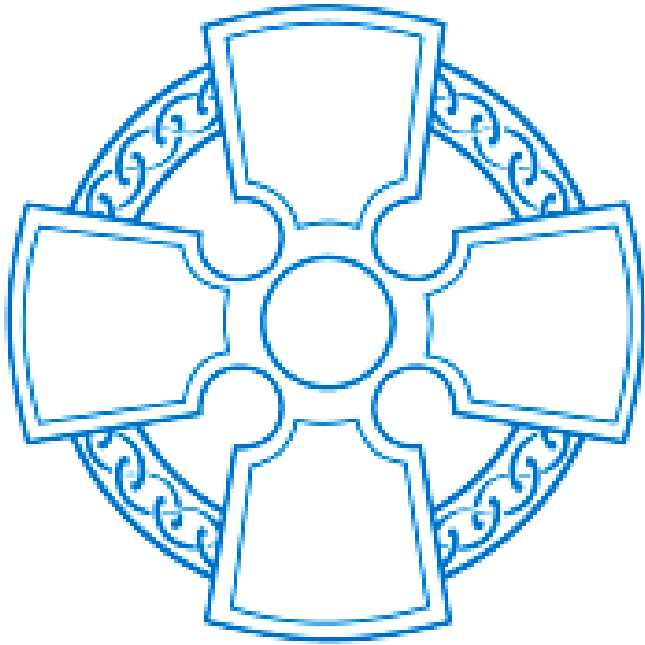
*Answer to **Sudoku** on page 18*

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

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



ARDAL WEINIDOGAETH
TÂF RHYMNI
TAFF RHYMNEY
MINISTRY AREA



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District of Gelligaer. 2024*